

San Jose

San Marco

St. Nicholas

Bunnies and veggies and Jaguars, oh my!

Bunnies weren't the only ones eating their veggies last month as students at St. Nicholas-based Assumption Catholic School learned about good nutrition at their annual health fair. The week-long event, organized by Laddy Monahan, is designed to get children excited about eating a variety of fruits and vegetables. Each day during school lunch there were vegetable tastings where the children tried foods such as red peppers, raspberries, acai juice, blueberries and pumpkin soup. The highlight of the event was the after-school health fair where students, teachers and parents enjoyed a variety of activities focused on good nutrition and green living.

Kids planted vegetables, donated by Trad's Garden Center, in the school garden, and also planted vegetable seeds to take home for their own

gardens. There were tastings by Pulp, Sweet Grass Dairy, Jacksonville Beekeepers and The Brick.

The fun and fellowship even included farm animals courtesy of Black Hog Farm and a prize-winning hen by Fireflies Gardens and Flowers. For kids who were more interested in football than farm life, Jacksonville Jaguar Austin Pasztor was on hand to sign autographs – and show kids how strong they can be when they eat a healthy diet. "The focus of the fair is to celebrate 'real' food, being active, and the outdoors. We want to encourage a healthy lifestyle – mind, body, soul and earth," said Monahan. "God gave us these amazing bodies and earth, and we need to take care of them."



THE Resident



Beautiful
fashion,
Hearts
& souls
featured on the runway

Heart of the Runway models Megan Bell, Alexa Morici, designer Ashley DeRamus, and Mikenzie Buchanan

The Linda Cunningham studios on Kings Avenue in San Marco were alive with fashion and festivities Feb. 12, as The Heart of the Runway fashions took center stage. Just prior to Valentine's Day, the appropriately themed runway show and luncheon to benefit the North Florida School of Special Education featured a celebrity guest, Miss Ashley DeRamus, alongside the spring fashions of Linda Cunningham. DeRamus, 30-year-old entrepreneur and public speaker from Hoover, Alabama, has defied all stigma associated with Down syndrome by being a role model and shining example of how people with disabilities can contribute greatly to society. To learn more turn to **page 24**



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

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St. Nicholas' Engine 12 now a Squad Company for radiation, hazardous materials..... **P. 11**

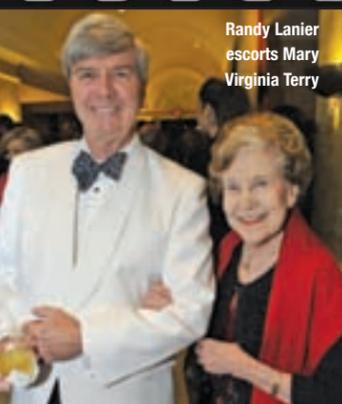
A Valentine ball heals 'broken' hearts



Tom Branch and St. Vincent's HealthCare CFO Kim Hodgkinson



Co-Chairs Dr. Gasper and Irene Lazzara



Randy Lanier escorts Mary Virginia Terry

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.

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East San Marco arrival brings mixed emotions, thoughtful debate

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Traffic was the main topic of the Town Hall meeting, sponsored by the San Marco Preservation Society last month, as the developers of East San Marco presented changes to the project that confirms a Publix-anchored supermarket as the primary retail tenant and the highest priced rents in the city for the apartments to be built above.

The project, approved in 2006, languished along with the economy, but now that businesses are booming again, or at least not going bust, developers are eager to modify the planned unit development to increase the density of the residential component of the project, which has shifted from condominiums to apartments.

A traffic study concluded that when the vacant site on the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue is filled with the four-story mixed use Mediterranean-style development, the traffic leaving the

development is estimated to be reduced by 10 percent compared to what was projected in 2006. At that time, the Overland Bridge project was in the planning phases, and now plays a significant role in the plans.

Accommodations have since been made to alleviate the traffic considerations, with a dedicated entrance to I-95 for the Atlantic Blvd corridor in San Marco. The most recent traffic study was based on an expected completion date of 2017, when construction is finished, the project is leased out and the Overland Bridge project has been completed.

Hugh Mathews, president of England-Thims & Miller, the developers' engineering firm conducting the traffic study, explained the grading scale used to evaluate the traffic impact. Much like in elementary school, an A is the best grade and an F is the worst.

In the study, each of the intersections surrounding the project was given grades for morning and for evening traffic, respectively. Mathews said that upon East San Marco's completion, traffic generated at Hendricks



Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard would be graded C both morning and evening; traffic at Atlantic Boulevard and Mango would be an A/B both

morning and evening; and traffic at Alford and Hendricks Avenue an A morning, B evening.

While those grades may be passable, some residents questioned the plausibility of a denser project generating less traffic.

San Marco resident Fred Lambrou commented publicly at the meeting that it sounded like "there was some serious grade inflation," considering the light at Alford and Hendricks Avenue barely gets tripped now and there are going to be 280 or more apartment residents trying to leave for work at the same time.



Homeowners located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development met with Jim Robinson, Director of Public Works for the City of Jacksonville, after the Town Hall meeting to discuss strategies for calming cut-through traffic that they anticipate will result from the retail and rental activity.

Despite the increase in units from a proposed 125 condominiums to a 240-unit apartment complex, Regency Centers and Whitehall Realty Advisors, the developers of East San Marco, say there will be more



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parking, not less, since they reduced retail space from 57,000 to 46,000 square feet.

To accommodate the larger number of residential units, developers have increased parking from 440 spaces to 593 spaces. There will be separate parking access for retail customers and renters will be able to park on the same level of their unit.

Some residents, disappointed about the proposed project transitioning from 1,600-square-foot condominiums to 900-square-foot apartments, voiced their concerns about the kind of people the project will attract.

Still, developers and proponents of the project contend that East San Marco will be a benefit to the neighborhood.

Marc Munago, a developer with Whitehall Realty Partners, is confident that the apartment complex and retail space will appeal to an upscale demographic, likely single professionals who value the specialty restaurants and boutiques in the neighborhood.

“We will have the highest rents in Jacksonville, mainly because it’s the best spot in Jacksonville,” explained Munago.

While rent prices have not been finalized, they are estimated to start at \$1,000, and go up to \$2,200 a month for larger units.

Jen Holdman, a San Marco resident, spoke at the meeting explaining that she fits the demographic that the developers are targeting describing herself as a young professional, married, with no children and a renter. She explained that “she lived in a smaller place than she ever imagined,” because she wanted to live in San Marco so badly.

Holdman said she plans to continue to invest in the community. “These are the shops where we shop, it’s where we buy Christmas presents, buy birthday presents, it’s where we walk to lunch, it’s where we go to church. It is where we spend our time and our money.”

Development issues déjà vu

It is also where Mike Balanky, president of Chase Properties, the developer working on the St Johns Village/Commander Apartments project in Avondale, cautioned that the alternatives that could be built in the space could be a lot worse. “Density is not a four-letter word,” Balanky said. “If Jacksonville wants to be a

grown-up town like everybody says we want too, then we all have to make a point to educate ourselves on what good sustainable development is. Just because something new is coming to your neighborhood doesn’t mean it’s a bad thing.”

Balanky faced the same types of complaints – traffic, scale, unit type and density – during the 9-month Planned Development Unit (PUD) approval process for his project in Avondale.

Pat Andrews, a San Marco resident, said

she is disappointed in the scale of the project that has a maximum height of 70 feet, which means part of the structure will rise 20 feet higher than Landon Middle School. “The project is out of proportion for the beautiful neighborhood I moved into 20 years ago.”

But the scale of the units themselves, the majority of which will be studio and one-bedroom apartments, is smaller than realtor Missie Sarra LePrell prefers. “The kind of people you are catering to...needs more than one bedroom.”

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer made it clear at the start of the meeting that since the project has been previously approved, the focus needs to be on the changes to the current plan. “We are not starting with nothing,” Boyer explained. We are looking at what was approved in 2006 and comparing it to the changes now.”

Remaining unchanged from the original plans are 35 multi-family units that will be located on the third

“The project is out of proportion for the beautiful neighborhood I moved into 20 years ago.”

Pat Andrews
a San Marco resident



Kylie Efron, president of the San Marco Merchants Association speaks in support of the project, as (l to r) N. Hugh Matthews, president and CEO of England-Thims & Miller Inc., G. John Carey and Marc J. Munago of Whitehall Realty Partners, LLC and Tom Fleming, vice president of Investments at Regency Centers look on



Kate Davis speaks during the public comment period

parcel of land closest to Fletcher Park. Wells Fargo has already developed the second parcel of land and sits in the middle of the proposed retail and apartment space and the planned multi-family units. Publix is still committed to anchor the retail space, the size of which also remains unchanged from the original plans and is targeted to open in 2016.

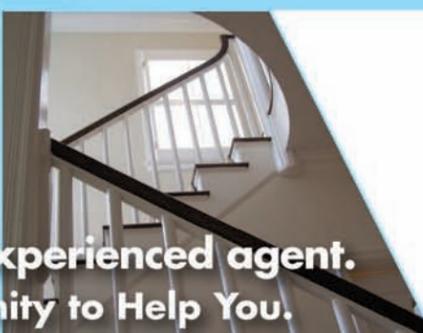
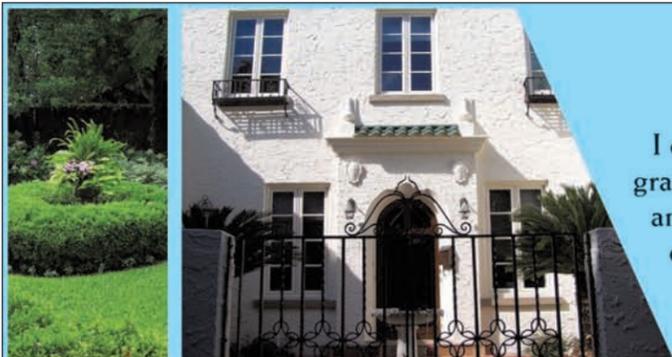
Besides the residential component,

the project has the potential to enhance business activity within San Marco Square and the surrounding areas.

Kiley Efron, president of the San Marco Merchant’s Association, said the project has the support of businesses in the Square. “We already feel like we are a premier neighborhood to have a business in and this is only going to round that out.”

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HAPPENINGS

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.

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

Garden Tours at The Cummer

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m., free with paid admission
The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue

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.

JFCS Annual Gala

Thurs., Mar. 6, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Marriott Southpoint
"You Can Count on Us" emceed by Donna Orender, past president of Women's National Basketball Association. Gala will benefit the 96-year-old service foundation that helps more than 15,000 needy people each year.

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.

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 and free parking! Come hungry for Charity's sake!

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 and \$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.

Community Garage Sale

Saturday, March 22, 8 a.m.
San Jose Boulevard and north University Boulevard West area.
Organized by The Lakewood Community Association (TLC), this multifamily garage sale takes place numerous neighborhoods in Lakewood. Look for the hot pink signs to find participating homes. Rain date is March 29. More info: geriwatts@comcast.net.

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. With abundant energy and a fresh approach, the band brings new life to the hot rhythms, cool chords, and sultry sounds of their native city. Presented by the Jacksonville Symphony Association. This concert does not include orchestra. Tickets: Can be ordered online at JaxSymphony.org or by phone at 904.354.5547. \$45/\$55/\$75

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>.

