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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS — MARCH 2014 — VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3 — FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

Valentine's day ball more than just a celebration of love

The area's oldest charity ball celebrated 33 years, as patrons took time to celebrate Valentine's Day with friends and fellow supporters of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. The Red Rose Ball 2014 will help to raise much needed funding for their latest initiative, HeartSmart, a new heart wellness program brought to the community through outreach.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 25



John Stockton Elementary School was well represented with Brownies, who chose Morocco as their country to study

Girl Scouts celebrate World Thinking Day

Girl Scouts of all ages (from kindergarten through high school) came together nearly 200 strong on Feb. 22 in celebration of World Thinking Day. Twenty local troops represented 18 countries in costume and exhibits as part of a worldwide event promoted annually by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The troops created booths for the bazaar, sold handmade wares and food for 10 cents each. The dimes are donated to a charity selected by the Round River Service Unit, which includes girls from Avondale, Ortega, Riverside, Murray Hill and the Westside.

Competition fierce on Cub Scout Derby Day

Cub Scout Pack #522 Derby Day was filled with thrills, spills, cheers and tears. Cole Cavin, 2nd place winner, poses with pal Noah Cummings

SEE MORE ON PAGE 39



Community action results in scope change

I-10/I-95 and Fuller Warren Bridge expansion reduced

By KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Last month nearly 200 residents dropped in at Riverside Park United Methodist Church to peruse the aerial views of the proposed I-10/I-95 interchange project (number 433036-1, according to the Florida Department of Transportation).

After the two-hour open house, FDOT Planning and Environmental Manager Bill Henderson spoke to an audience of about 100 people, providing an overview of the project before turning it over for public comment.

The kick-off meeting introduced the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for the expansion of the Fuller Warren Bridge over the St. John's River and an exit ramp from I-10 westbound to Roosevelt Boulevard.

The project has diminished in scope since the early release of the plan in December at the FDOT review of the Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2014-2019. At that time the \$130-136 million project included expansion over land in North Riverside, threatening the demise of several homes and office buildings.

After meetings with Riverside Avondale Preservation, council members, and other community groups and residents, FDOT has scaled back construction to two primary areas at a reduced cost of \$70 million. Those areas are I-10 from McDuff Avenue to I-95 and along I-95 to Kings Avenue.

At the public meeting, Henderson noted that the benefits were substantial savings in travel time resulting in cost benefits. He stated that traffic during morning and afternoon peak travel

SEE BRIDGE ON PAGE 8

Taking Root

Courtenay Wilson with Diane Graham



Funding future greenscapes

The Museum in St. Nicholas played host to the greenest event held to celebrate a tree canopied Jacksonville. Since 1975, the small group of citizens that created the nonprofit organization Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc. have grown the organization as they proudly celebrated the twenty-seventh Flowering Tree Sale and the seventh Root Ball Gala.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 25



Public comment – does it work?

Citizens want clarification on right

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Last month The City of Jacksonville Ethics Commission sent a formal request to Attorney General Pam Bondi for a legal opinion to clarify the new “right to public comment” law (Section 286.0114 Florida Statutes, effective date Oct. 1, 2013.) This new law requires all local government Boards and Commissions in the state to allow the public to comment at public hearings.

According to Carla Miller, Executive Director of the Jacksonville Ethics Commission, her office had some complaints from residents about difficulties they were having in offering public comments at certain points in the process.

The request seeks to close loopholes in the statute that may otherwise deny the public the ability to effectively influence the outcome of government proposals and legislation.

The Ethics Commission asks for clarity on the public’s right to comment at each hearing or on each vote in local government decision-making.

The letter to AG Bondi read, in part: “The Commission seeks an opinion interpreting Florida Statute 286.0114 to clarify what triggers the public comment provision. Section (2) provides the public an opportunity to be heard on a “proposition.” Further, this opportunity to be heard is to be provided when a board or commission takes ‘official action.’ Taken together, is public comment required on each and every matter, and at each and every time, upon which a board or commission acts, aside from the exceptions to the law described in Section (3)?”

Avondale residents – and members of the Riverside Avondale Preservation and other neighborhood

associations – are all too familiar with the process, having just spent the better part of the last two years “commenting” on bills for development projects such as Mellow Mushroom and St. Johns Village/Commander Apartments.

Now Riverside residents are voicing their opinions about the FDOT’s proposed expansion of the Fuller Warren Bridge and construction of a flyover from I-10 to Roosevelt Boulevard. FDOT has set aside calendar year 2014 to hold public meetings and garner comment on the project. Thus far voices were heard in several private meetings held between the Dec. 9, 2013 review of the Tentative Five-

The bigger issue is whether what’s been done with the plan at this point is already “cast in concrete” or if the public voice will be further heard and acted upon.

Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2014-2019 and the project kickoff meeting on Feb. 10, which was open to the public.

“We had a lot of input back from the community, expressing a lot of concern about us widening any further, taking any addition real estate and affecting the community any further,” said James Bennett, Urban Transportation Development Manager for FDOT.

Based on what was heard from residents at that kickoff meeting, FDOT can be sure that they will continue to hear from the residents about the expansion project. The bigger issue is whether what’s been done with the plan at this point is already “cast in concrete” or if the public voice will be further heard and acted upon.

The public comment law is an important right in furtherance of Florida’s nationally recognized sunshine laws. For additional information, contact Carla Miller, Executive Director of the Jacksonville Ethics Commission, CarlaM@coj.net, (904) 630-1476 or Joe Jacquot, Ethics Commission Vice-Chair, (904) 402-0303.

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Street striping to occur in phases

Employee parking still in flux

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Neighborhood streets in Avondale will be striped in phases, according to Kay Ehas, chair of the recent Parking Study committee, with the first phase

to occur sometime in April. Prior to that, homeowners on the affected streets will be invited to an informational meeting.

Phase 1 of the street striping to limit parking to proscribed spaces will be done on the following streets:

- Striping to prohibit any parking on Riverside Avenue in the block between Talbot and Edgewood Avenues.

- Striping for parking on one side of the street on Pine Street from Dancy Street north to Edgewood Avenue, and on Talbot for the block between St. John's Avenue and Riverside.

- Striping for parking on both sides of the street on Riverside Avenue from Van Wert to Talbot Avenues; on St. John's Avenue from Van Wert to Dancy Street; on Pine Street from Van Wert to Dancy Street; on Dancy Street in the block between St. John's and Riverside Avenues; on Van Wert between St. John's Avenue and Pine Street; on Talbot in the block between Pine Street and St. John's Avenue.

As previously noted in *The Resident* in January, the City is determining the feasibility of adding parking for employees on Van Wert Avenue along Boone Park, although indications are that it is already being utilized in that manner. The City will determine if there is enough public right-of-way to accommodate parking as encroaching into Boone Park is not an option.

Another measure recommended by the Parking Study Steering Committee was the implementation of three-hour time limits on commercial on-street parking spaces once parking for businesses employees has been determined.

Legend

- no parking
- 1-side
- both sides

PARKING STUDY
SHOPPES OF AVONDALE

Legend

- both sides

PARKING STUDY
PARK AND KING

Striping schedules

In the Park and King area, two-sided street striping will occur during Phase 1 on the following streets:

- College Street from James to Acosta Street
- Post Street from James to Acosta Street
- Forbes Street from Downing to King, King to Acosta Street
- Lydia Street from Frederica to King Street
- Oak Street from James to King Street

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Hallmark Partners opens sales center with preview for realtors



Over 200 realtors were privy to a preview of the upscale quality of the exclusive 45-unit Beacon Riverside at a Feb. 11 event at 806 Riverside Avenue, the office of the sales gallery.

Hallmark Partners, Inc. founding partners Alex Coley and Jeff Conn, along with Bryan Weber, multifamily principal overseeing the development, Senior Vice President Keith Goldfaden and lead Sales Associate Debra Riley met with realtors, answering questions about the

proposed upscale condominium development along the St. John's River.

The residential tower will offer floor plans ranging from 2,400 to 5,000 square feet in size and a full complement of amenities and services for owners. An early reservation program is underway prior to the target contract date of mid-March. The tower is expected to start construction in May of this year with completion scheduled for the end of 2015.

Keith Goldfaden, NAI Hallmark Partners senior vice president of investment speaks to a visitor about the Beacon Riverside design aspects during the sales center debut

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2014 the year for raising awareness about Memorial Park's restoration

Events planned in the park, for the park

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It's approaching two years now since the Memorial Park Association took its first steps toward a major effort to restore and rehabilitate Riverside's 90-year-old Memorial Park to its original grandeur.

The first step was engaging with landscape architect David Sacks to develop a Master Plan. The initial plan was presented in January 2013 to the association's board members.

Even back then, members were anxious to procure shrubs, put shovels into dirt, and start the restoration process, but the brakes were applied. Fast forward to March 2014 and it may seem like nothing's been done when you visit the park.

To the contrary, 2013 was the year to finalize the Master Plan, to undertake a feasibility study with the help of Partners for Nonprofits, and to revamp the Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the City's Parks and Recreation Department. That latter task is well on its way to being put before City Council for approval this month.

According to the MPA's new president, Pattie Houlihan, 2014 will be the year of raising awareness and establishing credibility with the City and in the community.

"We've just finished our new MOU with the City, and the association is now growing into its own, out of necessity," Houlihan said.

MPA also rolled out a new brand, including a logo that is a stylized, col-

orful rendering of the park's iconic memorial statue, *Life*.

The association, established in 1986, has been in the background for nearly 30 years, but has always been an advocate for and a caretaker of Memorial Park.

"We've actually contributed over \$250,000 in capital expenses and maintenance for the park in the past 10 years and over 21,000 man hours in volunteers," Houlihan noted.

"We've always sort of apologized for the City – as in, it needs our help – but at the end of the day, the creation of the park has always been a public-private partnership."

Back in 1919 the City said, in essence, "we'll buy this land for \$125,000 on the river for the Jacksonville Rotary Club to erect a monument for World War I fallen" but it was a group of citizens who got together to run with the opportunity to hire the Olmsted Brothers to design the six-acre park. "I'm not really sure the City would have ever done this [design-wise]," she said.

According to Houlihan, the MPA has always been the one to do the grants for capital improvements. "When times got bad for the City, it became even more important to us to help chip in, but it became hard to explain why we were the ones working on it. People in the community wondered why the City wasn't doing it," she explained.

"The new relationship we're in the process of establishing is to have the City be the caretaker of maintenance and repair, and we'll take care of capital improvements," Houlihan continued. "They are more about safety and security, maintenance and repair."

Under the Master Plan, the City



"The truth came out that people really didn't know a whole lot about our relationship with the City, why the park is unique, why we're unique and why our relationship with the City is special."

– Pattie Houlihan explains why 2014 is the year to talk about critical improvements

does not have a say-so if it's a capital improvement, but the plan as a whole will be approved by City Council so that when any work needs to be done, the City doesn't need to be involved, Houlihan stated. The Master Plan was finished in mid-December, has been approved by Parks and Recreation and Kelley Boree, Director of Parks, will take it before City Council.

After MPA finished drafting the Master Plan, the association hired Jane Jordan of Partners for Nonprofits to do a feasibility study.

"The truth came out that people really didn't know a whole lot about our relationship with the City, why the park is unique, why we're unique and why our relationship with the City is special," said Houlihan, thus explaining why 2014 is the year to talk about critical improvements, about cultivating donors, and most of all, about raising awareness about why they are doing this.

"We need to set some groundwork

for the community," she noted, "and we'll have a series of events over the next year to do that." Beginning with an information booth at the Riverside Arts Market on March 1, these events will give people an opportunity to enjoy the park, learn of its history and the restoration plans, and to make donations toward the \$5.2 million capital campaign.

On March 23, the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program will invite visitors to the park for a picnic to purchase box lunches donated by Jonathan Insetta of Black Sheep; MPA will also have a booth at One Spark in April to share the Master Plan, and they are planning a Memorial Day celebration, a Fourth of July "home grown" parade, Oktoberfest for three days, and a Veterans' Day event.

More information about the all-volunteer association, the park, the plan and events this year can be found at memparkjax.org.



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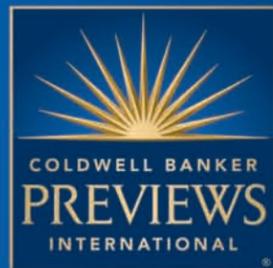
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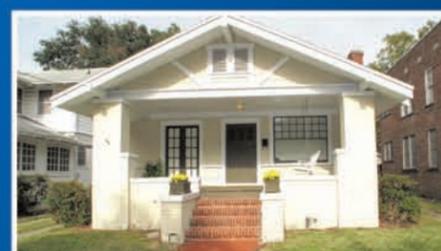
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Working with Anne Burpee Rain

Born in Ortega from a long line of Jacksonville residents beginning in the early 1800's, Anne found herself selling adobe homes in New Mexico in the 1990s. This led to her intense respect for historic architecture. After a decade of sales and renovating homes there, Anne returned to Ortega to continue her career in the footsteps of her Dad, Leland Burpee, a native son and developer in Jacksonville. "My passion for this community is genetic" says Anne as she lightheartedly refers to her

Burpee family history. "I want beauty to fill our neighborhoods. I take this goal to heart."

After two decades of helping others buy and sell homes, Anne's experience, caring and positive outlook is a reputation she cherishes. "Real estate transactions are filled with rapid fire decisions which lead to unfamiliar stresses hurled upon buyers and sellers. I aspire to use my years of experience to present the legalities of a real estate transaction in a very human way - the

way I would want to be treated if I were selling or buying."

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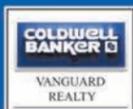


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times in the study area exceeds capacity, which was predicted to be around 210,000 vehicles by 2015, but which is already at 250,000 and expected to increase to 290,000 per day by 2040.

Impacts and eminent domain inevitable

The proposed project does have issues to be overcome, including right-of-way acquisitions and relocation of homes and businesses, and disruption of the weekly Riverside Arts Market under the Fuller Warren Bridge.

According to James Bennett, Urban Transportation Development Manager, the current concept significantly reduces the amount of construction expansion of the current roadways, thereby reducing the potential impacts to the community. "Considerable progress has been made to address key issues such as neighborhood encroachment, operations of the RAM for both short-



Robin Lumb, Councilman-at-Large and Riverside resident, makes several key points about the expansion project that will affect North Riverside – Photo by Kevin Kuzel

term (during construction) and long-term (after all construction is completed), etc." he said in an email distributed the week before the Feb. 10 meeting.

Bennett said that information and concerns from the community prompted them to make modifications to the design, changing shoulder widths in the medians – also referred to as breakdown lanes –

from the FDOT standard of 10 feet wide to the national standard of four feet, which is the minimum for four-lane interstate highways.

"The only area [of I-95] we will actually need to widen is over water," said Bennett. "As we continue to work through and refine the concept with the community's input, we are not anticipating any right-of-way acquisition over land except for the I-10 westbound flyover to US-17 south."

Barakat, owner of River Park Holdings LLC, spoke about his client's concerns with the proposed reduced width of the shoulders, noting that the office building at 751 Oak Street is too close to the highway for comfort.

"That building right now is extremely close to the expressway," said Isaac. "Our concern is safety. What I've seen on the engineering plans is that the shoulders on the upper level are going to deviate from Federal Highway Administration standards. They're going to deviate in that the outside shoulders will only be 10 feet as opposed to 12 feet and the inside shoulders will only be four feet."

Isaac further stated that with six lanes of traffic at that point, "that's a huge confluence of traffic that creates a major, major safety issue. Dr. Barakat doesn't want a car over in his building. Our concern is safety...if you're going to do it, do it correctly and put in the appropriate amount of shoulder length and depth as required by the FHA."

Safety a major concern for local business owner

St. Nicholas-based attorney Fred Isaac, representing Dr. Bshara

Bicycling community unhappy with absence of path

To the dismay of the bicycling community, the over-water expansion of the bridge does not

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“This is a very active and engaged community and you will get a lot of feedback on this project. We are going to expect the DOT to do what it has to do to make this project conform to what this neighborhood needs.”

Robin Lumb

At-Large Council Member and Riverside resident

currently include plans for a protected multi-use bicycle/pedestrian path. FDOT cited Florida Statute 316.091 as prohibitive of a bike lane on the roadway or along the shoulder, including bridges, on limited access facilities and interstate highways.

However, as several residents pointed out, including RAP’s president Jonathan Oliff, there are precedents for a shared-use path over the Fuller Warren Bridge set on other expressways in the state of Florida. He noted areas such as historic Ybor City in Tampa where multi-modal paths are used.

Mark Atkins, president of the



Preston Haskell, CEO of Haskell Company, speaks against the proposed expansion project of I-10 and I-95 – Photo by Kevin Kuzel

North Florida Bicycle Club, which has over 1200 members in and around Jacksonville, supports the creation of a physically separated multi-use path, connecting the urban core.

“It would do something to decrease the growth in automobile traffic and enhance the quality of life in the community, with benefit to local businesses with increased foot traffic,” Atkins said.

Fatality statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA] ranked Florida number one in bicycle fatalities in 2011 and Duval County in a four-way tie for fourth place in 2012 in the state of Florida [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov]. According to

NHTSA, Duval County also ranked fifth in pedestrian fatalities in Florida in 2012.

Alice Gould, manager of World Famous City Cycle on Park Street, encouraged FDOT to take steps forward in improving and supporting the bicycle segment of the community. “It helps the local economy to have people stay in the neighborhood where they live, work and shop. People coming from other cities look for a way to integrate bicycling into their lives and a reason to stay in Jacksonville,” she said.

