

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Happy VALENTINE'S day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Government communication in question

In an era where electronic communication is nonstop and instantaneous – do government entities need to consider alternative avenues for news and information? Two related stories feature the challenges to update the public. Turn to **page 5**, then to **page 14** to read about the struggle to share vital information.

Plans settle down on St. Johns Village, Commander Redevelopment

Local Resident readers can call nights and weekends their own again now that an agreement has been negotiated. After eight months of meetings, resolution appears to be in sight. Read the story on **page 8**.

Straw Ballot may help libraries thrive

The rights of voters may determine the future of libraries – with no tax increase. Read the story on **page 10**.

That happy place

RPDS celebrates 65 years

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

There were waves across the room, hugs and smiles galore. Sweet remembrances and hilarious stories were recounted as old friends and colleagues celebrated, shared memories and relived good times. Laughter filled the room as a former teacher noted that instead of saying “nursery provided” on the invitation, it read “handicapped parking available”!

Former headmistress Suzanne Tomlinson, along with Dottie Risley, Blanche Coffman, Mary Lee Pappas and Stephanie Ibach worked tirelessly to plan the day’s event and were thrilled that over 45 people from all over the country were in attendance, many of whom were also parents and grandparents of RPDS graduates.

Pappas, of Avondale, has been affiliated with RPDS for 47 years, as parent, teacher and administrator. Riverside resident Faith Mansell taught pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for 45 years and now substitutes.

One person’s tribute noted that “RPDS was always about the children” and a highlight was the 5th grade class singing “A Shining Light” composed by music teacher Brian Roes which states, “Help me live a shining light for all the world to see.” Of course, there were some nostalgic moments and maybe a tear or two, as everyone sang, “May the road rise to meet you and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

Madeline Cosgrove, former assistant head, noted “The logo of children’s hands crossing with the words ‘Hearts, Hands, Minds’ reflects that this school is all about love.”

Ever wonder about those “I love RPDS” bumper stickers? That’s what it’s all about – not just for the children but for those fortunate enough to have been part of the legacy of Riverside Presbyterian Day School.

Diamonds and Chocolate...so Divine!

Courtney Marchant, Ashlee Lane, Yomary Downer and Alice Beard say cheers to chocolate



The largest annual fundraiser for the Family Nurturing Center was quite the hit, as sweet chocolate samples and a one ct. diamond surprise in one lucky champagne glass created quite the stir. The crowd packed into the Haskell Corporation headquarters Jan. 23, on a cold, brisk evening in Riverside to support the non-profit.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 25



Epicenter for nonprofit community underway

Jessie Ball duPont Fund fuels growth

BY SETH WILLIAMS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The light was shining bright on downtown as a major announcement was made for the future of the city’s nonprofit sector and progress that will help to energize revitalization. The former Haydon Burns Library, an iconic building designed by famed local architect Taylor Hardwick will act as a catalyst for learning, the sharing of resources and collaboration of ideas – a fitting fate for the former library.

“It’s no accident that this building sits between the Chamber and City Hall,” said Sherry Magill, president, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, as she addressed a group of community leaders, supporters and media. The importance of bridging the gap between government and the private sector was emphasized by her statements that the nonprofit sector takes care to provide services that may otherwise not be afforded to

SEE DUPONT ON PAGE 34



In homes by FEBRUARY 5, 2014

Seasonal delivery for Wolfson's little patients

Patients at Wolfson Children's hospital must have been under the impression that the chimney had just been completed at the hospital, just in time for Santa

were afforded the opportunity to send their doctor to hand-deliver the gifts that were donated on their behalf.

As the red wagons made their way down the halls of the

time of their young lives," said Dr. Greene. "There's nothing better than the smile and laugh of a child. Knowing we had a chance to allow them a short escape with the toys and visit, truly is a joy and a blessing to us."

C. Cameron Greene, MD, president of North Florida OB GYN, T. Michael Phelan, MD, Paul Rebenack, MD and Jennifer E. Lalliss, RN, were all on site handing out gifts. The medical director of Brown Fertility, Samuel E. Brown, MD, and his office also collected \$1,000 for Wolfson Children's Hospital in excess of the toys.



Prepping for hours of deliveries are Jennifer E. Lalliss, RN, C. Cameron Greene, MD, Paul Rebenack, MD and T. Michael Phelan, MD

to sneak back in and deliver more presents. After all, the delivery of hundreds of toys arrived just after the holiday on Jan. 10 to the patient floors, taking many of the youngsters by surprise.

Doctors with North Florida OB GYN and Brown Fertility vied for the opportunity to deliver the gifts, competing in a group-wide contest among the physicians and their respective offices. The offices that raised the most toys in the drive

hospital, special visits were arranged with the recipients, as the doctors carefully chose age and gender appropriate gifts – a touching sight to see.

"We feel honored to be able to visit these children who are struggling through the toughest



C. Cameron Greene, MD speaks to 7-year-old Austin about his new present

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CALDWELL "HANK" HAYNES

1941-2014

BY VICTORIA REGISTER FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Caldwell "Hank" Haynes' life was a seamless blend of passion and purpose. His passion was to see the good in all situations and in all people. His purpose was to call forth that good in his everyday interactions with others.

Haynes' interactions came via a variety of roles. Some of the roles were well known –husband to Billie, father to Leyden and Zoie, grandfather, son, brother, Robert E. Lee alumnus, Sewanee grad, mentor, friend, neighbor, godfather, father-in-law, vestry member, employer, business leader, and dedicated community servant. Some of the roles were less well known – avid fisherman, championship SEC wrestler, Navy "People to People" officer, novice woodworker, Third Thursday member, and, finally, faithful fire watcher.

At Haynes' January 17th funeral, Father Jon Coffey, St. Mark's Episcopal priest, began the eulogy by asking the question, "What did it mean to be loved by Hank Haynes?" The answers to that question poured forth from Fr. Coffey himself, from family, from friends, and, later on, from the funeral home's guestbook.

Lifelong friend Doug Milne said, "Hank was blessed with a keen mind and spirit. Driven by an unbending faith in God and fellow man, he taught us ways to channel optimism and positive thinking in dealing with



and core sweetness rarely seen in a man who loves to wrestle. I am thankful for his compassion. "

Haynes community service was legendary. He was senior warden at St. Mark's Episcopal Church more than once, a position he added value to with lobster and steak for the men's retreats. In addition, he was past president of the Meninac Club of Jacksonville, chairman of the The Players Championship in 1993, past chairman of Ronald McDonald House and the St.

Vincent's Foundation Riverside Ambassador's Board, past president of Daniel Memorial and a charter member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Fr. Coffey ended his remarks by confessing

that Haynes was so nice it had taken him some time to understand the man was real. Heads at the standing-room-only "Celebration of Life" nodded in instant understanding.

Caldwell "Hank" Haynes was real, quintessentially real. He will be remembered for his faith, his integrity, his humor, his generosity, his love of life and his signature voice mail message that always ended with the same heartfelt words...

"God Bless America!"



life's turns and challenges."

Sister-in-law Joyce Kirby noted the way Haynes put people at ease. He deflected attention from himself. In one recent instance, she had called the hospital knowing Haynes had gone through a particularly painful round of chemotherapy. When she inquired, he said he was doing okay, but he was really wondering how her dog was doing because he knew she had a vet's appointment. This was not a contrived question. Haynes simply remembered what was important to other people.

A former client of the Haynes, Peters & Bond Co., Florida's oldest insurance company, said that Haynes was the only agent who would give her small Adult Day Care company workman's comp insurance when every other company had denied it. She wrote, "Hank stood for gentleness

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FDOT actions at year end raise concerns

Public kickoff meeting scheduled for bridge expansion

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The notice of public hearing was misleading at best.

When the Florida Department of Transportation issued official notice for its “Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2014-2019,” the purpose did not call out the proposed expansion of the Fuller Warren Bridge.

In fact, the notice simply stated “This meeting will serve as the official public hearing. There will be a formal presentation of the Tentative Five-Year Work Program.”

There were no red flags for Carmen Godwin, Riverside Avondale Preservation executive director, until she got to the bottom of the notice where it stated “Written comments will be received by the Department at the workshop or hearing and until December 31, 2013.”

And that was after the fact.

Godwin was informed of the Dec. 9 meeting while attending a program on walkable cities on Dec. 10. “The meeting notice said nothing about this. It was an overview of the five-year work plan and this was not in it. How would people know they should attend this meeting?” she said.

The “tentative” work plan includes a project to widen the Fuller Warren Bridge to eight lanes. The expansion is slated to begin in 2016, paid for with \$136 million in funding FDOT secured for the project, supposedly only after losing another project in District 2 to avoid losing \$130 million to another FDOT district, according to an “Action Needed!” email sent on Dec. 29 to subscribers to RAP’s newsletter.

The project is expected to take three years to complete, includes changes to the flyover to I-10 West to Roosevelt Boulevard and will tie into to the ongoing Overland Bridge construction project.

The Resident got wind of the project on Dec. 13 and when this reporter asked FDOT about the potential impact on the Riverside Arts Market and the proposed Artist Walk, the response was “It is early in the process and still under design. There will be public meetings soon after the

New Year when these concerns can be addressed. This widening is needed for safety reasons and high volumes of traffic on I-95. I would encourage individuals with concerns to contact the FDOT and attend the public forums about the project,” said Mike Goldman,

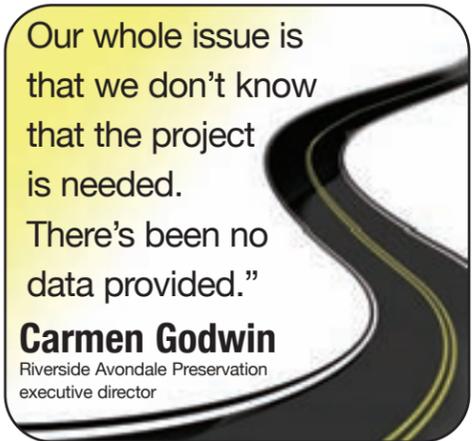
FDOT Public Information Officer, in an email.

• Closing the barn door •

On Dec. 29, just two days before the deadline for public comment, Godwin sent out an alert to the organization’s members asking for concerns to be voiced to FDOT District 2 Secretary Greg Evans. Those concerns were “about the FDOT’s failure to follow normal and best planning practices and the potential negative impacts of this proposed project... There should be additional opportunities for public input, but they will likely occur after the project has been funded.”

The Resident again contacted FDOT after the first of the year, asking about the short notice for the short comment period. According to Lauri Shubert, Public Involvement Coordinator, FDOT was just then in the process of setting up the first public hearing to kick off the project, garner input from residents and consider alternatives, leaving the impression that nothing was yet finalized.

However, according to a notice released by the Planning and Environmental Management Office of the Florida Department of Transportation, the focus of Feb. 10 meeting is to discuss a Project Development and Environment Study to improve travel time through the interchange area. Advertised as “the I-10/I-95 Interchange Operational Improvements Kickoff Public Meeting” it will be held Monday, Feb. 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Riverside Park United



Methodist Church. For questions or comments, contact Jim Knight, P.E., at (800) 749-2967 ext. 7707 or james.knight@dot.state.fl.us.

Shubert indicated that there would be several public meetings throughout 2014, but for Godwin, that’s like closing the barn door after the horse got out.

“Yes, there will be lots of public comment through the process to tweak the project, but whether or not the project happens was that Dec. 31st comment date. Our whole issue is that we don’t know that the project is needed. There’s been no data provided,” she said. “We reached out to the FDOT asking for crash data and they have provided nothing to us. James Bennett said he would get all that data to us and we never saw anything.”

Godwin isn’t convinced that FDOT will change its mind, especially since Bennett would not extend the deadline for public comment on funding. “Our concern was that the legislature would fund this and the tweaking around the edges would be ‘oh, maybe we can fiddle with this retention pond in exchange for taking out some houses in North Riverside.’ I think they should have made the Dec. 31st deadline [about funding the project] clear and this is what that means, and that there will be other public meetings on the project itself. I think that was a little unfair.”

• Community at risk •

The proposed expansion puts some existing homes and offices at risk, as

well as community quality-of-life projects – such as the Riverside Dog Park and the Artists Walk extension of the Arts Market – that are still on the drawing board. It will likely impact Riverside Park, a registered national historic district park, as well as the St. Johns River and McCoy’s Creek, according to Godwin.

“We’re going to stay on top of this as it moves through the process. We are definitely looking at how to help them figure out a way to resolve their issues within the current footprint,” she stated. “If they really do have issues and we can resolve that without an impact on the ground, that would be ideal.”

Godwin also noted that RAP has a group of professionals in the industry who are looking at ways to fix it within the existing footprint, perhaps with signage, as well as considering a deviation to emergency lane widths to add another lane to the Fuller Warren without putting pilings in the water.

“There may be some operational issues they can fix without doing a project that has enormous impact on the ground,” she said. “Our first hope was that we could have the project moved to a discussion in the long-range plan. If they are able to push it through the legislature, then once that happens I don’t know what kind of input we can have.”

Have a Comment?

What are your thoughts about the proposed bridge expansion or the current methods to serve public notice about projects your tax dollars fund? Send them by email to editor@residentnews.net.

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Fresh Markets breaks ground

Shoppes on Riverside signs two tenants



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Officials from the City of Jacksonville, along with executives from Regency Centers, Fuqua Development and The Fresh Market, took part in a ground-breaking ceremony for the Shoppes on Riverside last month.

The 49,870-square-foot shopping center development is poised for growth on the edge of Downtown. The center, which is a joint venture between locally based Regency Centers Corporation and Fuqua Development of Atlanta, will play an important role in the redevelopment of the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Located across Riverside Avenue from the YMCA and Haskell Company, with easy access to Interstate 95, the \$14.7 million development will be constructed by Jacksonville-based Elkins Constructors, Inc., and will serve local residents and the Downtown business community. To date, tenants include The Fresh Market grocery and Northeast Florida's first Corner Bakery Cafe.

"I would anticipate that in the next 30 days we'll have two or three more

deals signed," said Patrick McKinley, senior leasing agent for Regency Centers. "Then after that they'll just keep coming in. We're looking for a good merchandise mix of national, regional, local retailers. We're trying to create a place where the retailers and the community wants to stay and shop and hang out."

McKinley noted that they are targeting October for The Fresh Market's opening with about half of the retail space committed and the rest opening a few months after.

"We're delighted to be a member of the Jacksonville community and excited about the new store at the Shoppes of Riverside, our fourth Jacksonville area location. We're looking forward to extending our community outreach; we'll be partnering with a number of food banks locally and we'll also provide food donations to many charities

throughout the community," said Ken Towery, of The Fresh Market. "Nationally, we're a partner with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and also with Cupcakes for a Cause. We'll be participating in several local campaigns to raise funds for those charities."

Towery noted that they opened their first store in Jacksonville in 1996. He stated that about 90 jobs would be hired locally for the new store.



Shoppes on Riverside and FreshMarket

Courtesy of Regency Centers



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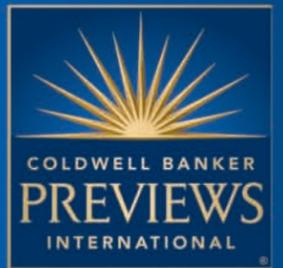
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—Charles Boyett, Director of Market Development, Historic Districts



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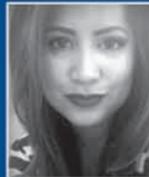
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Chase Properties granted approval to develop mixed-use project

Give and take successful in long, drawn-out application process

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

On a special meeting night, after four hours of testimony, the Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) of the City Council approved unanimously to accept the application known as Ordinance 2013-0342 for rezoning to a planned unit development.

Although several individuals spoke in opposition at the special Jan. 9 LUZ hearing – either to the project as a whole or to specific parts of it – representatives of several neighborhood associations did speak in favor of the development.

In fact, those same representatives made a request to the members of LUZ to relax the Jacksonville Zoning Code Part 6 parking requirements rather than agree to additional parking that would be obtained by adding another level to the four-floor parking garage. The committee accepted the recommendation, resulting in a minimum of 1.65 parking spaces per residential unit.