Blooms Galore & More

Sat., Apr. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue
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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 met 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.

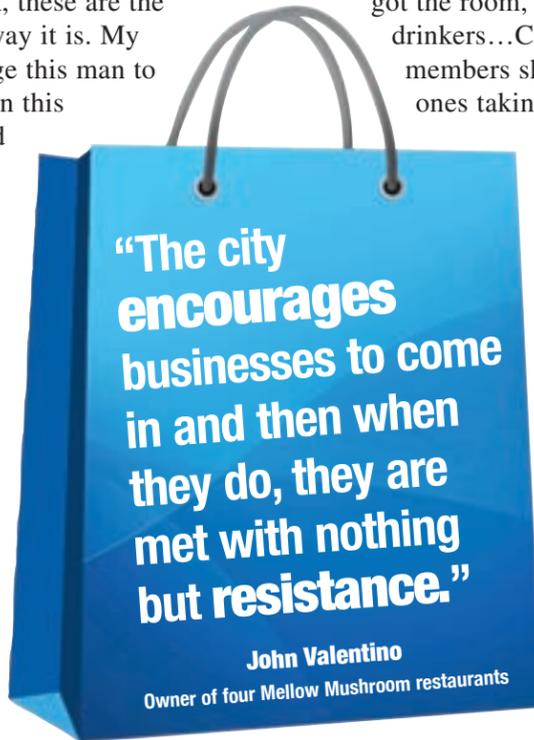
While Rudzinski was not entirely successful in placating fellow panel members, she routinely emphasized empathy for their situation, noted that the development process was an "organic, not one size fits all" program, and promised that the City would continue to find better ways to streamline the commercial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

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 its graduates, *The Resident* found an alumnus willing to share his experience.

Enlightening, informative experience

Robert Maldonado, 26, attended the Collegiate Leadership Experience the summer of 2009, having been encouraged to apply by a friend.

“After researching the program, I thought it would be a great opportunity to learn about the issues facing our community and how I could get involved as a young adult. I was drawn to the program because it was unique in that it was tailored specifically for college students,”

Maldonado said. “There are numerous programs and groups for young professionals in Jacksonville, but very few for college students. Moreover, the program included a wide range of topics (government, arts, education, development, etc.) and would include participants from a number of different schools. I felt like those factors combined would

a city, and if we want to be a part of bettering out community, we should get involved in any way we can. We should feel responsible for our community, and that has always stood out to me the most,” Maldonado said.

For the University of Florida alumnus, being a part of the program reminds him to strive to give back as

“The program included a wide range of topics (government, arts, education, development, etc.) and would include participants from a number of different schools. I felt like those factors would provide for an enlightening and informative experience.”

Robert Maldonado



provide for an enlightening and informative experience.

Going through the program showed the San Marco resident a side of Jacksonville he had never seen before. “We learned about the city’s rich cultural history, its development, the intricacies of the business community, the importance of our natural resources, the art scene, our educational system, etc. We also were given the opportunity to interact with local leaders and community activists.

“Most importantly, we learned how important it was to be civically engaged as young people. Jacksonville needs a young, engaged citizenry in order to move forward as

much as possible. “Each of us has been given certain gifts, and by collaborating and using them in our community, we can better the city for future generations. The program also taught me to always keep an open mind and to learn as much as possible about our city. I also made a great group of friends that I stay in touch with and will hopefully get the chance to work with in the future,” he concluded.

After receiving a graduate degree from George Washington University and an internship with The White House, Maldonado returned to Jacksonville and is seeking employment.

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Extraordinary tale of personal quest



Lee Manley, Keith Holland, Hugh Mcllwain, Larry Tipping, John Pugliese

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 the Fairfax neighborhood, earned his scuba diving certification but had become bored exploring underwater springs. He began researching shipwrecks 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.”

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 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

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

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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."

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.

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.

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Fire stations receive new designations

Specializations concentrated at three locations

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In an effort to extinguish inefficiencies, three Jacksonville fire stations have new designations as Squad Companies concentrating specialized skill sets – responsibilities and equipment – to better aid the community.

Last month fire stations in St. Nicholas, Riverside and the Northside began transitioning from Engine Companies to three unique Squad Companies.

Formerly known as Engine 5 on Forest Street in Riverside, Engine 12 on Atlantic Boulevard in St. Nicholas and Engine 37 on Busch Drive on the Northside, the stations are now Squad Companies. Under the new designation and in addition to its regular engine duties, Station 5 will assist with Urban Search and Rescue, Station 12 with Radiation and Hazardous Materials and Station 37 with flammable liquids.

According to Kurtis Wilson, Chief of Operations for the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, personnel on these newly formed special operation units will have an additional 1,000-2,000 hours of training. “We are taking a normal Engine [Company] and now its members will be highly trained and have specialized equipment,” said Wilson.

These Squads, which differentiate the roles and responsibilities of unique companies, were modeled after other similarly sized fire departments including the Fire Department of New York. Locally they are designed to increase operational effectiveness by concentrating specialized personnel and equipment at three locations instead of being scattered throughout the City on different engines. The stations were chosen geographically to span the Northside, Westside and Southside.

All HazMat and Special Ops calls will require at least one Squad to respond. Examples of emergencies requiring Squads are the Berkman Plaza parking garage collapse, and the American Asphalt entrapment, where a company employee was stuck in the asphalt. Wilson said during the latter incident it became a logistical issue pulling responders who had the necessary expertise to assist with the seven-hour rescue from all over the City instead of a dedicated site.

The newly formed Squad companies will add staff to each of its shifts. Wilson said they are still in the process of filling those positions, which require additional certifications.

Of the three stations being designated Squad companies, only Engine 12 in St. Nicholas was and will remain an Advanced Life Saving Station, meaning they have a paramedic on staff at every shift, carry drugs, and have special emergency medical supply equipment.

Currently there are seven paramedics and three EMTs at Station 12. There are three responders per shift now, but once hiring is complete, there will be four per shift.

“This really ups the ante for St. Nicholas residents,” said Wilson. “It greatly adds to their neighborhood.”

The other two stations will remain Basic Life Support Stations in addition to their new responsibilities as Squadrons.

According to Wilson, “The idea of the Squad Company is to be a force-multiplier during certain events. This Squad Company initiative will lay the foundation for a progressive and innovative operational re-tooling, designed to improve efficiency and maximize effectiveness...”



JFRD’s history as an innovator has always been hot. Previously known as the Jacksonville Fire Department, it was one of the first in the nation to add rescue to their fire fighting endeavors.

“We were in the business of fighting fires,” said Tom Francis, Public Information Officer for the JFRD. “We figured we had all these engines, why don’t we give these firefighters training and special equipment so they can save a life.”

So in 1967 under the direction of Mayor Hans Tanzler, emergency ambulatory service was placed permanently in the care of the Jacksonville Fire Department. The rescue division began with six station wagons equipped with first aid kits and folding Army cots for stretchers.

In 1977 it established the first Hazardous Materials team.

Today, the JFRD is one of the largest fire and rescue departments in Florida encompassing an area of approximately 840 square miles. There are 53 engines, three stand-alone rescue stations and two marine stations serving a population of more than 850,000 residents.

In recent years, several fire stations, including Squad 12, have been threatened with closings as the City grappled with budget deficiencies.

Francis said in his 25 years on the force, a station has yet to close. “Anything can happen to anyone at any time. When it comes to an emergency there has to be an acceptable level of risk in the community because you can’t have a fire station at every corner,” he said.

The transition from Engines to Squads at these three stations is designed to enhance operations of the Department.

“Everything that is done is to done to deliver the best possible service,” said Francis, who explained that it’s just as important to firefighters that their loved ones receive adequate care in an emergency. “You have to remember – we receive the exact same services as you do.”



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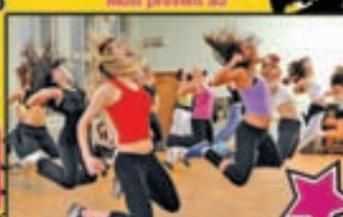
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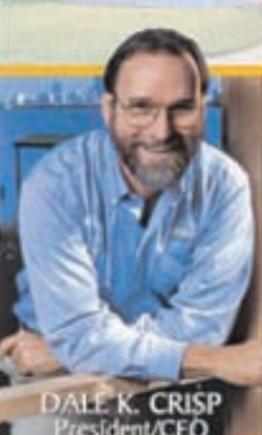
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A day in the life of a JFRD firefighter

The Resident's reporter goes on a ride-along

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When I interviewed Chief Kurtis Wilson, Chief of Operations for the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, about the three stations that now have Squad designations, he invited me on a ride-along out of Station 12 in the St. Nicholas neighborhood. Admittedly, I didn't jump at his offer. I don't like blood, vomit or dead people so it didn't really seem like something I should pursue.

Being a believer in full-disclosure though, I explained my hesitation about such gross-ities. (Full-disclosure: I made up that word.)

Afterward, I asked him if he was still willing to take me, his answer was an unequivocal, "absolutely."

While I may have had only a spark of curiosity, others in my life tried to ignite my enthusiasm for the adventure.

My girlfriend commented on the attractiveness of firefighters, my boys on the actual fires themselves and my husband, who knows me best, said maybe I could save a kitten from a tree. Of all of them, that was definitely the most appealing scenario.

When I first introduced myself to Captain Colin Aguilar, I instantly felt a connection. Not the kind of connection single contestants constantly refer

to on the match-making television series, *The Bachelor*, but a more wholesome "you lived down the street from me when we were kids!"

It never ceases to amaze me how the biggest city in the country as far as land mass can feel like the smallest

where someone has to be cut from a car.

Eewww! Think kittens, think kittens was the mantra I used to get the visuals of that trauma out of my head.

Aguilar introduced me to the other firefighters on duty, Richard Santos,

on the force.

In fact, that is something Eichelroth likes most about being a fireman. "I love it –the team atmosphere. We eat dinner together, rely on each other, it's a lot of fun," the German explained. "It's really like a second family."

Eichelroth's second family is actually Station 13 in San Marco. He was just on-loan to Station 12 that day. I asked him if he realizes he works at the coolest station in Jacksonville. He laughed and said he hears that a lot.

Full disclosure: I have a bias toward Station 13 because they are my neighborhood fire station and served me well when my children had those terrifying 911 moments that parents dread and another time when my babysitter set off the smoke alarm by charring a bag of microwave popcorn.

While I was enjoying getting to know the guys, touring the modest facility where I saw the dainty twin beds that belied the strength of its occupants, and learning details of their personal lives and history (a sister doesn't share), I was ready for some sirens.

That's the thing about the job; you really don't know what's going to happen from one moment to the next so there's no need for a Day Planner. "I wouldn't want a job where I had to sit behind a desk," explained Aguilar. "I like the adrenaline, and the schedule is not bad either."



Firefighter Richard Santos, reporter Lara Patangan, firefighter Ryan Eichelroth

town in Mayberry, or in this case, St. Nicholas.