“I find it very curious that early on in the discussion there was public request about bike lanes,” said Stephen Dare, of MetroJacksonville.com. “Yet

something appears on the website about how this would not be legal. And it was bike lanes, when clearly there is provision to allow for multi-use paths which would accommodate bikes. It comes across as a little bit disingenuous, when it would be a fairly easy thing to look at the intent of what the community wanted rather than parsing the words of it.”

The Senator objects

Representing State Senator Audrey Gibson, Dem., was legislative assistant Farisha Hamid, who briefly spoke on the Senator’s behalf, stating that Senator Gibson would like more focus on signage in certain areas, especially the Downtown area, and stated that “Senator Gibson opposes this expansion.”

Lumb and Councilman Jim Love, District 14, plan to be involved with the process. “There are still some things that need to be done in the RFP (request for proposal),” said Love. “It’s a big improvement over the original project brought out, but there is more to happen.”

“This is a very active and engaged community and you will get a lot of feedback on this project,” said Lumb. “We are going to expect the DOT to do what it has to do to make this project conform to what this neighborhood needs.”

To stay up to date on the project go to www.10and95.com.



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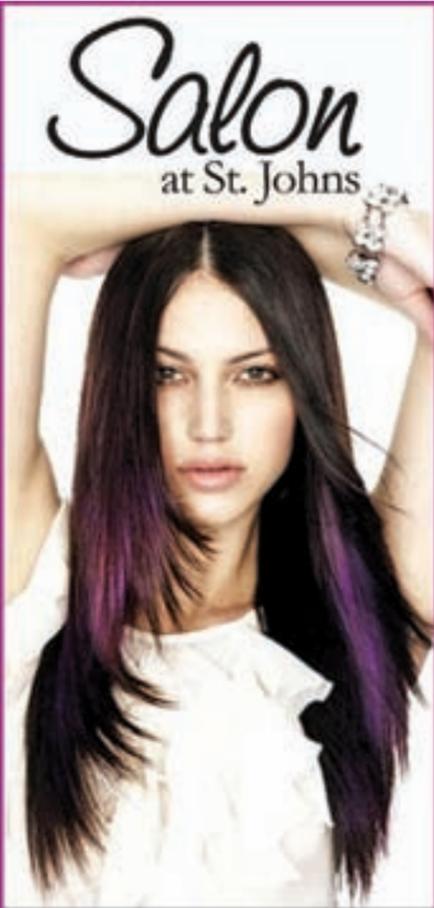
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FDOT responds to concern

The Resident contacted James M. Knight, Project Development Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, for clarification about the shoulder and median widths proposed. Knight stated in an email to the editor: The State of Florida standard is a 10' wide inside shoulder. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standard for inside shoulders comes from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) publication "A Policy on Design Standards Interstate System January 2005." Page 5 of this publication requires a 3.5' shoulder (FDOT is evaluating a 4' wide shoulder).

The FDOT proposal being considered meets all Federal design requirements; however, the proposal would require a variance from state standards. FDOT is only considering the 4' shoulder width on the I-95 Fuller Warren Bridge (not on I-10). All of the I-10 alternatives developed to date meet all state and federal design standards.

The narrower bridge shoulder is only being considered on the inside (left side) of the bridge; the outside shoulder (right side) meets all state and federal standards.

For questions or concerns about the project, contact James Knight, FDOT District 2, Mail Station 2007, 1109 South Marion Avenue, Lake City, FL 32025 or call (386) 961-7707 or (800) 749-2967.

Have an opinion about the project? If you would like to share it with readers, send to editor@residentnews.net.

FDOT is only considering the **4' shoulder width** on the I-95 Fuller Warren Bridge.



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Corner property an accident magnet

Late night crash takes out trees, wall

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The sidewalk along the property at 3903 St. John's Avenue used to afford passers-by a pretty, shaded walk. No longer, thanks to yet another driver who unsuccessfully negotiated the S curves on St. John's southbound, and took out most of the remaining trees.

Stephen LaFave, owner of the 90-year-old property, seemed resigned to the latest in a string of incidents over the past five of the 11 years he has owned the home. "It's one of those things we have to put up with, but hopefully there will be some resolution this time," stated LaFave.

"They just seem to want to speed around it," he said about the curve which veers left at his corner at Glendale and St. John's.

Previous accidents took out three trees; this last one, which occurred on Feb. 9 at 1:30 in the morning, took out four trees and a portion of the fragile brick fence, according to the Florida Traffic Crash Report, which estimated total damages at \$24,000.

According to the report, the driver failed to submit to an alcohol test and was cited for careless driving and arrested for driving under the influence. According to the report, the



driver failed to negotiate the turn, struck the brick fence and first tree, then continued forward again, striking the fence, at which time the rear end of the vehicle swung around, slid and struck three more trees.

"The car was totaled; you could tell the driver was pretty tipsy and was weaving back and forth," noted LaFave.

Now comes the hard part, finding a mason to fix the unusual fence. Built of limestone, the brick fence owes its existence to a former government building Downtown, most likely the 1902 County Courthouse, which was demolished during the 1950s, about the time an earlier owner of the property procured the bricks and built the fence all the way around the property.

"You can't replace it; it will have to be different brick," LaFave said.

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5 Points Concept Plan study nears completion



The concept plan covers three major intersections, which include Park St. at Post St., Post St. at Margaret St., and the 5 Points intersection, at Park, Margaret and Lomax streets

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN TOCKNELL
TOCKNELL PLANNING SERVICES LLC

A plan for major changes in the 5 Points area was officially presented for the first time at the Riverside Avondale Preservation annual meeting on Feb. 27. The plan for functional and aesthetic improvements in the 5 Points area is intended to advance the goal of RAP to make that area the safest, most walkable neighborhood in Florida.

The concept plan covers three major intersections, which include Park St. at Post St., Post St. at Margaret St., and the 5 Points intersection, at Park, Margaret and Lomax streets; three blocks on Margaret Street and one block on Lomax Street, and two crosswalks on Park Street opposite the Sun Ray Cinema, and on Margaret Street south of Oak Street.

Funded by RAP with the 5 Points Merchants Association as the primary stakeholder, the consulting team for the plan is being led by Tocknell Planning Services, with assistance from EnVision Design + Engineering and the Flag Design Studio.

In July 2013, as the first step in the planning study, a walking tour was conducted of the 5 Points area, involving RAP leadership, District 14 Councilman Jim Love and other public officials, and the consultants, along with 5 Points merchants and other key stakeholders. Other outreach events conducted during the study included a Town Hall meeting at the Sun-Ray Cinema, and an unofficial presentation to area merchants.

In carrying out the study, partici-



pants learned that vehicular traffic levels have remained stable in the 5 Points area over the past five years, and that for this and other reasons, one or more of the existing vehicular travel lanes in the area may no longer be needed.

To create an environment in the area that would be safer and more attractive for churches, businesses, visitors and residents, as well as for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and drivers, the plan emphasizes walkability by promoting slower vehicle speeds; more room for pedestrians; more bike racks, and crosswalks that are shorter and more clearly marked. The plan also expands the amount of space available for meeting and dining, while maintaining or expanding the number of on-street parking spaces. Landscaping and lighting improvements will also be included in the plan.

After the preliminary concept plan was presented at the RAP annual meeting, there will be a 30-day review and comment period before the plan is finalized. Upon the

finalization of the plan, RAP intends to proceed directly into the design phase for two elements of the plan, which are Lomax Street between Park Street and Oak Street, and the "5 Points" intersection of Park, Margaret and Lomax streets.

The completed plan for 5 Points will also contribute to the development of new roadway design guidelines for the rest of Riverside and Avondale, as well as for urban priority areas across Jacksonville.

The City of Jacksonville has recently appointed a "Context Sensitive Standards Committee" that will begin meeting soon. This committee has been charged to develop standards for more pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets in the urban areas of Jacksonville. The design standards from the 5 Points study will be a useful prototype that will be closely examined by this new committee.

For more information or to express an opinion, contact Stephen Tocknell at (904) 638-6629 or email stevetock@clearwire.net.

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In Memoriam

PAISLEY (PETE) BONEY III

JULY 14, 1927 – FEBRUARY 3, 2014

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY
NEWS

In his eulogy for his father, Paisley Boney IV noted that “While this is a sad time, this is not a tragedy. This is a celebration of a life well lived. Dad lived a full life and touched so many people...and he was ready to go.”

A long-time resident of Ortega, Paisley Boney III died not long after suffering from a burst aneurysm doing one of the things he enjoyed:



looking at the photo, “Granner knew he was going to be seeing a lot of people he hadn’t seen in a long time and he wanted to look sharp.”

Boney loved sports and in particular baseball. His grandmother and his mother were die-hard Yankees fans and he passed that baseball-loving gene on to his sons Paisley and Roland.

“Many of you may wonder where Dad, and me and Roland for that matter, got our ability to store the Batting Averages of over 250 baseball players in our brains, and update them weekly after reading the Sunday paper,” reminisced Paisley. “Well it came from Mamaw [his great-grandmother]”.

Paisley Boney was an Eagle Scout as well as an athlete, achieving the Eagle award at age 13, the youngest ever at that time. He later became Scoutmaster for Pack 26 at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. While

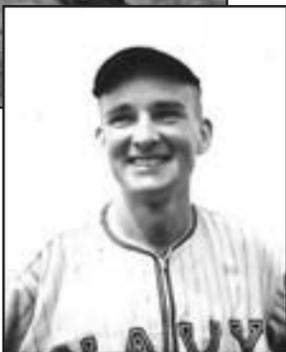
attending Woodberry Forest High School, Boney was Senior Prefect, the quarterback on the football team, point guard for the basketball team, captain

of the Baseball team and winner of the Archer Christian Memorial Medal, the highest award given to a student who has best distinguished himself for character, leadership and athletic ability.

After graduation, Boney III joined



Third baseman and captain of the Naval Academy’s baseball team



watching sports [the Super Bowl] when he could not play them.

The former North Carolinian was able to hang on long enough for the family to be at his side. “He went peacefully...and in no pain...he had no fear,” remarked Boney’s son Paisley IV. “Why would he be afraid? He had lived his entire life for this moment and he knew exactly where he was going. In fact, Lisa had lined up a haircut for Dad that day and took a very cute picture of him. As my son Connor said upon

Paisley Boney with Vice President George W.H. Bush, 1982, when the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce visited the White House



the service, and after serving one year in the Navy V-12 program at the University of Miami, received an appointment to the Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1950. It was there he received his nickname “Pete” from roommate Milt Schultz, and also where he was captain of the baseball team his senior year.

“His greatest memory was beating the #1 ranked Yale team in back-to-back games,” said his son. “Yale was captained by George Bush who played 1st base.

Navy won the first game 2-0 and Dad got an RBI and George Bush went hitless. Navy won the 2nd game 2-1, with Dad getting one hit and making a game-saving stop at 3rd base. George Bush again went hitless.”

After leaving the Navy in 1954, Boney went to Harvard Business School, graduated in 1956 and went to work for Westinghouse in Jacksonville. He joined Stockton, Whatley and Davin in 1960, and later worked for Haskell Company in marketing.

Paisley III served as past president of The United Way, The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, board member of Bartram School,

American Red Cross, Jacksonville University, Committee of 100 of the Chamber of Commerce, Gator Bowl Association and The Help Center. He was on the Vestry and was Senior Warden at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and would later be a founder and Vestry member of Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

According to his son, “He had a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior...and his commitment was to allow Christ to use him as tool as he

best saw fit. He became the epitome of a servant leader.”

Son Roland Boney said that a big part of his father’s ministry took place at St. Mark’s. “I know Dad touched many of his peers, but I’m amazed how many of our peers have chimed in and recognized Dad as having a profound impact on their life whether it be football, scouting, Sunday school and/or a good mentor to all of our friends.”

Paisley “Pete” Boney III is survived by his wife Katherine Rickman Boney, children Shelley Boney Forte, Paisley IV, Roland, and Lisa Boney Strickland, as well as eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



June 1950 graduation from the Naval Academy

Photos supplied by Lisa Boney Strickland

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Improving the commercial development process

Retailers, developers and city officials work through frustrations to find better solutions

BY STEVE DiMATTIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Sometimes out of the most seemingly disharmonious moments emerge unity, or, at least, a path to better communication and a deeper understanding between all parties.

There is hope that this was the case during an often-contentious February panel discussion sponsored by the International Council of Shopping Centers designed to help retailers, developers, and local government work effectively together to navigate the development process.

"I know there was a lot of critique of the city's process tonight, but I think we all want to be part of the solution and not part of the problem," said panel member Michael Balanky, president of Chase Properties, after the event.

Balanky was joined on the panel by two small-business owners with strong ties to the historic district and a shared frustration navigating through the city's development process: John Valentino, owner of four Mellow Mushroom restaurants, including one newly opened in Avondale, and Ben Davis, owner of Intuition Ale Works in Riverside.

The three directed the brunt of their criticism at the City's seeming lack of a cohesive, universally understood and easily accessed program designed to

assist commercial land development, and an accompanying flow chart that clearly lays out necessary steps, particularly for increasingly crucial infill development. Balanky and Valentino also questioned the degree to which citizens can detour a project through a seemingly endless process of appeals while forcing the developer to incur all delay costs.

"The city encourages businesses to come in and then when they do, they are meant with nothing but resistance," said Valentino, who was forced to negotiate with the neighborhood organization We Love Avondale for over two years over parking and noise concerns. "I wish that there were someone at the City to say to whomever has a difference of opinion, 'Look, these are the laws, this is the way it is. My job is to encourage this man to come and invest in this neighborhood and create jobs and if you have a problem with that, that's a personal problem.'"

Balanky, who recently encountered neighborhood resistance about his St. John's Village development, proposed that there be some restrictions on the length of the appeal process.

"When I developed, I had a great rapport with the City. But there are repercussions to delay, delay, delay," he said. "We had over 15 public meetings. It went on ad nauseam. If we had contained that in 30 days, we wouldn't have ended up any differently. But it would have saved a lot of sleepless nights."

While not a panel member, Carmen Godwin, Executive Director of Riverside Avondale Preservation, was in the audience and noted that most of the issues that instigate neighborhood resistance come about when developers request exceptions or deviations to zoning codes, usually to increase the scope of the project.

Davis, who has dealt less with neighborhood resistance and more with the restrictions placed on breweries/taprooms as well as the ambiguities that come from the fact that his business falls under two different zoning designations, voiced exasperation at the general lack of cooperation and initiative on the part of the City.

"I don't consider myself a developer, I consider myself a small business owner," he emphasized both during and after the panel discussion. "Jacksonville has the opportunity to be the Portland, the Milwaukee, the San Diego of the beer scene in Florida. We've got the room, we've got the drinkers... City Council members should be the ones taking action to make that happen, but you don't necessarily see that."

Balanky took the notion of city representatives' responsibilities a step further.

"I think educating City Council people on land development and planning is an important part of the process moving forward," he said. "They should understand the process and be educated about things that they are making decisions on every day."

No city council members were present at the event, but Alexandra Rudzinski, Director of Development for the city's Office of Economic Development, represented the city on the panel. Many key players in the development process also attended the event, held at Bella Sera in Riverside, including Calvin Burney, Director of the Planning Department, Jack Shad, Director of Parking, and Paul Crawford, Deputy Director of Economic Development. Stephen Dare, co-founder of the online forum, Metro Jacksonville, moderated.

While Rudzinski was not entirely successful in placating fellow panel members, she routinely emphasized empathy for their situation, noted that the development process was an "organic, not one size fits all" program, and promised that the City would continue to find better ways to streamline the commercial development process.

Planning Director Burney concurred. "I think we are already doing some of what they expressed concerns about, but I know we can always do a better job at improving the process and communicating the steps that we already have in place," he said.

For Balanky, that is an important part of improving the commercial development process.

"I think it's just a matter of keeping open lines of communication between the city, the developers and the retailers. Forums like this definitely help," he said.

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Food fight in Hemming Plaza looms



Jennifer Kline Wilbers, Up in Smoke BBQ, Nichole Lima, Kona Ice and Natalia Lorinez, Mama's Food are part of the Jacksonville Food Truck Organization, which provides support and education for food truck owners.

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Proposed new code will restrict food truck owners adversely

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Food truck owners in Jacksonville swarmed City Council Chambers last month, fighting what appears to be ill-conceived legislation that would put more restrictions on the popular mobile eateries.

Approximately 200 people – mostly opposed to the pending, far-from-final bill – filled the Chamber

on Feb. 26 to give District 10 Councilman Reginald Brown a piece of their mind.

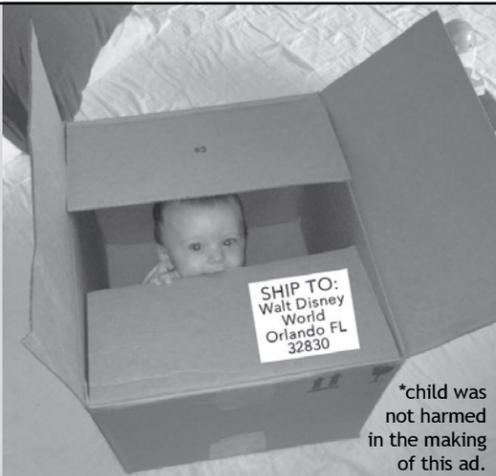
Brown is sponsoring the bill in an apparent attempt to fix a problem that many of the food truck supporters feel can be handled through enforcement of current code.