All in all, after more than eight

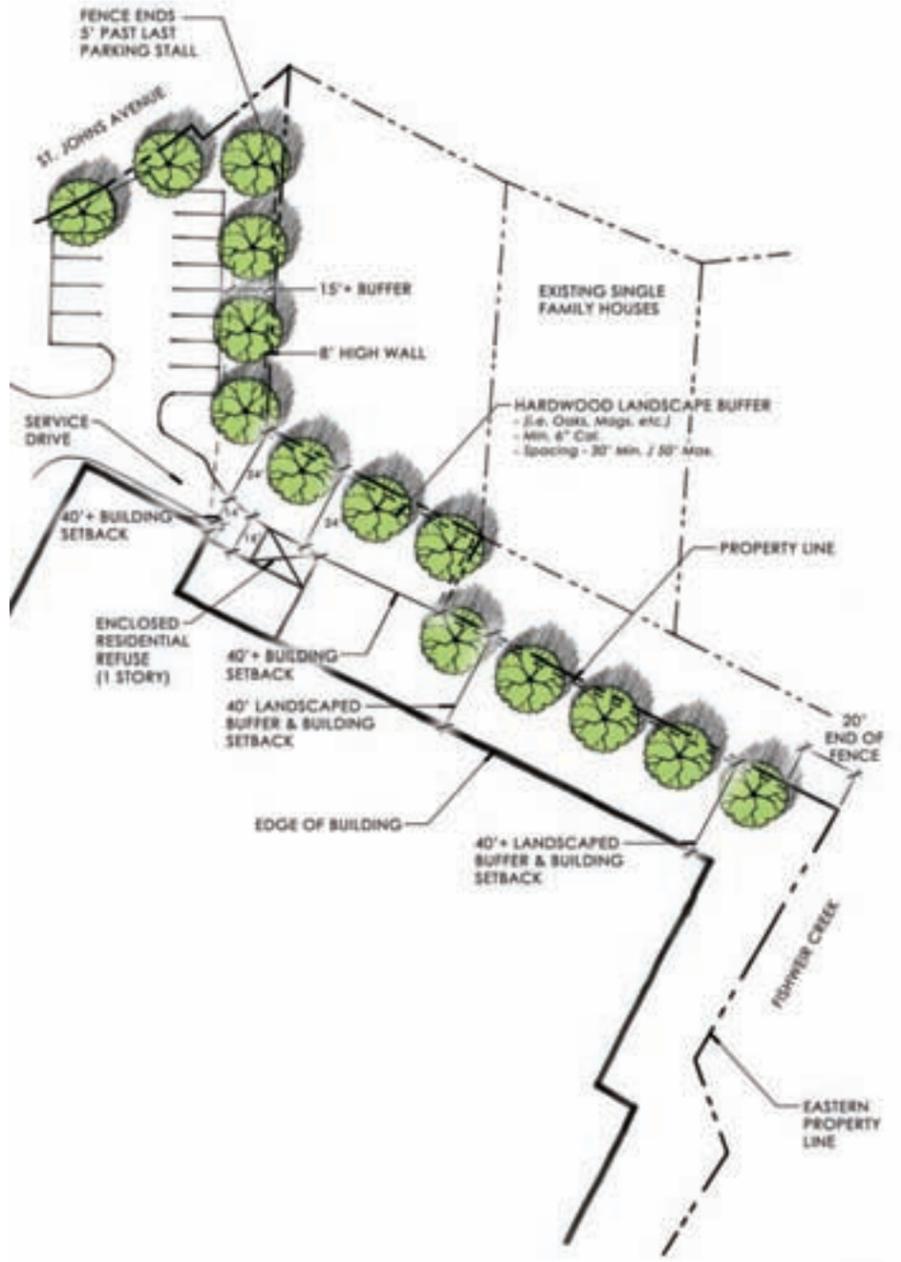
months on the drawing board, the final plan was acceptable to Riverside Avondale Preservation, the Fishweir Neighborhood Association and the Arden Group, homeowners on a few streets that are adjacent to the contested parcel.

ELEVENTH HOUR NEGOTIATIONS

The first to present public comments at the LUZ hearing, Jonathan Oliff, representing RAP, said “From the very beginning, RAP was very clear that there were three big picture concerns. First, a request that the land use be changed for the portion of this property was, from day one, not acceptable. Number two was how the development of the whole was buffered from the adjacent single-family homes. Third was the size and intensity of the development.”

The final give-and-take, negotiated the night before the LUZ hearing, was about the buffer between the homes on duPont Circle and the development. The final agreement includes a 40-foot landscaped buffer and/or building setback, with an eight-foot high wall between the property lines.

“RAP made it clear that buffering this development was the most important thing, as equally as important as the size of the development,”



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“There’s a matter of **economics** in any development, and lenders have to have a certain yield or they will not lend on the project. Even with no debt on the property, we barely make that yield as it is. That’s why **we’re not asking for city subsidies**, we never intended to do that anyway.”

Mike Balanky

President and CEO of Chase Properties

Properties, said “This building has been there a long, long time and it’s been the residence of choice for many influential people around Jacksonville. It was controversial, to say the least, when it was constructed and so it’s been a local lightning rod for a long time. The facility has reached its useful life and it’s time for something to change.”

Balanky expressed appreciation for the efforts of District 14 Councilman Jim Love in facilitating the negotiations during a six-month period. Love scheduled three community meetings, open to the public, as well as a number of closed-session meetings between the developer, attorney Steve Diebenow and representatives of the community.

“For most of the past year we’ve reached out to the community and I can tell you today, that my meetings with the neighbors and with RAP have actually made this a much better project than we originally envisioned,” said Balanky. “I can’t thank the people enough – even those who have been in opposition to this – who have been extremely professional and respectful, and that was what we hoped for from the very beginning. Councilman Love set the tone for that from the very beginning. It’s been a very respectful process, and it has been a give and take.”

For the record, Councilman Love asked the question that those opposing have been arguing about: “Some people still have concerns about the number of units,” said Love. “Is it possible for you to drop the number of units by 20 and if not, why not?”

According to Balanky, the project had been “skinned down” as much as possible.

“We’re spending a lot of money already, more than a million dollars, on public improvements for

this project, that have been requested of us and we’ve agreed to do that. We’ve relocated units from the 300 building to other units and that became much more expensive to do that,” he responded. “There’s a matter of economics in any development, and lenders have to have a certain yield or they will not lend on the project. Even with no debt on the property, we barely make that yield as it is. That’s why we’re not asking for city subsidies; we never intended to do that anyway.”

NEXT STEPS

Since approval of the development by City Council on the following Tuesday, Jan. 14, tenants of the apartment building and the retail center have been wondering what’s next.

A letter signed by “Management” of St. Johns Village Center, dated Jan. 16, was delivered to each retail tenant, attempting to dispel rumors of an April 1, 2014 demolition date – which was included in the final PUD, under PUD Development Criteria, Item IV. P: “It is anticipated that demolition of the existing structures will occur on or about April 1, 2014 and construction of the Development will commence immediately thereafter. Applicant plans to complete the Development by March 31, 2017.”

Balanky has shared that tenants will be given six months to vacate the premises, referring all questions about notifications to a representative of New York-based Palatine Capital Partners, which has an office in Miami, FL.

The approved application includes a condition that RAP will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the architectural and site plans and elevations, ensuring that the final development will, as Balanky stated, “fit the fabric of Avondale.”

▶ said Oliff during the hearing. “It’s still going to be a big building that’s right next to single-family residential. But we have achieved a balance between the development and the neighborhood.”

In his remarks after the public comment period, Mike Balanky, president and CEO of Chase



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Grassroots group delivers final petition to Supervisor of Elections

Straw ballot next step towards referendum

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Volunteers and board members of Save Our Public Libraries Inc. and the Public Library Foundation delivered the final petition to the Supervisor of Elections on Jan. 21, in the first step toward a historical undertaking.

The validation of these petitions will lead to the first straw ballot in Jacksonville history. The Straw Ballot vote will occur on Tuesday, Aug.

26, and is the culmination of a petition drive that has gathered 25,932 signatures from registered voters.

“As a result of what we’re doing today – turning in enough petitions to cross the threshold of 25,000 – this goes on the Aug. 26 ballot. We have a couple of legislators who are

introducing legislation to say if it passes they would put a real referendum creating this special tax district on the Nov. 4 ballot,” said Harry Reagan, president of the Friends of Jacksonville Public Library board of directors.

The Straw Ballot Petition requests Florida Legislature to afford Duval County voters the same opportunity that was previously accorded to the voters of Alachua County and Orange County to have a choice to establish an independent library district through voter referendum.

“Once an independent library district is set up it has a 1 mil property tax

maximum that cannot be used for anything else. One mil raises about \$45 million right now; the library budget is around \$32 to 33 million, so there’s room for growth,” Reagan explained. “This is not a tax increase. At some point in the future,

Volunteers gather at the Office of the Supervisor of Elections on Jan. 21 to submit the final petition for the straw ballot for an independent library district



Petition number 25,932 was delivered to the Office of the Supervisor of Elections on Jan. 21. Joy Korman, a resident of Epping Forest, is a former Chair of the Board of Library Trustees; she also assisted with circulating the petitions

if needed, the people who govern this special tax district – the Mayor, three Council members and a School Board member – could decide it can be increased.”

This Save Our Public Libraries Inc., initiative was a community effort motivated by the JCCI Study Recommendation released in June 2012. The organization began collecting petitions at the end of 2012, finishing the effort a year later.

Reagan noted that “Although this solution will take a while, I’m really convinced it has already had a favorable impact. Because so many people were out there signing petitions, it communicated the message about how important the libraries are to the

City Council last September when they were making decisions. And we did not close six libraries, we didn’t even close two libraries, we closed no libraries. And that’s in large part due to this petition campaign.”

When Bill Brinton, co-founder of Save Our Public Libraries, presented the final petition to Jerry Holland, Supervisor of Elections, he stated “Libraries are probably the most popular public service provided by government. Obviously police and fire are an absolute necessity, but libraries are loved around the world and here in Jacksonville. It’s fair to say that this community wants to have the best public library system in the nation as possible.

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Volunteers with Save Our Libraries watch as Bill Brinton delivers the final petition for the independent library district straw ballot to Jerry Holland, Supervisor of Elections

► Today we're well on our way to accomplishing that objective."

Sen. Audrey Gibson, of Florida Senate District 9, concurred. "The community has spoken. Now that we've passed the threshold, it puts the money, the funding, and control really, of libraries, into the hands of the people who know what they want and who should be the deciding factor in how libraries should be funded, when they are open and closed, and how it impacts their families' quality of life and education of our children. I'm honored to be a part of this process," she said.

In the meantime, Cheryl Williams, representative for Save Our Public Libraries, stressed the importance of staying vigilant about the issue. "Until then [the referendum], we still need to keep the conversation going because we don't want to be reactive when the next budget comes around. We don't want to be complacent and think 'oh, we're done' and when the budget comes up again we're back to closing libraries again."

Because so many people were out there signing petitions, it communicated the message about how important the libraries are to the City Council. And we did not close six libraries, we didn't even close two libraries, we closed no libraries."

Harry Reagan

President of the Friends of Jacksonville Public Library board of directors.

Schultz Center launches creative catalyst for students

EdSpark joins 2nd annual One Spark festival

EdSpark, an initiative of the Schultz Center, will curate a One Spark venue where creators with education-related projects can exhibit at the second annual World's Crowdfunding Festival, to be held April 9-13 throughout downtown Jacksonville.

The Schultz Center's EdSpark venue on the second floor of the Wells Fargo building will house all of the projects proposed by students under the age of 18, along with projects featuring innovations in education and learning proposed by educators, families and others interested in enhancing student achievement.

In addition, the Schultz Center at 4019 Boulevard Center Drive will serve as a staging area for all school field trips to the festival with plans to connect each group with a One Spark Volunteer Guide to tour the event, personalizing the experience. The Schultz Center is also recruiting student performers from throughout the region

for its EdSpark venue during the five days of One Spark.

Individuals (educators, family members, others) or teams with ideas for innovative practices that will enhance student learning in the classroom, throughout a school or district are encouraged to participate in One Spark and choose innovation as their category. All student projects in the areas of Art, Innovation, Music, Science and Technology that meet One Spark criteria will be considered for the EdSpark venue.

All student projects in the areas of Art, Innovation, Music, Science and Technology that meet One Spark criteria will be considered for the EdSpark venue.

Since its founding in 2002, the Schultz Center has embraced the notion of innovation through collaboration and expects EdSpark to be the catalyst for students who have ideas about everything and for parents, educators and others who will be essential to

the next generation of Schultz Center work.

One Spark creators, including EdSpark creators, will benefit from exposure to the 150,000 people expected to attend the 2014 festival and will also compete for part of One Spark's \$300,000 crowdfund and bonus prizes.

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Getting Your 'Old House' Ready To Sell

This winter was especially busy in real estate, but our fast-paced spring market has begun. I've been involved in two multi-offer transactions already this month. Well priced homes are selling quickly so gear up and get ready!

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—Anne Rain

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Biscottis suffers early morning fire



Quick work by police, fire departments limits damage

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

An early morning fire, which started in a back kitchen at Biscottis restaurant at 3556 St. Johns Ave., created enough smoke to set off a motion detector, leading to quick work by the Jacksonville police and fire departments.

“The amount of smoke from things that were smoldering set off the motion detector, which alerted the police. The police came out, saw the fire and then called the fire department,” said Lindsey Bonifay, manager. “It was a really great collaborative effort between all of them, getting out here so quickly, and of course our sprinkler system helped. It certainly could have been a lot worse.”

Although the 2 a.m. fire on Jan. 23. did not extend to the dining area, full of wood tables and chairs, the heavy smell of smoke and soot covered much of the restaurant.

“It started in one of the back corners where some equipment is located,” said Bonifay. “It was accidental, according to the fire marshal. Not a whole lot of answers yet until we really start pulling things out and looking at it. It’s fairly extensive, it’s going to take some time...to dot our ‘I’s’ and cross our ‘T’s’ to get things documented.”

Coincidentally, on that same day, the Duval Legislative Delegation heard and passed bills amending a Florida statute to create a special zone to provide an exception for space and seating requirements for liquor licenses for Biscottis and for the Casbah Café, also on St. Johns Avenue.

The bills (J-2 and J-3) would allow both restaurants to begin serving alcohol (in addition to the beer and wine already served) even though neither establishment has the seating capacity that meets the 150-seat minimum, according to Florida Statute 561.20(4).

The bills would take effect in March; Bonifay said they are targeting to reopen the neighborhood eatery on or about the first of February.

As economic indicator, housing sales strong in Jacksonville

Closed sales highest since 2006

Riverside/Avondale/Ortega was one of five areas that experienced the greatest upticks in median sales price (by percentage) from 2012 to 2013, according to the 2013 Annual Report from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. Those neighborhoods enjoyed a collective 17.5 percent increase in the median price for homes sold last year, which was slightly higher than the 15.3 percent area-wide increase.

Other annual report highlights included a continuing drop in inventory of properties for sale, decreasing 7.9 percent from 9,515 year end 2012 to 8,767 year end 2013. Good news for sellers.

Also, closed sales in 2013 reached 21,883, a healthy 21.7 percent

increase over the 17,974 sales in 2012, and the median sales price for the year came in at \$153,400; 15.3 percent more than the 2012 median of \$133,000.

Homes changed hands quickly during 2013, averaging just 88 days on market until sale; a 20.7 percent reduction from 111 days in 2012. The sales cycle was slightly better for condos and townhomes, taking nine days less than the 89-day average for single family detached homes to sell.

Northeast Florida’s housing market is markedly stronger than a year ago, according to 2014 NEFAR President Linda McMorrow, who said, “The \$153,400 median home price for 2013 marked a five-year high and 21,883 closed sales was the largest number of sales since 2006. Low inventory has spurred rising prices, which in turn equates to more homeowners seeing the equity in their homes increase.”

Vintage fire truck installed in local restaurant

Mellow Mushroom owner John Valentino (left, with hands on truck fender) helps push a vintage 1952 American LaFrance fire truck into the building. The truck was purchased from a collector in Chicago and shipped to Jacksonville. Traffic on St. Johns Avenue was halted for approximately 10 minutes on Dec. 31, while the power-less vehicle was carefully maneuvered into the restaurant, where it will serve as seating for small groups.



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Councilman Love honored as advocate for beautiful city

BY VICTORIA REGISTER FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

District 14 Councilman Jim Love was presented with the Jake Godbold Award for outstanding environmental service to the community at the 31st annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful event at City Hall on Jan. 23.

The award was created by Executive Order of Jake Godbold when he served as Mayor of Jacksonville. According to Chris Buckley, Chair of the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission, Mayor Godbold wanted the city to be an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful Commission which was started by Ladybird Johnson.

“Councilman Love was the most active Council person we have had on the KJB Commission. He is the kind of leader that makes our city more welcoming to visitors and better for residents.”

Chris Buckley
Chair of the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission

Buckley explained why Love had been selected. “Councilman Love was the most active Council person we have had on the KJB Commission. He installed a Shark cigarette butt collector outside his office and he can frequently be seen picking up trash in the Historic District. He is the kind of leader that makes our city more welcoming to visitors and better for residents. Good ideas do not clean up a city. Citizens do.”

Sponsors, volunteers and organizations were also recognized for their efforts to clean up and beautify Jacksonville during KJB events in 2013. More than 9,000 volunteers participated in those projects throughout Jacksonville communities.



Councilman Jim Love receives the Jake Godbold Award from Kevin Gartland and KJB Chair Chris Buckley at the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission's award ceremony - Photo by Kevin Kuzel

Riverside resident Sarah Nan received the KJB Golden Spark Plug Award. She has leveraged grants to install urban gardens, helped clean out McCoy's Creek, and spearheaded the Shark cigarette butt installations.

Jimmy Orth, St. Johns Riverkeeper Executive Director, encouraged the volunteers in the audience. “You are all doing so much more than keeping,” he said. “You are making Jacksonville beautiful, transforming it with your efforts.”