He gave me a tour of the Engine now marked with "Squad 12." It seemed to be filled with the contents of a hardware store, albeit some apparatuses more souped up than your average wrench. It was filled with axes, ropes, some gadget that lifts cars off of people, and the infamous "jaws of life" for those really gory accidents

an Army veteran who has been with JFRD for five years and Ryan Eichelroth, a newbie from Jupiter, FL who has only been here for nine months. I should have thought to call Eichelroth the newbie, but after a few failed attempts at pronunciation, I just called him the German. I thought it sounded kind of cool and I figured it would help this sister seem more a part of the brotherhood that is fostered



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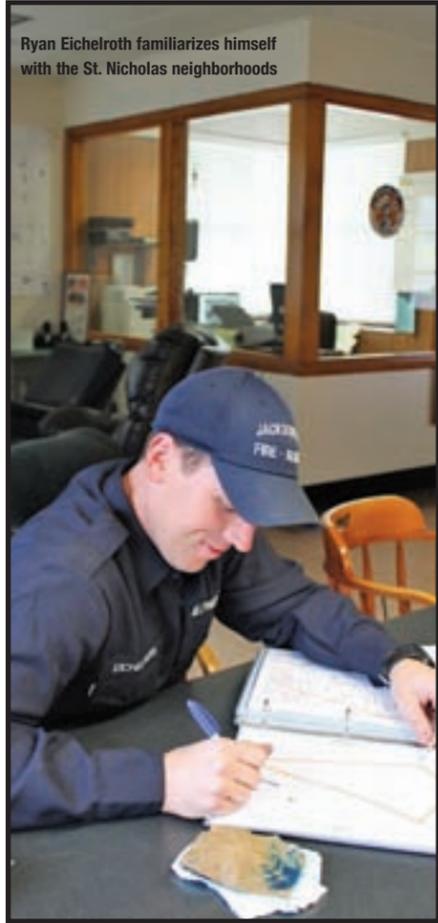
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Ryan Eichelroth familiarizes himself with the St. Nicholas neighborhoods

▶ The schedule for JFRD firefighters is 24 hours on and 48 hours off. It's easy to see how it becomes like a second family when they spend that much time together.

While we waited for a call to come in, the German diligently memorized the addresses in the area. He had a baggie full of index cards that had business, schools, and churches on the front and street addresses on the back. I had never given much thought to how well they must know the areas they serve, but figured it would be fabulous to have them navigate the next time I search for estate sales.

BUZZZZZZ and with the blare of the alarm, the moment changed. Finally, I was going on a call.

I hopped in the back of the massive engine as we sped down Atlantic Boulevard with the sirens blaring. I felt heady as the adrenaline poured into my body like a double shot of espresso.

Out my window I could see a lady lying face down in the dirt. They said she had been hit, but I didn't see any sign of an accident.

It turns out a witness saw a man hitting her and called 911. The perpetrator fled. The fireman helped her up so she could be examined. Initially, she denied being hit and said she was just sleeping while waiting for the bus. Obviously disheveled and in denial, she did not welcome the attention from the fireman.

Some change had fallen from her purse and I gathered it from the debris of dirt and leaves. The police and another rescue unit showed up. I looked rather conspicuous since I was the only "responder" not outfitted in blue.

The woman, seemingly annoyed, asked who I was, and "did I have to listen to her business." I felt bad for making her uncomfortable, and explained that I had picked up her change for her, handed it to one of the paramedics and walked away to give her privacy.

Finally she admitted to the men that it was her boyfriend who hit her, but she didn't want to pursue charges, go to a shelter or need medical care.

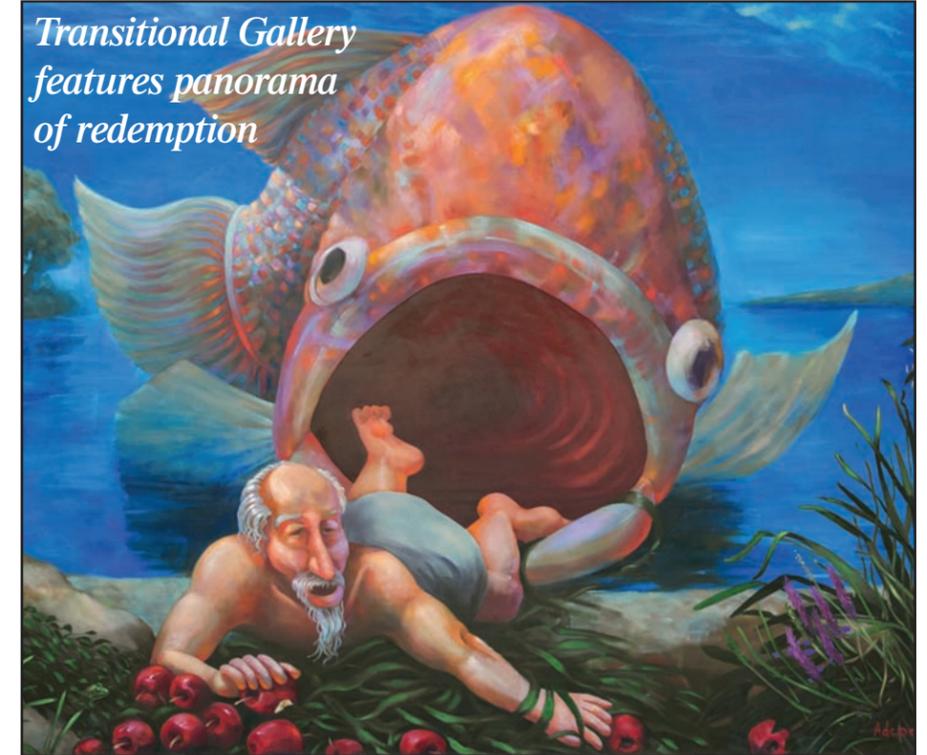
On the ride back Captain Aguilar explained, "There is only so much you can do, if they don't want to be helped." I felt sad.

It hardly made me think of kittens, but this isn't a romanticized notion of what these men deal with it. It's an account of the typical moments in a day for firefighters that are often gritty and intense.

Back at the station, I informed them I would need my own uniform because I obviously stood out from the rest of the team. I didn't want to come across as a fire-fighting diva, but this girl needed some navy.

Santos obliged, letting me borrow his JFRD jacket. I am hoping they will order me a real uniform though. Because (full disclosure) I want to go again!

Hendricks Avenue Baptist opens Lenten exhibit



Transitional Gallery features panorama of redemption

The spring exhibit, Different Stories, Same Script, at the Hendricks Avenue Baptist Transitional Gallery will focus on God's redemptive activity through the Hebrew Bible and New Testament scriptures.

The guest artist, Rosemarie Adcock, of Mt. Dora, FL, recently exhibited some of her works in oil at the 2013 OneSpark event and at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival.

The panoramic exhibition includes several allegorical paintings and original pencil drawings which elaborate the theme. Adcock's paintings include bits of humor, such as inserting her own cat into a scene in the Garden of Eden.

Different Stories, Same Script will open Wednesday, Mar. 12 with a reception from 5-7 p.m. in the sanctuary narthex and a special opportunity to meet the artist. The exhibit runs through May 31 and the Transitional Gallery is located at 4001 Hendricks Avenue. The Gallery is open each Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to noon, and by appointment through the church office on weekdays; call (904) 396-7745, ext. 333.

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Food fight in Hemming Plaza looms

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, park-

ing 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 restroom service to the trucks’ customers.

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.

Since it would be a city-county ordinance, and food trucks don’t limit their venues to the downtown area, other parts of Duval County – such as the Southbank, the historic districts and the Beaches – will also be affected.

San Marco-based Aardwolf Brewery, which does not prepare or sell food inside the building, based part of its business plan on food trucks; its PUD was developed to encompass food trucks on the property. The 500-foot distance restriction in proximity to parks and residential housing would affect the microbrewery at 1461 Hendricks Ave. “We’re attached to a park [Southside] and there’s housing across the street,” said Preben Olsen, co-owner. “This would obviously really put a damper on our business.”

• 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 co-exist. I want to make sure that we create good legislation that everyone can live with," Brown said.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Southside Business Men's Club inducts youngest president in 82 years

Even at 82 years old, the Southside Business Men's Club can still chart new territories.

Just eight years ago, the club inducted its first female president in its long history. In January, members installed their youngest, who's also a woman.

Annie Howe, Branch Manager and assistant vice president at Fidelity Bank, became the 71st president of the organization, and the third female to hold the post.

Howe's predecessor is Jepp Walter of Marlin Technology.

The club's 2014 officers include, in addition to Howe, Dee Kirby, treasurer, Tim Howe, 1st vice president, Patrick Heatherington, 2nd vice president, Julie Clements, 3rd vice president,



2014 SBMC Officers Dee Kirby, Steve DeSorbo, Julie Clements, Tim Howe, Annie Howe, Patrick Heatherington, Barry Griffin

Steve DeSorbo, 4th vice president, and Barry Griffin, Sergeant-At-Arms.

The Southside Business Men's Club was founded in 1932 following the merger of Jacksonville and South Jacksonville, and is Jacksonville's oldest business and civic organization.

JSO Homicide supervisor files for office of Duval County Sheriff

Jay Farhat and his wife Renee with Duval County Elections Office Candidate Supervisor Beth Fleet – Photo by Cathleen O'Bryan Murphy

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Homicide Supervisor Jay Farhat officially filed on Feb. 3 to run as a Republican candidate for Duval County sheriff in the spring 2015 city election. Farhat is a Jacksonville native and San Marco resi-



dent with more than 22 years of diverse professional law enforcement experience covering a wide variety of specialty areas from patrol officer to senior leadership positions at the JSO.

Farhat said he's ready for the challenge of leading the department to new levels of professionalism. "I can think of no more important way in which I can serve this community that has given me and my family so much," Farhat stated. "I am 100 percent committed to winning this election and serving with distinction as Jacksonville's next sheriff."

San Jose resident named Chamber vice president

Alan Mosley, a San Jose resident, is joining the JAX Chamber's leadership team as Vice President of Transportation, Energy and Logistics, and will be the executive director of the North Florida Transportation Business Alliance, which will advocate for and advance regional transportation and logistics projects that benefit the area's economy and help local businesses thrive.

Mosley is a former District 2 Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation, overseeing a 19-county territory in North Florida that includes Jacksonville and managing a \$3 billion, five-year work program across all modes of transportation. The Jacksonville University graduate also previously served as Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Jacksonville under former Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton and is a former director of Public Works.

"Throughout my career, I've been drawn to projects that can help move the community forward," said Mosley, who previously served on the board of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority. "This is an exciting opportunity to apply what I've learned over the past 25 years to help position Jacksonville and the region for the future – and the now."



Produce for Kids nets more than \$10,000 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals



Dwayne Stevens (Publix Media & Community Relations Manager), Kerri Clark (Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Director), Elisabeth Ward (Children's Miracle Network Coordinator)

Publix Super Markets presented a check for \$10,343.32 to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals at Wolfson Children's Hospital on Jan. 28. A month-long Produce for Kids campaign is held each spring in the produce department of participating grocery stores, and all funds raised directly benefit the pediatric programs at Wolfson Children's Hospital and UF Health Jacksonville.

Produce for Kids promotes healthy lifestyles for children by educating kids and parents about the benefits of eating fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting worthy chil-

dren's causes. Shoppers support the program by buying fresh produce items from participating sponsors. Since its creation in 2002, Produce for Kids has raised more than \$2.9 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

"This is a great partnership and awareness campaign for families in our area. Not only are they (Produce for Kids) promoting healthy eating, but supporting the well-being of our local children" said Kerri Clark, Director for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in Jacksonville.