Bill Adams, managing partner with Gunster, Yoakley and Stewart, with about 50 employees, questioned the agenda behind the proposed regulation. "Why is this legislation needed at all? Health code regulations, parking regulations and licensing regulations already exist...the real issue is the brick and mortar

restaurants," he said, to much applause. "Are we really talking about anti-competitive regulations? It is not the City's business to be in the area of leveling the playing field for people."

Along with District 2 Councilman Don Redman, Brown is not alone in his desire for more regulation of food trucks, though. The Downtown business owners of Chamblin's Uptown – which has a small café – as well as Quiznos Sandwiches and Subway Sandwiches all feel that they are losing business to the food trucks, while unwillingly providing

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Chamblin's manger Jennifer O'Donnell questioned the intention of Parks & Recreation by bringing food trucks into the Hemming Plaza area. Although only three trucks (chosen on a rotating basis) are allowed to operate in that area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, the two fast-food restaurant owners contend that their businesses are being hindered by food trucks and "there are not enough people Downtown to support all the businesses," according to O'Donnell.

Livelihoods going up in smoke?

Food truck owners, customers and supporters fought back. Some, like Andrew Ferenc of On The Fly Sandwiches and Stuff, said additional regulations such as being proposed would put him out of business. Ironically, the parking lot owner that leases space to Ferenc a block from the new Duval County Courthouse said that he also would fear going under if Ferenc would have to move.

Ortega resident Jennifer Kline Wilbers, co-owner of Up in Smoke BBQ, and one of the organizers of Jacksonville Food Truck Organization, said about the ordinance "My major concern is that it's going to shut me down as a business; I'm not going to be able to operate

at lunch anymore. Some of the things that are going to be implemented are so outrageous that it's not possible. I'm fine with regulations as long as it's reasonable. We have a lot of regulations now that nobody realizes."

Health, parking and licensing regs prevail

Those regulations under which food trucks currently operate seem more than adequate to the mobile eatery owners, and even some of the members on the panel thought the same.

Aundra Wallace, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority said that its Board supports food trucks in Downtown. "The Board has been very clear about it in terms of when and where [food trucks are] appropriate. They also have some concerns about the current pending legislation with regards to the vibrancy of Downtown," Wallace said. "We want to be equally competitive with other cities...in terms of bringing people in to our Downtown and have all

viable options available to us. We definitely support the concept of the current legislation; we would like to discuss as a Board the actual legislation and give more complete and thorough input."

According to Cherry Shaw, Office of General Counsel, food trucks are regulated by the state through the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Department of Health. "The City may regulate the food trucks for the distance requirement on City right-of-ways, the trash requirements, and

overall for public health and safety," she stated.

Jack Shad, Office of Economic Development confirmed that the Florida Department of Health conducted annual and random inspections on the food trucks. "We rely on the state inspections of the trucks. If you want to do any business with the City, you have to produce those permits issued

that are evidence of meeting state standards," said Shad.

In fact, according to Dale Stoudt, co-owner/operator of Jacksonville Super Food Truck, he has had semi-

annual health inspections plus an inspection every time he contracts for an event. "Last year I had 37 health inspections because the City of Jacksonville does one at every single event we go to."

Food trucks corralled

One of the proposed regulations would bring all the Downtown food trucks together in one location, rather than allowing them to park at various spots around the City. That's okay with Wilbers, though.

"I feel that we do better the more we are together. If one truck is sitting there it's like 'oh, there's another food truck' but if there's a bunch together it's like 'what's going on down there?'" she said. "I think it's actually bringing more business to us and to brick-and-mortars. Half the people in my line at Hemming Plaza have somebody with them with a Subway bag or a Quizno bag; it's bringing everybody out of their offices."

By the end of the two-hour-plus session, Brown promised to create a committee of food truck owners, City employees, small business owners and residents to review and revise the proposed legislation within a 90-day period.

"I'm hoping that we're able to get something that lets us all can co-exist. I want to make sure that we create good legislation that everyone can live with," Brown said.

Some of the things that are going to be implemented are so outrageous... I'm fine with regulations as long as it's reasonable. We have a lot of regulations now that nobody realizes.

Jennifer Kline Wilbers

Co-owner of Up in Smoke BBQ

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Unity Plaza director shares big ideas, bright future

It's already been touted as an event space and gathering location, festival hot spot, music amphitheater and, if the newly slated Executive Director of Unity Plaza had her way, it would already be complete and full of activity. "It's really so much fun when capital, ideas and architects come together. It's just really cool," said Jen Jones, as she led a tour for media and special guests through the roughed in spaces and dirt piles on the property.

As the progress at 220 Riverside and Unity Plaza begins to take shape, the vision for the project sounds promising. For NAI Hallmark Partners leadership, the conceptualized project is one that's been percolating over the years while construction sat dormant. "When Alex Coley first started sharing his ideas for what this space was for Jacksonville, something that he mentioned was 'life events,'" Jones said. "When we have a lecturer such as Deepak Chopra, or there's maybe a Jewish wedding and we've got the bride and groom on chairs or there's this incredible community heritage event going on and we need indoor space," she said, as the tour neared the indoor event space.

Another portion of the inside of the space is said to contain a 4,000-square foot "mash up," where purveyors of local gourmet best practices prevail. She said, "Think Bold Bean's coffee, French Pantry's



bread, Chef's Garden grab-n-go wonderful gourmet food." Another draw will be a "beautiful, twinkly lighted, sultry after work event space aka - a bar."

Working outward from the epicenter of Unity Plaza, plans for the adjoining properties are said to include a hotel, an 8,000-square foot destination restaurant, a corporate building and an acre of green space to complete the campus. According

to Jones, the goal is a sustainable, walkable entertainment and fellowship-based area for Brooklyn, based on New York's Central Park.

Plans continue to unwind as talk of a radio studio space and a glass enclosed event space are on the wish list. For more information and upcoming updates, stay in touch at www.unityplazajax.com for more information on programming and other updates.

"It's really so much fun when capital, ideas and architects come together. It's just really cool."

Jen Jones

Newly slated Executive Director of Unity Plaza



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"...you don't build a reputation by selling people unnecessary services and parts..."

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Hugh is adamant about the level of experience in the shop and knows it can ultimately save money for the consumer. "We've got over five generations that have run this business and it's my 20th year in business. My technicians are seasoned and, collectively, we've got over 155 years of experience," said Hugh. "When someone drives in and presents a dilemma about their vehicle, it's typical that we're already aware of the problem when we look at a vehicle by make and model," he continued. "We're not inclined to sell you a part and send you out the door, we're not in the parts business – but we're able to take a closer look at the overall health of your vehicle and diagnose what needs to be done, properly."

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And the winners are...

RAP presents annual preservation awards

Riverside Avondale Preservation, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2014, held its annual awards presentation on Feb. 27 at St. Paul's Hall on Forbes Street, giving out eight awards.

And the winners are...

For Outstanding Home Renovation: The home of Cindy Guy at 3658 Riverside Avenue had been gutted and left in a state of disrepair when its previous owner put it on the market.

For Outstanding Business Renovation: Hawkers Asian Street Fare, 1001 Park Street. Kaleb Harrell, managing partner, said they invested \$500,000 in the construction and

build out of the space, including pushing out the brick facade to sidewalk level to match the building's original blueprints.

For Outstanding Site Improvements: New sculpture garden, streetscape improvements and a parking lot that is a work of landscaping art in its own right earned The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens this award.

For Outstanding Historically Compatible New Construction: Dr. Ravi Patel and Eagle Eyecare, 714 Stockton Street.

For Neighborhood Friendly Contributing Businesses: Sun-Ray Cinema's Shana and Tim David-Massette for contributing to the quality of life in 5 Points and the same for Riverside Liquors' David Joudy, who sponsors the annual wine fest that benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters and RAP.

In addition, Greg Smith, of Murray Hill, was given the Outstanding Volunteer award for countless hours helping with annual events such as the RAP Home Tour, Luminaria, the Bootleggers' Ball and Riverside Arts Market, as well as special events like Trolley Night. Said Torrie Parette, RAP volunteer and membership coordinator, "I think what is most impressive about Greg is his passion for volunteering. Greg is conscientious about his performance and takes on the air of a well-seasoned employee rather than a mere volunteer – he genuinely



Outstanding Home Renovation:

Before and after photos of 3658 Riverside Avenue



Outstanding Business Renovation:

Before and after photos of Hawkers



cares about the work he does!"

Kay Ehas received an award for Outstanding Board Member. According to board member Michelle Miller, "Kay has taken being a board

member to the next level, setting the bar high. She's been involved in most major projects and finds solutions to benefit the community."

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Riverside artists selected for Florida Individual Artist Fellowships

Liz Gibson and Jeff Whipple, of MetCusp Studios in Riverside, were among eight recipients of the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship for 2014. The fellowships are the most prestigious regional awards for Florida artists and no other artist couple has ever won the awards at the same time.

Gibson and Whipple each have artwork in The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens' exhibition "Our Shared Past," which continues through May 25, 2014.

Gibson was also awarded an Art Ventures Individual Artist grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida for 2014. Gibson creates paintings, sculpture, costumes, videos and installations that accompany her performance art.

This marks the fourth time Whipple has won a Florida Individual Artist Fellowship. His previous awards were for Visual Art in 1982 and 2006 and for Playwriting in 1996. He is the only Florida artist awarded fellowships in two different disciplines. Whipple works in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, video, photography and playwriting.

Whipple



Gibson



Murray Hill resident joins JAX Chamber

The JAX Chamber President and CEO Daniel Davis has announced Matt Galnor is joining the Chamber's leadership team as vice president of public affairs.

A longtime journalist and previously in corporate communications at Baptist Health, Galnor will oversee communications for the Chamber and have a key role growing and developing the JAXBIZ political action committee, especially during the upcoming local elections. "Matt's knowledge and understanding of local government and politics, his range of communication skills and his passion for Jacksonville will make him a tremendous asset to the Chamber," Davis said. "I look forward to working with him as the Chamber continues to attract and grow business in Jacksonville."

Galnor moved to Jacksonville in 2001, where he lives in Murray Hill with his wife and two daughters. "Jacksonville is home. This is where we've chosen to establish roots and raise our family," Galnor said. "There's an energy and excitement here now as the economy is turning around - you can feel it downtown and across the city. We're on the verge of big things and I'm looking forward to being a part of the great work the JAX Chamber, and the region's growth and development."



New name as big as realty company's success



Before changing its name to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, Prudential Network Realty celebrated record-breaking success at its 2013 annual awards celebration. For the fourth straight year in a row, the company achieved double-digit growth in closed sales, increasing 25 percent over 2012's results. Additionally, the company's closed sales of homes priced above \$500,000 in 2013 increased by 41 percent over 2012 results. The company outperformed the Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service (MLS), which reported a 28 percent increase in 2013 sales over the previous year.

Real estate professionals in the Avondale office recognized for their performances and achievements in 2013 included Allison Steilberg,

who was honored as the company's top sales agent and transaction agent with more than 362 units, and Laney Smith who was named Rookie of the Year. The Avondale office also received the Chairman's Cup, which recognizes over-achievement of budget targets in a number of categories including client feedback, recruiting, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity and closed volume.

"Our annual awards program is an opportunity to show our appreciation to our team, giving our associates the much-deserved recognition they earned for their hard work, commitment and superior customer service," said Christy Budnick, executive vice president of residential real estate.

Boat brokerage now offered at Lakeshore Dry Storage

Growing up on the banks of the St. John's River, and fishing and boating since childhood has positioned Ortega resident Wade Skinner for his role as a boat broker with Lakeshore Dry Storage and Marina, 3326 Lakeshore Boulevard.

"Because of my passion for boats, I have partnered up with Frank Surface, president of Lakeshore Dry Storage and Marina



to sell used boats," said Skinner, a licensed OUPV 100-ton boat captain. "I have never been this excited about a job and I feel this is because being around boats makes me feel at home."

Skinner has a variety of boats on sale from ski and wakeboard boats, family cuddy cabin and pontoon boats, to offshore fishing boats.

Six years and still 'growing' strong

With its sixth season now open for business, the Riverside Arts Market expanded its staff with the addition of Amy Saltmarsh as operations manager and the promotion of Heather Bailey from administrative assistant to communications manager.

"I'm amazed by the transformation of Riverside. The 5 Points area, Memorial Park, these were places that growing up, you just didn't go," she said. "Now, they are busting! The area now feels hip, fun, friendly and alive, still maintaining that Riverside 'edge.'"

After living all over Jacksonville, Bailey and her husband moved to Avondale to be surrounded by the historic homes and culture of the area. She enjoys being able to walk to work, as well as walking or biking to area restaurants, breweries and, of course, the St.

Bailey



Saltmarsh



John's River. "The people of Riverside and Avondale are passionate about their community, and I am grateful to be surrounded by people who are creating positive change," she stated.

RAM Director Krysten Bennett said that she will be able to dedicate more of her time to fundraising, development of community partnerships and increased programming, while shaping the vision for RAM's future through long-term and strategic planning efforts.

Traditions Realty adds Riverside newcomer to staff

Riverside newcomer Cindy Corey has joined Traditions Realty. With more than 10 years' experience in real estate sales and management in the Jacksonville market, Corey also has an extensive knowledge of remodeling and restoration of older homes.

Corey said she is excited to join Traditions because she loves how she and the company are part of the neighborhood they serve.

Corey attended Florida State College of Jacksonville and the University of North Florida where she majored in Communications. She currently lives in a turn-of-the-century apartment in Riverside near the river. Of her four grown children, three live in Jacksonville and the oldest lives in New York.



U-ART open in the Fairfax area

John Buzzy has always had a love for the arts. After a long, successful career in the engineering field, he's finally laid down roots in the local neighborhood of Fairfax and opened a shop that fulfills his longtime passion for painting, drawing and instruction.



"We are real excited about opening in such a vibrant art district!" said John Buzzy, owner and operator of U-ART, which opened up in the fall of 2013, next door to Harpoon Louie's at 4070 Herschel Street. The project designer and engineer had always remained active in his pursuit of caricature drawing and oftentimes found himself booking event appearances for caricature artists. An astute businessman, Buzzy now owns and operates a shop that encourages artists and non-artists alike to have fun with instructional art classes. To learn more about the classes and operation at U-Art, stop in to meet John Buzzy today.

Riverside church awarded grant for community outreach

Trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund approved 17 grants, valued at \$1.8 million, of which three were awarded to Jacksonville organizations. The largest of those three was given to The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Riverside.

The \$150,000 grant will assist the church in re-launching its community outreach efforts, in part by supporting a new assistant pastor. The Rev. Jeffrey Reichmann has noted there are three reasons for the outreach ministry, including a responsibility to help others less fortunate and in need, an imperative to teach compassion and stewardship, and to foster relationships and teach by example by engaging people in service.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

O'Steen Volkswagen Awarded Elite 2013 Customer First Club Award for second year in a row

For the second year in a row, O'Steen Volkswagen is awarded the prestigious Customer First Club Award in 2013 for achieving the highest rated customer satisfaction. The dealership achieved the award and earned membership into the 2013 Customer First Club for the past two consecutive years, for receiving some of the highest Customer Experience Survey ratings among all Volkswagen dealerships in the country.

O'Steen Volkswagen is part of an elite group of Volkswagen dealerships that excel in all customer service standards, noted as an industry leader in customer satisfaction. This coveted recognition has been awarded to only 30 Volkswagen dealers out of 656 in the country.

Members of the elite Customer First Club are selected by Volkswagen customers through a Customer Experience Survey. According to the feedback from customers, the 30 dealers excelled in all aspects of the customer experience,

including new car, pre-owned and service.

"Being awarded the 2013 Customer First Club award for a second year in a row, as well as being recognized as one of the best Volkswagen dealerships in the country out of over 600 dealerships is such a great honor", states Mr. Tom O'Steen, co-owner. "This award represents the 100% commitment by all the members of the O'Steen Volkswagen team to delivering industry-leading customer service. This award is determined by our customers and the level of satisfaction they receive at the dealership. We are very grateful that our customers appreciate the high-level of service we provide at O'Steen Volkswagen."

"We look forward to honoring and awarding our hard-working employees and their families this spring at an appreciation event. It's always a special and rewarding time to be able to gather and celebrate the hard work of everyone", states Mr. Bill Olive, General Manager.



Our service team is top of the line in both customer relationships and automotive repairs.



Our sales team will treat you like family, making the car-buying experience easy and comfortable.



The O'Steen family has been a part of the Jacksonville community for four generations and in the automotive business since 1969. O'Steen Volkswagen is located on 11401 Phillips Highway, Jacksonville Florida and provides sales and service on New and Pre-Owned Volkswagen models, as well as all types of makes and models.



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"We've been working with Felicia and Greg Bowen since last October. We have come to trust them and admire them for all their hard work. They treat us like family and it doesn't get any better than that." -Suzanne and Bill M.

"We selected Greg because we knew him to be knowledgeable, honest, and ethical. There were problems with our home when we went to sell and he was able to resolve all of the issues while competently negotiating with the buyer." -Mr. & Mrs. Steve C.

"Wonderful to work with - patient, thorough, and really listened to what I was looking for and found it!" -Ms. Deborah H.

"Expert on old houses but not overly aggressive with opinions and recommendations." -Ms. Brooks A.