Sarah Nan of Riverside addresses gathering

Youth and aging adults to benefit from grants

The Community Foundation posts grant applications

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida posted preliminary grant applications for certain categories of competitive 2014 grant making. The preliminary applications are available for download at www.jaxcf.org (click on Grantseekers/What you can apply for) and include:

- Early childhood development (0-6 years old)
 - Grants of \$5,000-\$50,000 will be made for work lasting up to two years
 - Funded through The Chartrand Family Fund and the Jacksonville Children's Endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
- Aging adults
 - Grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 will be made for work lasting up to one year
 - Funded by the Grace H. Osborn Endowment and the I.R. Bowen and Katherine H. Bowen Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The deadline for submission for each of the preliminary applications is 5 p.m. Feb. 27, 2014. For more information and a complete grants timetable, refer to the preliminary application at www.jaxcf.org. The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida anticipates posting preliminary applications in March for its Art Ventures fund grants for Individual Artists residing in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau or St. Johns counties.

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Communication Breakdown

Critics argue consolidation breeds lack of response

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of the Task Force on Consolidated Government's Neighborhoods and Planning Subcommittee are grappling with an issue today that seems to have realized some of the worst fears about consolidated government when it was first explored nearly 50 years ago: loss.

Loss of identity. Loss of voice. Loss of engagement. Loss of quality of life.

At a Jan. 9 subcommittee meeting at City Hall, Trey Csar and members of the JAX2025 Subcommittee on Distinctive Neighborhoods and Civic Engagement were invited to share that committee's findings with Rena Coughlin, Neighborhoods and Planning Subcommittee Chair, and members Shannon Blankenship, Betty Burney, Giselle Carson, Ben Davis, Kay Ehas, and Paul Tutwiler, as well as District 5 Councilwoman and Task Force Chair Lori Boyer.

Csar, who is also president of Jacksonville Public Education Fund, explained that the Distinctive Neighborhoods subcommittee focused on government responsiveness in general and the 1995 Neighborhood Bill of Rights in particular.

"There is a belief that when it comes to the City and its agencies, pro-active communication is vital. The subcommittee felt that the Neighborhood Bill

of Rights was not universally executed by elected officials, constitutional officers and different City department heads and City employees," Csar stated. "The subcommittee has asked that stronger attention be paid to the document and its provisions, but that attention should not be necessary. The key question we struggle with is how does that become a core part of the fabric and the culture of the City and how does it be continuously renewed as transitions happen?"

He went on to share the subcommittee's concerns about lack of response by City officials. "How do we as a City government start to hold City employees and others accountable for executing on those beliefs and wishes? How do we measure effectively all of our agencies in their response to neighborhood concerns and how do we make sure they are pro-active in their communication?"

Coughlin noted in response, "We've done hearings out in the community and there's seems to be the most feeling that government has somehow let down core City neighborhoods."

"Our feeling was that government was not living up to our full expectations regardless of geography," said Csar.

• Losing neighborhoods •

That statement was reiterated by former Councilwoman Glorious Johnson, who addressed the issue of loss of identity and voice, and eventually quality of life. "Back when consolidation was being discussed, it was felt that some

neighborhoods would eventually be ignored. Sallye Mathis, then

City Councilwoman, was a proponent of Consolidation from its inception. But, at first, Mary Singleton, City Councilwoman, opposed Consolidation because she believed that it was 'a plan to minimize our (Negro) strength in government,'" said Johnson.

"Many in the neighborhood felt we would eventually be ignored. We feel that our neighborhood has been destroyed, by design, for whatever reason," she continued. "It takes forever to get responses from the City. We are accused of not caring for our neighborhood. We want to be included at the table when there is discussion about the destiny of a neighborhood."

The JAX2025 subcommittee findings echoed what the Task Force subcommittee discovered through a series of poorly attended community meetings and a paucity of responses to an online survey.

Ironically, those five hearings were not well attended, with less than 40 people total listed on the attendance sheets, and there were fewer than 90 responses to the online survey. Ironic because communication and response are two of the hot buttons that both subcommittees.

Csar noted, "One of the divides is that neighborhoods that are fortunate to have strong organizations with staff or citizens know how the game is played and how things work, so a lot more gets done and there's a lot more interaction with local elected officials. For those that don't have that long history of expertise there's less, and that's one

of the dividers in our community."

As Coughlin's committee discovered, there's an administrative tension between how a city proactively connects with an organization that may be ad hoc or not defined according to a statute, ordinance or zoning code. "It seems almost unfair to say 'You [the City] have to reach out to us [the neighborhood organization], but we have the right to define ourselves so you have to figure out how to find us and talk to us,'" she said.

Understanding what defines a neighborhood is a puzzle and does make timely communication a problem. The City's Subdivision Code has a list of official neighborhood associations where 75% or more have covenants and restrictions, and may be managed by a management company or by its residents. However, a second list of neighborhoods, found on the GIS mapping site, does not correspond to a third list that the Planning Department has for work notices nor to the fourth list maintained by the Neighborhoods Department for CPAC purposes.

• Getting the word out •

The abundance of lists and their respective maintenance results in confusion, ineffectiveness and untimeliness, not to mention the absence of public notice altogether. When Coughlin asked if Csar's group had looked at technology solutions for communications, he said that neighborhood association volunteers are not always available or totally reliable when it comes to consistently disseminating information. "Start with the lowest technology devices, such as cellphones, text messaging," he suggested.

But Task Force subcommittee member Giselle Carson said "The trend in technology is to pull information, rather than push it [out]. It would be impossible for the City to push information out and get it to everybody."

The current process for communicating public hearings is woefully inadequate. Case in point: the five community meetings mentioned above were emailed from the Legislative Services Division to each member of the Task Force and placed on the City of Jacksonville website. Short of daily visiting the site's Council Public Notices page or calling his or her City Council representative, knowing which issues and when they would be discussed publically is nearly impossible.

One suggestion was to provide an email address or phone number to the City for notifications, but Boyer commented, "I see a huge challenge with privacy issues regarding email addresses and cell phone numbers given to the City and then kept up to date. Not everyone wants to get noticed."

One step is determining how to solicit citizen input but still keep city-wide priorities. As Blankenship stated, "JAX2025 did an amazing job of what we're talking about, trying to find ways to gauge people's interest about a host of different topics and ensure that no one person had a much more active voice than others and also continue to engage people in the ongoing process of that planning."

No matter what a resident's or neighborhood's underlying interests are, how to put their voice in, not at the end of the line, but engage with the City throughout the project is, indeed, a challenge to overcome.



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Ding-ding-ding went the Riverside trolley



A first person report on JTA's trial run

BY KERRY SPECKMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

One of my favorite things about living in the historic district is the number and diversity of places to eat and drink. What I don't love, however, is the parking – or rather, the lack thereof. Few things irritate me more than driving circles around 5 Points or the Shoppes of Avondale trying to find a parking spot, especially when I'm hungry and/or thirsty.

So when the Riverside Avondale Trolley pilot program was announced, I thought for sure the folks at Riverside Avondale Preservation had been reading my diary.

From January through June, the Riverside Trolley, operated by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), will run from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. the first Friday and Saturday of the month. In other words, for six months, I won't have to worry about parking...or not being able to drink in order to drive home...or drinking and waiting around on a taxi (that may or may not show up) or walking a mile home in the dark.

That first Saturday night, some friends and I gathered at European Street Café for some pre-trolley festivities, all the while keeping an eye on trolley.jaxmob.com on our cell-phones. The website, created by RAP board member Dylan Phillips, showed each of the nearly 50 trolley stops along the route and where each of the three trolleys were at any given time. When we saw a trolley

about a block away, we grabbed our coats (for the record, we had already paid our bill in anticipation of a hasty departure) and raced down Park Street.

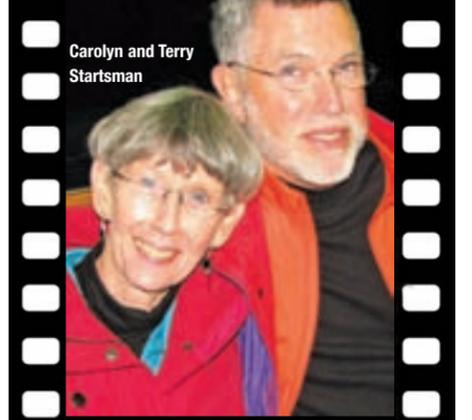
Like the overwhelming majority of folks on the trolley that night, my experience riding public transportation was next to nil. When I got on board, I didn't know what to do with my STAR Card ("just tap it on the fare box, ma'am"), where to sit (anywhere someone else isn't, apparently) and, to be honest, where the trolley was going (yes, I had trolley.jaxmob.com pulled up on my phone, but apparently, no one clued the trolley driver in on the route).

For the next few hours, I rode around Riverside and Avondale, getting off whenever the urge struck me and my friends. In fact, if I'm being completely honest, riding the trolley was as much fun as wherever we ended up. I ran into friends, neighbors, former coworkers, even a couple of people I only knew through Twitter. Folks seemed to be having a great time and didn't even mind the when it was standing-room-only – or when they missed their stop because they didn't know to signal the driver (yet another thing we "choice riders" probably wouldn't know).

And I wasn't alone in my love of the trolley experience. "It was amazing. I did what I would do on a typical Saturday night: go out for dinner and drinks but instead of



James Garrison, Katherine McGarity and Leah Fox



Carolyn and Terry Startzman



Rebecca Covart, Amanda Stephens and Lisa Cullen

driving and cabbing it, my friends and I used the trolley," says Liz Grebe of Riverside. "It was packed with strangers and friends, and it was great to see how excited everyone was to be on it."



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Project organizers, like Carmen Godwin, executive director of RAP, were also thrilled at the response. “We’ve been trying to create a viable, frequent [public transportation] service for the neighborhoods for a very long time,” she says. “We always thought a nighttime trolley service would be successful, and it was.”

According to Godwin, more than 960 trips were made the first weekend “and as more people learn about it and learn how to use it, it’s only going to get better.”

Speaking of which, here are some tips to help you better navigate the trolley this month and beyond.

TROLLEY TIPS

- **WHEN TO RIDE:** The Riverside Avondale Trolley runs the first weekend of the month from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. through June.
- **FARE:** JTA’s one-day pass is your best bet. With it, you can ride the trolley all night long for only \$4. Passes can be purchased for \$4.00 at participating merchants including Black Sheep and European Street and the RAP office. Without a pass, you pay \$1.50 per trip. That means, every time you get on the trolley, you’ll have to pay \$1.50.
- **WHERE TO BOARD:** Make sure you are standing at a JTA bus stop sign, not across the street or halfway down the block from the sign. It doesn’t matter what route is listed on the sign. With there being nearly 50 stops on the route, drivers will only stop when you signal them you want to ride.
- **RIDING:** If you’ve never ridden a JTA bus before, you may want to check out the “How to Ride” videos on JTA’s website (jtafla.com). For example, have your fare ready before you get onboard. Fumbling around for your pass or money holds everybody up. Also, drivers cannot make change.
- **STOPPING:** With so many stops along the route, the driver will not stop unless someone is standing at a stop and waves or a rider signals he or she wants to get off the trolley. To signal the driver to stop when on board, pull the cord just above the windows several blocks before your intended stop. Incidentally, the driver can only stop at designated stops. In other words, don’t ask him or her to drop you off in front of your house so you don’t have to walk as far.



Amy Robillard, Miranda Ray and Jeremy Brown

- **TRACK THE TROLLEY:** Using trolley.jaxmob.com on your smartphone is absolutely essential. Check it out before you board. Bookmark it even! Also, it’s a website – not an app – and doesn’t need to be downloaded.
- **BE PATIENT:** Trolleys are scheduled to arrive every 13 minutes; however, traffic, getting caught at a train or other issues beyond the driver’s control can cause it to run behind schedule. Conversely, if there is no traffic or few stops, a trolley may arrive early in which case the driver should remain at a stop to get back on schedule (though, that doesn’t always happen).

Visit riversideavondalenighttrolley.com for more information on the Riverside Avondale Trolley including where to purchase passes. Enjoy the ride!



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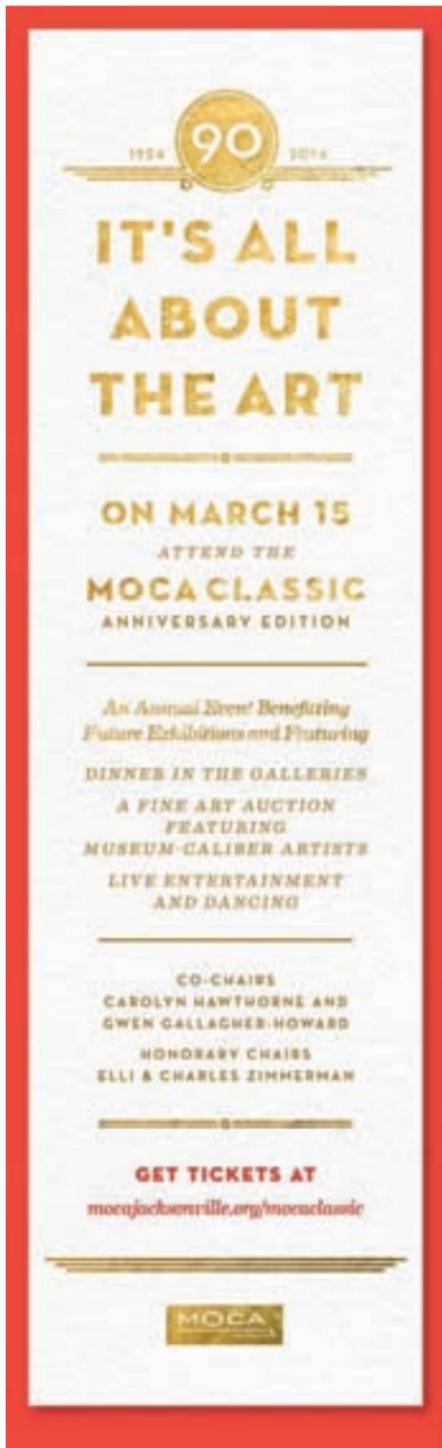
Artists create, exhibit to benefit homeless pets

Local artists put their talents together, literally, to benefit First Coast No More Homeless Pets. The Jacksonville Artists Guild had 37 members participate in the Pet Project, which was kicked off with a reception on Jan. 24 at 1037 Gallery at Reddi Arts.

Each artist received a 6 x 6-inch tile panel and a portion

of a photo of a dog and, in their own style, created their panel. Thirteen puzzles are on exhibit at 1037 Gallery through Feb. 28 along with other works by the artists. All sales benefit First Coast No More Homeless Pets.

Stay tuned for the next Jacksonville Artists Guild benefit for the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in May.



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Dianne Wiles, development director for First Coast No More Homeless Pets, with her mother Marty Wallace, a regular volunteer at the clinic



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Anonymous street artist risks legal action to promote creative spirit

BY KERRY SPECKMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A well-known local artist has been gaining infamy recently by using public property, mostly traffic signal boxes and JEA transformers, as his canvases. "Keith Haring's Ghost," as he refers to himself, says he wants to remain anonymous since the art isn't about him. He chose the moniker (aka KHG) to pay homage to the late graffiti-based artist and social activist Keith Haring, whose work he emulates.

KHG began painting the pieces back in the summer of 2012 in the middle of the night throughout San Marco and Riverside to promote "peace, love, equal rights for human beings" but also to make a statement about street art and its importance to the community.

Having heard that an arrest warrant has been issued for vandalism, KHG says he won't be creating any new street art until the legal issues have been resolved. But the existing pieces (several have since been painted over by the city) are getting local residents to talk about the subject.

Murray Hill resident Jennifer Miles refers to the art as "inspiring" and

believes they improve the city's landscape, saying, "Wouldn't it be great if the city embraced this opportunity and made 'ugly' city canvases available through submissions?"

Steve Williams, an artist living in San Marco, agrees. "I think any time someone has a need to express themselves with something beautiful – even if just they think it's beautiful – is important to try and figure out how to help make it happen," he says. "Other creative exercises can often times be destructive. So let's get behind anyone in our community who is trying to make a positive difference."

That's not to say some residents don't have their concerns. Linda Olsavsky of San Marco says she has mixed feelings on street art. "I do enjoy [his work] and think it looks much better than those gray boxes, but I'm afraid this may open up the floodgates for others to follow suit," she says. "I certainly would not like to see graffiti spray painted all over San Marco and Riverside."

For now, KHG is just happy to be bringing attention to the issue. "I hope that street art moves forward by leaps and bounds," he says. "Keep the conversation going, keep spreading the word, and let your city leaders know how you feel. We will win."



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Despite the mass-produced plans and components, 'kit home' has unique story

BY KERRY SPECKMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Model airplanes. Self-published books. Home-brewed beer. Handmade jewelry. IKEA furniture. Whether it's to save money, experience the joy of building something with your own hands or creating a one-of-a-kind item, the do-it-yourself craze is alive and well in 2014. But DIY is nothing new in Jacksonville. Nearly a century ago, in fact, local residents used mail-order kits – to construct their own homes!

Sears, Roebuck & Company first published the *Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans* in 1908. The catalog featured a variety of home models ranging in price from \$1,761 to \$5,972. Prices included everything from lumber and lath, flooring, shingles, kitchen cupboards, millwork, hardware and paint right down to sash weights, as well as plans and specifications.

In the 30-plus years the kit homes were for sale, Sears reported more than 100,000 were built across the country. Today, a handful is still standing in Jacksonville, with the majority in the historic district.

While each of these kit homes holds a place in the city's historical legacy, one, in particular, has an interesting backstory.