Lyerly Neurosurgery celebrates 80 years of innovation

Local medical firm, Lyerly Neurosurgery, is celebrating 80 years of existence and innovation. Thanks to its founder, Dr. James Lyerly, Sr., and to those who succeeded him, the company has grown into a well-known practice in local, regional, and national medical communities, partnering in 2006 with Baptist Health to expand neurological care.

Lyerly became the first neurological surgeon in Florida in the fall of 1934 when he founded the Lyerly Group, and was the only neurosurgeon in the state for about five years. Dr. Lyerly was also one of the founding members of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and The Florida Neurosurgical Society was formed in 1958 with Lyerly as president.

Current group physicians include Dr. Andrew F. Cannestra, Dr. Bradley A. Wallace, Dr. Javier Garcia-Bengochea, Dr. Paulo Monteiro, and Dr. Michael J. Petr.



James Gilbert Lyerly Sr. Founder of the Lyerly Group

DCPS Superintendent receives award



San Marco resident and Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti received the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Lifetime Achievement Award on Feb. 22, also serving as the organization's keynote speaker at the annual Phi Delta Kappa Black History Month program that evening.

Phi Delta Kappa, an international sorority and professional organization of teachers, is dedicated to the task of training the youth of America to cope satisfactorily and effectively with today's problems, and firmly believes education to be a potent factor in maintaining and perpetuating democracy as the most ideal form of life.

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Realty company's new name as big as its successes

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 Anita Vining of the company's San Marco office, who led the company as its top producer with more than \$36 million in closed sales 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.

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Southbank attorney appointed to DIA Board

Attorney Craig A. Gibbs is the newest member of the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) board of directors. Nominated by Mayor Alvin Brown to the unpaid, voluntary position, vacated by Don Harris in October 2013, Gibbs' term runs through June 30, 2016.

In making the nomination, Mayor Brown said, "Gibbs will be a strong addition to the DIA team and its efforts to bring economic activity to the city center, attract new Downtown residents and visitors, and increase the value of Downtown properties."

Gibbs was previously a member of the former Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC). He also served on the Jacksonville Super Bowl XXXIX Host Committee that succeeded in bringing the first game ever to Jacksonville.

"I hope to use my many years of experience on the Commission that successfully stewarded the city's revenues for various projects throughout Jacksonville, into supporting Mayor Brown's continuing effort to promote a healthy and vibrant downtown," Gibbs said.

A committed community advocate, Gibbs currently serves or has recently served on the boards of the Clara White Mission, the AME Housing Agency of Florida, the Jewish Family and Community Service's Citizen's Advisory Board, the Jax Children's Commission and GlobalJax, a partner with the U.S. Department of State hosting international emerging leaders visiting North Florida.



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ROOT BALL CELEBRATES TREES, A GREENER JACKSONVILLE

Kaye Glover, Carolyn Hawthorne and Judi Hardwick



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.



Sally Barnett, Susan Doherty, Dee Loop and Joan Haskell



Syd and Deborah Gervin with Debbie and Steve Melnyk

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.



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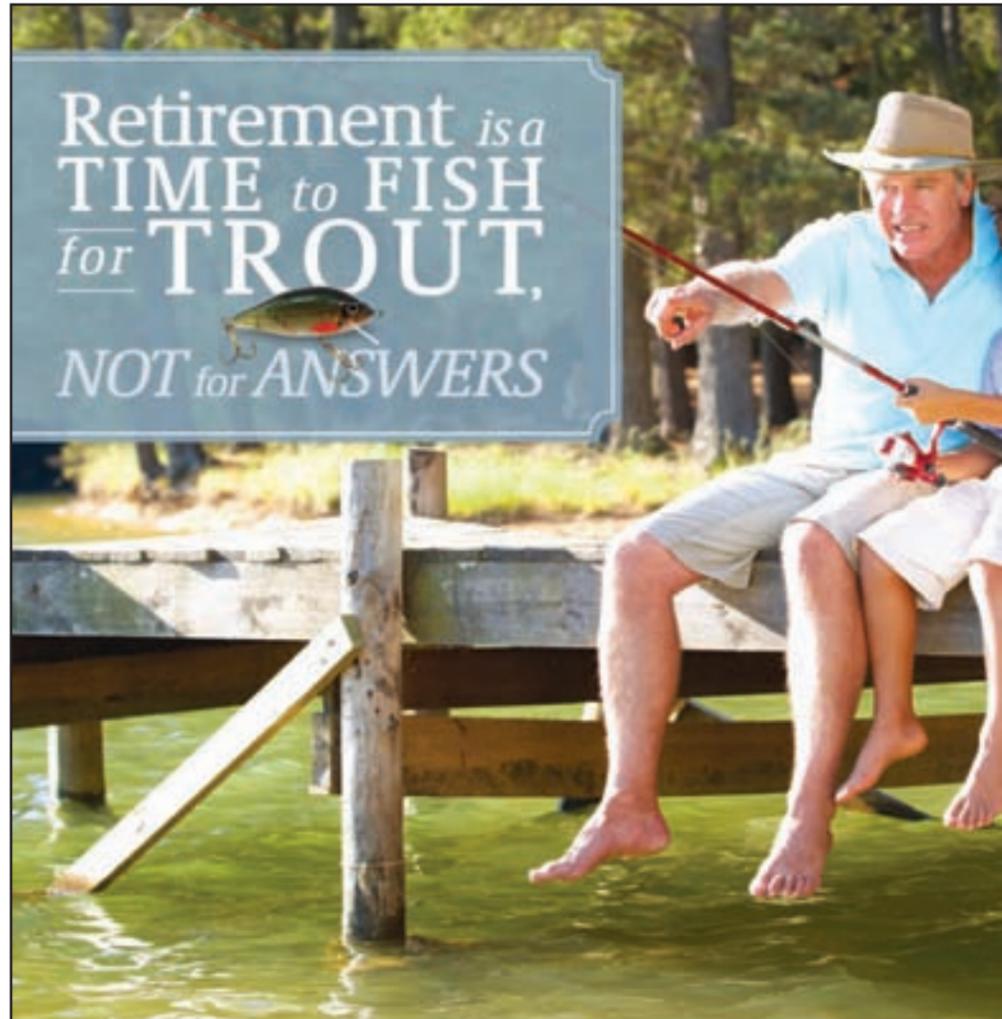


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Barbara Jaffe, Anne Grenadier and Carol Greenspan with their father Sid Gefen



Susan and Russell Armistead, UF Health CEO with Dr. John and Kimberly Kirkpatrick

RED ROSE BALL A NIGHT FOR LOVERS



Jan and Lou Walsh with Susan Towler

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.



Ray and Susan Walden, Dick and Marcia Morales with Drs. Lorraine and Omar Dajani

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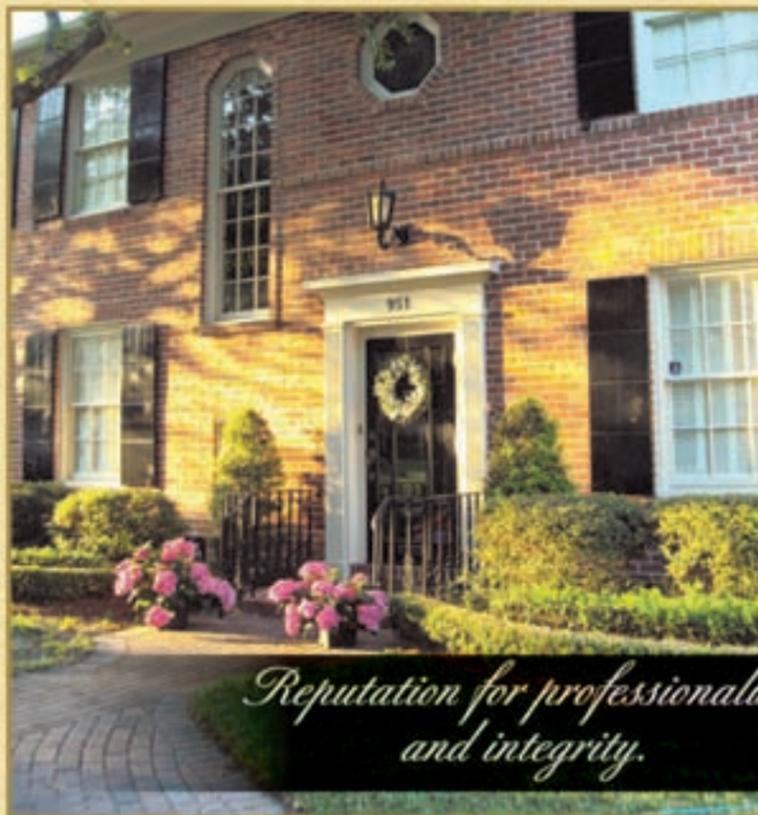
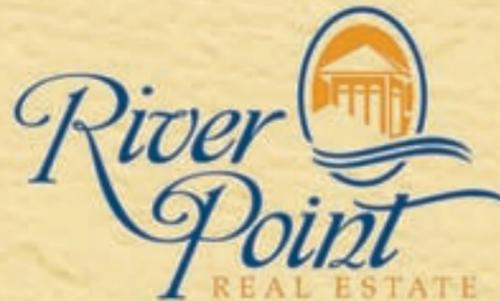
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19th Annual Cowford Ball benefits cancer research



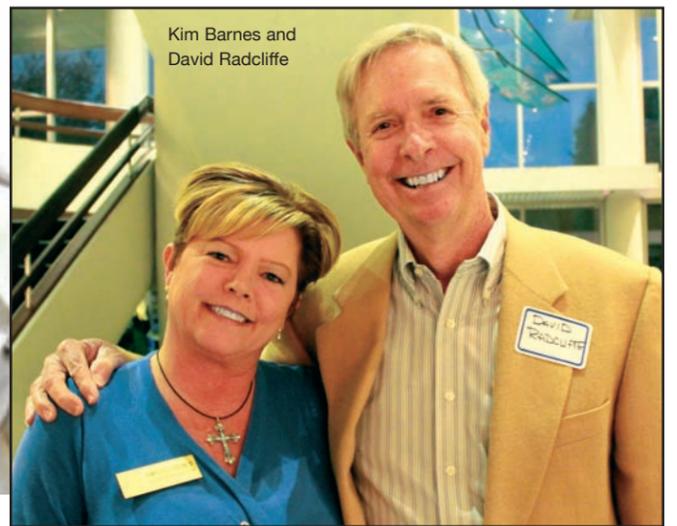
Cowboys and the Salt Life converge at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds on Sat., Apr. 5 with the American Cancer Society's 19th Annual Cowford Ball. Event chairs Francy and Matt Robertson, along with honorary chairs Alex and Scot Ackerman, and a host of many other Saltwater Cowboys and Cowgirls, are working 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.

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



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



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

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.

FSS director wins statewide adoption award

Michelle Weisheit, director of services for St. Nicholas-based Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS), has been named the recipient of a statewide adoption award by the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC), a state child advocacy association that advocates for Florida's abused and neglected children.

Weisheit received the Lighting the Way Award for significant contributions in adoption efforts by an individual who is lighting the way to find forever families for children in foster care. She received the

award at a recent FCC conference in Tallahassee.

Under Weisheit's leadership in the adoption department, FSS earned the number one ranking in adoptions statewide for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13, with 318 and 307 adoptions respectively.