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Officer's CPR saves Riverside man's life, receives award

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

"I just can't believe how blessed I was," said David Cutliff, recalling his near-death experience of Oct. 3, 2013. "It's unbelievable what he did. He made all the difference."

Cutliff and his wife Shirley were present at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office January 2014 Meritorious Awards Ceremony to applaud Officer T.C. Edwards when he received the Lifesaving Award for the quick actions that saved Cutliff's life last fall.

On that Thursday, at 2:47 p.m., Officer Edwards, Zone 4, was dispatched to the Publix supermarket on Riverside to assist Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department with an individual requiring emergency medical assistance. Cutliff had finished shopping and was exiting the store when he fell to the ground.

As Sheriff John Rutherford related in the ceremony, Officer Edwards arrived at the scene before medical personnel, immediately assessed the situation and determined that Cutliff was in cardiac arrest. "The officer's rapid trauma assessment indicated that he [Cutliff] was unresponsive, not breathing and had no pulse," said Rutherford. "T.C. began performing CPR until JFRD arrived on scene minutes later."

During the presentation, Rutherford quoted Division Chief of Rescue Ivan Mote [of JFRD], who had acknowledged Officer Edwards' heroics: "Out-of-hospital cardiac arrests have a very low survival rate when bystander CPR is not performed prior to EMS services' arrival. Evidence-based practice has proven that patients have a higher survival rate for door-to-door discharge when CPR is performed early by bystanders or law enforcement and ACLS measures become more



Sheriff John Rutherford presents the Lifesaving Award to Officer T.C. Edwards for his CPR efforts on Riverside resident David Cutliff on

effective. The prompt and immediate actions by Officer T.C. Edwards are very, very instrumental in saving this gentleman's life."

According to Edwards, it was not the first time he's administered CPR.

"It is a highlight of a 25-year-career," Edwards said of the award. "I have done CPR three times in my career but it's my first save. God put me in this spot because he [David] has something else left to do on this earth. That's why I was where I was at."

Edwards' wife Marica and daughter Abigail were also at the ceremony on Jan. 30.

"It just makes me proud because he goes the extra mile," Marica said. "I'm so glad he could save someone's life. He's a good guy."

District 14 Councilman Jim Love was also present, and said "I'm very proud of TC and what he does in the community and particularly for saving this man's life. If he hadn't been there right away – you know, five minutes waiting for the emergency response might have killed him – so him being there right away, providing the right medical treatment, was very important. He deserves the recognition."

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LISTED AND SOLD BY US

2970 Saint Johns Avenue, 5A
 3/2-2,271 sqft. An A unit at Beau Rivage has just come on the market with spectacular Downtown Jacksonville Skyline Views and also the St. Johns River. Beau Rivage is one of the most financially stable Condominiums in Jacksonville.



4927 Arapahoe Avenue - \$375,000
 3/3-2,446 sqft. Lovely, traditional home in the heart of Ortega Terrace, one of Jacksonville's Great Neighborhoods. Located on one of those streets where kids play outside and the neighbors are friendly.



NEW PRICE

1287 Avondale Avenue - \$300,000
 3/1/1-1,674 sqft. GREAT NEW PRICE on this gem in Historic Avondale, one of the Great Neighborhoods of Jacksonville. From the upstairs balcony to the welcoming front porch this very special home is full of charm.



4604 Arlon Lane - \$635,000
 5/3-3,302 sqft. Wow! You will love the huge covered patio with outdoor fireplace, summer kitchen, heated pool and spa! Enjoy the fun Florida lifestyle year round. Updated family home with large eat-in kitchen remodeled with granite counters, stainless steel appliances and custom cabinetry.



NEW PRICE

5090 Ortega Forest Drive - \$1,190,000
 4/3/2-4,150 sqft. This house is turn key! It is so beautiful you might not even want to change a paint color! Family room with cathedral ceiling and Florida room are across the back of the house taking advantage of the magnificent St. Johns River.



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SOLD

1430 Avondale Avenue
 3/1/1-2,101 sqft. Live on the best street in Avondale and take in the neighborhood from your welcoming front porch! This well-maintained home offers just what you would expect in the Historic District - light-filled rooms, high ceilings, inlaid hardwood floors.



4605 Argonne Lane - \$475,000
 5/3-3,444 sqft. This two story traditional home located on a beautiful, quiet street in Ortega Forest has room to grow - and then some! A formal entry with marble tile leads you in to incredible living spaces downstairs.



NEW PRICE

2358 Riverside Avenue, #303 - \$825,000
 3/3-2,725 sqft. Breathtaking panoramic views of the St. Johns River and Downtown from two balconies in this elegant 3rd floor unit. Beautiful gourmet kitchen w/granite, stainless, and 5-burner gas cook top. Open living room with gas fireplace and mantel.



5120 Charlemagne Road - \$485,000
 4/2/1-2,762 sqft. Meticulously kept lakefront home with four bedrooms, two and a half baths in the heart of Ortega Forest ready for new owners! This home is spacious - not only formal living and dining rooms as well as a cozy family room with fireplace.



2970 St. Johns Avenue, 11D - \$185,000
 3/2-1,822 sqft. 11th floor D unit with a great floor plan and commanding views of Avondale and canal that was the yacht basin for the original Florida Yacht Club. You must go see the view especially at sunset!



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

3881 Timuquana Road
 5/3/1-4,904 sqft. Classic Elegance is evident from the moment you walk through the door of this lovely two story brick Georgian Home. Large entry foyer, lovely formal dining and living rooms, custom millwork, built in cabinets and more!



4119 Robin Hood Road - \$225,000
 3/2-1,755 sqft. Located in A-rated Stockton School district and ready for some TLC this well maintained brick home has lots to offer. New HVAC installed 5/2013. Fenced back yard, 2 car garage.



NEW PRICE

1515 Seminole Road - \$289,500
 2/2/1-1,590 sqft. Great location in the historic district of Avondale! Great front porch with window boxes. Relax on your front porch under majestic oaks and watch the world go by. Charming 2 bed/2.5 bath extensively renovated on great corner lot.



3703 Ortega Boulevard - \$885,000
 4/4/1-4,170 sqft. Enjoy the gorgeous River views from this remodeled Ortega Point Home. Upon entry you will be immediately drawn through the Formal Living Room to the sunny River Room. Relax and enjoy the peaceful view.

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Local doctors combine evangelism with social action

The doctors supplied the villagers with machetes for use in farming



Dr. Roxanne Cheek with villagers who have completed a course in effective, successful agriculture

Changing hearts and changing lives

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In a country where the average life expectancy is just 54 years of age, the residents there need all the help they can get to survive and then to thrive.

Ortega residents Dr. Jackson Downey and veterinarian Dr. Roxanne Cheek, along with other volunteers, recently returned from a self-funded trip to Cameroon as part of the nondenominational Bread of Life ministry where they held daily clinics and nightly revivals.

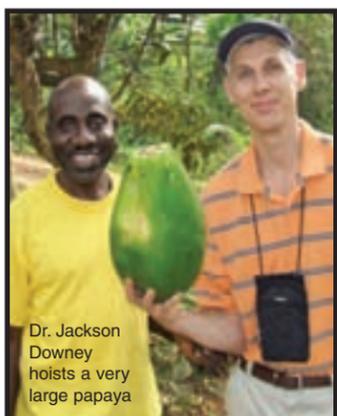
“We treated about 200 cases of malaria a day and around 100 cases of internal and external parasites,” Dr. Downey explained. “We had many people with elephantiasis which can go from itchy red eyes and skin to entering the lymphatic system to cause severe swelling.”

Dr. Cheek added that ring worm, river blindness, rickets, reproduction problems, intestinal problems and malnutrition are common ailments of the area. “The basic diet of most people is made up of rice or Soofoo – a starchy dish made of cut, dried, pounded cassava root which has very little nutritional value. Generally, the people look good on the outside but are not doing well at all on the inside,” she noted. “As part of the agricultural mission I teach more over there than over here – going to remote villages instructing 200-300 farmers at a time. There’s not as much

hands on for the animals, but when talking about animal care and feeding I emphasize how important nutrition is for people too. Unfortunately, there is little in the way of protein available. Villagers are blessed if they have some chickens or a goat but they are really climbing the ladder if they have a pig.”

Dr. Cheek’s Cameroon counterpart instructs in crop rotation and growing plants such as cocoa, coffee, kava and tomatoes. “It is all about trying to raise the people out of poverty,” she said.

The veterinarian donated machetes to the villagers, explaining that these are generally the only farm implements they have. When not working with farmers and animals she assists in the pharmacy. “The doctors and nurses are seeing patients, the staff members are handing out numbered wristbands, doing triage, or handling crowd control. We are busy, busy, busy!”



Dr. Jackson Downey hoists a very large papaya

Dr. Downey shared that a half million dollars worth of medicines were donated by pharmaceutical companies. The team also gave out donated eyeglasses and school supplies. Dr. Downey usually leaves with just the clothes on his back. He spoke of the time a woman came to him as he was leaving asking if he had anything left. “Reaching into my pocket I discovered a key ring. I presented it to her and she got the biggest smile.”

Dr. Cheek reflected that in her first year in Cameroon she was talking about vaccinating and various treatments for the animals but over the last five years has learned to focus on more sustainable things such as sanitation.

She remarked “They have a culture which is not very change oriented. We stay in “hotels” which may have electricity or not, may have running water or not, may have bed bugs or not; it’s tropical so it’s hot. We go when it’s dry and dusty so there are fewer mosquitoes. Travel is really difficult. It’s like an extreme camping trip.” Hygiene sometimes involves a sponge bath with baby wipes!

Both doctors share a dedication for this mission. “I just have a heart full of love,” Dr. Cheek said. “I love to help people and being an action person I like adventure. I have gained more from giving; it’s strengthened my walk with God. I’ve learned to rely on God for protection and conviction.”

“In the U.S. we live in the lap of luxury – we take running water and electricity for granted,” said Dr. Downey. “Each year I am constantly reminded of the blessing it is to be in America. I feel that all humanity is interconnected; we are called by God to make a difference in the world.”

Dr. Downey also volunteers with We Care Jacksonville Healing Hands Medical and Dental Ministry working with indigent people in Jacksonville. He continued, “The Lord Jesus said to go into all the world and I’m taking him at his word!”

Learn about the mission

Founded by Cameroon-born, U.S.-educated Ernest Ehabe, Bread of Life Outreach, in addition to agricultural and medical ministries for the short term mission teams, includes church planting, AIDS education, pastor training, supporting an orphanage, school programs and worship. To learn more about the Cameroon Bread of Life Outreach mission, plan to attend a meeting on March 28 at 7 p.m. at Evangel Temple, 5755 Ramona Blvd. Contact Dr. Cheek at RoxanneCheek@gmail.com

Doctors Bo Tucker and Tom Virtue of Ortega have been past participants in the mission as has Tim Downey, Youth Pastor at Grace Church in Avondale.

ASK Allison

Q: What are the pros and cons of buying a foreclosure?

It may surprise you to learn that buying a foreclosure doesn’t always mean it’s a good deal. Be aware that foreclosures are OFTEN listed at prices well above market value. Make sure you take time to study the area, nearby comparable sales and factor in all of repair items that need to be done. Foreclosures are sold “as-is” meaning the seller will not make any repairs.

By the time a house falls into foreclosure, it’s usually been vacant for months so have your inspector take an extra hard look at the systems (ac, heat, plumbing, roof) to ensure that everything is in working order. Additionally, most foreclosures have had all of the appliances removed, so you should factor the replacement cost of those into your offer price.

With proper due diligence, a foreclosure CAN be a great opportunity – just be sure that you and your realtor do your homework first!



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Cheree and Hampton Graham

Peggy and J.F. Bryan with Russell and Kathy Newton

Edward and Susan Doherty

Stacy Berg with Terry and Gay Quarterman, Brad Berg and Missy Cassidy

Co-Chair Bob Chabot and his wife Laura

ROOT BALL CELEBRATES TREES, A GREENER JACKSONVILLE

This year's 7th Annual Root Ball, held at The Museum in Midtown Centre in St. Nicholas followed a morning of successful sales at the 27th Annual Flowering Tree Sale. Late Bloomer Garden Club members Judi Hardwick and Marcia Simmons co-chaired the 2014 ball alongside Greenscape President Bob Chabot.

The group took time out to thank the Honorary Chairmen Jennifer and Joe Duke, who are both equally active in the preservation and cultivation of future generations of Florida's great outdoors. Joseph Duke, a 3rd generation Floridian is the current Chairman of the

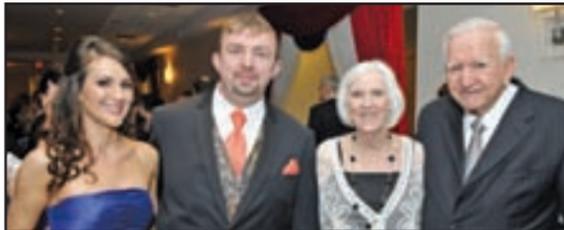
Board of Directors of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Fort Pierce and is also a director of The Everglades Foundation in Miami. His wife, Jennifer Johnson Duke, has had a lifelong interest in the arts and the environment. Owner of the J. Johnson Gallery in Jacksonville Beach, she has a passion for photography, the arts and has served on the Board of the Nature Conservancy of Florida. She presently serves on the Board of the Florida Audubon Society and is the current Director of the River Branch Foundation. She and her husband continue to support wilderness acquisition and protection in Florida.

CELEBRATING MIRACLES, HONORING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

It was a night to celebrate the effort and hard work of our region's best trauma team, not to mention, the work of the forces outside of our human strength and duty- the divine. The seventh annual black tie gala, A Night for Heroes, honors the hardworking men and women from Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, UF Health Trauma One and other local health care resources.

Due to the support of sponsors, the ability to purchase lifesaving equipment will increase and the housing program for families unable to afford a convenient place to stay while their loved ones are receiving care at UF Health Jacksonville will also be bolstered.

The 2014 patient honoree, Mr. Brett Parks, is a Navy sailor, husband and father of two who nearly lost his life when he intervened in a mugging and got shot in the abdomen. Over 370 staff members at UF Health Jacksonville had their hands on his amazing recovery-nicknaming him "The Miracle Man". Visit <http://anightforheroes.com> to view excerpts of his triumphant story.



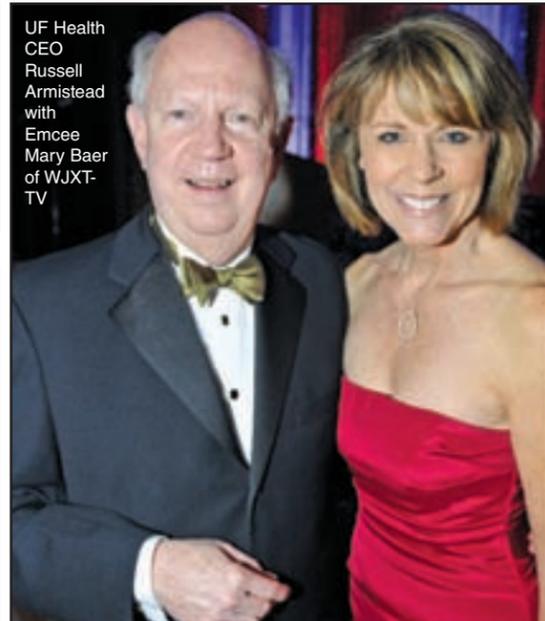
Amanda Bates and Chet Royals with Louise and Ben Vickers



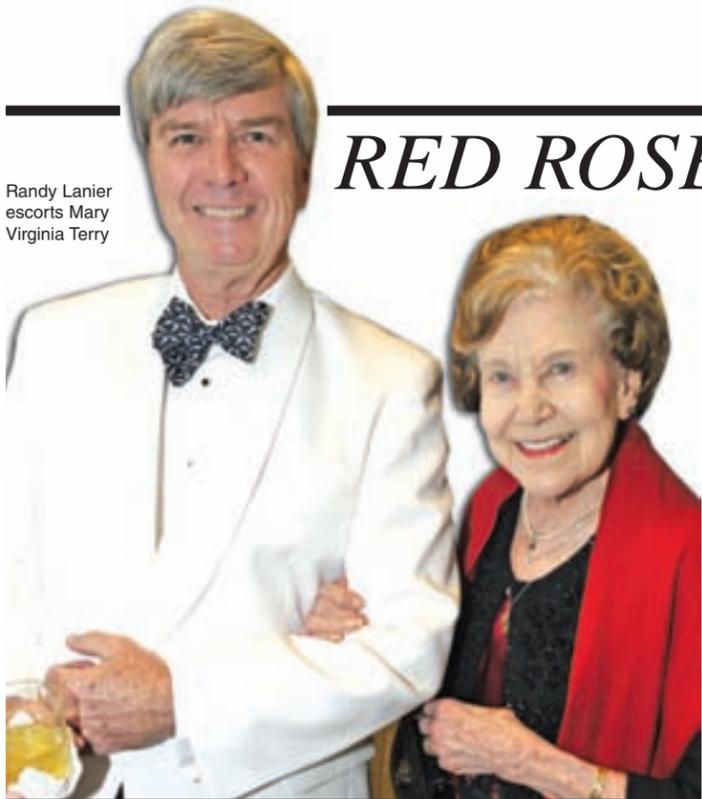
Joe and Mary Thompson



City Council President Bill Gulliford with Senator Aaron Bean



UF Health CEO Russell Armistead with Emcee Mary Baer of WJXT-TV



Randy Lanier escorts Mary Virginia Terry

RED ROSE BALL A NIGHT FOR LOVERS

The Valentine's Day celebration of the 33rd Annual St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation's Red Rose Ball was a smash on the day for lovers. Patrons arrived in their very best, as couples celebrated their special day in a special way with St. Vincent's HealthCare goals and initiatives in mind. With their latest mission titled, HeartSmart, a new heart wellness program, outreach will help to combat serious community concerns. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. and has been

the number one killer of Floridians for the last seven decades. The new program offers a multi-disciplined approach to living a "heart healthy lifestyle" providing program participants with tools for the mind, body and soul that will help reduce risk factors and prevent heart disease. The event was Co-Chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gooden, Dr. and Mrs. Gasper Lazzara, Dr. and Mrs. Stan Longenecker alongside Honorary Chairs Mr. and Mrs. Gary Chartrand and Mr. and Mrs. Mel Gottlieb.