Considered a leader in historic preservation in Jacksonville, Jerry



Spinks co-founded Riverside Avondale Preservation and served as president of RAP and the Jacksonville Historical Society and chairman of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission. When he wasn't championing the cause of preserving historic buildings, he restored cars and boats and remodeled homes, sometimes taking drastic measures in the process. Such is the case with the home located at 4450 Melrose Ave.

When the house was completed in

the 1930s (specific dates vary by source), the two-story Sears kit house was situated in the 4400 block of St. Johns Avenue. Spinks learned of impending commercial construction in the area (what is now the Shell Station on Roosevelt Boulevard) and had the 1,580-square-foot house moved, foundation and all, a block south to its current location on Melrose.

Spinks did the restoration himself, including installation of an additional bathroom on the second floor. The

four-bedroom, two-bathroom home contains many of its original details such as heart of pine flooring, solid pine woodwork and fireplace with an adorned hearth but also boasts modern features including central heat and air, washer and dryer, and a modernized kitchen.

Historic – in more ways than one – the home, which is currently for sale and is the ultimate DIY treasure...or, more accurately, DIT (Did It Themselves).

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 2/1-1,049 sqft. Quaint Home located close to the Shoppes of Avondale. Beautiful Wood Floors, Large Foyer, Separate living and dining room. Detached garage with fenced larger backyard. Washer/Dryer connection.



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1418 Wolfe Street
 3/1-1,162 sqft. Everyone wants to call this charming all brick, true bungalow in the heart of Avondale home. Less than a mile from the shops of Avondale which boast fine dining, boutique shops, nightlife and more!



NEW PRICE

5127 Yacht Club Road - \$2.8M
 6/6-1-7,868 sqft. This beautiful Traditional home has it all. Gracious and spacious light filled rooms open onto a covered brick veranda with perfect views of the pool, the dock and Downtown Jacksonville!



NEW PRICE

4607 Wadham Lane - \$350,000
 4/2-2,510 sqft. Wow! Sparkling move in ready in Stockton school district! If you are looking for a spacious home to raise your family or a great house for entertaining friends and family this is it. Roof, windows, heat and air, kitchen cabinets, granite counters and appliances new in 2011.



SOLD IN 2 WEEKS

4273 Venetia Blvd
 4/4-4,677 sqft. Newport California in Venetia. The architecture, the design, the views of the protected inlet and yachts, it's all here for you. Be transported in this turn-key residence on one of our areas most protected inlets.



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2358 Riverside Avenue, #205
 3/3-2,275 sqft. Panoramic Riverfront Views from this 2nd Floor "Avondale" Unit. Don't miss this Lowest Priced Condominium Home at VillaRiva in Historic Riverside. Just minutes away from Shopping, Medical Facilities, Jacksonville's Newest and Hottest Night Spots & Restaurants.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

3011 Riverside Avenue
 5/2/1-2,773 sqft. Beautiful Avondale home built in 1914 offers historic charm and detail throughout including hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, grand Dining Room and large wraparound porch.



3933 Dupont Circle - \$360,000
 4/3-1,906 sqft. The Perfect Location! Walk to the Shoppes of Avondale. Come see this great four bedroom, three bath all brick home in Historic Avondale. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout underneath the carpet. Enclosed sun room with decorative tile flooring.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

2970 St Johns Avenue, #6F
 2/2-1,755 sqft. Original condition F unit in Beau Rivage sold before it hit the market! If you are thinking about buying a condo contact us today, opportunities are quickly slipping away and prices are on the rise.



3955 Ortega Boulevard - \$3.4M
 6/7/1-7,532 sqft. It's not often that a home of this quality comes to the market. Stunning 7,000 SF+ custom designed home sits high on a bluff overlooking the St. John's River. Once you enter the gracious foyer of this home, you'll know you've found the right spot.

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Good to be from the Neighborhood

The Reasons We Love to Live Local

There are many reasons, *Resident* readers are attracted to the neighborhoods within our reach. For some, it's the home-grown businesses, the ability to walk through the parks, and the close proximity to everything they need. Whether it's dining, shopping, exercising or any other activity you do, there's a reason that you do it here – in the neighborhoods you love. *The Resident* reached out and asked a few locals to share why they are content 'living local' and here's what they said...



Keith Marks: I love living in Riverside. It was designed by people who actually lived in the neighborhood. They knew where to build shops and parks – and not tear down the trees.



Janie Boyd: The [Avondale/Ortega] neighborhood is awesome. It has all the small businesses you would expect, the little eclectic neighborhoods. There's no traffic congestion; it's so convenient to get anywhere. It's green. I've lived here for 36 years, moved three times and never more than six blocks from each house. We love the tree-lined streets, being able to get outside, all the parks. It's a very small town feel.



Jaime Ryan: I love Ortega because of its close proximity to everything!



Tina Borchert: I love living and working in Avondale for the sense of community without the living in your typical "planned community." Plus, I think Riverside and Avondale offer the best dining in the city.



Clay Doran: I love living and working in Riverside for so many reasons. There is such a wide selection of independent businesses, the walkability, the parks, diversity of the architecture, the nightlife. You can always wander into something cool.



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1308 Lakewood Road
Stunning contemporary pool home situated on San Marco Duck Pond. Fabulous gourmet kitchen & master suite

RIVERFRONT



3026 St. Johns Avenue
Beautiful 1925 Mediterranean riverfront home with carriage house and dock situated at the end of a quiet Avondale street.

RIVERFRONT



2311 River Boulevard
Historic Riverside/Avondale riverfront home offering all the luxury of modern day living features covered boatlift & guest quarters!



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Megan Suggs:

I love working in Riverside because there's such a sense of community in this area. There are actual neighborhoods, not just subdivisions.



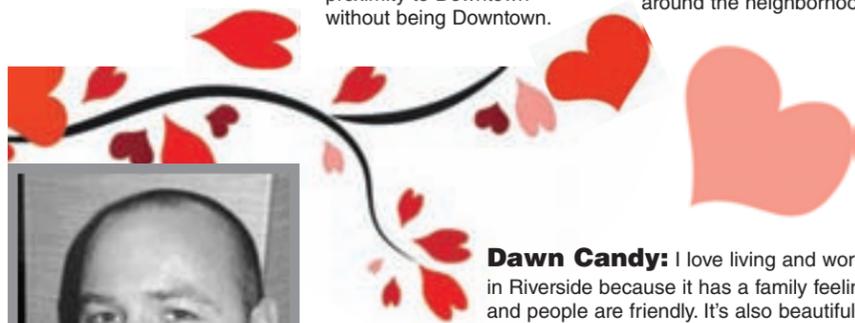
Andrew T. Cordon:

I love living in the Riverside/Avondale area because of the walkability, the diversity of people who call Riverside and Avondale home and the proximity to Downtown without being Downtown.



Carole Sullivan:

I love living in Ortega because the neighbors are friendly, and we look out for each other. And I feel safe walking or riding my bike around the neighborhood.



Steve Bowman: I love Murray Hill because there are great places to eat and hang out, like Moon River and Perfect Rack. I also like the sound of the trains; it's very soothing.

Dawn Candy: I love living and working in Riverside because it has a family feeling, and people are friendly. It's also beautiful, and I love the art.



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2159 Riverside Avenue, #8
Charming 2nd story condo in heart of Historic Riverside. Close to shops and restaurants this unit has 1 covered parking space. 2BR/1BA and 1,053 sq. ft. \$129,900



3759 Hunter Street
Beautiful Avondale home in a quiet neighborhood with 2BR/2BA and 1266 sq. ft. on a double lot. Front porch and large back deck. 1-car attached garage. \$199,900



1846 Margaret St, #7A
Classic historic building circa 1926 with fabulous views of river and cityscapes. Unit has had no updates since the 70's. 2BR/1BA and 1,313 sq. ft. \$185,000



4450 Melrose Avenue
Wonderful Sears Roebuck "Kit" house ready for new owners. Lots of interesting details, equipped kitchen, wood floors & deck. 1,580 sq. ft. 4BR/2BA. \$219,000



1342 Hollywood Avenue
3BR/1BA, 1066 sq. ft. Avondale Bungalow, move in condition, fresh paint in and out. Large open front porch. \$229,000



1626 Donald Street
Great investment property in heart of Avondale Historic District. Four 2BR/1BA units with approx. 1000 sf each. Wood floors, high ceilings, Fireplaces in each unit. \$299,000



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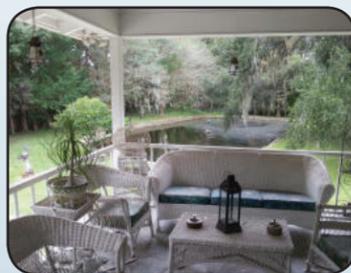
580 Broward Rd.
\$1,350,000



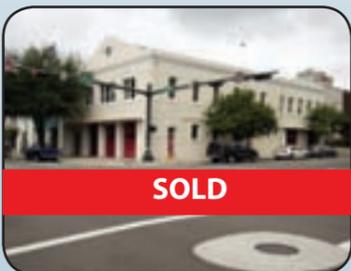
5086 Ortega Forest Dr.
\$1,150,000



1823 Seminole Rd.
\$799,000



1124 Oriental Gardens Rd.
\$699,000



39 E. Adams St.
\$600,000



0 Jammes Rd.
\$525,000



3609 Boone Park Ave.
\$474,900



3733 Pine St.
\$469,000



3325 Via De La Reina
\$395,000



4711 Long Bow Rd.
\$385,000



2230 Post St.
\$349,900



5116 Ortega Forest Dr.
\$344,900



2229 Park St.
\$339,000



3261 Moody Ave.
\$310,000



1252 Challen Ave.
\$299,000



4419 Longfellow St.
\$278,500



8306 Barquero Ct. N.
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4245 San Juan Ave.
\$249,000



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3118 Beach Blvd.
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4370 Vicksburg Ave.
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5232 Magnolia Oak Dr.
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6550 Hyde Grove Ave.
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0 San Juan Ave.
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JEB BUSH CLOSES OUT 2013-14 FLORIDA FORUM

Bush became known for reforming education and health care in Florida, all while leading the nation in job growth and narrowing the student achievement gap.



Hanz Tanzler IV with Debbie Tanzler

Social REGISTER

The Florida Forum wrapped up its eleventh season as former Florida Governor Jeb Bush closed out the evening with a standing ovation. During his eight-year run in office, Bush became known for reforming education and health care in Florida, all while leading the nation in job growth and narrowing the student achievement gap.

He joins a long "A" list of featured entertainers, pundits, business heavyweights and more as the likes of Bill Cosby, Richard Branson, Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Barbara Walters, Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher – to name a few – who have all graced Jacksonville patrons.

The 2013-2014 speaker series featured former British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Oct. 16, bestselling author Michael Lewis Nov. 12, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush on Jan. 16. A private reception was held at the Rummell residence to celebrate the conclusion of yet another successful season.



Chris Hieb, Deborah Gervin, Peter Rummell and Judi Hardwick



Women's Board immediate Past President, Jackie Bargas with Forum Chair Poppy Clements



Jane and Gil Pomar



Melissa and Jason Nelson



Erick Green and James Richardson



Chuck Hedrick and Matt Rapp

WEAVER'S HONORS SHARED AMONG FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES



Leadership Jacksonville Board President Stephen Goldman with Joanne Cohen and Laurie Price



e McDonald with Julia and John Taylor

The debut of the fifth installation in The Legacy Series afforded community leaders a great opportunity to rally around Delores Barr Weaver, Leadership Jacksonville and its trustees. The Legacy Series highlights the life and times of Weaver, from her work as a local philanthropist, historic preservation advocate, NFL franchise owner and longtime champion for economically and socially disadvantaged youth.

The video series continues to illustrate the diverse landscape of North Florida leadership by highlighting the experiences of those who have led as 'investors' for the greater good. The series, produced by Lindsey Films, has been highly touted for excellence in production quality and outstanding content, earning the filmmaker an Emmy and two Telly Awards. The opening debut reception was held Jan. 8 at WJCT Studios in honor of Weaver. View the video today at www.leadershipjax.org.



Lawrence J. DuBow and Jane Lanier



Karlee Livengood, Kim Wright, Renee Livengood and Sharlene Lignetta



Andrus Healy with Family Nurturing Center Executive Director, Stella Johnson

A 'SWEET' EVENT HELPS NURTURE SUPPORT

There was a battle to be the best, the best "Chocolatier of the Year" to be exact, at the 11th Annual Taste of Chocolate Challenge. The big fundraiser, held this year at the Haskell Corporation headquarters on Riverside Avenue, drew quite the crowd in support of the Family Nurturing Center. As guests paired sweets with cocktails and libations, confectioners from across the city tantalized the senses in a battle to be the crowd favorite.

With an outpouring of support from the legal community and beyond, the true beneficiary of the funds raised are the children and families served by the center. The organization meets the needs of struggling families through a range of programs, all designed to help nurture the ties that are so important to the health and well-being of every family. To learn more or to get involved, visit www.fncflorida.org.



Leigh Scales and Andrea Storer



by Marchant and Ashley Lane

ASK Allison

Q: There seems to be more and more positive news about real estate all the time. What will that mean for our neighborhood?

2014 is off to a VERY busy start. January is usually a pretty slow month but in Avondale, Ortega and Riverside, we've already got 23 properties under contract and another 54 in Pending Status waiting to close. The Days on Market is very short - often in less than 30 days. This is a dramatic departure from just a few short years back where practically nothing was selling!

We're also starting to see "flips". I just noticed a house on Apache Avenue that was purchased for \$211,000 back in 2011 that went back on the market for \$369,000 in early December and it went under contract in less than 30 days. The current owner did make some significant improvements but that's still a big jump up in price in just a few years.

- 2014 Buyers are looking for homes that are:
- Renovated - people are too busy to renovate
 - Energy efficient
 - Close-in - "walkable" properties are highly sought after
 - Family Centered with Kitchens open to the family room

Our inventory remains critically low - if you've been considering a move - now is the time to call your realtor. Consider renovating your bathroom or your kitchen if it needs it and you'll be surprised at how quickly your home will sell.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

St. Vincent's HealthCare names Hodgkinson new CFO



St. Vincent's HealthCare recently named a new Chief Financial Officer to the Riverside-based health organization. Kim Hodgkinson was formerly with St. Mary's, an Ascension Health Ministry in Evansville, IN where she served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Her responsibilities at St. Vincent's will include finance and revenue cycle services, Managed Care, IS and strategic development. "I am honored that Kim is joining our team."

She has a wealth of healthcare experience with a proven track record of contributing to the financial success of health systems where she has served," said Moody Chisholm, CEO and President of St. Vincent's HealthCare. "Kim's focus on financial planning and improving processes will be extremely beneficial as she leads our system's finance team."

Prior to joining St. Mary's, Kim served as the Executive Director of Financial Planning and reimbursement in Milwaukee, also an Ascension Health Ministry. She also held finance roles at two other Catholic healthcare systems. Hodgkinson has an MBA in Finance and a Master of Arts in Nuclear Physics.



New facility brings healthcare closer to residents

A new, fully operational CareSpot walk-in medical clinic has arrived on the Westside for those in need of a walk-in health care experience.

A redesigned facility, at the corner of Normandy Blvd. and Lane Avenue on the Westside, replaced a former location across the street. The newest CareSpot will help to serve the community with modern amenities and it nearly doubles the size of the average CareSpot center with 6,180 square feet. The new space is optimized for patient comfort and flow for urgent care, occupational health, and health check needs. Larger procedure rooms and an updated, spacious interior will offer an optimal patient experience, complete with a game room with tablets for children.

According to Regional Director, Carey Hepler, the former center was the second busiest CareSpot location in the region and the new center will help shorten wait time. "If you can get in and out in an hour, you're happy. If you're here more than an hour, you are not," Hepler said.

The newly designed center incorporates an online patient for sign in and an application to have your spot reserved in order to facilitate a better experience. The center is located at 5964 Normandy Blvd., an average of 1.2 miles from the Riverside/Avondale area.

District 14 Council incumbent files



City Council incumbent Jim Love, District 14, filed with Duval County Supervisor of Elections Jerry Holland on Jan. 3 for re-election in 2015. Love said, "Over the last several years it's been my honor to serve the City and after careful consideration, I've decided to run again for City Councilman of District 14." Jason Tetlak of Murray Hill has filed as a Democrat to run against Love.

MOSH promotes Christy Leonard to Deputy Director



The Museum of Science & History promoted Christy Leonard to Deputy Director, who has served the Museum as Curator and Director of Operations for eight years.

In her new role, Leonard will lead efforts for process improvements and performance enhancement throughout the organization and will oversee the day-to-day operations of exhibits, technical

services, collections, natural sciences, and marketing. Leonard has a certificate in nonprofit management, recently completed the year-long Moving Up Management Intensive program, and was selected for the 2012 class of the Nonprofit Center's Emerging Leaders. She has a B.A. degree in History and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of North Florida.

"I look forward to collaborating with Christy Leonard in her new role," said Executive Director Maria Hane. "She is a proven leader with a strong background in Museum management."

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Don't forget your Sweetie on Valentine's Day!

Join us every Friday and Saturday for gourmet wine & cheeses available to sample!

Riverkeeper's Orth celebrates 10 years as executive director



Ten years ago this month, the St. Johns Riverkeeper doubled in size. When James C. Orth, freshly armed with a master's degree in public administration from UNF, joined former Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon the staff was expanded by 100 percent.