Weisheit also created and implemented a new adoption recruitment program that focuses on child-specific recruitment. Her efforts resulted in a reduction in the number of local children without identified adoptive



parents from an average of 125 to 65 children at any one time. With FSS since 2008, Weisheit's work has focused on finding adoptive homes for children in foster care. For information about adopting a child from foster care, call (904) 421-5839 or visit fssjax.org.



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GO GIVERS

Joy Mack & George the Therapy Dog



By JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Joy Mack, 52, of San Marco has spent 27 years helping children as a speech and language pathologist for Duval County schools. During her free

time, she and her pet therapy dog, George, in his cheery bandana, are a familiar sight visiting patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

"I'm a big supporter of the underdog or anyone who needs a helping hand, like the child with disabilities, or who cannot speak, or no one can understand, or children battling illness or injury," Mack said. "This is my eleventh year in pet therapy and it's a way to help others while combining my love of children and animals."

Mack's canine partner George is a six-year-old Golden Retriever who has been in pet therapy with her for the past year, visiting Wolfson. She also has a Golden Retriever puppy,

Truman, who will begin pet therapy training at age two. Prior to the retrievers she had two rescue collies: Clancy who served nine years as a therapy dog at Wolfson and was featured in a PBS Documentary and Max, who visited patients at Baptist Beaches and

Wolfson for four years.

"I heard about the pet therapy program and learned that the dog must have the right temperament, be obedience trained and earn the AKC Canine Good Citizen Certification. Then the dog is annually screened and approved by a veterinarian. He must be certified as a therapy dog through TD, Inc. (therapydog.com),



"I'm a big supporter of the underdog or anyone who needs a helping hand, like the child with disabilities, or who cannot speak, or no one can understand, or children battling illness or injury," Mack said. "This is my eleventh year in pet therapy and it's a way to help others while combining my love of children and animals."

must be accepted by the facility and meet other requirements. At Wolfson, we must be members of the auxiliary to participate," Mack said.

Mack said the visits start with a quiet knock on the patient's door to offer a pet visit. About 90 percent of the time the answer is yes, then everyone disinfects their hands before Mack introduces herself and George.

"In the Children's Hospital we usually visit the oncology floor, ICU, fourth and sixth floor patient rooms. Parents and staff call George 'a saint' because he's calm and affectionate. He's a friendly, loving presence and just relaxes with the patients or gives them his 'high five'," she said. "He takes their

minds off the illness, pain or procedures."

Mack loves to travel and just returned from her first trip to the Westminster Kennel Club Annual Dog Show in New York City. She usually heads to the peaceful serenity of the mountains in Blue Ridge, GA, to Breckinridge, CO where she dog sleds and rides snow mobiles or to visit friends in Boulder, CO.

She believes that anyone can find a way to help others, even in a small way.

"I believe that the purpose of life is to count and to matter...to make sure that our life made a difference," Mack said.

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Sandy Golding

By JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Sandy Golding's friends and fellow volunteers can hardly distinguish between her career as development director for the non-profit Saint Francis Animal Hospital in San Marco, and her lifelong passion for volunteering and helping animals and pet owners in the community.

"My work and what I choose to do with most of my free time happen to be the same! I help several local animal welfare organizations, all dedicated to animal rescue and adoption and working toward Jacksonville becoming a no-kill community," Golding said. "I am able to help further those goals at my work too, because we cooperate with Friends of Jacksonville Animals, Jacksonville Humane Society and First Coast No More Homeless Pets to collect donations and assist pet owners who might otherwise be unable to provide veterinary care for their pets. This is an especially sad situation for low-income or elderly pet owners who may feel forced to give up or euthanize a pet they love."

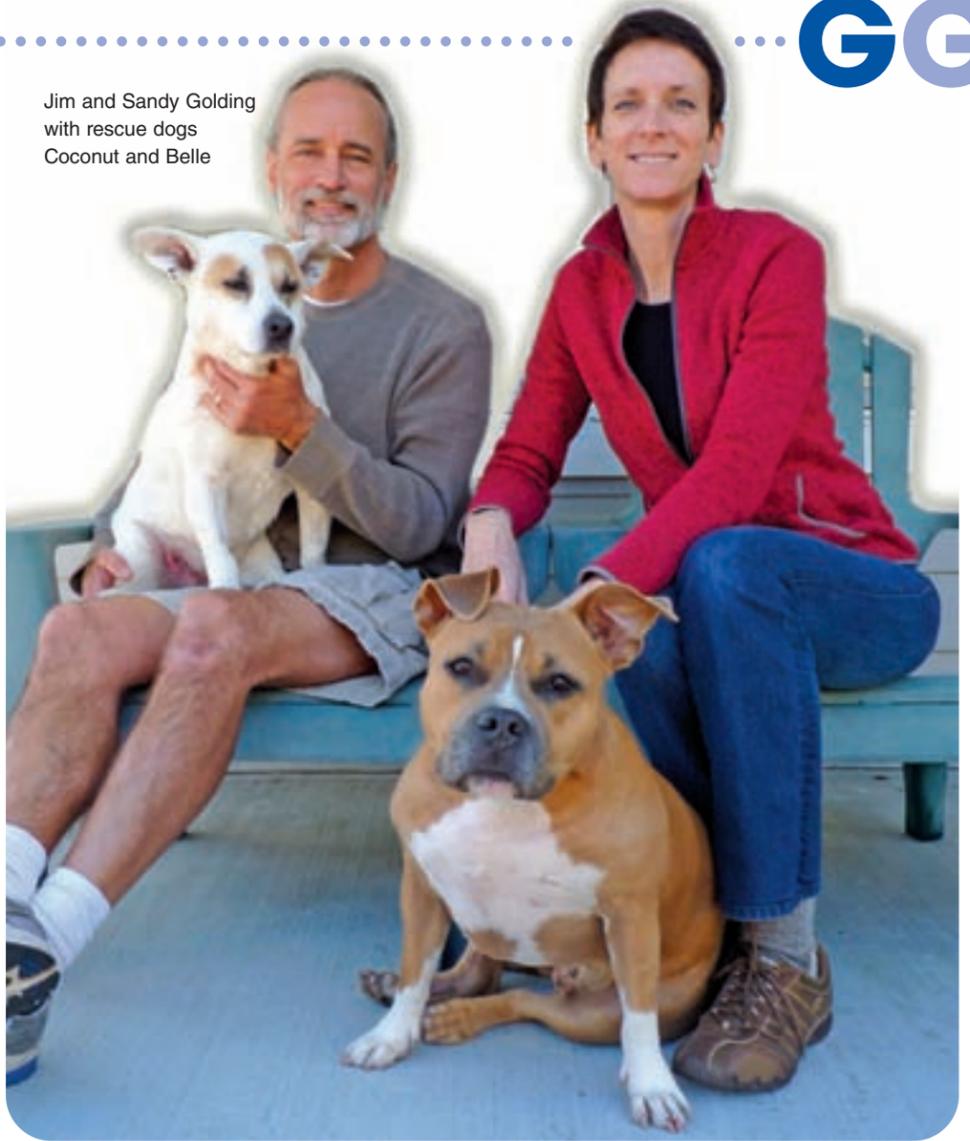
Golding was inspired by a National Geographic television series about Dogtown, the dog shelter operated by Best Friends Animal Society shelter in Kanab, UT. The Society's programs have expanded to include partnering with approximately 900 U.S. shelters, rescue groups and non-profit organizations to

raise funds and awareness. Their mission is to reduce animal euthanasia by expanding spay/neuter services and increasing adoptions in local communities.

"The show was so inspiring and helped the Society's No Kill/Save Them All mission spread across the U.S. Here in Jacksonville they have made grants to the Jacksonville Humane Society and to First Coast No More Homeless Pets to fund local programs to save more animals. They help communities hold Strut Your Mutt fundraisers to publicize and support local animal welfare groups. In 2012 many Jacksonville volunteers worked with them to hold the first Strut Your Mutt fundraiser at Riverside Park. It was a tremendous success," Golding said. "The 2014 Strut Your Mutt will be held in September. For information visit StrutYourMutt.org." Golding served as lead logistics volunteer for the event in 2012 and 2013 and is organizing the Saint Francis team to participate this year.

Golding is supported in her community efforts by her husband Jim, an

Jim and Sandy Golding with rescue dogs Coconut and Belle



engineer, who refers to himself as "Sandy Support." According to Sandy, Jim is absolutely great with dogs that seem naturally drawn to him. The Goldings volunteer together for FOJA and organized a Beaches sub-group

to hold monthly pet adoptions. Jim is a longtime volunteer at Guana River State Park, where he is currently working with many other volunteers on the Oyster Shell Recycling and Reef Restoration Project.

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MORE THAN A STATEMENT *Fashion* CHANGES LIVES

Pictured - Clockwise from left:

NFSSE Development Director, Melanie Jensen, with NFSSE Executive Director, Sally Hazelip

Shirley Francis with Patty Otterson

Melanie Beville and Joan Refosco

Beville Anderson with Kathryn Pearson Peyton



Designer Ashley DeRamus and her mother Connie were tired, tired of clothing not fitting her frame and their shared desire to find clothes turned the frustrated fashionistas into fashion moguls. When fashion didn't quite fit and options didn't flatter, the mother and daughter team went to work and broke the mold. "We would end up buying clothes and go straight to the store to get them altered, and often alterations cost as much as the clothes and I would have so much invested in her clothing," said mom Connie. After growing tired of expensive remedies, they left sweatpants, t-shirts and other solutions behind, eventually taking matters into their own hands.

With a background in interior design, Connie quickly went to work alongside Ashley, her best model and spokesperson. Through fashion channels, publications and other Down syndrome organizations, help was on the way for other mothers, caretakers and Down syndrome individuals all over the world. A clothing line began to take shape after hours and hours of hard work and determination. The clothing line, Ashley by Design, made its debut two years ago to rave reviews, as clothing tailored to differing body types and "Down's frames" didn't exist prior to the design line. Emerging from their creations were fashionable cuts, patterns and styles- not to mention- happy, smiling faces on many satisfied clients around the globe. For more information on the clothing line, visit www.ashleybydesign.com.

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Everything about Jacksonville's newest offering in assisted living and memory care community speaks to and answers the desire to live in the comfort and ease of your own home, while enjoying the physical and emotional security of community living.

From the magnificent portico with beckoning rockers, to the cheery warmth of the fireplace in the first of several gathering spots and social galleries, down to the accessible locations of resort-style amenities, The Windsor is a special place for up to 120 residents.

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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The Way we Were

Cathy Watkiss

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Longtime Jacksonville area resident Cathy Watkiss fell in love with San Marco long before she actually lived there. Watkiss, who grew up at the beach, came to town frequently as a child and teenager for shopping and family outings. So, many years later when she and husband Dale moved to the area, she knew how fortunate she was to reside in what she calls “one of the last super special spots” here.

For 28 years, Watkiss has lived on West Cove Lane off River Oaks Road, a tiny street with stunning views of wildlife and St. Johns River sunsets. Watkiss watches bald eagles and manatees from her front windows.

“We spent a lot of time in San Marco when I was growing up,” she recalled. “We would often eat at Mimm’s Bakery, getting cream cheese sandwiches with olives and

pecans on raisin bread.”

Watkiss’s daddy worked for Prudential Insurance, and she and her sister considered it a huge treat to come to town and visit his office.

“When I was in first and second grade, the

Prudential building [now the Aetna Building] was the tallest building in the city, and it had marble walls and granite and was so beautiful,” remembered Watkiss. “My daddy would take my sister and I to the River Club to eat on Ladies’ Day. This was around 1959, and the club was only for men in those days. I would always get vichyssoise and grasshopper pie.”