Russell and Nancy Walhour with Robin and Nancy Doering



David and Tracy Williams



Michael and April Loper with Peggy and Phil Perry



Alyson Lee, Lathun and Debbie Brigman and Wally Lee

Social
REGISTER

19th Annual Cowford Ball benefits cancer research



Cowboys and the Salt Life converge at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds on Sat., Apr. 5 with the American Cancer Society's 19th Annual Cowford Ball. Event chairs Francy and Matt Robertson, along with honorary chairs Alex and Scot Ackerman, and a host of many other Saltwater Cowboys and Cowgirls, are working like – well, cowboys! – to create a fun-filled evening and raise \$550,000 for local community-based patient services, cancer education and research – a \$25,000 increase over the 2013 Cowford Ball. To date, since 1995 this event has raised \$7.1 million.

Nonprofit Center recognizes collaboration, problem solving

Working together for lasting impact, change for community

The Nonprofit Center announced its annual Local Focus. Lasting Impact.™ Collaboration and Innovation Awards winners on Feb. 12, focusing on the collaborative process and innovative thinking employed by local nonprofit organizations which are working hard to create a more vibrant community for all.

The winner of the Cross Sector Collaboration award was The Hope Fund, nominated by HandsOn Jacksonville; collaborative partners were HandsOn Jacksonville, University of North Florida and *The Florida Times-Union*.

The Change Agent award was presented for the exhibit *RACE: Are We So Different?* Nominated by the Museum of Science and History, with collaborate partners MOSH, Mayo Clinic of Florida, OneJax, JCCI, 17 community partners and 21 funding partners.

The Innovative Thinking Award winner was InVEST (Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team), nominated by collaborative partner Hubbard House; other partners were the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the City of Jacksonville.



Michelle Braun and Keto Porter of the United Way of NEFL



Left: Toula Wootan, community development officer at Community Hospice with Nancy Knight, HandsOn Jacksonville agency relations director and Gail Patin, EdD, LCSW, chief operating officer of the Hubbard House



Below: MOSH's Christy Leonard, deputy director with Genni Jett, director of institutional advancement, Maria Hane, executive director and Paul Wenglowski, director of visitor experience



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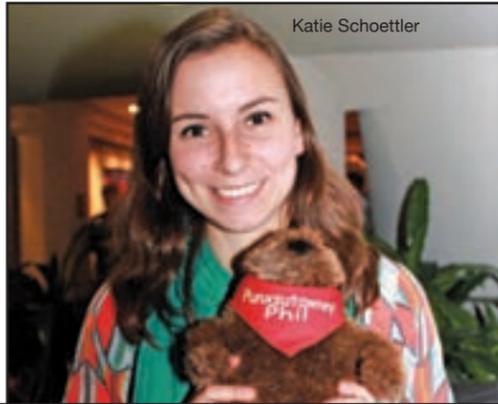
Changing Health Care for Good.

Tritt & Associates holds annual seasonal celebration

Arnie Tritt's 9th annual Groundhog's Day party raised \$550 for ACE Mentoring of Northeast Florida, thanks in large part to Robert Fernandez of Danis Construction, who donated his winnings from the 50/50 raffle. The Haskell Company's lobby and riverfront cafeteria provided an appropriate venue for the more than 350 attendees in the architecture, construction and engineering industry in Jacksonville.



Sara Brackin, Arnie Tritt and Erik Berger



Katie Schoettler



Steve and Ashley Diebenow



Tom Goldsbury, Bert Ralston, Melody and Bill Bishop



The Blood Alliance's Dr. Marsha Bertholf and Scott Garman, General Sales Manager of Nimnicht Chevrolet, with the winning Figueroa family. The event was held at Nimnicht Chevrolet on Cassat Avenue

Nimnicht donates 2014 Silverado, local recipient ecstatic

Randomly selected from among 15 finalists in The Blood Alliance annual blood drive promotion, Jerry Figueroa won a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado, compliments of Nimnicht Chevrolet. Figueroa beat out 41,000 other donors for the grand prize of a four door, six-seater, V8, 2014 Chevrolet Silverado valued at \$40,000.

Overcome by emotion, Figueroa was joined by his wife Mirna and son Kevin. "It was an incredible moment, and I was just in shock the moment it happened. Thank you, to The Blood Alliance and Nimnicht for this incredible gift. I have an 18-year old car that's very old and with a challenging economy, I am not able to afford a new car. I prayed really hard to win the truck, so when I won it, I couldn't believe it. I feel so blessed," said Figueroa.

"The Blood Alliance is deeply appreciative to Scott Garman and Lauren Dozier of Nimnicht Chevrolet for donating the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado and providing us with such a generous incentive to encourage donors. The Nimnicht family truly understands the importance of our constant need for the gift of life and have been an outstanding community partner over the past two years," said Dr. Marsha Bertholf, medical director at The Blood Alliance.

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Bestselling author Carol Kent keynote speaker at Women for Christ



Anne Tyre, Women for Christ president, Deanna Lewis, guest speaker Carol Kent, Susie Marshall, vice president, Vicky Yong, treasurer, and Becky Mentz, corresponding secretary

Florida at its 29th annual luncheon. Held at the Prime Osborn III Convention Center, the keynote speaker was Carol Kent, who last spoke to the group in 1998.

Kent is a best-selling author and a popular international public speaker best known for being dynamic, humorous, encouraging, and biblical. She is a former radio show co-host and her messages have been featured on Focus on the Family. Her newest book, *Unquenchable*, was released last month.

Originally started by a small group of women from Ortega to provide the Jacksonville community with the opportunity to hear outstanding Christian speakers, Women for Christ had 560 guests from all over Northeast

Florida. She is a former radio show co-host and her messages have been featured on Focus on the Family. Her newest book, *Unquenchable*, was released last month.



Seated: Trudi Lockwood, Laura Moore, Katie Sharkey and Jana Perry
Standing: Debbie Gunnlaugsson, Sally Singletary, Michelle Preuss, Mimi Stephens, Amanda Jackson and Christine Hughes

Community Nutcracker presents \$45,000 to seven local charities

The Community Nutcracker presented \$45,000 in donations to seven local charities, at a check presentation hosted at Dreams Come True of Jacksonville on Feb. 19. Donations were made to Dreams Come True, which received \$25,000; Community PedsCare of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida; We Care Jacksonville; Sanctuary on 8th Street; St. Mary's Episcopal Outreach; Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, and Second Harvest Food

Bank shared the remaining \$20,000.

Proceeds were raised from the 22nd annual production of The Community Nutcracker Ballet, which took place in December at the Florida Theatre. With the creative talents of four artistic directors/choreographers, Debra Peters Rankin, Mark Spivak, Dulce Anaya and Beth Marks, more than 300 local volunteer performers participated in the production of the holiday classic, The Nutcracker Ballet.



Vicky Watkins, Sanctuary on 8th Street, Ashley Logan and Terry Eason of Community PedsCare, Sheri Criswell, Dreams Come True, Bret Taylor, Second Harvest Food Bank, Gary Walo, Community Nutcracker, Courtney Weatherbee, WeCare and Bill McQuilken, Jacksonville Speech and Hearing

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Weaver Policy Center opens doors for girls

The Girls' Center expands on Park Street

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Following the opening of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center last fall in third floor offices at 1022 Park Street, the work continued to expand in scope and last month the nonprofit launched The Girls' Center.

Board member John Taylor welcomed guests crowded into the new street-level office with accolades for Center founder Delores Barr Weaver.

"We're here because of the generosity of Delores Barr Weaver. It wasn't just her generosity, but her wisdom and vision that got us here. I think she could see in her mind what might happen if she gave Lawanda [Ravoira] the tools to do what she really needed to do, what she wanted to do and what might happen," said Taylor. "I think in our first year we've vindicated Delores' judgment. We're here tonight to share the official launch of The Girls' Center."

According to Taylor, the Center also received generous funding from local philanthropists Peggy Bryan, Gary and Nancy Chartrand, Joan Van Fleck, Lawrence DuBow, Julia Taylor, and the Women's Giving Alliance.

He noted that one of the strengths of The Policy Center is that it is founded

on decades of research and programmatic experience and led by professionals who have great knowledge in the field. "Our leadership team has great experience working on state, local and national levels to ensure appropriate prevention, intervention and treatment of girls and young women. There are many people in the private sector and government who are champions and we appreciate that support," Taylor continued.

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, a leading national expert on the issue of women and girls, is the Center's president and CEO. "Our work is about engaging communities, organizations and individuals through quality research, through community organizing, through developing and implementing model programs, and our advocacy to advance the rights of girls

and young women, especially those in the juvenile justice and foster care systems," shared Dr. Ravoira.

The Girls' Center is a dedicated space just for girls and includes private space for one-on-one counseling. Thanks to the Women's Giving Alliance, the program that will take place there is Girls Matter: Giving Girls a Voice Initiative to provide therapy and counseling for girls and young women who are in the juvenile justice and the child protection system.

"It's also a space for families to come for the counseling they need to heal the fractures that often create problems and challenges within our families," said Dr. Ravoira.

In addition to the direct services that will be provided to girls, much of the Center's work is about advocacy and raising public awareness about issues that impact the wellbeing and lives of girls. One of those issues is sex trafficking.

"Our state has the third highest

number of trafficking victims in the country and Jacksonville is the third highest in the state," Dr. Ravoira noted. "One of the things we must do in protecting our daughters to ensure that girls and young women know [about this issue], but also that our community knows, so that we can have a very different response."

The program included introduction of ArtWorks for Freedom and the keynote speaker was Barbara Amaya, an artist and a human trafficking survivor.

According to Dr. Ravoira part of the Center's involvement in the launch of the Jacksonville chapter of ArtWorks for Freedom is to save the Safe Harbor Act. "We got it right last year in the legislature and finally our state passed the law that stopped victims of trafficking as criminals and locking them up," she said. "That law is being jeopardized this year, because the funding didn't follow the law."

The implementation of the safe houses that were funded [in Florida] was minimal, according to Dr. Ravoira, and they have closed their doors.

"We've been advocating that you don't change a good law because it was poorly funded. We need to continue to treat our survivors in a way that helps them to heal from the horrific crime they've been subjected to. We're advocating for funding for a safe house for North Florida," she concluded. "We're grateful that we have an incredible benefactor that allows us and encourages us to take on the subjects that make other people very uncomfortable and to stir the pot."



Tayloroe McDonald, director of strategic planning and public affairs, and Blythe Duckworth, consultant



John Taylor, Biannela Susana of the Girls' Center, Julia Taylor and Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, president and CEO of the center

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Looking back with The Turnage Company

February of 2014 marked 25 years of the Turnage Company. During that time we have been entrusted with thousands of projects, involving hundreds of clients and friends, co-workers, skilled craftsmen, designers, etc.

It just seems like a good time to reflect and say thanks to all who have helped us reach this milestone, and to re-energize and look forward with excitement to whatever lies in the future. It's also fun to look back on how things have changed.

In 1989 when things got started, we drew plans by hand on big drafting tables, made copies that smelled of ammonia and faded totally if left in the sun. We developed pictures on Kodak paper at the drug store. Computers were making their way into the small business area, but we still used MS-DOS, Lotus, and Word Perfect. There was no viable internet, no email, and cell phones were like small suitcases and could only be used for talking. The Dow Jones Industrial Index hovered around 2500 and included Kodak, American Can, Bethlehem Steel, General Motors, Goodyear, International Harvester, Sears, U. S. Steel, Westinghouse and Woolworth.

By the mid-nineties, the NFL awarded us a football team, and later gave us a Super Bowl. In 2000, the City adopted the Greater Jacksonville Plan, and began preparations to spend over a billion dollars on infrastructure improvements. By 2001, according to the Northeast Florida Builders Assoc.(NEFBA), single family building permits pulled in North Florida climbed to 9,075.

In the industry, solid surfaces and granite replaced laminates on the kitchen counters, white cabinets were the "in" thing. In the office, CAD (computer



Tom's First Sign in 1989

aided design) systems replaced the hand drafting, Windows 3.0 replaced MS-DOS and Excel became the spreadsheet of choice. Cell phones became small communication powerhouses. Thankfully, ammonia is only used for cleaning.

Things were really on a roll in Jacksonville. Even the stock market crash in 2000 and the events of 9-11-2001 did not seem to have a long-term lasting effect on real estate and construction. By 2005, permits in North Florida almost doubled to 17,753 (NEFBA) new homes. Remodeling and additions followed suit. Prices of homes skyrocketed similarly. The Turnage Company grew to almost 30 employees.

It just seemed like real estate and related construction activity would never slow down...until it did. After 2005, construction activity steadily slowed such that by 2011, annual permits declined to 3,151, an 82 percent

decline. Real estate values fell 30, 40, 50 percent and more. Many companies totally collapsed.

The Turnage Company shrank in size from almost 30 employees to less than 10, but remained steady due to the trust and loyalty of our clients and conservative business principles. Those business principles have existed since the start of the company and remain today.

First, we do not think of ourselves as being in construction business, but in the construction services business. We do not have a specific product to sell, but try to assist our clients in any endeavor. In addition to designing and building some really nice projects, we have put up Christmas trees, run critical errands, carried clients over mud puddles, and more.

As a design/build company, it is our job to help the customer identify ways to solve their current needs or problems, and then

formulate and implement the best solution. Sometimes we are simply designers or managers of the project, other times we are totally engaged throughout. Fiscally, our job is to be good stewards of our client's money, and never co-mingle the funds on their project with those of other projects. We are willing to tell our clients the truth if we think there is a better way or different approach to a project, sometimes discouraging a project totally if we think it is over-improving or inappropriate for a particular property. We stand behind our work, and if we mess up, we fess up. We have often addressed issues for our clients that did not appear for years.

Today, Turnage Company is very bullish on real estate and construction in North Florida. After an eighty percent decline in residential construction activity between 2005 and 2011, things are rebounding. Annual permits in 2013 climbed back to 5,971, still 60 percent short of 2005, but almost twice that of 2011. Real estate values are firming up and sales are strong.

Looking forward, we are currently seeking new team members, and upgrading our technology in the office and in the field. Our business and client philosophies, however, remain the same. We'll try to steer you straight, we won't play games with your money, and we will stand behind our work.

Looking back, we are very grateful for our clients and friends who let us into their lives and are an integral part of our existence today. We are preparing for the future and can't wait for our next 25 years with a sense of renewed enthusiasm and optimism.

Thank you.



The Turnage Company is located at 4114 Herschel Street, Ste. 100, Jacksonville, FL 32210, the original offices of the design build firm. To make an appointment for a consultation, call (904) 387-0770.

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Local artists find their muse, spread their talent over historic districts

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While Downtown struggles to promote itself as a cultural hub for Jacksonville, residents in this area have long known – and embraced – the art that comes out of Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill. What inspires some of those artists is as interesting as the art that results.

From a lowly ear of corn, an egg and slices of bacon, a twisted wooden branch or shimmering light filtering through olive trees in France, these local artists find inspiration in their own neighborhoods and abroad.

Lifelong artist Cookie Davis of Murray Hill says of one of her paintings, “First came the idea to paint corn. First doodles, drawings and a trip to the grocery store.”

These “doodles” emerged on large

colorful canvases which lift this everyday vegetable into lush vibrant glory.

Davis’s range of interests reflects her philosophy of working on a series of paintings or sculptures to “examine a vision and push it as far as you possibly can.” Working on large canvases in quick-drying acrylic paint, Davis explains that she cannot get hung up on one area of the painting but must work the entire canvas. She didn’t work in color until around age 15, did not paint for 30 years after losing the sight in one

It’s about the message...

eye and didn’t work with clay until she was 40!

Davis, a big believer in supporting emerging artists through her work with the Jacksonville Artists Guild, as well as being an enthusiastic birder, remarks laughingly, “I am not an Audubon kind of painter. I’m more interested in the message – if you want a realistic bird



you can take a photograph.”

The same for her clay figures, “I took a class where we threw on a wheel but it wasn’t for me.” Eloquent and good naturedly humorous, Davis quips that she majored in Special Education because “Dad insisted that I be able to get a real job even though I started drawing lessons at age seven and haven’t stopped. I draw every day. Talk about someone who doesn’t know when to quit.” Ellen Thrower, Barbara Barrett and Anne Showalter of Ortega remarked at Davis’s recent Retrospective exhibit at Avondale Artworks that “Cookie Davis is a wonderful and multi-talented artist. We love her work. We are all Cookie Davis collectors!”