In that decade since, the St. Johns Riverkeeper has more than tripled its membership, the income has increased eight-fold, it now has six staff members (four full-time, two part-time), and with the community support has gained more influence and credibility.

"We are fortunate that we have so many loyal supporters who make this work possible. I am proud that Riverkeeper is viewed by so many as a trusted voice for the St. Johns and an effective advocate for the river's protection and restoration," said Orth, who celebrated his 10th work anniversary on Feb. 1. "We certainly have our work cut out for us, but I am confident that our community will rally around the river, and one day, we will achieve our goal of a clean and healthy St. Johns. So many people love the river that I just can't imagine a different outcome. I just feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to help improve the community and the river that I love so much."

When asked what he thought was the Riverkeeper's greatest achievement in the past 10 years, Orth responded that saving the headwaters of Julington Creek and Pottsborg Creek from destruction was one of the greatest accomplishments that the organization, along with several other groups and a lot of support from the community, achieved. "This one stands out because over 200 acres of critical wetlands were saved and most of the property was put into conservation, despite the initial approval by the water management district," Orth noted.

Not every hope is fulfilled, though. "The greatest disappointment for me is that our river often doesn't rank among the top of priorities for our leaders and our community, despite its importance to our economy, quality of life, and well-being," shared Orth, a Riverside resident. "The level of awareness and concern for the river has grown significantly over the years since I joined St. Johns Riverkeeper, but we, as a community, still often lack the willingness and the commitment to protect the river and do what is necessary to resolve the pollution problems that impact its health."

Light elected to fourth term as Republican Women's president



New officers, seated left to right: Georgianne Pionessa, Member-at-Large, Sharon Light, President, Sandy Robinson, Corresponding Secretary, Kathy Seymour, 2nd Vice President, Vicky Cornwell, Recording Secretary, Carol Shelton, 3rd Vice President; standing, Vanessa Danford, Treasurer, and Barbara Bane, 1st Vice President

The Republican Women's Club of Duval Federated new board of directors was sworn in on Jan. 9 at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel, where the organization presented its annual Special Person of the Year award to Gary Dickinson, a member of the Sheriff's appointed staff.

Sheriff John Rutherford conducted the installation ceremony and was keynote speaker. Former City Council President Jack Webb played the bagpipes while in full Scottish dress.

Sharon Light was elected president of the board for her fourth one-year term.

Also in attendance were former State Chairman of the GOP Tom Slade, City Councilmen Robin Lumb and Jim Love, Duval County Chairman Rick Hartley and Vice Chairman Michael Jackson, Baker County Chairman Kirk Gravelle, Undersheriff Mike Williams, as well as representatives from Congressman Ander Crenshaw's office and Senator Aaron Bean's office.



Sharon Light is flanked by Undersheriff Mike Williams, left, and Sheriff John Rutherford, right, at the installation ceremony of the Republican Women's Club
Photo by Georgianne Pionessa



Eric Hill joins Traditions Realty

Murray Hill resident Eric Hill joined Riverside-based Traditions Realty as a licensed real estate agent. Hill is not new to the business, being surrounded by family and friends in the real estate industry. Hill brings to Traditions a strong background in business management, working for Winn-Dixie for more than 20 years, working his way up from the produce department to district manager. Prior to making the move to real estate, Hill was the owner and operator of Pure, A Cleaning Company. His management skills and ability to multi-task are valuable skills in the real estate industry.

DVI elects new Board members

Downtown Vision, Inc. (DVI) elected Debbie Buckland as Board Chair for her second term and William Prescott as treasurer, and added Vicki Burns, Dorothy Merrick, Allison Naseri, Karen Perkner and Numa Saisselin as members to its 2013-2014 Board of Directors.

Buckland, a Downtown resident, is executive vice president, commercial banking manager and city president for SunTrust in Northeast Florida. Prescott is a principal with Heritage Capital Group. Burns is property manager at Regency Centers for the North Florida region and a San Jose resident.



Naseri



Saisselin



Merrick

Merrick is an associate broker with San Marco-based Warren & Co. Commercial Properties. Naseri, of San Marco, owns a small consulting company, where she coaches small businesses on best practices. Perkner, a Ponte Vedra resident, is an executive vice president of EverBank. An Avondale resident, Saisselin is president of the Florida Theatre.



Kathy survived a heart attack. And got her second chance.

She knew something was wrong, but never imagined a heart attack at 47. Baptist Beaches emergency team restarted her heart three times before transporting her by Life Flight to Baptist Heart Hospital, where cardiologists opened two blocked arteries. Afterwards, she decided to make some big changes. With the support of her cardiac rehabilitation specialist, Kathy quit smoking, started exercising and learned to eat a heart-healthy diet. Now 60 pounds lighter and chasing her grandchildren around, Kathy's living proof that a comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate approach to cardiovascular care is changing health care for good.



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Riverkeeper recognizes those who love the St. Johns



Educator of the Year – St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School

The St. Johns Riverkeeper recently awarded two residents and an organization for their efforts in promoting, cleaning and maintaining the health of the St. Johns River.

Cathy Hardage, Head of School of St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School, was presented with the St. Johns Riverkeeper Educator of the Year award on Dec. 12 at Jacksonville University’s Marine Science Research Institute.

According to Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman, “St. Mark’s went above and beyond to promote the needs and importance of the St. Johns River, our most precious natural resource, to your students and community and we thank you.”

During the 2012-2013 school year St. Mark’s theme was about water, its importance and conservation, both locally and globally. The learning culminated in a school-wide River Clean-Up on Mar. 16, 2013, with many families participating. The school will be honored at the Mayor’s Environmental Lunch on Mar. 6.

Volunteer of the Year – Walton Cheney

Throughout 2013 Ortega Farms resident Walton Cheney worked tirelessly, piloting the St. Johns Riverkeeper boat and helping to revitalize and reenergize the River Patrol as the Steering Committee Chair. The River Patrol is a volunteer “river watch” program that helps monitor water quality and habitat conditions and document and report any problems encountered. Cheney is a life-long boater and has been a member of the River Patrol since 2004. His years on the water and his passion for protecting the river make him a great advocate for St. Johns Riverkeeper. In 2013, River Patrol members spent significantly more hours on the water and submitted more online log reports than in past years. Under Cheney’s leadership, the River Patrol will continue to recruit new members and expand its outreach in 2014.



Walton, Cheney, 2013 Volunteer of the Year, Roger Linville, Jimmy Orth



Advocate of the Year – Jim Draper

Through the “Feast of Flowers” exhibit at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and his previous work, Riverside resident Jim Draper has showcased the beauty, majesty and diversity of natural Florida. Draper’s work and his words convey a powerful message about the importance of preserving and embracing the natural heritage of the state. Many visitors to the exhibit were inspired and even transformed, gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the natural world and the value and importance of native plants in its landscapes. Draper, who previously served six years on the St. Johns Riverkeeper Board of Directors, received the Advocate of the Year Award for using his artistic talents to further advance the Riverkeeper’s mission – to protect and preserve the St. Johns River for generations to come.

The Legacy Series features Delores Barr Weaver, her personal achievements

The accolades continue to pile up for Delores Barr Weaver, as the local philanthropist and advocate for the disadvantaged was honored by Leadership Jacksonville at a recent screening of the latest installment of the Emmy-awarded Legacy Series.

The studios at WJCT played host to the viewing of the personal conversation Weaver shares with viewers about her journey, from her roots in Columbus, GA to her passion for the pursuit of the NFL franchise alongside her husband Wayne. Through this telling story, she joins a unique group of prominent leaders who have made a lasting impression on the First Coast through their life’s work and achievements. Weaver’s narrative is the fifth in a lineup of some of the most prolific members of the community, both past and present.

The series, produced by Kent Lindsey of Lindsey Films, showcases conversations that help to preserve



Courtesy of Leadership Jacksonville

and document the thoughts and ideas of the area’s top leaders, those who have had a profound impact on our region.

The compilation has highlighted Dr. Frances B. Kinne of Jacksonville University, the first woman president of a Florida university; community activist and civil rights leader Alton W. Yates; volunteer, civic, business and religious leader Bob Shircliff, and The Honorable Frederick Schultz, founder of Jacksonville Community Council Inc. and Leadership Jacksonville, and the inspiration for the series. Funding for the non-profit venture is currently supported financially through fundraising initiatives led by Leadership Jacksonville. To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and view the latest video, go to www.leadershipjax.org.

Happy Valentine’s Day from the Janie Boyd Real Estate Team!



(From left to right) Trey Martin, Judy Jones Davis, Tinnon Froehlich, Cheryl Laucks, Janie Boyd, Jamie Spicer, Moody Baker, Betty Thomas, Charlie Boyd, Linda Strickland.



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"Our distinctive collection of jewelry can be found in our unique showroom on the 25th floor of the Riverplace Tower," says Hugh Harby, President. "Customers are nearly as impressed with the breathtaking view as they are with the quality of our collection, and once they have experienced our undivided attention to their specific jewelry desires, they return again and again."

Once you have the Valentine surprises behind you, the second most important aspect of fine jewelry ownership is insuring your long term investments. An insurance appraisal is one of the most essential services provided by Harby Jewelers. Losing your valuables can be devastating, whether to fire, theft or natural disaster, and without insurance, the loss can be irretrievable. Both graduate gemologists at Harby Jewelers

practice discretion and discernment in providing professional insurance appraisals on your fine jewelry. You may schedule a private meeting for appraisal of your valuables or stop in with your family heirloom, grandma's locket or a precious diamond ring handed down from generation to generation. Within a short time, one of the Harby gemologists will sit down with you, thoroughly explain the findings and provide an insurance appraisal that will fully protect your beloved belongings.

For insurance appraisals and estate appraisals, Harby's GIA graduate gemologists will assist you with every request. The appraisals include a full description and a photo of each item, all of which are kept on file for future updates. You can place your trust and confidence in an appraisal by Harby Jewelers. They have earned the highest rating of quality and integrity from loyal customers throughout Northeast Florida.

When, for whatever reason, customers request Harby Jewelers to sell unwanted pieces of jewelry, they can be assured that confidentiality will be observed while carrying out the sale. "We are always in the market for diamonds, fine jewelry and estate items," says Hugh Harby, who will assist with the liquidation of a single item or an entire estate.

There are several avenues for liquidation

of unwanted jewelry. When time is not of the essence, the consignment plan is the most popular. With this plan, a net price is established that will be paid to the customer after the item sells. Because the customer is not paid until the item sells, Harby Jewelers can pay a higher price than if the item is purchased outright. Another option is to trade your item or items for a piece already in the store's inventory. As with all of Harby Jewelers' services, a thorough evaluation of your options will be offered before any decisions are made.

When it comes to great options, custom design work is and always has been a particular specialty of Harby Jewelers. "We delight in designing any item of jewelry you can imagine," says Hugh Harby. "It can be something you've seen someone wearing, or an idea you've dreamed of exploring...if you can dream it, we can do it!" Last summer, a gorgeous diamond, ruby and gold cross necklace was created from a customer's original ring. Her husband had recently passed away and she wanted the band redesigned into a cross. "We love making new pieces of jewelry out of old designs!" said Hugh Harby, displaying both the ring and the

cross on Harby Jewelers Facebook page.

And, speaking of rubies, diamonds and gold, Valentine's Day is here again and you can make your sweetheart's every sparkling dream come true on the 25th floor of the Riverplace Towers, where Hugh and Brad Harby wait to serve you.



before



after

Harby Jewelers is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and other times by appointment, located in Suite 2552 of Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd. Call (904) 346-0642 or visit www.harbyjewelers.com for more information.



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Taking care of customers takes care of the business

In 2005 when the Super Bowl came to town, Sandy and Gary Polletta, owners of Edgewood Bakery, were offered some pretty lucrative gigs. The money and exposure would have been a big boon to the Murray Hill business, yet the couple turned them all down. "We would've had to shut down our retail for days and couldn't have served our regular customers," Gary said. "Our customers take care of us, and we're always going to take care of them, so we didn't do it."

The Pollettas' commitment to treating their customers as the most important part of their business is only one reason that the bakery has

been so successful.

It all starts, Gary explained, with quality ingredients. "We make everything the old-fashioned way — from scratch. We use real butter and cream cheese, make our own dough," he says. Hummingbird cakes contain real bananas and pineapple, not canned. Ditto for the ingredients in the bakery's pies and famous carrot cakes. "Everything [in the bakery] is made fresh every day. It requires extra labor to make everything from scratch, but it's worth it," he said.

Edgewood Bakery is also renowned for the creativity of its bakers and decorators. As expected, the cases are full of traditional favorites like cupcakes, cookies, doughnuts, cinnamon buns and Danish. They also bake specialty pastries like Italian cannolis and breads including jalapeño cheddar. But it's the team's custom designs that truly set their products apart.

Their sugar cut-out cookies decorated for the holidays — or dinosaurs and aliens "just because" — look almost too good to eat (clearly, they aren't since they're among the bakery's best sellers). And Edgewood Bakery's custom cakes truly are works of art. Sandy's experience as a costume designer for stage and films enables her to create amazing — and award-winning — designs such as cakes made to look like a marlin or PlayStation console, a 3-foot-tall Eiffel Tower made of chocolate, a swamp scene cake complete with raccoons peeking out of the grass and a 4-foot-long gator, and a 6-foot-tall wedding dress cake for a customer's 60th birthday.

Speaking of weddings, they comprise about 20 percent of Edgewood Bakery's business. Sandy has designed wedding cakes in all shapes, colors and sizes — and has yet to meet a bride whose vision she couldn't make a reality.

It's not all about the pastries, though. Edgewood

Bakery also offers breakfast all day with entrees such as omelets, quiche, French toast and Eggs Benedict, and lunch including burgers, salads, wraps, soup as well as their best-selling hand-breaded Panko chicken tenders.

Having owned the Edgewood Bakery for 23 years (the Pollettas purchased it from the second owners in 1992), the couple has seen a lot of changes in the business, including increased competition from the convenience of supermarkets



Bakery baking with their friend, fellow baker and Norwegian bakery owner, Bjarne Mosas. Bjarne was visiting Gary and Sandy and passing on several formulas. His bakeries are in the Bodo, Norway area, north of the Arctic Circle (bodobakerie.no).

offering bakery items and unregulated cottage industry. But through their combination of hard work, quality ingredients, creativity and vision, and excellent customer service they've not only managed to stay in business but increase sales tenfold.

"We are proud of what we've done in the community," Gary says. "And we appreciate the support and loyalty of our customers who have allowed us to do what we love."



Located at 1012 Edgewood Ave. S., Edgewood Bakery open Tuesday through Saturday, 6:50 a.m. to 6 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are served 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (904) 389-8054 or visit edgewoodbakery.com.

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Intuition gets cooking with a cookbook

Celebrates local cooks, raises money for Second Harvest

BY KERRY SPECKMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Owners and employees of locally-owned businesses share a special kinship. Though they often have to deal with challenges not faced by chain restaurants and retailers, they appreciate their independence and celebrate their success – not only theirs but their fellow entrepreneurs'. And because they recognize the importance of community to their success, local businesses (at least in these parts) love to give back. Case in point: *Cooking With Intuition*.

"The staff collectively came to the realization that we needed to do a cookbook," says Cari Sanchez-

Potter, Intuition Ale Works general manager. "Ben [Davis, owner of Intuition] brought it up at one of the Mug Club potlucks, and the idea quickly escalated from doing a spiral-bound, community-type cookbook to this 288-page, hardcover behemoth."

The tantalizing tome features more than 80 recipes from local chefs, home cooks, food bloggers and Intuition staff. Not only does the book celebrate the culinary creativity of individuals, it also speaks to the burgeoning food and craft beer scene in Jacksonville, and raises awareness and funds for Second Harvest Food Bank, a local non-profit group dedicated to serving the hungry and educating the public about domestic hunger issues.

"Giving back to the community has been a central part of our mission since day one," Sanchez-Potter says.

Thirteen Riverside/Avondale businesses contributed to the cookbook:



Black Sheep, The Blind Fig, Bold Bean Coffee Roasters, Catering by Liz, Corner Taco, Grassroots Natural Market, Kickbacks Gastropub, Mellow Mushroom, MOJO no. 4, Orsay, Sun-Ray Cinema, Sweet Theory Baking Co. and Tapa That.

Local photographer Laura Evans shot each of the 100-plus photos.

Cookbooks are available at Intuition Ale Works (720 King St.) and participating businesses. Visit cookingwithintuition.com for more information.



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GOGIVER.....

Getting to know Sarah Sallas-Herring



"Volunteer work for Pine Castle allows me to combine both my personal and professional concerns in a deeply fulfilling way."

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Q. You are a longtime volunteer for Pine Castle. Please introduce us to this organization.

A. Pine Castle, an agency established in 1952, serves and enriches the lives of people with developmental or acquired disabilities by providing opportunities to learn, work and live in the community. A comprehensive schedule of workshops teach vocational and life skills; there is a senior program and recreation including physical, social and creative self-expression activities. The adult education program, a longtime collaboration with FSCJ, teaches participants to develop or improve academic skills. They help approximately 400 individuals each day in the Jacksonville area to achieve their potential, attain their highest level of self-sufficiency, improve quality of life and enjoy meaningful inclusion in the community. Pine Castle also developed a state-approved comprehensive training program for its staff that is available to

care providers through a series of four different low-cost classes.