When she was a teenager making the same trip from the beach to town, she recalled having to make sure



Cathy at age 6



First San Marco Christmas tree lighting in Balis Park gazebo; Cathy Watkiss is at bottom right, kneeling

have “porch parties” on a regular basis. They both lived to be over 100.”

It was through Watson, a founding member, that Watkiss discovered the San Marco Garden Circle.

“The San Marco Garden Circle was founded in February 1932, and some of the original members are still there,” said Watkiss, who joined in 1989 and has held many positions within the organization, including president. “When I first joined, there were about 20 members and now there are around 36. It is an amazing organization.”

The San Marco Garden Circle has had its green thumbs on many significant projects in the area. The group was instrumental in restoring Historic Kings Road Park (also known as Fulton Green) that is the entry point to San Marco from the east. In fact, Martha Stewart herself was on hand, along with officials from all over the state, for the ribbon cutting and dedication in 1991. The Garden Circle also created and maintains the rose garden at Landon Park on River Road and puts the tree in Balis Park in San Marco Square each Christmas season.

there was enough gas in the car to last her all the way. There were no gas stations along Beach Boulevard, which was the only route at that time.

When Watkiss first married, she and Dale lived in St. Nicholas. She worked for Village Interiors in Deerwood before opening her own interior design firm in 1979. It wasn’t long before they found the house on West Cove Lane. Since there were only a couple of other houses on her street, she and her two closest neighbors became fast friends.

“Thelma McCoy and Margaret Watson were best friends their entire life and built houses next door to each other. Their husbands both worked for Stockton Whatley & Davin [the development firm responsible for building much of San Marco],” explained Watkiss. “They would set up card tables and play bridge in the yard, and we used to



Porch party in 2002 with Thelma McCoy and Margaret Watson

In addition to the Garden Circle, Watkiss is involved in a number of other volunteer organizations, including the Junior League, the Woman’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital, and the Cowford Ball decorating committee.

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Bestselling author Carol Kent keynote speaker at Women for Christ

Suzanne Honeycutt, Susan Stepp, Susan Pratts



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



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

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.



The Della Robbia Circle booth was managed by San Marco residents Janis Roselle and Richard Castle, who are showing wares to former Garden Club President Patsy Gaillard



San Marco Garden Circle President Paula Joyner and Marla Anderson display books on gardening and flowers for sale at their booth

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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.



Commitment the name of Rita Joost's game



*Salvation Army fortunate to
have her service*

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The 2014 theme of Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment, honoring the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women."

A San Marco woman who personifies those three C's, Rita H. Joost has demonstrated her sterling character, stalwart courage and unwavering commitment as a wife, mother, volunteer, citizen and community leader for more than six decades.



Fresh from high school graduation in their hometown of New Hampton, IA, Rita and her twin sister Renee came to Jacksonville in 1945. "Our older sister Hetty served here in the Navy Waves during WWII," explained Rita, who went to work as a secretary at the Naval Air Station, making \$250 a month. "That was big bucks back then. Everybody wanted to work at the Naval Air Station, but we roomed with a lady who worked at H. C. Hare Insurance Company and she convinced us they needed help, so we went to work for my future father-in-law at \$125 a month. The cut in pay was worth it. I loved the company!"

It wasn't long before young Rita also loved the boss's son, Hobart Hare Joost. "Hobart was so like his father – kind and gentle," said Rita. "He had just returned from the Panama Canal where he'd been stationed for four years as an Air Force Sergeant. We were married on December 7, 1946.

The number 7 is significant in Rita's life. Married on the 7th, and the mother of 7 children, Rita was born on January 17, 1927, weighing in at 7 ½ pounds. "My twin sister weighed 7 pounds," she said, noting that her mother was 43 when they were born and quite surprised that she was having twins after nearly a ten-month pregnancy. "Now, they know everything about the baby before it's born, but not then," laughed Rita, whose fifth great-grandchild is due in April. "I already know her name: Amelia (Millie) Halladay."

Several years ago, Rita and Renee made the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest surviving caesarian twins in the U.S. Rita Joost has made the record books in Jacksonville, too, as a founding charter member of San Jose Catholic Church, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, the Salvation Army William Booth Society, and St. Catherine Laboure Manor Auxiliary. She has served on the board of the St. Augustine Diocesan Housing Association/San Jose Manor 1 and 2, on the executive board of the American Cancer Society (Duval Unit), and the Jacksonville Symphony Guild Board. She was past president of the South Jacksonville Rotary Inner Wheel (a Rotary Paul Harris Award Recipient), and was president of The Bolles School Mothers Association.

"My children used to ride their bikes to Bolles," said Rita, who was a room-mother at Assumption, San Jose Catholic School, Bishop Kenny or Bolles nearly every year for two decades. "We lived in a house we built on River Hall Drive, considered way out in the country back then," she said. "Raising our kids in the country was easy. Hobart and I were both depression kids who learned to be frugal – a good thing, too, with seven kids!"

Rita's assessment of the "ease" with which she handled motherhood of four sons and three daughters is impressive, especially considering that her daily routine included cooking a five-course meal for nine people. "Hobart grew up with it, and was used to it," she explained. "I was a good cook." A family favorite was meatloaf (big enough to make sandwiches the next day), mashed potatoes,

vegetables, fruit in season, and always, ice cream parfaits and chocolate chip cookies for dessert. "Or, I'd get a leg of lamb at Clarks Grocery Store in Lakewood and Mr. Russo would debone it and wrap it with string and I'd stuff it full of garlic," recalled Rita. "My high school home economics classes in cooking and sewing really came in handy."

Now living in a lovely light-filled, memory-filled home that she and her late husband Hobart built in 1990, Rita proudly pointed to the beautiful woodwork created by Hobart, an exquisite 25th anniversary cut glass vase from her mother-in-law, six antique, needlepoint chairs that were buried for safekeeping during the Civil War, on and on. But her most precious treasures are the faces of her loved ones that smile from photographs everywhere in her home. Impulsively, with a sprightly energy that belies her age, Rita reached for a small Nun figurine, and suddenly turned solemn. "This was given to us by the parents of a neighbor boy, David Hastings. They'd heard him talking about a 'Sister' who lived in our house," she said. "Sister was the nickname we gave my dear daughter, Rita, who passed away at age 45 of breast cancer. She was an angel lent to us by God."

A framed card on the wall "To the Best Gramma in the Universe," is the next point of interest. "I don't know why my grandchildren love me so much," she said. "I have always been a strict disciplinarian, and still am. I feel that good old fashioned discipline produces good kids." Grinning, she recalled that she was always in charge of daily discipline when her seven kids were growing up except occasionally when a child committed a serious infraction and she'd warn them, "Wait until your father gets home!" Hobart would come in, yank the offender back to the bedroom, close the door and loud sounds of crying and spanking and yelling would ensue. "Sometimes, I'd worry that he was going a bit too far," she said. It wasn't until they were grown that her kids told her the truth. Behind the closed door, Hobart instructed them to cry loudly while he clapped his hands and yelled at them. "He never spanked them!" she lamented. "He was always a kind and gentle man."

Today, Rita remains active in most of the organizations she helped to found. In 2009, she and co-founders Sally Evans and Darlene Unger were honored as Celebrity Chefs at the Salvation Army Auxiliary's annual fundraiser. At home, Rita joked that she is the "best weeder in Jacksonville," spending daily time policing her plants, and she still enjoys playing bridge with the same seven women she's played with for more than 50 years.

At age 87, Rita Joost is going strong. With her vigorous enthusiasm, lively interest in friends and family, and ongoing commitment to helping others, Rita H. Joost has earned the respect of her community and is revered by her six remaining children, fifteen grandchildren, and soon-to-be five great-grandchildren. "I've been blessed to have a wonderful husband and many good friends in this town, and I know my children love me," she said. "For a while after Sister died, I was angry at God, but then I realized we're all His children. When He's ready, he wants us back home."



E L L E N C A V E R T

Turning tragedy

into a

Lifesaver

Granddaughter of Women's Board founder to take the reins

BY SUSAN BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Ellen Cavert had already raised her four children. When tragedy struck, she and her husband Tillman were just beginning to experience the special joy that comes with being grandparents. Their daughter Ray, expecting her third child in November, gave premature birth to twins on Aug. 18, 1972. For eight days, Ellen divided her time between caring for Ray and Richard Martin's two older children, Grace, 4, and Charles, 2, and being at Wolfson Children's Hospital praying for Abbie and Annie, her infant granddaughters. On the eighth day, Abbie Martin stopped breathing.

"We were all so sad to see that little baby go. It shouldn't have happened," Ellen says ruefully, noting that the twins had been forced to share the hospital's one incubator and one respirator, placing both of them in mortal danger. In fact, at the very moment that Abbie stopped breathing, Annie went into cardiac arrest. With attention and equipment then focused on one baby, Annie survived, but Wolfson was still not equipped to give her what she needed. Ray and Richard Martin whisked the infant, in her incubator, to the back seat of their station wagon and rushed her to Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

It was three months before Annie was strong enough to come home, and for several more months, the family wore surgical masks and treated her like a delicate porcelain doll. She was nicknamed "Peanut" because she was so tiny that she fit into her father's hand.

In the meantime, especially after attending the sad funeral of her lost granddaughter, Ellen Cavert was haunted by the fact that her death might have been averted had the proper equipment been on hand at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Spurred by a strong desire to make things right so that this would never happen to another child, Ellen approached pediatrician Dr. J. W. Hayes and asked for his advice. The lifesaving equipment certainly existed and could be obtained, Dr. Hayes advised, but it would take time and money. Ellen prayed fervently for guidance and support from God, and from Tillman, and then set out to launch a fundraising campaign

that was unlike any Jacksonville had ever seen before.

"Women weren't in the plans of things back in the '70s," recalls Ellen, "but the good Lord was in charge of the whole thing from the beginning." Gathering 39 other women, including her daughter Ray, to "hit the road, go into business offices and ask everyone for money," this determined grandmother established The Women's Board. Today, membership on The Women's Board

about getting relationships right – whether it was how we treated fellow committee members or the men from Baptist who do the heavy lifting, or the hospital president, or the doctors and nurses, or the patrons and corporate sponsors of our events," said Smathers. "It was all about respect, appreciation and, yes, that Sweet Spirit."

In addition to Ellen Cavert's sweet and unassuming leadership, the ongoing support of her family has been vital to the growth of The Women's Board. Ellen's late husband of 73 years, attorney and world-renowned big game hunter Tillman Cavert, passed away in May of 2013. He was integral in helping her establish and then guide The Women's Board.

"My husband was my everything," said Ellen. "I always listened to his suggestions. He would help me decide on everything. He blessed me all those years by being right by my side."

The beloved matriarch of her family, as well as the honored founder of The Women's Board, Ellen

Cavert has earned a position of respect that few women can rival. "Granny has made her mark in this community by helping save the lives of thousands of children," said her granddaughter, Grace Sarber. The oldest daughter of Ray and Richard Martin, Grace is now following in her grandmother's footsteps as the incoming President of The Women's Board for 2014-16. Grace has literally been a part of The Women's Board nearly all her life. She was almost five years old when her twin sisters were born at Wolfson Children's Hospital, and her memories of

that pivotal time are as vivid now as if they happened yesterday.