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Median Price - Sold	\$180,000	\$236,000	+ 31.1%
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*Data obtained from Terratum / BrokerMetrics®

Although Marie Howell of Ortega has no formal art training she says, “I have a hobby in my retirement. The opportunity to go with a group of retired art teachers to Provence just fell in my lap. I went and soaked it up. I just decided not to be intimidated. After all, I wasn’t supposed to know anything!”

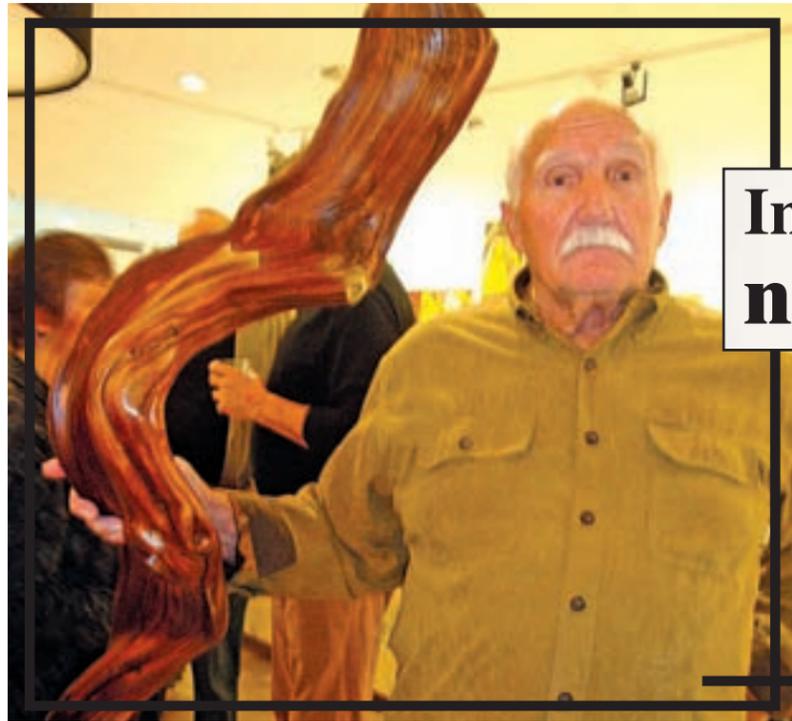
Howell continued, “Mary Ann Miller, group facilitator and author of *Travels with a Blue Vase*, has a way of empowering people to draw that first line. For beginners it is wonderful and the more experienced artists are ready to take off anyway.”

Stockton Elementary School art teacher Pam Patterson relates that the group of local artists, which also includes Jeanette Denis, Dale Burden, Trish Hubbard and Skye Schwartz, traveled, sketched, immersed themselves in the culture and painted as Miller says, “Among the silver olive groves walked by Van Gogh, and the cobbled streets trod by Cezanne.”

Sketchers in Provence ...

Their recent exhibit *Sketchers in Provence* at Marketplace Jewelers was the perfect venue for these sparkling little drawings and paintings. Patterson didn’t want to sell any of her works because “looking at them gives me such a sense of being there.”

All the artists agree that immersing one’s self in the moment adds to a magical feeling of place and time. Tish Hubbard describes the experience as being “emotionally tethered. There is a sense of place inscribed deep inside you forever.” Howell and other aspiring artists meet each week with Miller for the Café Sketchers group in various cafés around town.



Inspired by nature...

Avondale sculptor and native Floridian Rhoderick “Gator” Williams dabbled with pen and ink before finding his artistic niche with wood. After leaving the Marine Corps

and going back to school on the G.I Bill, he remarks in his jovial manner, “I could have become a lawyer but I’ve always been drawn to art – doodling and dabbling – especially three dimensional forms.” His process includes “studying a piece of wood for a while to see what it inspires in my thoughts. If I see something in it that I can take out, I’ll use it. Otherwise, I leave it in nature where I

found it.”

Williams continued, “Each piece is hand rubbed – I use a chisel, knife, lots of sand paper – maybe once in a while a little dremel tool. The finishes require sanding, rubbing with linseed oil then doing that three or four more times to get the satiny finish.”

It is hard to imagine the gnarly, bent limb of a cedar tree found in North Carolina being transformed into a shining, smooth as glass sculpture called “Wood Smoke” or a branch from a tree he climbed as a child in Escambia County at his grandfather’s home becoming the work “Motion.” Gator is exuberant in his love of creating interesting artistic pieces from the shapes and forms of nature. He says he enjoys looking at other people’s creations as well. “You have to take time to really look at art, not just walk past it.”

With his work in galleries, museums, private collections and public buildings throughout the world one might think that Ben’h Usry would be unapproachable but this artist has a welcoming smile, remnants of a South Carolina drawl and a cheerful, casual countenance which disguises his complex mind and ever active imagination.

Usry’s Riverside studio is filled with works in progress, works completed, silk-screens, torn-edged collages, and acrylic paintings – testimony to a lifetime of creativity. A sneak peek at his newest series, “Celestial,” engages the viewer with the apparent simplicity of forms in varying shades of gray which belie the thoughtfully arranged dynamic tension of the compositions.

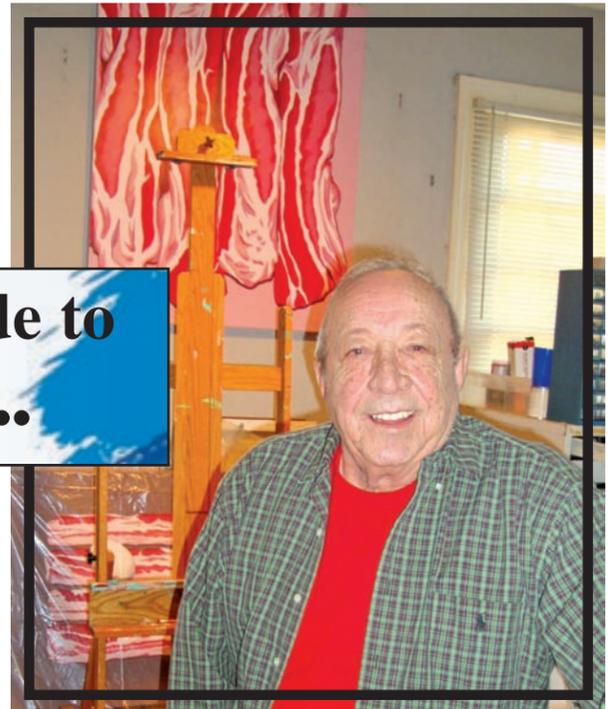
He relates that “an artist usually has two maybe three core ideas in his lifetime. Everything comes back to those ideas.” Space has been Usry’s inspiration over the years. He mentions that his topographical paintings inspired by Apollo 11, his egg and

bacon series, his “Florida Water Days” – all revolve around his fondness for the egg shape, a universal symbol of life and death, and his emotional involvement with the environment.

“I’ve always worked in bodies of work – sometimes for seven or eight years. Now each series is shorter,” he says laughing, “Because life is shorter!” It took three years to complete his visual interpretation of AA’s 12 Steps – which he is “very humbled and blessed to have created.”

Usry is one of only three Florida artists listed with Ask Art – the “Blue Book of International Artists, and credits his mentor, hard work and diligence as well as passion for his success.

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Extraordinary tale of personal quest

Mandarin Museum to celebrate 150th anniversary of shipwreck

Next month residents of Jacksonville will have an opportunity to see an important part of its history up close. The Mandarin Museum will host a nine-month long exhibit of Civil War artifacts brought up from the depths of the St. Johns River – by a local dentist.

Little did Dr. Keith Holland know, but learning how to scuba dive as a hobby would lead to a decades-long personal quest and the discovery of what is believed to be the most significant collection of Civil War era cultural relics in history.

In 1977, Dr. Holland, now a dentist with a practice in Avondale's Fairfax neighborhood, earned his scuba diving certification but had become bored exploring underwater springs. He began researching ship-



When he wasn't working, Holland spent his time researching Jacksonville history and compiling a list of 19th century shipwrecks in the area. He learned of the Maple Leaf, an Army transport ship during the Civil War that sunk after hitting an underground mine off Mandarin Point. Frustrated with the lack of information available on the Maple Leaf, he hired a researcher at the

Holland wasn't buying it. Based on his research and knowledge of the area, he believed a significant portion of the ship remained intact at the bottom of the river. In 1984 he and his team located the remains of the hull of the Maple Leaf 12 miles off Mandarin Point entrenched in the soft under bed, 24 feet below the surface.

The fact that the ship's remains were so encased in mud – coupled the low visibility in the river – led many to believe the wreckage has been removed. While the location in which the ship sat made it difficult to find, but Holland said the "anaerobic environment" actually preserved the ship's remnants and the items found within.

In addition to military equipment from three U.S. Army Infantry regiments, the Maple Leaf wreckage contained thousands of personal possessions of its soldiers, including eyeglasses, pocket watches, smoking pipes, musical instruments and personal care items like toothbrushes and combs. Also found on board were a variety of household items such as dishes and candlestick holders believed to have been looted from Confederate homes.

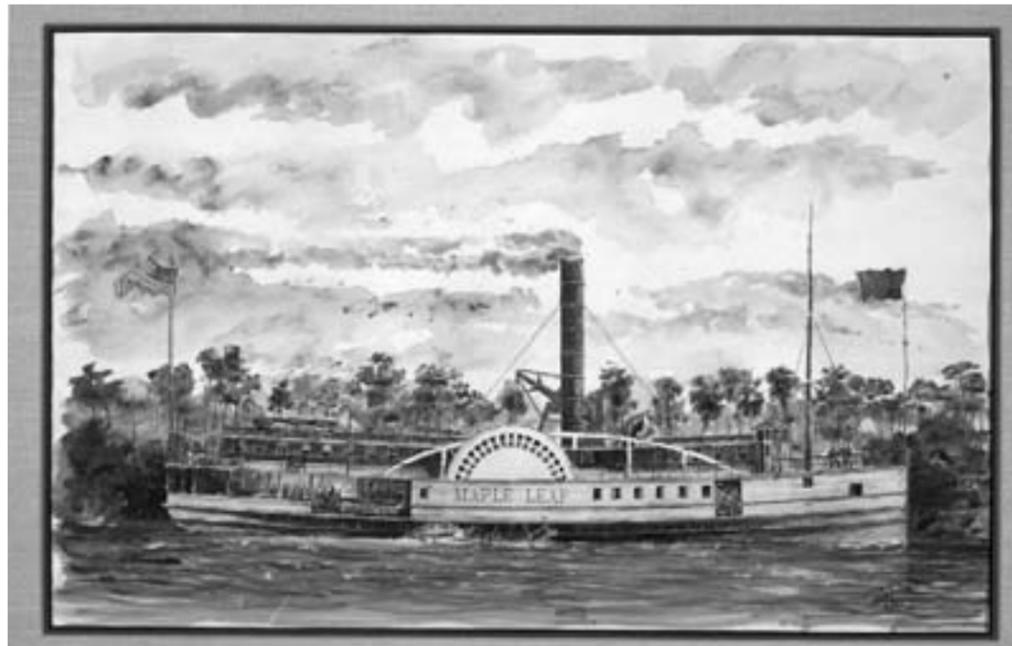
The discovery of these personal artifacts has been heralded by historians as the most significant collection of Civil War-era cultural relics

in history. More than just cannons, swords and uniforms, the treasure trove of items gives a glimpse into the personal lives of the soldiers: what they thought about, what they cared about, what they valued when they weren't fighting in the war.

For Holland, the experience of uncovering a piece of history that seemingly no one believed even existed was "life changing" and, he said, has made him a better person. But his self-described obsession with finding the Maple Leaf proved to be more than just a personal journey: The Maple Leaf site received National Landmark status.

On a more personal note, it gave credence to something in his own life. "My friends always thought I was eccentric," he laughed. "This [experience] just proved it."

The April 4 & 5 Grand Opening of a totally new Maple Leaf exhibit at the Mandarin Museum will feature information and rarely seen artifacts recovered from the ship (on loan from the State Archives of Florida). Dr. Holland will be present these two days to talk to visitors. The special exhibit will remain on display at Mandarin Museum from Apr. 4 until Dec. 31 during museum hours. For information about either event and to check museum hours visit mandarin-museum.net, call (904) 268-0784 or mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net.



wrecks and learned about a vessel that went down in Myrtle Beach, SC.

"I was nervous. It was my first ocean dive," Holland recalled. But his stress soon turned to excitement when something caught his eye, a man-made object that appeared to be a beer keg tap. "I loved the thrill [of the discovery]," he added. "And I decided to find a wreck in Florida near Jacksonville."

U.S. National Archives. Since the Internet wasn't available commercially at the time, it was a lengthy and often frustrating process having to communicate through phone calls and letters, but Holland eventually found what he was looking for.

According to government records, a contractor removed the wreckage as it was a danger to boaters and constricted the flow of water, but

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment

This year's theme for National Women's History Month, Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment, honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. In this issue, *The Resident* shares profiles of Jacksonville women, here and now as well as those who have passed on, to show how their lives and their work inspire girls and women to achieve their full potential and encourage boys and men to respect the diversity and depth of women's experience.

Local icon lives life with enthusiasm

Helen Lane called City's heartbeat

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



Lunching with Helen Lane at The Bluefish is a unique experience. A woman whose generous philanthropy has positively impacted the City of Jacksonville in myriad ways, Helen Lane has achieved celebrity status. Her presence in the upscale Avondale eatery does not go unnoticed, and she graciously accepts interruptions and accolades. "It doesn't matter whether you're the garbage man or the CEO, Mrs. Lane treats everyone the same – warm and friendly. She'll always look you in the eye and take the time to listen," declared Bluefish owner Frank Gallo. "I've had the privilege of

knowing her for more than two decades and she's never changed."

The daughter of Jacksonville natives Charles and Helen Murchison, Helen was born in Boston on June 1, 1924, the day her father graduated from Harvard Law School. "I was one month old when we arrived in Jacksonville and I've lived here ever since and loved it," said Lane. "Therefore, I consider myself a lifetime resident."

Growing up in Ortega was idyllic for Helen. She had a "loving, sweet and strong mother," an "adoring, charming father." Her sister Margaret was nicknamed "Muffet" because she was afraid of spiders. They lived in the same lovely English Tudor style home where Helen resided until recently. Back then, The Bolles School was for boys and Bartram was the private girls' school. Upon graduating from Bartram, Helen attended Sweet Briar College in Virginia, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946.

All through her school years, from the time she was about 14, a young Avondale man named Edward W. Lane, Jr. had his eye on Helen. She was playing jacks on a friend's front porch the first time Ed saw her. "He was there to pick up her older sister for a date, but she wasn't ready, so he sat on the porch and talked to us," recalled Helen. "Ed was 13 years older than me, but I sure thought he was attractive. His mother later confided he told her he'd be keeping an eye on that little Helen Murchison." Ten years later, they met again at a yacht club dance. They married in 1948.

Together, the Lanes rose to civic prominence, with Ed serving as chairman of the Boards of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, the Community Chest-United Fund, and the Children's Home Society, while Helen served as president of the Junior League of Jacksonville, the Acacia Garden Circle, the Garden Club of Jacksonville and chaired Jacksonville Symphony and American Heart Association balls and benefits. All of this while their four children, Edward III, Palmer, Anna and Charles, were growing up in the same Ortega neighborhood where their parents met and fell in love.

In their 56 years of marriage (Ed passed away at age 93 in 2004), the Lanes traveled the world, climbing to the top of the Matterhorn, sailing down to Antarctica, hot air ballooning in France and Africa, sleeping in mountain huts in Switzerland and thatched huts in Bora Bora, pony trekking in Kashmir, crossing over the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and riding the waves in Hawaii, cruising the Greek Islands, renting a Schloss in Austria, and so much more. "It was a blast and we enjoyed it all," said Helen, adding that their favorite summer vacation memories were still made in their Atlantic Beach house, called "The Beach Nuts,"

with three ice machines and two dishwashers, all of which seemed to be in constant use.

In 2004, Helen Lane was the EVE recipient of the Arnolta Johnson "Mama" Williams Lifetime Achievement Award, a richly deserved tribute. Credited by Jacksonville historian Wayne Wood for being "the patron saint of Jacksonville preservation," Helen began rescuing, relocating and renovating Victorian homes in 1969, eventually rescuing 23 houses. In 1977, while serving on the executive board of Riverside Avondale Preservation, she participated in the restoration and conversion of the old Union Terminal into the Prime Osborne Convention Center that it is today.

Also during the 1970s, Helen chaired the action plan for the arts, along with Ann Baker and Jackie Holmes. She became temporary president of the Arts Assembly of Jacksonville, now the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, and served on the Board of Governors of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce. A Charter member and board appointee of the Library Foundation, and a former board member of the Jacksonville Historical Society, the Community Foundation and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Helen was also one of five who founded the Women's Giving Alliance.

"Helen Murchison Lane and philanthropic passion are one and the same," said Community activist, author and artist Joanelle Mulrain. "Helen has carefully sewn the cultural fabric of our community by intertwining threads of heartfelt generosity, good will, hard work and volunteer leadership. From the Riverkeeper to Bolles, Bartram School to her beloved Sweet Briar College, Helen Lane is what makes this city's heart beat and gives it life."

Currently, Helen Lane is working with Mulrain and the City of Jacksonville on a big 450th "Sesquicentennial" event at Fort Caroline Memorial Park sponsored by the Timucuan Trail Preservation Foundation. Never one to rest on her laurels, Lane also continues to vigorously support her many causes, including "Teach for America," which greatly benefits Jacksonville's public school system.