Q. Pine Castle Executive Director Jon May said that you are a dedicated volunteer who has made a big impact on the charity through strong leadership over the past seven years...how did you become involved?

A. I personally learned of Pine Castle's programs through Leadership Jacksonville, through my stepson, Brock Herring, who is a participant there, and through a friend who was a volunteer on their board. My stepdaughter, Marcie Doherty, happens to be a special education teacher at Sable Palm Elementary, so I am very aware of the needs of these individuals.

Q. As a 32-year managed care professional with Baptist Medical Center, then the merged Baptist/St. Vincent's, and now with St. Vincent's Healthcare, how did you find that volunteer work with Pine Castle combined your personal and professional beliefs?

A. Volunteer work for Pine Castle allows me to combine both my personal and professional concerns in a deeply fulfilling way. St. Vincent's mission is to care for the poor and vulnerable, just as Pine Castle serves those in our community who are the most vulnerable and especially need our help. Their workshops help adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including autism, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and traumatic brain injuries.

Q. What are your volunteer activities with Pine Castle?

A. I joined the board in 2007 and served as president for two of those years. My focus was board governance including an examination of criteria for the board, working to make intangible things measurable and gaining a deeper understanding of where the organization was at any given moment so we could determine what improvements were needed. I worked to get the right people in the right positions, achieve a further reach into the community and improve the

long-term financial stability of the organization. I believe any successful organization must have vision. I'm a great believer in James C. Collins' 2001 best-seller Good to Great, which summarized five years of research to examine how some companies transition from very good to great while others fail.

Q. Why is your drive to make the public more aware of Pine Castle so critical?

A. The state has removed so much funding from these agencies it is critical that the public know that these individuals must have our help to be able to continue to learn and independently function within our community. Many can work in jobs such as bagging groceries at Publix, if they are given the opportunity to learn basic vocational and social skills. Workshops that teach these skills make such a difference in the lives of these individuals and enable them to live more independently. As a society, we do not want to go back to the past when people with intellectual or developmental disabilities were institutionalized. We must collectively support organizations such as Pine Castle. For more information, go to their website, pinecastle.org or call (904) 733-2650.

Q. What other organizations do you support?

A. My husband Burtran Herring and I support the American Heart Association, the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, United Way, Angelwood and Lakewood United Methodist Church where we are members.

Q. Any thoughts for readers interested in volunteering?

A. I live my life by the concept of paying it forward, to help as many people as I can while I can. I believe that kind of caring and goodness will come back to us. I also believe that God has a plan for each person, but it requires patience. I prayed about something for 10 years and those prayers were just recently answered.

Love endures all things

New ministry launched with humility

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

For Ortega Forest resident Sam Pascoe, the oft-quoted “Love is” verses

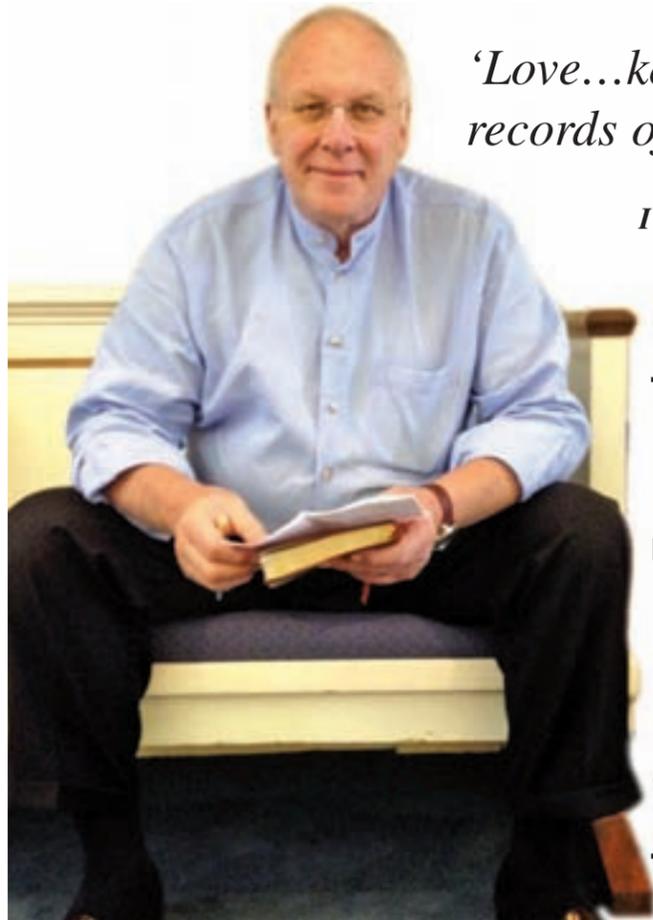
and addiction recovery. He took a job working for a painting contractor during the day and at a home improvement store at night. Later, he accepted a position as a Special Education teacher at a local high school.

“It was a tough season. It was radical soul surgery, a spiritual heart transplant,” said Pascoe. “Throughout it all,

‘Love...keeps no records of wrongs.’

1 Corinthians 13:5

“God humbles, people humiliate. When God humbles us, even though it hurts, He does it for our own good and, therefore, it is a good and healing thing.”



from St. Paul’s first letter to the church at Corinth never ring truer. Seven years ago his life unraveled and things have never been the same. But through the heartache and heartbreak, love never failed.

Pascoe – founder and currently pastor of The Ship, an Anglican church located near NAS Jacksonville – was an Episcopal priest until 2006 when he left the Episcopal Church over theological disagreements.

“I had left the Episcopal Church over issues of human sexuality so it was tragically ironic that my own failure in that arena nearly destroyed my own life,” shared Pascoe. “I made one of the worst mistakes a man can make, made doubly so by my position as a priest. I betrayed my wife, my sons, my church, my vows, my colleagues...the list goes on and on.”

Pascoe left the ministry and entered a period of counseling, soul-searching,

my wife and my sons loved me, forgave me, and held me accountable. I learned a great deal about the wages of sin and the cost of love. They paid an even greater price than I did. I literally owe them my life.”

While his family’s love endured those things, the former Episcopal priest discovered that organized religion didn’t always reflect God’s love for His wayward children in the same way.

“Over the years of recovery, I came to grips with what a self-righteous, judgmental jerk I had been. I had to repent of that,” Pascoe recounted. “And I had to deal with the fact that the church of which I had been a part – and which I had led for many years – fostered an attitude toward ‘sinners’ that did not reflect Jesus’ heart and priorities.”

His family was also wounded in the process and left looking for the super-

natural love that “keeps no record of wrongs.”

“Sadly, I had seen myself as one of the good guys. I had never been on the outside looking in. I had never been told I wasn’t welcome. Then, in an instant, my family was told they weren’t welcome at the church I had pastored for over 20 years – even to pray and worship,” Pascoe related. “For the first time, I knew what it was like to be an outcast, to be told we weren’t good enough, clean enough – whatever – to come to church. That experience changed me. It changed my understanding of Jesus, and it changed my understanding of what the Church needs to be about.”

But, as Pascoe knows, God allows bad to work for good in the lives of believers.

“God humbles, people humiliate. When God humbles us, even though it hurts, He does it for our own good and, therefore, it is a good and healing thing,” he said. “By contrast, all too often people seem to take perverse satisfaction in the humiliation of those they see as ‘sinners.’ In my experience, this rarely brings health or healing.”

The good that grew out of Pascoe’s own humbling experience was The Ship.

He began it as a home Bible study with six people. Second Chance Church, as it was then called, held its first service in a classroom at FSCJ’s Kent Campus in September 2009. The group moved from there to a small warehouse on St. John’s Avenue and then to a 10,000 square-foot facility, where they have a five-year lease, across from NAS JAX main entrance.

While The Ship has many of the trappings of a “regular” church (Sunday worship at 10 a.m., small groups, children’s programs, etc.) it is different in some important ways. For example, Pascoe pointed out “We don’t ask for money for anything except missions, and we don’t have membership. You couldn’t ‘join’ our church if you wanted to.”

That may be good news for local spiritual seekers, especially those known as the Millennials. According to a study by The Pew Research Organization, 25 percent of Americans ages 18-29 say they are not currently affiliated with any particular religion, and attend religious services less often than older Americans today.

At The Ship, said Pascoe, “If you happen to show up, we will welcome you as family, try to love on you in the name of Jesus. If you have a need, we will try to meet it. If you have a gift to offer, we will try to help you find a way to use it. If you just want to sit and observe and absorb, we’re cool with that, too. We’re pretty open.”

Here Pascoe and his family found healing and now extend it to others in a nonjudgmental environment.

“We laugh a lot,” Pascoe concluded. “The only things we take seriously are Jesus, His cross, and our duty to love our neighbor. Everything else is up for grabs. If we take ourselves or our traditions more seriously than we take Jesus’ invitation to rejoice and forgive, then we have missed the message.”

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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2012 vs. 2013

Single Family Residential Homes - Ortega, Ortega Forest, Venetia, Avondale, and Riverside

Median Price*		Number of Transactions		Avg. Months Supply Inventory	
2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
\$178,000	\$209,000	332	444	8.4	5.4

Condominiums - Ortega, Ortega Forest, Venetia, Avondale, and Riverside

Median Price*		Number of Transactions		Avg. Months Supply Inventory	
2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
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those in need. The work being funded with financing through Sun Trust Bank, will afford a select group of nonprofits the ability to lease space at below-market office space. There are currently between six and eight nonprofits, yet to be released, that are being recruited for the occupation of a 40,000 square foot portion of the approximate 80,000 square foot building, to be shared with the duPont Fund.

The Fund has conducted a survey of approximately 100 area nonprofits in order to help validate and evaluate the best fit for the future. Shared areas for temporary residents, speakers, lobby events and the repurposing of the former puppet theatre on the second floor will all serve as pieces to the greater puzzle of the shared space.

Magill took time to thank City Council President Bill Gulliford for sharing a passion for the project, making it known that "He understands the importance of a vibrant downtown Jacksonville." As the plans took center stage, Magill said that the Fund is "proud to be saving an icon" and will continue to reuse and emphasize the design originally masterminded by Hardwick.

In its original design, the qualities of the Mid-Century Modern approach incorporated the best use of light, energy and space at the forefront of the efficient model. Today, plans for the large window panels for natural light on the western side and filtered light on the easterly side, will remain. The goal has been to bring the glass up to



City Council President Bill Gulliford, Jack Burnell, owner's representative, Audrey Moran, Center program committee, Sherry Magill, president, Jessie Ball duPont Fund and Will Morris of KBJ Architects.

Alterations to space and design

- Relocation of the primary entrance to the building from the corner of Adams and Ocean streets to the middle of the block on Adams Street.
- Creation of an open terrace at the corner of Adams and Ocean Streets. This will provide greater visibility of the mosaic artwork along the Ocean Street façade and provide a secondary entrance to the building. Original cornerstone will remain intact and preserved.
- Replacement of all of the exterior glass with energy-efficient glass will take place as part of demolition process.
- The south wall of the building will be relocated out about 10 feet, recessing the first floor corner at Ocean and Forsyth, therefore creating a smaller garden on Forsyth Street landscaping.
- Replacement of oak trees in the tree wells along Forsyth to be replaced with palms, consistent with the City's requirements.

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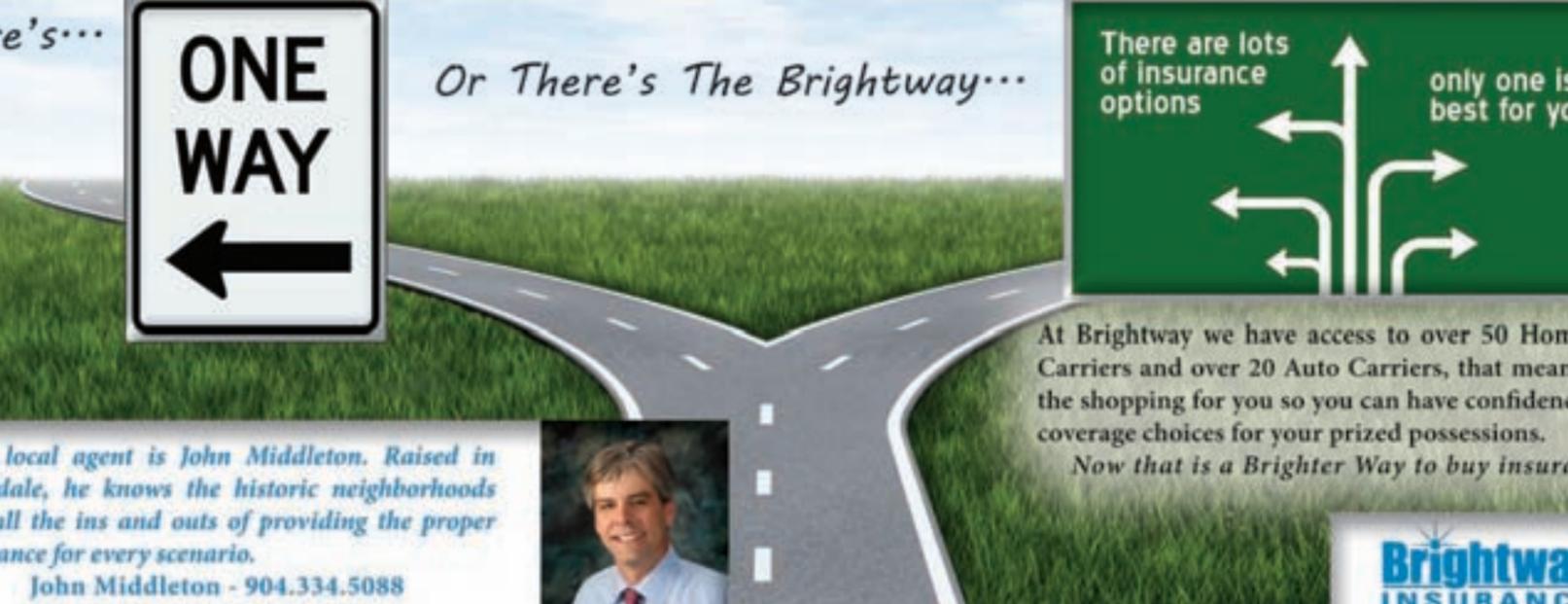
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Companion planting in the garden

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

February, a time when half-dressed cupids replace overdressed Santas and terms of endearment and connection enter everyday conversations...my beloved, my better half, my spousal unit, my husband, my wife, my partner, my companion. It's also the time when those glossy gardening catalogues begin to slide seductively through the mail slot.

The anxiety of "over choice" rears its ugly head. Which seed packets do I send for? Do I stay faithful to my tried and true veggies, or do I whip out the credit card and cavort with exotic newcomers named Beefy Boy, French Filet, or Sir Crunch-a-Lot?



My gardening mentor has encouraged me to think about companion planting. It seems that plants, like people, influence one another. Some plants have interactions that actually make life easier for other plants and, therefore, the other plants are less apt to wilt, brown out, or stunt in a spring garden.

It is not a new concept. Naturalists have known for eons that plants influence one another. At least 2,000 years ago, the Roman farmer Varro figured out that large nut trees make the border of the farm sterile. Now I know why nothing grows under my pecan. Another early farmer noticed that certain trees move groundwater to the soil surface where shallow-rooted plants can survive a drought.

Experts say plant relationships seem fall into three categories: improving health or flavor, stunting growth of a competitor, repelling critters. Native Americans planted their "Three Sisters" combo that works for small urban plots also. Corn plants provide the central tower that beans twine up. Squash is planted at the foot of the corn stalk and is protected from too much sun. Everybody is happy.

If the garden plot suffers from too much wind, a nurse crop might be the answer. Tall or canopied plants protect the more vulnerable species. Sometimes spindly transplants survive because they have been protected by a windbreak. My Maginot Line of collards protects the fragile arugula out in the windswept river boxes. Beneficial insects in the nurse crops help keep the predatory and parasitic population in check.

I love the concept of confusing the evil ones. Some of my plants actually give their lives for their fellows. The wide-leafed banana on my property saved a lemon from frost damage in a recent freeze. And I know better than to prune the sad, dead leaves until after our winter is over because pruning encourages growth that might be frozen by another cold snap. When my neighbor Ron Lindsay asked his gardener wife Mary Ann to cut off some frost bitten, brown leaves because he thought they were ugly, his wife answered like a true North Florida gardener, "Close your eyes then." Wisdom comes in many forms.

St. Johns River Month kicks off with free workshop

Rain and compost barrels for sale at The Cummer

To kick off its annual celebration of the St. Johns River in march, the Riverkeeper is offering a free workshop on Tuesday, Mar. 4, 7 p.m. at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The Riverkeeper will also hold the 2nd annual rain barrel sale on Saturday, Mar. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The 19th annual Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 22 and various businesses throughout the area will serve as distribution sites for bags.

The workshop, Getting Back to Our Roots: Making Natives Work in the Urban Environment, is a panel discussion about the practical uses and benefits of native plants, the importance of integrating nature into our built environment, and the value



of creating a sense of place. Panelists include Bob Chabot, Director of Horticulture and Facilities, Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens; Eric Lycke, Landscape Architect, Haskell; and local artist Jim Draper. Jimmy Orth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper, will moderate the panel.