It all started when Grace and her younger brother, Charles, were in the family station wagon with their mother as she pulled into the Cloth World parking lot in St. Nicholas on Aug. 18, 1972. "Mom stood up to get out of the car, looked down at the seat, and realized her water had broken," recalls Grace. "We're going home," Ray told her children. "The baby is coming." Grace remembers seeing fear on her mother's face for the first time ever. "We got home and Mom called Granny. Then I didn't see her again for a long time."

Snippets of conversation swirled around Grace for days...identical twin girls...in trouble...it's touch and

go...we're all praying...and then one day her mother told her that one of the babies had died. Grace ran out of their house on River Road. Tears streaming down her face, she sank to the ground, pulled her knees to her chest and wrapped her blue flowered dress around them. "I stared at the blue floral print and asked Jesus to please tell my sister Abbie I was sorry I missed meeting her. I prayed for Annie not to die and to come home to us."

Annie did come home. She spent much of her childhood helping her grandmother, mother, and sisters (Grace and younger sister Berrylin) with the Art & Antiques Show that benefited the hospital where she was born. Ironically, Annie eventually earned her Master's Degree in design from an Italian Art Institute (L'Istituto per l'Arte e il Restauro Palazzo Spinelli) in Florence and became a designer and a widely acclaimed expert in antiques. Annie Martin Francis and her husband recently moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, but continue to participate in The Women's Board Art & Antiques Show each December.

And now, carrying on the "Sweet Spirit" tradition, Grace Sarber will be at the helm of

The Women's Board. In addition to having inherited her grandmother's pleasant disposition, abiding faith in God, and deep devotion to children, Grace has spent a lifetime hearing and adhering to "Ellenisms." "My grandmother's sayings have become familiar to all of the volunteers at The Women's Board," said Grace, smiling. "They are as much a part of our wonderful organization as she is."

Just a few "Ellenisms" that continue to guide The Women's Board are: "Do things first class." "Don't let anybody steal your joy." "Anybody'll give money to help a sick baby – all you have to do is ask them." "If it isn't nailed down, you sell it!" "Try every possible source to get something donated, before you buy it," and "You can't thank people too many times."

Ray Martin, the mother of the twins who were the catalyst for the lifesaving campaign launched by her mother more than four decades ago, has mixed emotions about her daughter accepting the presidency of The Women's Board. "I'm excited for Grace to have the opportunity to serve in the area of her gifting and I'm a bit apprehensive in a protective way because she has three young children," said Ray. "That's why my main role with the Women's Board in the coming years will be babysitter for the President's children and caregiver of the Founder. We have an amazing heritage. Grace has asked for God's direction and we know that where He leads, He will provide."



has grown from 40 to more than 400 volunteers. The organization has raised more than \$24 million dollars for Wolfson Children's Hospital, helping to save thousands of young lives. In addition, the Art & Antiques Show and the Florida Forum, the annual fundraisers of The Women's Board, have taken on lives of their own and become two of Jacksonville's most outstanding social events.

Yes, the good Lord has been in charge from the beginning and has blessed The Women's Board. Former President Susan G. Smathers credited Ellen Cavert's focus on a "Sweet Spirit" for the phenomenal success the organization has achieved toward their goal of helping Wolfson Children's Hospital. "With Ellen, it truly was

Technology plus ingenuity plus perseverance

Disabled enjoy bicycling thanks to innovative givers

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A neighborhood bike shop uses innovative techniques to customize bikes for people with disabilities so they never have to forget what it's like to ride a bike.

Open Road Bicycles has adapted several bikes for customers who need more than handlebars, spokes and two wheels to navigate the centuries-old mode of transportation that is ideal for enjoying historic neighborhoods.

With a combination of modern technology, old-fashioned ingenuity and resolute perseverance, Open Road helps people with disabilities enjoy the open road of their own neighborhoods.

Bryce Williams, a 13-year-old who had his leg amputated at age 9 from cancer, benefits from a special pedal, which enables him to ride his bike just like any other kid.

His mother, Michelle Williams, never knew the bike shop could help accommodate her son. She had been using duct tape and bungee cords to secure Bryce's prosthetic leg to the bike. But the results were unpredictable and often caused him to crash.

Williams taught her son he could do

whatever he wants to, despite his disability. She told him he just has to find a creative way to do it.

In this instance it turned out that Scott Gross, one of the owners of Open Road Bicycles, had not only the creative way they needed, but also the same can-do attitude that enables Bryce to ride his bike to school, manage the swim team and play goalie on his soccer team.

"The kid is like the Terminator. He is unstoppable," said Gross. "As long as they don't give up on themselves, we won't give up on them."

Not giving up means a lot of trial and error from Gross and his friend, John Salsbury, who collaborated with Gross on a custom pedal for Bryce as well as other special needs customers.

Salsbury is an employee of Sally Industries, an animatronic company downtown that manufactures rides and

robotics for theme parks around the world. Using scrap materials from Sally, Salsbury volunteers his time to help Gross modify bikes to accommodate the



Bryce, today at age 13, with parents and Michelle and Shane Williams, and sister Savannah



The adaptive pedal manufactured by Open Road Bicycles and Sally Industries for Avondale resident Bryce Williams

unique needs of its rider.

"I surround myself with guys who think outside of the box," explained Gross. "I don't quit. When there is nothing in

a catalogue, we develop an idea and make a part."

Open Road Bicycles only charges for the parts it uses and keeps working until a solution is found. Gross says altering the bikes is an exercise in trial and error, but well worth the effort.

"I find that when disabled people come in, they feel less connected to society, so to be able to give them something normalizing, is very gratifying," said Gross. "I would love to help anyone in that situation."

Natasha Knight, a 28-year-old with dystonia, a condition she describes as "similar to Parkinson's and cerebral palsy" is confined to an electronic wheelchair. So she was thrilled when Open Road and Salsbury developed a recumbent trike for her that she now rides several times a week.

Knight wears custom boots because of the dystonia, which began in 2001. Gross and Salsbury worked for months to develop the custom pedals that fit her boots perfectly.

"I love that thing – with that bike I can do anything," said Knight.

Both she and Williams are grateful for the efforts of Open Road Bicycles and Salsbury.

"I really appreciate all their hard work and getting me a bike I can ride," explained Knight. "I strive to live life to the fullest, so it's been amazing."

But that gratitude for getting people back on their bikes is a two-way street.

"It gave us satisfaction to see them get on their bikes," said Salsbury. "It's what people want to do."

Raising a cheer for state cheerleading champs

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Ortega resident Sara Brackin first started dating her husband Jason, she was surprised to learn he has a mentally challenged brother.

Not because that was so different to Brackin. On the contrary, it was quite familiar. Her own sister is also mentally challenged.

"It was the first time my normal didn't make somebody uncomfortable and it was the same for him," said Brackin, explaining her oldest sister sings in the choir, plays softball, and is a gold medalist for the Special Olympics. "She taught me to treat every single person as a child of God, and that success is not defined the same for everybody, but everybody has the ability to experience it."

That lesson motivated Brackin to raise more than \$3,000 to help send a group of special needs children to the 2014 Cheersport National Competition in Atlanta.

River City All-Stars Competitive Cheer and Dance formed a team for cheerleaders with special needs five years ago. Misty Turner, a police officer who also helps coach cheerleading at Episcopal High School, is a volunteer coach for the co-ed team that consists of 16 athletes ranging in age between 7 to 36 years old.

After winning the Florida state title, the squad headed to Atlanta where they placed fourth in Nationals. Brackin solicited donations to help defray the travel costs of the team.

"I just wanted to help this group of precious kids," Brackin said.

A perfectly normal sentiment that would make anyone cheer.



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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 existing 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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Baseball leagues bring out the best in players

Focus is on attitude, not amenities

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In baseball it may be one, two, three strikes you're out, but at neighborhood ballparks, kids are all in for the fun and friendship that makes the experience a true winner.

Children living in the neighborhoods of San Marco, St. Nicholas and San Jose mark the arrival of spring with more than chocolate bunnies. There are also baseballs, bats and Babe Ruth organizations such as San Jose Athletic Association and Hendricks Avenue Baptist League, that are just as synonymous with the season.

Each organization boasts around 300 players eager to learn the fundamentals of the game – with the key word being fun.

Keith Edwards, a San Jose resident and president of San Jose Athletic Association, wants to do whatever it takes to have a good experience for the kids. "We love seeing the smiles on the field and the cheering parents," he said.

Christina Petre is one of the cheering parents at San Jose. Petre's son Will has played in the league since t-ball. "We love San Jose! During the past six years Will has learned a great deal from his teammates and coaches, while making some lasting friendships."

San Jose, which has operated in the City of Jacksonville's Baker-Skinner Park on Powers Avenue since 1996, has two t-ball and four baseball fields, but their focus is not on the amenities, but the right attitude. San Jose tries to keep the atmosphere from being hyper-competitive, ensuring the kids, who range in age from four to 15 years, have a level playing field by striving for parity on the teams.

"We don't want baseball-crazy people out there," Edwards explained. "We try to set the right culture by not stacking teams. You can fall into the trap of wanting a victory, and while we have a strong desire to win it's more important that the kids learn to love the game, learn team work and how to win and lose with grace."

The emphasis on teamwork is one of the things Amy Stapleton, a Granada resident, likes best about baseball at Hendricks. Her son, Flynn, has played fall and spring seasons since kindergarten and is now in 5th grade. She says no matter how



San Jose Athletic Association's 2013 District Champs

competitive a game is it doesn't interfere with friendships formed at the park.

"During a game, the competition is fierce, but when the game is over everyone is still friends, no matter which side you were cheering for," Stapleton explained. "Flynn has played with kids from just about every school in the area and will take those friendships with him as he gets older."

Hendricks, which has one t-ball and two baseball fields, is tucked behind Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. According to Tom Morris, a San Marco resident and former commissioner of the league, "We are a rare private league in that it is not city-owned property, but rather owned by the church and leased to the baseball league."

What may be even more unique at Hendricks is that the park, which began "about 65 years ago," has some coaches who played there when they were growing up. "The baseball league is a wonderful way to meet and connect with other people in this area," explained Morris. "My son played in all divisions of the league from age five to 15...I've stayed involved because I like seeing the kids and families have fun."

The organization has become so popular that they are in the middle of a capital campaign to raise money to build two more fields on land already purchased by Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, ensuring the likelihood that some of the players from this generation will be coaching their children at the beloved park someday as well.

While the emphasis is on recreational baseball at Hendricks and San Jose, both leagues have advanced ball teams, which travel locally to compete with other parks.

Still, a sign that hangs prominently at San Jose's park, titled the "Greatest Ball Player" reminds parents and coaches to keep the emphasis on the children not the win.

"Along this path pass the greatest baseball players you will ever know – your children," it reads. "Be with them, encourage them, help them be as good as they can be, but most of all at the end of the day, win or lose, tell them you love them for what they are, the most precious gift God will ever give you."

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Seven Bolles students named National Merit Finalists

All seven of the Bolles students who were named Semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship program have been named Finalists. One of those students is San Marco resident Hannah Kobrin.



Kobrin

selected to receive one of three types of Merit Scholarship awards. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state representational basis.