"I'd put Jacksonville up against any city in the world. We have stunningly beautiful women and brilliant businessmen. It's a wonderful place to live," said the elegant icon as she placed her napkin on the table, preparing to gracefully exit the luncheon interview and head for her Pilates session. "I've been blessed to live a lifetime here, and my advice to future generations is to try and live every day of life with enthusiasm."



Fun and philanthropy a winning combination

Role model, world traveler and generous giver

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

March is Women's History Month and March 8th is International Women's Day. The month and the day are in celebration of strong, inspiring, courageous women... wonderful women who make a positive difference in the world. But, did you know that February 26th was also a day to celebrate a spectacular woman? A few years ago, former Mayor John Peyton designated February 26th Betsy Lovett Day!

"It was only fitting to recognize that marvelous lady for her generous capacity to give," said Peyton, when asked about Betsy Lovett Day. "Betsy helped tremendously with my early literacy projects when she was Chairman of the Board at the Library Foundation. Her energy and enthusiasm are incredible. She is the consummate philanthropist." Grinning, Peyton added, "Betsy deserves more than a day. She deserves at least a month!"

Born at St. Vincent's Hospital on March 19, 1930, Betsy Ross Lovett nearly lost her life there at age 9. It was on her 9th birthday, in 1939, that she was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital critically ill with a ruptured appendix, peritonitis and pneumococcal. When she looks back at that time before penicillin, she is grateful that her pediatrician was also a major Harvard researcher who was up on all the latest drugs. "The doctor had ordered a new drug called Sulfanilamide from Philadelphia for a little boy who had spinal meningitis, but the little boy died the night before I came in, so they operated on me and gave me the drug. They still only gave me an hour to live, but I survived. They also put a big handsome fireman on a cot next to me and did an arm to arm blood transfusion (nobody has to tell me what he looked like... I know he was handsome!)"

After her daughter's close call at age 9, Betsy's mother, Sally Ann Ross, told her she must have been left on this earth for something good, and she has certainly lived up to her mother's expectations. A prolific philanthropist who has funded local, national and international medical, cultural and educational projects, Betsy Lovett is a joyful giver. "I have always loved people. I don't care who they are or where they are," she says. "I don't give to receive. I give to know that others are helped. It gives me joy to know I may have helped somewhere."

Just a few well-known examples of her joyful giving are the Betsy Lovett Surgery and Research Center at St. Vincent's, the Betsy Lovett Arts Center at The Bolles School Bartram Campus, the Betsy Lovett Courtyard at the Main Library, the William Dow Lovett Laboratory of Molecular Neurogenetics at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and the Betsy Ross Lovett Foundation, Inc.

She has received many well-deserved awards for her philanthropy, including the EVE 2008 Arnolta Johnston "Mama" Williams Lifetime Achievement Award. Betsy also received the 2010-2011 Tillie K. Fowler Community Service Award, the 2010 Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Individual Hall of Fame Award (only the second ever given), and was chosen the 2013 Children's Champion by Episcopal Children's Services (ECS). The awards and honors received by this generous lady over eight decades are too numerous to mention, just as her quiet ongoing and daily philanthropic and charitable actions are impossible to chronicle in one article.

"Betsy Lovett is an inspiration to me, and to all of us who have the God-given ability and desire to help others," said Nadine Gramling, former CEO of Southeastern Metals and a longtime business associate of Betsy's late husband, William "Billy" Lovett. Gramling, who now owns Bryson's Upscale Resale on Beach Blvd. and was an EVE Award finalist in 2011, considers Lovett a major role model. "Betsy's true to herself," said Gramling. "She's the same whether she's shopping for second-hand stuff in my store or rubbing shoulders with royalty in Venice. Billy was a lucky man to have her in his life."

Betsy married William Dow Lovett ("Billy"), a Jacksonville native who



became an internationally known industrialist, handling the extensive Lovett family holdings which included the 1,000-store Piggly-Wiggly franchises, and much more. Married for 40 years, the Lovetts had two daughters, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

When Billy died in 1990, Betsy lost the love of her life. She also lost her favorite traveling companion, hunting and fishing

partner, and most beloved confidante. "Billy had the craziest sense of humor," she recalled. "He could never finish a joke because he'd be laughing so hard by the time he got to the punch-line. He was a remarkable man who had a brilliant mind right up until the day he died."

Only 63 years old when he passed away, William Dow Lovett succumbed to an insidious condition called Cerebellar Ataxia (similar to Lou Gehrig's Disease), which gradually reduces muscle control until the victim is immobile. His symptoms began some 15 years prior to his death and,

as the disease progressed, Betsy became his main caregiver, employing a young helper named C. J. Farrell, to provide the strength needed to lift, bathe and dress her husband. "C. J. saved Billy's life several times. He helped Billy get dressed in a coat and tie and took him to the office every day until the week he died," said Betsy, noting that C. J. has been with her for 26 years and remains a Godsend in her own daily life now.

Today, Betsy stays in close contact with the William Dow Lovett Laboratory of Molecular Neurogenetics at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, which she and Billy founded before he died in order to determine whether the disease was genetic and would be inherited by their progeny. Still actively involved with funding the research, Betsy notes that the laboratory is regularly discovering new genes related to Cerebellar Ataxia and other muscular diseases, but there is no cure yet.

Although the Lovetts annually fished for salmon in the world-famous Restigouche River in Quebec, traveled into deepest Africa on safaris, gilled alligators in swamps of Florida, and went partridge shooting on the King's property in Spain, Billy and Betsy established their own private hunter's paradise at their 1600-acre farm in Madison County. "The week before Billy died, I had a gun rigged so I could put him in our dove field," recalled Betsy. "I held the barrel for him and he shot a dove. We didn't usually hunt next to each other, but that day was a beautiful exception."

A woman who lives every day of life to the fullest, Lovett (who is a licensed alligator trapper) is, literally, "up to her elbows in alligators" with her current busy schedule. She is preparing her costume for her March 1 Wild Reading Safari at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens to benefit Episcopal Children's Services; she's deciding on a lighted costume to wear at the annual Cowford Ball to benefit the American Cancer Society, she is Honorary Chairperson of the upcoming annual Exzooperation (Tigers at Twilight) to benefit the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, and the list continues. Her familiar penchant for dressing up in costume, by the way, began as a child named Betsy

Ross who, naturally, was called upon to be Miss Victory. "Costume parties were always fun, and now I dress in costume to raise money for good causes. It's still fun!"

For Betsy, fun and philanthropy are a winning combination. She is a smart, savvy business woman, devoted to doing the most good that she can with the wherewithal she has. She carefully considers each request for help and makes a decision based on her gut feelings for the cause and the people involved, but once she has made a commitment to a good cause, she is in it for the long haul. As to her daily habit of quiet, unheralded charitable giving, Betsy's philosophy is, like her, delightfully honest and unpretentious: "If the ox is in the ditch, you get him out!"



Betsy Lovett takes every opportunity to dress in costume, including dressing as Fancy Nancy, a character from her reading selection at the 2012 Wild Reading Safari

Deadline for Leadership Jacksonville CLE approaches

Collegiate Leadership Experience has lifelong benefits

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Leadership Jacksonville is seeking a new class for its summer session of Collegiate Leadership Experience (CLE), a unique leadership program for undergraduate and graduate students attending a local college or home for the summer from schools across the country. Since its inception in 2005, 86 percent of the alumni have said that “they are more likely to live in Northeast Florida because of their participation in the Collegiate Leadership Experience program,” according to Meg Phillips Folds, Youth Programs Director, Leadership Jacksonville, Inc.

The program boasts of graduating 330 college students from 46 colleges and universities. Companies, colleges and universities have found the CLE program to be a great enhancement for their interns, employees and students.

“Our program makes a huge impact in very little time,” noted Folds. “In just two Fridays, two Saturday, a Monday and a Wednesday students gain an insider’s knowledge of our community, leadership abilities, build lifetime friendships and contacts in all aspects of the community.”

Applicants should be between 18 and 28 years old, a student in good standing and possess leadership ability, and have a desire for community service. All applicants will participate in a 20-minute interview conducted over the telephone with a group of Leadership Jacksonville alumni. A class of 36 to 40 will be selected. Deadline to apply is March 20, 2014. Contact Meg Folds at (904) 396-6263 ext. 26 or meg@leadershipjax.org for an application.

To find out what the program means to it graduates, *The Resident* found two alumni willing to share their experience.

• Ready to reconsider Jacksonville

Riverside resident Miles Laura Para, 21, attended the program during the summer of 2013. “I actually enrolled when I was doing an internship abroad in London, and heard about the program through my mother,” said Para. “While the other applicants did a phone interview, I had to do mine via e-mail, so it was a bit different.”

Para, a theatre arts major at Flagler College, said she gained much from the program, both through experience and knowledge about Jacksonville. “Before doing this program, I was not really that interested in staying in Jacksonville, and I did not really see it as somewhere I could start a career. I have completely changed my mind now, and that is mainly due to Leadership Jax. I learned about so many new and upcoming companies, along with more information on the companies already here, and it has made me do more research looking in to starting my life here in Jax,” Para said.

She continues to benefit from the experience from the connections she made. “Leadership Jax is an incredible experience to put on a resume, and I had the opportunity to meet dozens of leaders in our community through this program,” Para explained. “I am sure that I will continue to use the connections and information gained through this program throughout my entire career.”



Para

• All about networking, involvement

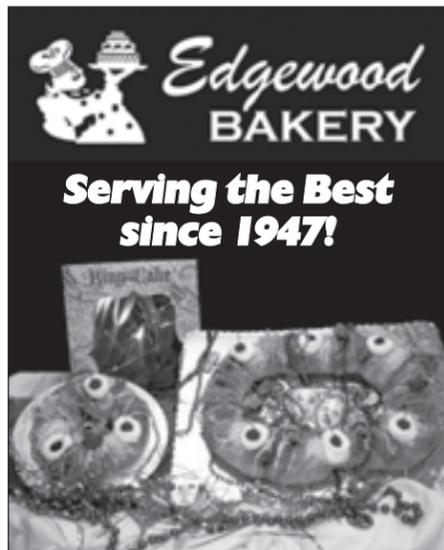
A 2008 graduate of the program, Erin Slappey of Avondale, is following a family tradition. “My mom Susie Slappey and grandmother Carol Pitman were involved in Leadership Jax classes and my sister Carli was a member of a Youth Leadership Jax class. I’ve always been familiar with the program and wanted to get involved,” Slappey said.



Slappey

Slappey, 26, is a Bishop Kenny alumnus (2006) and has both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree from Florida State University.

Now an area development coordinator for the law firm of Holland & Knight, Slappey had two significant takeaways from the program. “I learned about the benefit of professional networking and the importance of understanding and learning about the community and its needs,” she noted. “I’m involved in the Ronald McDonald House’s young professional group, The Red Shoe Crew (name changed recently from Discovery Circle) and a member of the Junior League of Jacksonville.”



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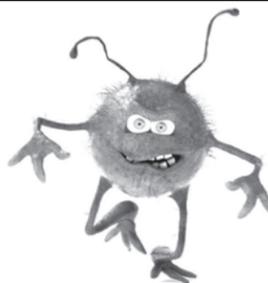
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Pinewood Derby a nail-biting event for local Cub Scouts

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Who would think that watching a five-ounce car carved by a young boy from an eight-inch block of pinewood would be as exciting as a NASCAR event?

Cub Scout Pack #522's recent derby held at Ortega UMC was filled with thrills, spills, cheers and tears. Overall pack champion Daniel DeLong, of Avondale, blazed his way to the finish line.

"I got the idea for a name for my car from my Language Arts class at RPDS. 'Scorch' was one of our vocabulary words. And, I air brushed flames on it," said DeLong.

As a WEBELOS (We'll Be Loyal Scouts), DeLong will move up to regular scouts and no longer be eligible for the derby so it is a special victory. Nose to nose with him all the way through the 15-heat final was Cole Cavin with his "#100- Batmobile."



Patrick and Lockwood Greene



Cole Cavin, 2nd place, Champion Daniel DeLong, Drake Groeteke, 3rd place

Sauce." Cal laughingly remarked, "I very, very, much want to beat my brother. If I win - I'll rub his face in it." Joseph pushed his hand jokingly into his brother's face, "I would shake Cal's hand and say 'good race' but I really, really want to beat him."

Patrick and Lockwood Greene of Ortega experienced joy and despair with "Cobra" and "Cobra Strikes Again" as mother, sister and grandmother cheered them on. Patrick credited his brother with giving him the idea for his car and their uncle for helping them.

Winning 3rd place with "Blue Blaze," Drake Groeteke said, "I feel pretty good about how my car ran. My dad and I worked hard on it for two or three days, so it's a good feeling."

Cub Scoutmaster Mike Barber reflected that "boys who start out as Cub Scouts usually stick with Scouting longer. We have two main distractions as they get older - perfume and fumes."

With names like "Pinewood Pirate," "The General," "American Speed Board," "Road Ripper" and "Shark Attack," cars and boys (and men) just go together. Racing shows the enthusiasm, excitement and creativity of the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby.



Joseph and Cal Lundahl

The pressure mounted in a tense tie-breaker, but Cole reflected an amazingly positive attitude: "I almost won this year. I got a second and a first place!"

Good-humored sibling rivalry abounded with finalists Cal and Joseph Lundahl of Venetia with their cars "Jet Black" and "Awesome



2014 Derby Champion Daniel DeLong

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Jr. Residents

Budding artists display their talents at open house



Julia Betts, 6th grade, shows off her leaf print, while little sister Amber looks on

Original artwork by budding artists was offered for purchase at St. Matthew's Catholic School, 1773 Blanding Boulevard, during the school's annual open house for 2014 enrollment. The very talented students of art teacher Kathy Strandes proudly showed off their renderings and depictions of famous art, such as Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, along with original creations of pets, Florida water creatures, stained glass images, leaf prints and more.



First grade student Ella Parker with dad Nat and brother Connor, a sixth grade student at St. Matthew's Catholic School

Healthy smiles start with early education

Local pediatric dentist Dr. Jila Mahajan doesn't monkey around when it comes to her patients, but she does enlist the services of MoJo the Monkey when teaching children about dental hygiene. Children attending the Avondale Child's Day Out program at Avondale United Methodist Church were treated to an engaging presentation in early February, learning how to brush properly and the best foods to eat for healthy teeth and gums, and a pretty smile.



Dr. Jila Mahajan and MoJo the Monkey with preschoolers Amelia Bedford and Ryan Prindiville

Regional science fair winners include state qualifier

Nine students represented St. Paul's Catholic School at the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Feb. 10 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium with five students returning home with ribbons.

The winners included Jayme Marquez, with a 4th place in Engineering, Nathan Lesser who took 3rd place also in Engineering, Henry Guild with another 4th place Engineering and a Special Interest award from the Navy. Ana Hale was a 3rd place winner in Engineering, while Patrick Monteith placed 4th in Environmental Science. Other participating students included Tommy Guild, Myles Sreenan, Chole Iuliano and Joseph Hale.

Over 400 students from 30 different schools (both public and private) participated in this fair, according to Jamie Terry, 7th and 8th grade science teacher at St. Paul's. "That's pretty good to have that many winners out of 400 participants and 30 schools," said Terry.



Students' projects were judged in categories such as Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering, and Environmental Science as well as several others. Many special awards were given by organizations like the American Meteorological Society and the American Society of Civil Engineers as well as 43 more local organizations.

Of the 14 students selected for the State Team, seven students were from diocesan schools. One of those selected to represent the region at the state science fair level was Nathan Lesser, an 8th grader at St. Paul's.

"Students must use the scientific method to solve a problem or answer a question. Most schools begin work on these projects as soon as school begins in August," said Terry.

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All you need is love

Preschool children at St. John's Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool put their love into action for Valentine's Day, making four dozen valentines with lollipops attached for children at Trinity Rescue Mission. School administrative assistant Michele Pelham and her daughters delivered the gifts, and spent time reading to the children and sharing a Veggie Tales movie with popcorn and other snacks.



Four-year-old preschool students Lily and Aidan make valentines for the Trinity Rescue Mission children

Riverside resident finalist in two scholarship programs

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named Episcopal School of Jacksonville senior Sid Yarlalagadda a National Merit Finalist. Yarlalagadda has been named a finalist for the University of North Carolina's Morehead-Cain Scholars Program also.

Nationwide, only 8,500 high school seniors are selected as Merit Scholarship winners, from 15,000 finalists. Winners of Merit Scholarship® awards are announced in March. Students who are selected can earn college scholarships based on their academic performance and leadership potential.

The Morehead-Cain is a four-year merit scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It fully funds the student's four years at Carolina, including housing, tuition, fees and meals. Morehead-Cain is awarded based on character, scholarship, physical vigor, leadership and merit.



Ortega resident finalist for UVA Jefferson Scholars Program

Sarah Irving, a senior at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, has been named a finalist for the University of Virginia's Jefferson Scholars Program. Only 33 students in the incoming first year class are selected for the award.

The Jefferson Scholars program at UVA admits individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. The program covers the entire cost of attendance. It offers an extensive enrichment program for students throughout their four years at UVA. Scholars are chosen based solely on merit and are nominated by their high school.