You can do your part in conserving water and protecting water quality by collecting and reusing rainwater with a 50-gallon rain barrel. According to the Riverkeeper, harvesting rainwater provides a free source of water for plants and helps keep some storm water runoff away from driveways, streets and the river.

Also consider composting for the environment. The Riverkeeper will sell 65-gallon compost bins this year. To pre-order a 50-gallon rain barrel or 65-gallon compost bin, each \$70 or both for \$130, visit www.rainbarrelprogram.org/rainbarrelsfortheriver and order by Feb. 25.

Women's Auxiliary Preps for Celebrity Chefs



Dolores "Dee" Boutwell and Sally Evans



Cathy Damron and Dot Chambers

The ladies of the Salvation Army Auxiliary met to discuss plans for the 28th Annual Celebrity Chefs Luncheon set for March 13 at the Prime Osborn. The gathering of supporters and special guests was hosted in Mandarin at the Carpenter home in late January.

A Day of Gardening

The Duval County Extension Office is offering a fun day for gardening enthusiasts on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Hear speakers on many different subjects, shop for plants and garden-themed items with the vendors, and have lunch with the Duval County Extension Office. The workshop will be located at 1010 N. McDuff Ave. Cost is \$15 per person, pre-payment and registration required by Feb. 18. Email BeckyD@coj.net for a registration form, or with credit card at <http://2014adayofgardening.eventbrite.com>. There is a small service fee for registering online. No walk-ins; space is limited. Call Becky Davidson at (904) 255-7450 for more information.

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BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Winter Wahoo

per angler per day can easily be obtained. There is no size limit on wahoo.

One reason anglers come from afar to the First Coast this time of year is the quantity of fish we have.

A second reason is the quality.

It is not uncommon to catch multiple fish in the 50 pound range. And fish upwards of 60 or 70 pounds can be caught as well.

Wahoo are targeted south of our area too, off places like Stuart, West Palm Beach and the Florida Keys. Although wahoo are common down there, it is hard pressed to find the numbers and sizes consistent to what we have here.

One former charter captain explained his theory. As the fish continue their southerly migration, the larger fish may eventually take a more easterly track and cut over to Bahamian waters off areas like Walkers, Spanish and Elbow Cay. Many of the smaller fish may continue south along the Florida coast ending up in South Florida.

Another difference in our wahoo fishery is the distance one must travel to tar-

The winter migration of wahoo is in full swing off our First Coast in the month of February.

Anglers from around the country come to fish our waters as we have some of the best wahoo action around.

Beginning around 120 feet of water out to the ledge, large schools of wahoo can be targeted either slow trolling skirted ballyhoo or trolling artificial lures at high speeds (12 – 18 knots).

If the weather cooperates long enough to get out there, limits of two fish



Andrew Gardner with nice-sized wahoo



Gary Creed and Pete Woodall

get them. South Florida benefits from the short distance between their coast and the Gulf Stream, just a few miles. The steam off Jacksonville is roughly 60 miles away, so weather forecasts need to be watched closely.

Even if the weather the evening before or the day of fishing seems to be favorable, knowing the forecast later in the day when you are coming in is just as important. The boat run can take a few hours, and running home in building seas can be just as dangerous as fishing in them.

Fishing tournaments originate and thrive in areas where specific fish are targeted successfully, so a relatively new wahoo tournament growing in popularity in Jacksonville is no surprise.

The North East Florida Wahoo Shootout originated several years ago and seems to be growing year after year. The tournament runs from Saturday, Feb. 8, through Sunday, Apr. 6. For more information, visit <http://www.wahooshootout.com>

Fresh fish is one of our favorite meals to prepare for our families at home. And fresh wahoo is at the top of our list. Whether it is grilled, fried, sauteed, sashimi style or prepared to another newly-found recipe online, we always try to make the entire experience family-fun in the preparation as well as in the consumption.

Stay safe, and good luck!

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Gettin' Jiggy

Kick off the fishing season by attending the annual Gettin' Jiggy event on March 11, 7 p.m. at The Mudville Grille, following the mixer at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an informative program on fishing and weather to help you get ready for a fun time on the water. Speakers to be announced. Gettin' Jiggy is a free program sponsored by In River Or Ocean.

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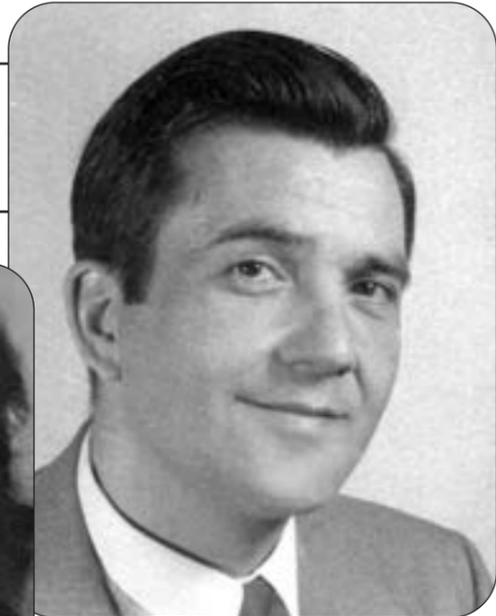
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Despite all, I love never fails



Bill Ferrell circa 1926



Lee Ferrell circa 1925

In an orchard seven miles from the nearest town, on a West Virginia mountain above the clouds, no city lights as

distractions and “oodles of stars shining in the night sky,” Lee Ferrell made a wish in 1946 “as young, foolish people do” that God would let her grow old with her new husband Bill.

Her wish is coming true as she and Bill celebrate their wedding anniversary for the 68th time on Mar. 13, 2014. Despite being forbidden to marry by their parents, despite hearing that it would never last, despite his family saying she wasn’t good enough for him, and her family saying he wasn’t good enough for her, love hasn’t failed.

Despite eloping when she had a job making \$18 a week – ten of which she gave her grandmother for room and board – and despite Bill being a door to door vacuum cleaner salesman making practically nothing, love hasn’t failed.

Despite the admonition they encountered on a cold, misty Saturday night when they were looking for a doctor to give them a blood test, and a man Bill describes as “high as a Georgia pine” said, “Yer gon’ get married, ain’t cha? If I had a gun I’d shoot ya!” Lee and Bill laugh that he must have thought he’d go ahead and put them out of their misery before it even started!

Despite the fact that they were dating other people when they went on a blind date set up by friends, despite that they had only known each other about six months, despite the fact that her wedding ring cost \$7 and hasn’t come off her finger since Bill placed it there, love hasn’t failed.

Despite the fact that they have no photographs of the wedding, had no fancy wedding clothes and despite the fact that they had to spend their honeymoon night at her grandmother’s house since they didn’t have any place to live, love hasn’t failed.

Lee says, in her mischievous manner, that her grandmother opened the door and “William was in the bed and she said, ‘What’s going on here?’” Lee explained that they were married but “Granny wasn’t satisfied until she saw the license, then she just quietly closed the door and went downstairs.”

The Ferrells’ sense of humor, intelligence and general loving kindness fills the air around them with joy and good will. Their devotion to each other is evident in everything they say and do. Bill holds out his right arm saying, “See this? This is where she puts her head every night when we go to bed.” Lee finishes for him, “And if I slip off, we hold hands.” Daughter Barbara, who will be married 43 years in August, says, “They are just so sweet. They have always been absolute wonderful role models.”

Both say the key to having a great marriage is 1) put God first in your life (they were baptized in a W. Virginia creek before they were married) 2) never go to bed angry, and 3) if you have a problem, discuss it.

Lee says, “If you get a divorce, most of the time you’re just exchanging one problem for another. He is a good Christian man, loving, caring, honest. I fell in love with him the first time I saw him. He was well dressed, had the blackest hair, was outgoing, charming, handsome – and he still is.” As Bill says, “Tall, dark and handsome and the best salesman you’ll ever see!”

The Ferrells were and are highly accomplished as are their six children and numerous grandchildren who share their parents’ movie star good looks and desire for achievement. They count among their accomplishments, a stint as Miss North Carolina, a model, world renowned surfers, teachers, medical and business professionals, and religious leaders.

Bill and Lee have been active in the Jacksonville community since moving here in the 1950s. Bill taught school, worked on the railroad, and sold insurance, winning many awards as best salesman, held longtime membership in Murray Hill and Ortega United Methodist church, is a 32nd degree Mason, former president of the Westside Business Men’s Club, and has been a community leader for many organizations as well as a state jitterbug champion.

Lee worked as a secretary and bookkeeper, helped Bill with his business by making appointments, doing office duties and, “with God’s help” raised six children.

Their beautiful Ortega Forest home reflects their hard work; numerous photos on the walls speak of their devotion to family. Despite illness and



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Ferrell Tribal Wedding

Known by his Cherokee tribal name "Grey Fox," William Ferrell pledged his troth to Lee "Sparkling Eyes" Ferrell once again on their 60th wedding anniversary in 2007 at the Cherokee Reservation in Georgia.

... infirmity, the loss of a son and a grandson, both are quick to say they have been blessed, "God has been good to us."

They recount the numerous ways that things just fell into place for them over the years, from door to door canvassing to winning trips to New York and staying at the Waldorf Astoria; despite having to leave their little two bedroom home high in the clouds to seek work in Jacksonville, despite Bill having seen such sorrow in his work as a Navy corpsman at three different hospitals during the WWII, despite it all, their marriage has thrived.

Lee's eyes glow as she says, "William is my best friend."

Known by his Cherokee tribal name "Grey Fox," William Ferrell

pledged his troth to Lee "Sparkling Eyes" Ferrell once again on their 60th wedding anniversary in 2007 at the Cherokee Reservation in Georgia. Clad in traditional, hand-made buckskin, fringed wedding clothes, the ceremony reflected the tribal customs and reinforced the vows taken in the living room of a Methodist minister 60 years before.

Those stars which twinkled in the night sky so long ago in West Virginia seem to have taken up residence in Lee's "sparkling eyes" and shine out for all the world to see.

Despite it all, their love story reflects the inscription on a photo frame from their tribal wedding – "Love Never Fails."



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Giving of self, giving to community

Volunteers also benefit

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Resident sought to find out from people who are active volunteers just why they do it and what they get out of it. Is volunteering truly just a one-way street...or is there something more to it?

The rewards are worth it

Ortega resident Judy Fackler began her volunteer career in support of her husband Bill.

"My husband and I have always supported each other in every activity," said Fackler. "Through his work with First United Methodist, he became chairman of the board for Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC). I would volunteer at Bubba tournaments and in the summers before I retired from teaching."

Fackler taught for 18 years at Raines High School and after her 2001 retirement she began volunteering at DESC every Wednesday and is now on its board of directors.

One of the many who work to provide caring service to help families who are struggling with food, clothing and financial needs, Fackler is also a "voice" at DESC. "We take the time to

talk with the people who call. I often have a careful ear to listen for someone who needs to be heard," she said. "I have been blessed to have talked to so many people over the past 10 years. I

hear many stories of frustration, loneliness and sometimes desperation."

In addition to her weekly volunteer work at DESC, Fackler is also a Cub Scout den leader and subsequent chairperson at First United Methodist, and has been a volunteer with Family Promise since its inception in Jacksonville in 2006.

Giving her time is important to Fackler. "Volunteering allows me to give something of myself to help others and helps me to see beyond my safe world. These experiences help me to appreciate life more intensely," she explained. "DESC allows me to be in a place to make a great impact on people both physically and emotionally; even spiritually."

Her advice to others who are unsure about volunteering: If you are worried about the risk that helping others creates, don't let it hold you back. The rewards and the renewed sense of life you receive are well worth it.

Volunteers make a community

Judy James, an Avondale resident,

has always been an advocate of education, and keeping informed and involved. When she moved back to Jacksonville in 2008 following a 28-year career in the Air Force as an acquisitions officer, she took a class at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute [OLLI] and, in her words, "I was hooked."

James was asked to serve as a volunteer on the Curriculum Team and said she jumped at the chance. "OLLI has been a wonderful source of not only learning, but also for developing friendships," she noted.

OLLI is a life-long learning program for adults over 50. Classes are offered during the day – and increasingly on Saturdays – in just about any subject you can think of, from economics, history, and politics, to writing, wood-working, and native plants...and everything in between. "We also have Ed-ventures (Education Adventures) to some great areas, as well as a Speaker Series which features a one-time lecture open to members and non-members," James explained. "Our courses are all peer-taught; our instructors, all volunteers, may be your neighbor or your doctor!"

As a member of the Curriculum Team, James is liaison to several

instructors, assisting them in planning and preparing for courses. She is also on the look-out for new instructors, the potential for new courses, and new locations. "OLLI has just begun offering courses at Ananda Kula [in the Fairfax area], which we are very excited about. Our first course will be a Saturday class on a plant-based diet beginning in February," James said. "We are looking forward to offering more mind-body-spirit course offerings at Ananda Kula, and thank them for their support of our program."

In what seems to be a pattern with people who do volunteer work, James has also been involved with the Women's Center of Jacksonville as a reading tutor for adults, which she said

is a very rewarding experience.

"Anyone who has volunteered knows how immensely rewarding it is. Sometimes we are reluctant to volunteer because we don't think we have anything to offer, but I will tell anyone who has thought that, to think of something that you enjoy (sports, art, education, children, the elderly, etc.) find a business,

non-profit, school, or program and knock on their door and ask if they need a hand," James concluded. "You'll be surprised at how open their arms will be to you. I believe that volunteers make a community, and I am happy to play a small part in helping my community."



Long-time DESC volunteer Judy Fackler



Judy James

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The Way we Were

Jack Kirby

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A part of Jack Kirby's journey goes from minnows to Marines. Growing up on Oak Street, he remembers idyllic days playing in Willowbranch Creek.

"It is hard to believe that we could spend so much time catching minnows with a Mason jar tied on a string, but when I was a kid that activity could consume an entire afternoon.

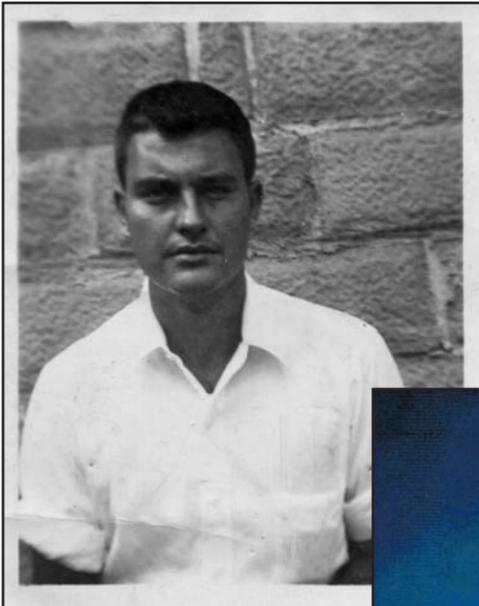
"Like many others in the early 1900s, my parents, Claude and Lucy, moved their family from Springfield to Riverside. Our Oak Street home was purchased in 1917. I was the youngest child of six and the only one born in a hospital. Home births were common at that time. When I was growing up, kids had lots of latitude. Minnow catching could go on for hours by a bare-foot bunch of neighborhood kids playing in the creek. Our mode of transportation from home was the bicycle. Even in the Depression, some of us had two-wheeled transport.

"My friends and I went to West Riverside Elementary where we were taught in the first grade by Miss Gregory and others. Valentine's Day was fairly standard. The rule was that everyone had to give a card to everyone else. Of course if we really wanted to impress a cute girl, we could sneak her an extra card as long as the teacher didn't know we did it.

"In elementary school we had our first entrepreneurial experience. Coca Cola would provide two fairly large signs that we would lean against a table. A wash tub, icepick and bottle opener completed our equipment. When the ice wagon came by we bought a block of ice, becoming, for a day, a customer instead of the usual pests. With capital from our parents, we paid 2 ? cents per bottle and sold it for a nickel. We soon realized that when

we sold one we had enough profit to drink one. Consequently, we were lucky to have enough profit to pay for the ten cent block of ice."

John Gorrie Junior High was Kirby's next stop. In an era before walking became an almost obsolete mode of transportation, an informal



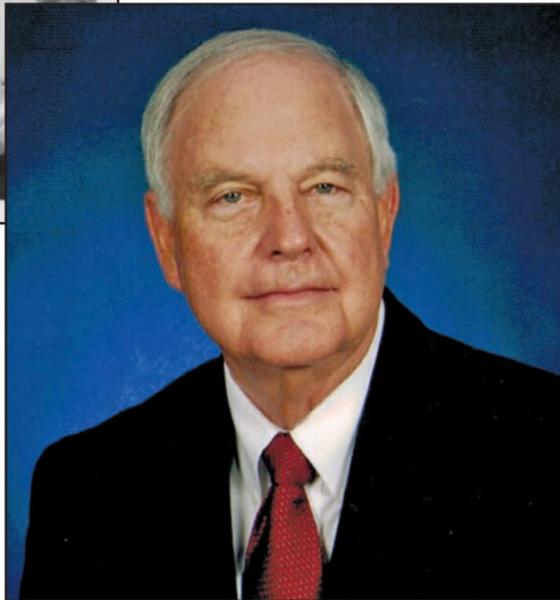
parade of students formed twice daily. Kirby remembers, "In the morning, I walked down Oak Street and usually was joined by Sterling Dutton. We would get to Oak and King and then a couple of the Hardages would join us. At Oak and Barrs the Number 3 Ortega Bus would offload some kids and then we would all head on to school. In the afternoon, we would reverse the process.