High school seniors who excel on the PSAT as juniors earn recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. In February, some 15,000 semifinalists are notified that they have advanced to Finalist standing. All winners of Merit Scholarship awards are chosen from the Finalist group, based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

Beginning in March and continuing to mid-June, NMSC notifies approximately 8,000 Finalists that they have been

provided by approximately 250 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 200 colleges and universities are expected to finance college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

San Jose award winners at regional science fair

San Jose Catholic School students received more awards than any other middle school competing in the Northeast Florida Regional Science Fair (NEFRSEF) held Feb. 10. Twenty-seven San Jose Catholic students competed in the regional science fair which consisted of participants from 27 public, private and Catholic schools, with 275 middle school students competing. The 14 best student projects were selected to move on to state.



Thomas Ossi, Eliana Namen, Laina Parry and Evan Loadholtz were science fair winners

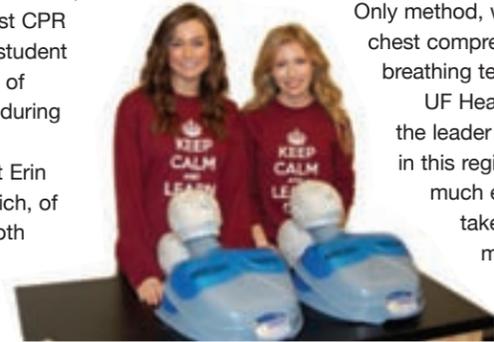
Thomas Ossi, Eliana Namen, Evan Loadholtz and Laina Parry will represent Duval County in Lakeland, FL in April. Not

only did they make the state team, they also earned four first-place awards in their individual categories. Altogether, San Jose students came home with 22 place awards and 18 specialty awards, provided by the community to highlight excellence in science and often include a monetary amount.

Students know to "keep calm and learn CPR"

Approximately 850 Episcopal School of Jacksonville students received "Hands Only" CPR training last month, instructed in the newest CPR method by Episcopal student trainers and University of Florida health officials during all science classes.

San Marco resident Erin Coonan and Nikki Vukich, of Jacksonville Beach, both seniors, brought the new method to Episcopal, organizing and coordinating the training events with the help of Sally Russo, science instructor, and Erika Dale, Director of Student Activities. Several UF physicians, including ESJ parent Dr. David Vukich, have helped with the training



process at Episcopal. Student trainers wore shirts that said "Keep Calm and Learn CPR," and using a PowerPoint presentation and short movie, as well as CPR mannequins, instructed ESJ students in the Hands Only method, which uses only chest compression, and no breathing techniques.

UF Health Jacksonville is the leader in hands-only CPR in this region. Hands-only is much easier to train and takes literally a couple minutes. The same effort and time that trained 10 people in the old CPR

method can train several times that number in hands-only. The result is exponentially more citizens on the street who can save a life.



Landon chess team places first

Under leadership of chess teacher George Lee, the Julia Landon Middle School chess team placed first for the middle school division in the Scholastic Chess Tournament held Feb. 8, with Landon students Vivek V. (3rd place), Alexis A. (4th place), and Vishnu V. (5th place) also placing individually.

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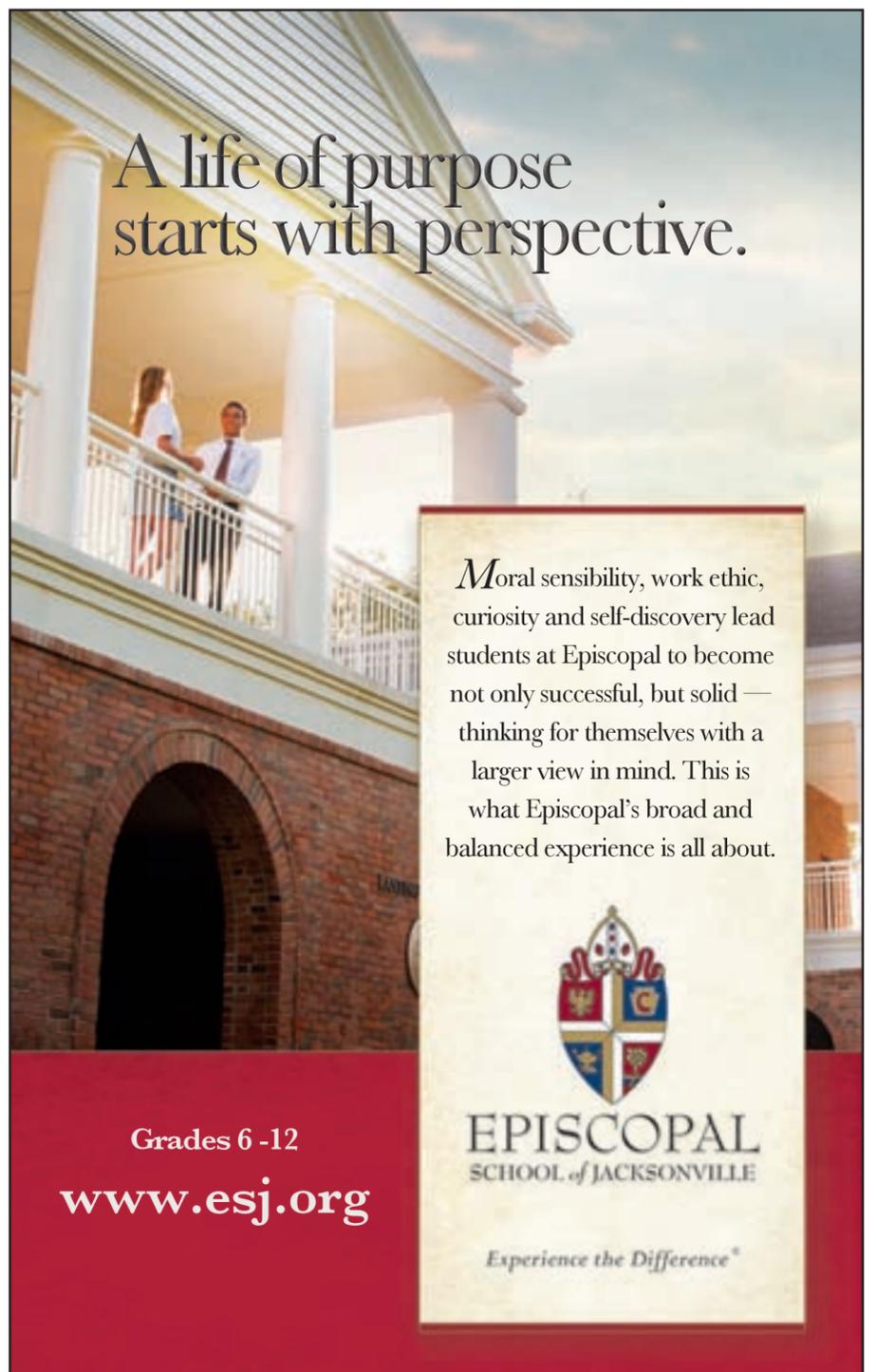
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In celebration of National Women's History Month in March, we took a look back in Jacksonville's history to put the spotlight on a few of the many women of influence and significance.

Flashbacks

WOMEN IN JACKSONVILLE HISTORY

ROBIN ROBINSON, PRESIDENT, JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULIA LANDON: A LIFELONG LOVE FOR EDUCATION



Photo credit: San Marco Preservation Society

Julia Landon is shown here with her students in her early days as a teacher in south Jacksonville. She began teaching school when she was a young girl 16 years of age. She devoted her life to the profession and was well respected and loved by her students and the community. In 1925 when a modern brick building was erected for the high school, the school was named after her. It stands today as the Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School in San Marco.

CARITA DOGGETT CORSE: FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT



Photo credit: Florida Archives, Florida Memory

Under the direction of President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression, the Federal Writers' Project was created in an effort to provide employment for unemployed writers and historians. Carita Doggett Corse, a Jacksonville native, was charged with the responsibility for Florida's contribution to the project from 1935 to 1942. The Federal Writers' project preserved a priceless record of oral histories, photographs and stories of our nation's history. Under Corse's leadership, Florida writers produced a large amount of high quality work which is utilized by historians across the state to this day. For access to this collection, visit www.floridamemory.com/collections/wpa.

WOMEN'S WORK VITAL IN WAR EFFORT

The shore of the St. John's River in Southside was lined with docks and the Merrill Stevens Shipyards during World Wars I and II, stretching from the Acosta Bridge to the property Bishop Kenny High School is located on today. Because so many men had joined the military, women stepped forward to handle the jobs previously filled only by males. They were tough jobs which were vital to the war effort. Shown here is a woman working as a welder in the St. John's Shipyards in 1946. Much like "Rosie the Riveter" of WWII fame, she could be called Jacksonville's "Wilma the Welder."



Wilma The Welder - Photo credit: Florida Archives, Florida Memory

MAY MANN JENNINGS:

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

A shining moment in women's history in the United States was the passage of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. The Democratic Party in Florida was quick to seize upon the magnitude of change this brought about in the electorate, seeing the need for county Democratic female clubs throughout the state. They turned to May Mann Jennings, president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, whose experience in politics and network of acquaintances helped organize the Duval County League of Democratic Women and others throughout the state. She was also co-founder of the Florida chapter of the League of Women Voters.



Photo credit: Florida Archives, Florida Memory

Jennings initiated her interest in politics at an early age as she was the daughter of a State Senator and later became the First Lady of Florida when her husband, William Sherman Jennings, was elected Florida's Governor. After her husband's death in 1920, Jennings remained politically active and spoke out for prohibition, better treatment of children and prisoners, education reforms and funding, improvements in public welfare, historic preservation and highway beautification. She was thereby given the nickname "Florida's Genteel Activist."

BARBARA D. PUCKETT - GARDENER GARDEN CIRCLE MEMBER'S LEGACY STILL BLOOMING

Barbara Denmark Puckett loved to plant and make things grow. A lifetime gardener, the longtime San Marco resident was an active member of the San Marco Garden Circle and part of the group that originally instigated the annual Christmas tree in the Balis Park gazebo nearly 25 years ago.

Said Cathy Watkiss, fellow gardener, "Barbara is a legacy in this community for all she stood for." As a longtime member of San Marco Preservation Society, Puckett was involved with many projects, including moving Preservation Hall to Fletcher Park, the renovations of old South Jacksonville City Hall, now the SMPS headquarters, as well as improvements to the

San Marco Library and many beautification efforts.

"Everybody loved Barbara [who died in June 2010]," said Watkiss. "She always had the best interests of the community in mind."

Puckett lived for a time on River Oaks Road, then moved to Sorrento Road in the mid-1990s. It was in that home that she finally realized a dream: her own secret garden. She created an Italian courtyard in her backyard, complete with fountain, three large palm trees, five seating areas, citrus trees - Key lime, Myer lemon, and a honeybell tangelo - Confederate and Carolina jasmine and red honeysuckle climb trees. She also included pansies, geraniums, lantana, petunias, nasturtiums, freesia, chrysanthemums and tea olives.

"My favorite thing to do is just sit back in the swing and think about things," Puckett said in a 1999 interview with the Times-Union.

Obviously, Puckett thought a lot about how to make life more beautiful.

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Parting SHOT

Artist David Engdahl and his daughter Kirsten place their butterflies on the interactive exhibit by Sarah Crooks Flaire titled- Transmigration, Jan. 16th, at a reception for patrons of MOSH



If you have a Photojournalistic submission depicting our community for publishing consideration, e mail your PARTING SHOT to: editor@residentnews.net

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