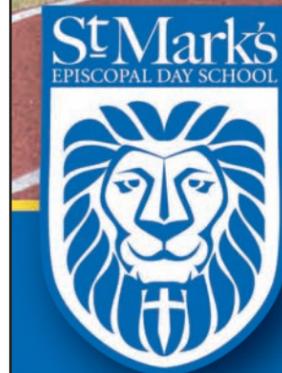
Letting the animals out of the zoo

Leo Rasch, a preschool student at Child's Day Out, poses with McDoor the Alligator and Emily Cunningham from the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens. Cunningham introduced the children to a python, a skink, and an armadillo as well, on Zoo Day late last month.



Bolles student artists win 12 art awards

The Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards program, a five-county regional division of the nationally acclaimed Scholastic Art Awards program, gave 12 awards to 11 Bolles art students during its Feb. 1 ceremony. Winning students this year comprise one of the largest groups of Bolles artists to win scholastic art accolades in recent years. One of those students is Ortega resident Christa Greene, a sophomore, who received a Gold Key award. The Gold Key distinction includes a \$3,000 scholarship to Savannah College of Art and Design and the possibility of moving on to the state and national divisions.



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The Way we Were

Juanita Smith Reminisces About Lakeshore

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



Juanita Sessions and brother, circa 1929

“My dad’s relatives volunteered to take me in, and Hazel and Tom Sebastian raised me in a big house in East Jacksonville on Spearing Street.”

Juanita Sessions Smith has had Lakeshore ties for about as far back as she can remember. Lakeshore South, as it is known today, is the

neighborhood bordered by Lakeshore, Roosevelt, San Juan and Blanding Boulevards. One of the earliest members and supporters of Lakeshore Methodist Church, Smith shared her memories of the city from the 1920s until today.

Born in Macclenny, FL in 1926, Smith was brought to Jacksonville at the tender age of two, after her mother died and family members stepped in to help her father raise her and her brother. Her father had been crippled when two mules landed on him and was unable to care for his children alone. Smith’s brother went to live in New Smyrna.

“My dad’s relatives volunteered to take me in, and Hazel and Tom Sebastian raised me in a big house in East Jacksonville on Spearing Street. They had me call them Hazel and Tom because they did not want someone calling them Momma and Daddy who might be taken away. They were very, very, very good parents, and my father was everything to me. He always took up for me,” recalled Smith. “The house was built after the Great Fire, and my aunt and her husband used a 20-mule team to help build it. It

had a big porch all across the front and sides. My grandmother lived with us. She was 80 when I came, and she swept the porch every day.

Her other job was folding things that came out of the laundry. She always stayed busy and lived to be 93.”

Smith could walk from her house to Downtown, about a mile away. She did it alone for a while – that is, until she got lost, and then until she fainted.

“I was sent to town by my foster mother to get something when I was about 10, and I had trouble finding my way back. One of my cousins called my mother from California Hat & Furriers and said she had seen me walking by the window several times, was I alone? It turned out to be a big deal, and my foster mother didn’t send me out for a long time.”

“When I got older, I was also prone to fainting when I got overheated. One time, I was at the dime store on the corner of Adams, and I tried to cross the street to Jenk’s Restaurant across the way. I passed out in the middle of Main and Adams. I didn’t go by myself after that.”

Smith and her foster family visited Lakeshore Boulevard regularly, as her parents had good friends who lived there. After graduating from Andrew Jackson High School and attending FCCJ (now FSCJ) for a few years, Smith met dashing Navy man Fred Smith.

“After we were married and lived all over for a while, we eventually



Fred Smith, age 21

“After we were married and lived all over for a while, we eventually settled in Navy housing in Lakeshore.”

settled in Navy housing in Lakeshore. My best friend lived in the area, and I worked at the Lakeshore Gown Shop. Fred went back to college and then taught school in Baldwin for a while,” said Smith. “Lakeshore began to grow rapidly in the 1940s because of the war. I remember when Winn Dixie came to the corner of San Juan and Blanding – that seemed to be the beginning. A big restaurant came, then a furniture store and a drug-store. It really popped out in the ‘60s when we got a decent bridge over the river.”

“We began trying to start a Methodist church. My husband was Episcopalian, but my grandmother had five children, and her four girls

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all married Methodist ministers. My grandfather was also a Methodist minister. So we couldn't escape being Methodist," explained Smith with a smile and a laugh. "We had a group who did a lot of work. My girlfriend and I started a nursery school, and that brought a lot of young families to the church."

Lakewood Methodist was formally organized in May 1945, and it began constructing a sanctuary a year later. The



stone used for the building is Tennessee Crab Orchard Stone, which was purchased uncut. The congregation moved into the new sanctuary on Easter Sunday 1949.

"I remember the man at our church, Mr. Wilson, who cut every stone that went in there – it was a tremendous job. He sat day after day and chiseled those stones and never complained. The church is my anchor to Lakeshore. I still teach adult Sunday school."

Smith and her husband were married 61 years before he died, and they raised three girls, Bonnie, Deedee and Holly. She just sold her Lakeshore house three years ago.

"I watched Lakeshore grow from a lazy little section to springing up with so many more houses and businesses. I still have my church and friends there and a lot of ties."



Fred and Juanita Smith

Brisk trade at annual Garden Club Flea Market

Neither rain nor chill kept the crowds away from the annual Garden Club of Jacksonville Flea Market last month. Garden Club circles were doing brisk business on Feb. 8 offering up for sale nearly every household and yard good imaginable.

The event helps fund the Club's civic projects, such as the Botanical Gardens at the Jacksonville Zoo. Next month the Garden Club hosts its annual Blooms Galore and More plant sale on April 5 as well as a new event, Passport to Fashion, a luncheon and trunk show on April 10.



Alana Ronan and Jessica Porter work the Blossom Flutter Friends' booth at the Garden Club Flea Market and they are members of Girl Scout Troops 896/765



Molly Boyd, Jane Lockwood, Winkie Booher, Betty Rosenbloom and Paula Jean Burney took care of sales at the Ortega Forest Circle booth at the annual Garden Club Flea Market

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Automatic doors at the grand entrance usher you to the concierge as you proceed to your private apartment, attractively set off by a decorative portal. This is your home and the staff at The Windsor treats it that way. "We believe that it's an honor to come to work in their home every day," said Debi Thomas, Regional Sales Director. "We are very respectful, starting at the entrance to their home."

Within each of the 74 assisted living apartments, ranging from studios to one- and two-bedroom apartments in eight configurations, you'll enjoy a full-size refrigerator/freezer and microwave in your

kitchenette. The spacious walk-in closets may tempt you to turn them into guest rooms but you'll want to reserve the space for all the treasures you couldn't – and don't need to – leave behind.

Large windows with terrific views could make it hard to leave your apartment, but you won't want to miss out on the other living spaces within the building. Enjoy a breakfast muffin and a cup of coffee while watching the morning news in the media center – or catch the evening news over a glass of wine and an appetizer.

Step into the interior courtyard for fresh air or enjoy a neighborly chat from your personal patio. Tables, rocking chairs, a fountain, a screened lanai all landscaped beautifully are there for your convenience and relaxation. If you choose a second floor apartment, the view from your balcony looks down into the charming courtyard.

By design, the accessibility to activity outside of your suite allows you to stay mobile and live a longer, healthier life. Stroll down to the library for a good book, a card game or a Bible study. Log on to the Internet in the computer center and talk face-to-face via Skype with friends and family. Take in a movie in Oscar's Theatre and choose one of 62 comfortable seats. But first, don't forget to visit the concession stand and grab a bucket of popcorn!

If that doesn't give you enough to do to fill your day, enjoy a standing hair appointment in the beauty salon or get a manicure and pedicure. If fitness is what keeps you going, establish a routine with fitness equipment in the wellness center, then take care of those tired muscles with a therapeutic massage in the Harmony Day Spa or relax in the spa tub.

You mustn't forget to eat and you won't want to, knowing there's half a dozen options for dinner, including choice of two entrées, or a variety of salads and sandwiches. Enjoy your meal with other residents in the Palma Sola dining room, take it to your apartment or relax with a good book and a light meal in the bistro.

There is also a private dining room for special events with friends and family or you can arrange a party in the Country Kitchen on the second floor. The Windsor's executive chef will also give classes in the

Country Kitchen if your hobby is cooking.

The transition from assisted living into Reflections, the memory care community, is smooth and just like moving from one neighborhood into another. This community-within-the-community has its own homey, attractive and secure entrance right inside The Windsor.

Private and semi-private apartments house up to 30 memory care residents. All doors and all window screens are alarmed, yet allow the windows to be open for fresh, inviting air.

Reflections' activities area is an open environment that gives residents the freedom to participate and allows the staff an opportunity to create purposeful moments. The dining room includes a breakfast bar, with lower seating, to encourage casual, community meals.

The Windsor staff, dressed in polo shirts and khaki pants – not scrubs, goes to great lengths to understand and be proactive in the life history of memory care residents to meet them at their point of need.

"We may not know the why or have the cure, but we have an environment like this to bring comfort, and to enhance the lives of those affected," said Thomas.

The Windsor will be move-in ready by mid-May and has already sold 25 percent of its apartments. Once you move in, be sure to check out the Ambassador Program. You can be part of the welcoming committee, event planning committee, or participate in community outreach activities for opportunities to give back, continue your life's purpose or develop a new one.



Everything about The Windsor says "I'm home." Frederick and Kristin seem to agree wholeheartedly.

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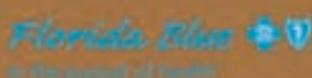
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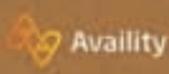
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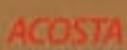


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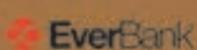
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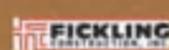
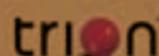
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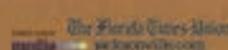
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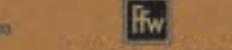
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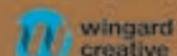
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HAPPENINGS

36th Annual Daily's Ortega River Run

Sat., Mar. 1, 8:30 a.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Day School
A Grand Prix sanctioned event, the morning consists of a 1-mile fun run and a 5-mile run/walk race. A festive street fair lines the street in front of the school with games, give-a-ways, and fun. Proceeds from Daily's Ortega River Run benefit the financial aid and scholarship program at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. For more information go to www.stmarksdayschool.org/support/dailys-ortega-river-run.

Community Day & Plant Sale

Sat., Mar. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens
Plant sale runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., free to the public

Wild Reading Safari

Sat., Mar. 1, 10 a.m. to noon, Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens
Local celebrities read classic children's books while students from The Performers Academy and local schools bring the stories to life with drama, music and dance. Children can participate in face painting, arts, crafts and lunch. The event benefits Episcopal Children's Services.

Jacksonville Rose Society Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m.
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
Speaker John Beaty discusses using organic products in a sustainable rose garden. More info: (904) 272-7885 or jacksonvillerosesociety.org.

Riverside Fine Arts Presents Earl Klugh and Nnenna Freelon: An Intimate Evening

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Tickets are \$20 for general, \$15 for students with I.D. More info: (904) 389-6222 or riversidefinearts.org.

Riverside Night Trolley

Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8, 6 p.m.-2 a.m.
Riverside/Avondale historic district
Fares are \$1.50 per trip, \$4 for unlimited service (must be purchased in advance). More info: riversideavondalenighttrolley.com.

10th Annual CAP Spring for the Arts

Friday, Mar. 7, 6:30 p.m., Deerwood Country Club
Susan and Hugh Greene will be honored as Guardian of the Arts Award recipients. The heart of the event is a live auction with many one-of-a-kind packages up for bid. A silent and special children's art auction will round out the evening of fine wine, dining, entertainment and the arts.

Celebrating The Cummer Gardens

Wednesday, March 12-
Wednesday, March 13, 1:30 p.m.
The Cummer Museum & Gardens
Museum educator Karl Boecklen shares share

his knowledge of the Cummer Gardens with sweet treats and tea following the talk. Admission is \$6. More info: (904) 356-6857 or cummer.org.

28th Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction

Thurs., Mar. 13, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Prime Osborn Convention Center
Come join local 'celebrities' as they "cook for a cause" at The Salvation Army 2014 Celebrity Chef Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction. Local politicians, media personalities, business leaders, professional athletes and other prominent community figures will be on hand to serve their favorite recipes, ranging from mouth-watering appetizers to exquisite entrees to delectable desserts. If you're looking for a bargain, you'll definitely want to stop by the silent auction - a popular addition to the annual luncheon event! Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased on this website or by calling 301-4841. Ticket price includes the luncheon, a cookbook with the event's recipes, free parking!

37th Annual Gate River Run

Sat., Mar. 15, 8 a.m.
The GATE River Run is the largest 15K race in the United States and will once again serve as the USA 15K Championship with America's top Olympic athletes competing for \$85,000 in prize money. Last year over 24,000 runners and walkers participated in one of the featured events including the 15K, the Florida Times-Union 5K for Charity, the Junior River Run, and the Brooks Rehabilitation Challenge Mile. For more information, go to www.gate-riverrun.com.

Natural Life Music Festival

Sun., Mar. 16, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Metro Park Family, food, music, fun benefits the Children's Home of Florida; sponsored by Community First and Natural Life

4th annual Women's Center 2014 Speaker Series

Tues., Mar. 18, 5:30 reception, 6:30 lecture, 2165 Park Street
Women, Words and Wisdom: Genie James, trailblazer in natural women's health, personalized medicine and relationship-centered care; author, speaker, business owner and liftoff activist for women and girls. Ticket prices are \$90 for the series, \$35 for a single speaker.

St. Johns River Cleanup & Celebration

Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m.-noon
Presented by the City of Jacksonville Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission, this event is a kick off to the Florida Great American Cleanup. Volunteers will work at more than 70 sites throughout the city. Meet-up locations include River Oaks Park/Craig Creek, 1000 River Oaks Road. Students can also receive community service hour certificates by request. Volunteers 18 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. More info: (904) 256-7591 or stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

Tues., Mar. 25, 8 p.m., Jacoby Symphony Hall
Enjoy a special evening of authentic jazz from the Crescent City! The Preservation Hall Jazz Band derives its name from Preservation Hall, the venerable music venue located in the heart of the French Quarter in New Orleans. Presented by the Jacksonville Symphony Association. This concert does not include orchestra. Tickets at JaxSymphony.org or by phone at 904.354.5547. \$45/\$55/\$75

Jay Leno

Thurs., Mar. 27, 8 p.m., Jacoby Symphony Hall - One of today's most beloved TV personalities Jay Leno has reigned as America's late-night leader for more than two decades. Presented by the Jacksonville Symphony Association. Tickets at JaxSymphony.org or by phone at 904.354.5547. \$69/\$79/\$99/\$129

Lake Shore Annual Community Yard Sale

Sat., Mar. 29, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bayview Road
Crafts, food, clothing, toys, bicycles, books, plants, household items and more. Donations for booth to benefit the community garden. Contact Nicki McCarthy at Nichole.LAPS@yahoo.com

"Garden to Table Dinner: A Feast for the Senses"

Monday, March 31, 6 p.m.
The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens
The second annual Garden to Table Dinner features fresh and locally sourced food from Jacksonville's best chefs, cocktails, live music and presentation of the Ninah May Holden Cummer Awards. Tickets are \$150 for members, \$200 for non-members. More info: (904) 356-6857 or cummer.org.

Blooms Galore & More

Sat., Apr. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue
9th Annual Plant Sale and Festival, free admission, rain or shine

Run Your HeART Out 5K

Sat., Apr. 5, 8 a.m. - Shoppes of Avondale
The effort to provide funding for arts education is a marathon, not a sprint. But you can help the CAPtivators shorten the distance by going the distance. Run, walk, or race your heART out during this 5k event, presented by FIS. The race starts and finishes near the Shoppes of Avondale with the course winding through scenic, historic neighborhoods. Mellow Mushroom Avondale will host the post-race celebration beginning at 9 a.m. Awards will be presented to top finishers. All registered runners over the age of 21 will receive a free mimosa or draught beer. All proceeds from the race go towards helping Cathedral Arts Project provide quality visual and performing arts education to over 2,500 underserved children in Jacksonville. For more information, go to <https://runyourheartout.itsyourrace.com>.

One Spark

Apr. 9-13, Downtown Jacksonville
The World's Crowdfunding Festival; visit beonespark.com

Passport to Fashion

Thurs., Apr. 10, 10:30 a.m., The Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue
Luncheon and spring fashion show of designs from Stein Mart; tickets \$20, call (904) 355-4224 for reservations.

Cowford Ball

Saturday, April 5 6:00 to 11:00 p.m., Jacksonville Fairgrounds
For more information call (904) 391-3636 or visit cowfordball.org



WOMEN'S CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE 2014 SPEAKER SERIES

Women's Center of Jacksonville invites you to "Women, Words & Wisdom" 2014 Speaker Series.

The Women's Center improves the lives of women through advocacy, support and education.

"Women, Words & Wisdom" 2014 Speaker Series.

March 18th Genie James
April 15th Audrey Moran
May 20th Chevara Orrin

Riverside House at 2165 Park Street
5:30 Reception with the Speaker
6:30 Speaker

\$90 for Series \$35 for Individual

Ticket information womenscenterofjax.org or call 904.722.3000 x0

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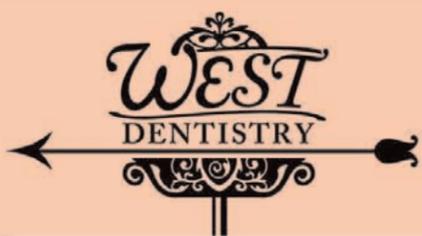
~Christine



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