"This was a time of tennis, too. I would take a sandwich and a quart of lemonade down to the privately owned Richmond Street tennis courts where John Todd and I would always play Henry Drew and Ward Wagner. Even in the summer heat, we would play for hours."

A shadow darkened Kirby's care-free world on December 7, 1941. "I was 11 and my mother and I were at the Riverside Theater's Sunday matinee (now the 5 Points Sun-Ray Cinema). Suddenly, the screen went blank and the lights came up. The manager announced that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I remember that a blanket of silence fell over the audience. We filed out and went home to listen to the details on our radios.

"Many things changed. The tops of all auto headlights had to be painted with black paint. Curfews were instated. Rationing began. Gasoline, tires, shoes, sugar, meat, all became scarce. If we went to the beach, we could get tar on our feet because warfare was being carried out right off our shore.

"We boys grew up faster then because many of us had to perform jobs that older boys used to do before the war. Now, so many of them were in uniform. One effect of this early maturity is that lots of us drove early. We got our learners' permits and probably really weren't supposed to drive the trucks and cars alone, but the police looked the other way. At 14 I worked in a fill-



ing station and sometimes had to drive a truck to pick up repair parts. I had had no formal driver's training

and that seemed okay with everyone. Things had to get done.

"Later, during my high school years at Robert E. Lee, life became a bit more normal. I remember gatherings on the plaza before school where a group of us, planned the weekend's activities. Many times these plans involved renting a jukebox and dancing at the Ortega Pier. The Foxtrot and the Jitterbug were the dances of the day, but there was a lot of slow dancing too. Jim Cobb, Bob Read, Brittan Moore and many others were folks I remember from those high school days. Then, we went off to college."

Another shadow darkened Kirby's carefree world when he graduated from the University of Florida. "The Korean Conflict draft ensured that young men did not take longer than four years to graduate. If we had taken longer than that our education could have been interrupted. I graduated and after initially considering the Air Force, selected the Marine Corps. At the end of my two-year enlistment I was asked by a Marine General at Camp Pendleton to consider a career in the Corps. I answered him in the negative and explained that I had lots of family and friends in Jacksonville and I was ready to go home. I'm glad I made that choice.

"I entered the property and casualty insurance business when I returned to Jacksonville and had my own agency until my retirement in 1997, when I turned the agency over to my son John."

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Jr. Residents

Nearly 500 pounds of citrus collected for the hungry

Just in time before last month's freezing spell, kindergarten students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School collected citrus fruit for the Second Harvest Food Bank, while learning the importance of giving to hunger relief.

Last fall the kindergarten students studied how fruits and vegetables grow, while learning valuable lessons about need and hunger. As a service project, the children held a school-wide citrus drive to collect the extra fruit. For three days, students and parent volunteers collected donations of "spare" fruit from the school's families during morning carpool drop-off. The kindergarteners sorted the fruit by type, then counted and weighed the amount collected as a math lesson.

Just before Christmas break, the students proudly filled up a truck bed with 494 pounds of oranges, lemons, grapefruits, kumquats and more to be delivered to Second Harvest Food Bank where it will be distributed to families in North Florida who are food insecure.



Right: Annie Adams showing off a bag of oranges donated for hunger relief.

Below: Kindergarten citrus parade at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School

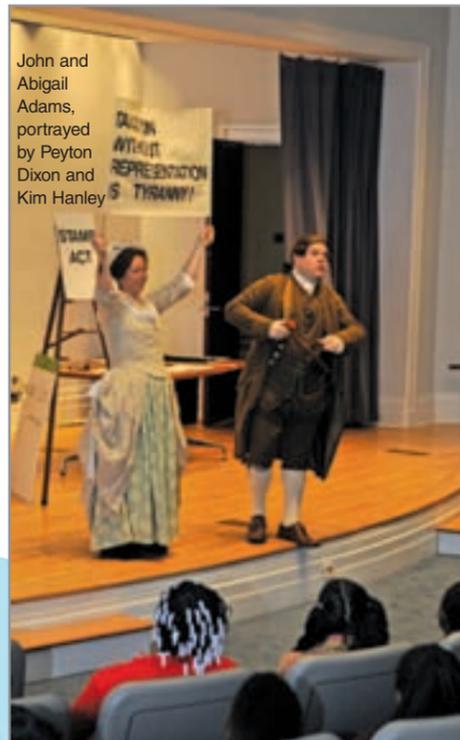


Colonial Dames treat local students to history lesson

If re-enactors could teach American history across the country, there would certainly be passing grades and fond memories of our heritage across the land. Thanks to Duval County School Board grant programs, underwriting from the Roger L. and Rochelle S. Main Charitable Trust and work by local women of the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida, valuable lessons were taught during a recent series of performances by talented actors mid-January.

John Adams (Peyton Dixon) and his charming wife Abigail (Kim Hanley) took to the stage in a lively performance, recounting the historic Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party and other Colonial-era struggles that faced the earliest Americans in their pursuit of independence. Engagement of the crowd encouraged students to shout at their British soldiers and occupiers, "NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!" and many other famous patriotic phrases. The entire auditorium was filled with children's voices, heightened with a passion for their ancestry.

Over 1,570 fifth grade students from schools throughout Duval County, including The Bolles School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, John N.C. Stockton, and St. Mark's Episcopal Day School were able to attend the eighth annual program at the Main Library Downtown. The series has included other historic figures such as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Lewis and Clark to name a few. An American History Grant awarded to the Duval County School Board will sponsor two middle school presentations at James Weldon Johnson and Lakeshore Middle Schools.



John and Abigail Adams, portrayed by Peyton Dixon and Kim Hanley

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Scouts serve others, earn Eagle Scout award



Dave DeStephano, Luke Lovelady, John Baker, Henry Wilson

Four Boy Scouts from Troop 2 recently received their Eagle Scout awards for having organized over 750 combined volunteer hours benefitting four different organizations. The young men received their awards in a Court of Honor on Jan. 5 at St. Johns Presbyterian Church, according to Alan Wilson, Scoutmaster.

Ortega resident Dave DeStephano chose Camp I'm Special for his project. The Bishop Kenny High School senior constructed four new storage units, executed numerous camp improvement projects, and made a donation of \$2000 to the camp, which provides opportunities to young people with disabilities.

Luke Lovelady, of Ortega, worked on St. Johns Presbyterian Church, prepping and painting the exterior of the Kirk House at St. Johns, sponsor of Troop 2, and where his father, Dr. Jonathan Lovelady, is the pastor. Lovelady is a freshman at Florida State University.

Another Ortega resident and a junior at Bishop Snyder High School, John Baker constructed and installed three hitching posts along horse trails at the north side of Betz Tiger Point Preserve.

Henry Wilson, of Avondale, spruced up Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, cleaning, prepping, painting and making repairs to the men's locker room of the aquatic center, an important community resource for people of all ages. Wilson is a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Public schools celebrate 150 year milestone

According to historical records, Florida's first free public school opened in Jacksonville in 1864. Five years later, Duval County's first Board of Public Instruction was appointed by the State Board of Education, making this year the 145th for the Duval County School Board.

As part of its 150th year as a school district, Duval County Public Schools introduced a new branding campaign and kicked it off at the annual School Choice Expo, where students from each school shared what they like about their school of choice.

"We are excited about the progress and future of our school district as evidenced by several recent successes within our district including the highest graduation and college readiness rates recorded in district history," said

Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent of Schools. "Our new brand is a reflection of our vision and the community of educators, administrators, students and citizens who share our commitment to quality education to make Jacksonville a national model."

The new branding includes a new logo, redesigned website, and district mascot named "DJ" (Duval Jacksonville). DJ is a smart, friendly dog with an attitude for fun and learning, representing the spirit of students in a community dedicated to building and supporting quality education for all students throughout the city. DJ is available to visit schools and community sites throughout the year to share his passion for learning. DJ can be reached for appearances by contacting (904) 390-BARK (2275) or HeyDJ@duvalschools.org.



I have gone to Fishweir for three years. I love the teachers and staff, and the different choices of programs, like Girls on the Run and Ceramics. These programs are teaching me to be strong and responsible.

Isabel L., Fishweir Elementary



I really like writing, math and science. I like writing because you can put almost anything down on paper, and it becomes a story. I also like math because math is kind of like a mystery. In a mystery, there is always something missing just like in a math problem, and you need to figure it out. I love science because I love experimenting, and taking tests. School is just a lot of fun.

Katelyn C., Ortega Elementary

St. Paul's student competes in county spelling bee

St. Paul's Catholic School held its annual spelling bee in December for grades two through eight. Fifth grader Eve Holzbaur won first place in the spelling bee and went on to compete in the Duval County competition last month.



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A Flipping Good Time!

Local teen leads others to see, meet needs

Monthly outings serve young and old

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In many ways, Kelsey Ellis typifies the Millennial Generation – people born between 1980 and 2000. She’s optimistic and diligent, and she values people and community. In April, Ellis started Monthly Youth Outings, or Mo.YO.

Mo.YO’s mission is to give high school students opportunities to use their gifts, talents and skills to meet the needs of others in the community. Fun, food and fellowship are also part of Mo.YO.

Ellis, a member of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, started the meetings so her church youth group could have more opportunities for outreach. Mo.YO is open to any high school teen in the region.

At the April Mo.YO meeting, two groups of teens met simultaneously to complete different service projects. After eating breakfast together, the first group made cards and took them to a

Jacksonville nursing home. While there, students sang songs, prayed and shared stories with patients. The second group pulled weeds, raked leaves and trimmed bushes at an elderly couple’s home. Then, both groups met for lunch, worship music, a time of devotion and games at Ellis’ home.

July’s Mo.YO event raised awareness and donations for Rethreaded, a faith-based organization helping women exit lives of addiction, violence,

prostitution and human trafficking. After researching and praying for the organization, students donated T-shirts for Rethreaded participants to fashion into new creations.

At the August Mo.YO, teens wrote letters welcoming upcoming freshmen to their church youth group. “It’s neat to see high school guys write a letter of encouragement,” Ellis said. A few

weeks after the letters were mailed, the older kids followed up with the freshmen they had contacted.

“I always try to put myself in their position,” Ellis said of the freshmen. “I’ll be a college freshman next year.”

Ellis, a Northside resident and home school student, credits her family for

teaching her to serve others. “Growing up, our family always did ministry days with our [home school] co-op,” Ellis said. Ministry days gave her a sensitivity to see and meet the needs of others.

Though Ellis loves planning the monthly events, she’s learned the value of delegation. “The Lord’s been teaching me to let others help out,” she said. “It goes way better.”

Emily Davis, 17, is a San Marco resident and a senior at Stanton College Preparatory School. She helped Ellis organize Totes Fab, the November Mo.YO project. Teens filled 51 tote bags with first aid kits, toiletries, hair brushes, combs, wash cloths, refillable water bottles and more, and donated them to homeless people at the Clara White Mission in downtown Jacksonville. Like Ellis, Davis enjoys serving others.

In addition to helping Ellis with Mo.YO, Davis has seen serving others at home, too. Her older sister volun-



Kelsey Ellis, 18, pulls weeds as part of the September 2013 Mo.YO

teered at Mission Year in Atlanta, GA, last summer. “Mission Year’s emphasis is to love God, love people,” Davis said. “Mo.YO is the same. Our emphasis is love people, love community, and I love loving back our community.”

Another way Davis loves the community is by volunteering at Sanctuary on 8th Street located in Springfield. “I help with an after-school program,” Davis said. “We play outside and help with homework.”

Dalton Gray, 16, a Murray Hill resident and sophomore at Lee High School, is another student who attends Mo.YO. “I like to hang out with friends and the fellowship,” Gray said of the meetings.

The most memorable Mo.YO so far, according to Gray, was when the group went ice skating in June. “It was my first time ice skating,” he said. “I fell a lot. My butt got sore.”

While Gray enjoys socializing with his friends at the meetings, he also appreciates the chance to volunteer in various ways and places. He can tell people are grateful for the Mo.YO kids’ help by watching their facial expressions, he said.

“I get a sense of achievement from serving others because I know I’m helping someone else for the good,” Davis said.



Dalton Gray, a Murray Hill sophomore at Lee High School, works a ladybug costume at the October 2013 Mo.YO Fall Festival. Gray and other teens modeled Halloween costumes at the event

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FIS executives Frank Martire, Chairman and CEO (center), and Gary Norcross, President and COO (top), are surrounded by students from KIPP Impact Middle School, along with Amy Mergen, FIS Senior Vice President, Corporate Programs (lower right), Lorie Strange-Paylor, Go Red For Women Director, American Heart Association-First Coast (lower left) and Stephanie Garthe, Art Instructor (standing behind Mergen)

Students give Heart Art quilt to benefactor FIS

To commemorate the first Show Us Your Heart art program, sponsored by FIS and facilitated by the American Heart Association-First Coast, the students of KIPP Impact Middle School last month presented a handmade quilt to Frank Martire, Chairman and CEO and Gary Norcross, President and COO, of Riverside-based financial technology company FIS.

art program last fall and is representative of the students' interpretations of how cardiovascular disease impacts their and loved ones lives. With a strong tradition of community involvement, FIS saw the sponsorship as way to bring together two of its charitable giving interests, to give to American Heart Association-First Coast while creating a direct benefit for the students of KIPP Impact Middle School on McDuff Avenue.

The quilt was created by 60 students in grades 5-7 during a five-week

Never too early to learn how to save

Ten high-energy boys and girls barreled into quiet TD Bank on San Juan Avenue last month and were welcomed by store manager DeAnn McNeil. The after-school students at Sanctuary on 8th were anxious to see how much money they would put into a new savings account.

"The children have been learning how to save money. We have a great relationship with TD Bank so we wanted to bring them out here to see the bank and see one of our supporters and open an account," said Vicky Watkins, executive director of Sanctuary on 8th. "We're going to continue to save money and bring it out here so the kids can learn about the value of saving the dollar."

Each child took a handful of coins from their glass jar bank and poured it into the Penny Arcade, an interactive coin counting machine. When all the coins were collected, the machine instructed them to enter a guess before processing the coins. With a touch of the screen, \$32.53 was counted in seconds and "Penny" announced that the guess was less than \$2 off the actual total.

"We love partnering with not-for-profit organizations; the Sanctuary is one we love to partner with and to see children learn about savings. Coming into the bank is something that will be of value in their life in the long run," said McNeil, who serves on the Sanctuary board of directors.

TD Bank has committed to sponsor this year's annual Shindig by the Sea fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 19 and the Avondale 5K Run on Saturday, Sept. 20



Ten youngsters made a visit to TD Bank on San Juan Avenue to open a savings account

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Flashbacks

WEDDINGS THROUGH THE YEARS

Shaped by Fashion, Culture and Economic Times

ROBIN ROBINSON, PRESIDENT,
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What better topic for our February issue than a look back at weddings of 50 years ago and more. Weddings from decade to decade are a product of the time and circumstances in which they take place. Everything from the setting for the wedding to the wedding gown to the type of receptions held interlace together with society's fashion and practices of the time.

Influenced by movie star glamour, the wedding gowns of the 1930s emphasized the feminine shape with the introduction of bias cut gowns that draped the female figure. Satin was a commonly used fabric to achieve this look. Modesty and coverage were achieved without hiding the feminine curves.

With World War II in full swing in the 1940s, uniforms were standard wedding fare and frivolity was frowned on. Most brides wore simple dresses or suits. Silk was not used because it was needed for silk parachutes during the war.

When the war was over, the brides of the 1950s celebrated with lace, lace and more lace newly available, as was silk. Portrait necklines and lace bodices provided coverage while also revealing the woman's femininity. Tight sleeves with the cuff pointed over the hand were very popular. The dress Grace Kelly wore when she married the Prince of Monaco in 1956 is an iconic example of this change.

By the mid '60's bridal styles gravitated toward the sleek sheath fashioned after Jacqueline Kennedy's White House style. A dress with simple lines was most definitely the trend of the decade.



This bridal couple married in Jacksonville on September 18, 1942 and was captured by the lens of Jack Spotswood, a popular Jacksonville photographer. It shows a typical wedding of the time with the groom dressed in his military uniform and the bride wearing a simple dress with the wedding taking place in the home. This scene was repeated by the hundreds across our country as couples tied the knot before the husband went off to serve in the war.

Photo from Florida Memory, Jack Spotswood Collection



Miss Genevive Estes married Mr. Nicholas Ridgely duPont on September 11, 1937 at the Good Shepherd Church in Jacksonville. They are shown here leaving the church. It was one of the highlights of the Florida social season and was attended by such luminaries as Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. duPont flew from Jacksonville to Chicago after the wedding to begin a honeymoon that took them around the world.

Photo from Florida Memory, Jack Spotswood Collection



In the 1950s brides favored a lace bodice and long sleeves to be suitably covered in a church ceremony. This unidentified couple, on the steps of the church after the ceremony, was captured by the lens of photographer Loyd Sangren, a popular Jacksonville photographer.



Miss Amo Baldwin, a graduate of Bishop Kenny High School, married Mr. Nick Burbridge on July 2, 1960 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Riverside. Mr. Burbridge went on to have a successful career with his company, Burbridge Realty. They have six children and have lived in Ortega for many years. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2010.



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