



# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy Mother's Day  
Great gifts!  
page 30



## The RAP Home Tour – fun for everyone!

Michael Young with his son, Wood, on his shoulders, pushes his daughter Merritt on the swing at the end of Edgewood Avenue. The kids enjoyed the day with Dad while their mother, April Young, volunteered her time to help RAP on the Home Tour. See the Home Tour wrap-up .....PAGE 19

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## STEEG a smash at Florida Yacht Club

The 2014 Member-Guest weekend at the club celebrates the best in competitive tennis and hails to the memory of the late Commodore, Steward B. Steeg, who had a passion for the sport. The event was made even more special as his son and current Commodore, Bobby Steeg, was present with his mother Betty during the festivities. “My dad was the first Commodore to openly admit that he enjoyed tennis [more than boating]; he was the first Commodore to do this,” he said with a smile. Tennis at the club became a priority under the late Commodore, the tournament has become a way to honor his legacy.

SEE MORE .....PAGE 23



## 5 Points design guidelines possible stepping stone for City



BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The new concept plan for 5 Points has been pretty much vetted by everyone.

It’s been shared with area merchants and residents, the Riverside Avondale Preservation members and the Board, the Context Sensitive Standards Committee of the City of Jacksonville, and finally last month, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

Since the historic ordinance covers the setting (trees, streets, etc.) as well as buildings in a historic district, it was reassuring to know that, by and large, the Commission thought it was a good design for 5 Points, according to Stephen Tocknell, Tocknell Planning Services LLC.

“There is some concern about changing Lomax Street to a one-way street,” said Tocknell, “but the Commission felt the gain [in sidewalk room for pedestrians and cafes] was worth it.”

Tocknell also noted that the design guidelines will provide a stepping stone for the Context Sensitive Standards Committee in developing standards for pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly streets in urban Jacksonville.

Now that RAP’s review and comment period is over, the next phase will be construction drawings, which will be submitted to the Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness. For more information, contact Stephen Tocknell at (904) 638-6629 or email stevetock@clearwire.net.

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*In Memoriam*

# ALLAN MCLEOD JONES

APRIL 11, 1958 – APRIL 14, 2014



BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

since elementary school, still are to this day. Allan Jones absolutely kept those friendships," she shared. "Allan was a funny guy. Anybody that ever met him has an 'Allan Jones story.' He was very outgoing and had the biggest smile you've ever seen."

The tributes from the online condolences also spoke of the man he was, beloved by many.

From a nephew: "My Uncle Allan always had a smile on his face and enjoyed being with friends and family. We were blessed to have him in our family and many were blessed to have his help in their homes. He will be missed!"

Another shared, "Allan was such a sweet and kindhearted man, he always had a smile on his face. You can tell what kind of man you are by the kind of relationship you have with your daughter, and he had a

widowed for several years, and had circled some "men seeking women" ads in the *Times-Union*. Mom had fixed Allan some coffee and was making him breakfast. Allan saw the circled ads and in his southern drawl said 'Are you looking for a man?' Mom, embarrassed and flustered, replied that she thought some were interesting but would never have the courage to follow through. Allan told mom he knew a nice man. Allan introduced mom to Charlie and they were married about nine months later."

And a final, fitting memory: "I always think back to when Allan rode with me to the funeral of our friend Dickey, when right after the service started and we were all praying when out of the back of the church we all heard the distinctive 'pop' of a beer can and when we looked back it was Allan. On the ride home I mentioned it to Allan and he told me 'That is what Dickey would have wanted.' I laughed and thought he was right."

Jones, a longtime Murray Hill resident, was the son of John Ellis and Margaret Jones and brother of Patricia Jones, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his daughter, Ceirra Jones; seven siblings LaVerne Jones (Joyce), Margie Sis Davis (Clyde), Wylene Lyle (Don), Jennifer Suber (Danny), Wayne Jones (Brenda), Kenneth Jones and Scott Jones, as well as many nieces and nephews.



The Terry Vereen Plumbing Company lost a valued employee last month.

The 31-year-old Riverside business had hired Allan Jones as its first employee in 1983 and gave him truck #2. Evidence of Jones' value and endearment to the company can be found in the tribute they are paying by retiring that unit number.

According to office manager Alyce Smith, who knew Jones for 25 years, "Allan was a hard worker; his customers loved him and would wait days for him to come do their work. He was Unit #2 from the beginning and we are going to retire the number."

Smith said that there were easily 200 people at his funeral. "That's a statement. His friends were friends

very special one with CJ. When I saw them together I could not just see the love but feel the love."

Testament to his sense of humor was this tribute. "One weekend Allan was at my mom's house fixing a plumbing problem. Mom had been

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**ASK Allison**

**Q:** I want to sell my house and my kitchen needs to be renovated but I hesitate to do it just for the purpose of selling. What if I put in white cabinets and the buyer prefers dark wood? I really need your opinion on this!

This one is easy. We've all become such BUSY people these days. We move a thousand miles an hour and are texting, tweeting, face-booking, driving our children around, talking on our phones and working long hours. It makes me exhausted just thinking about it!

People used to love a "project", but these days, BUYERS are more and more interested in turn key homes with all the bells and whistles. They don't have the time OR interest to do it themselves. The good news? They understand that a renovated home commands a premium and they're willing to pay for it. So, I say go for it. Stay with classic lines, neutral colors and you'll reap the rewards with a faster sale and more money!



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**UNDER CONTRACT**  
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**NEW PRICE**  
1800 MCINTOSH PL - \$388,000  
Fairfax Manor 3/2.5, great kitchen, corner lot



1224 HOLLYWOOD AVE - \$219,900  
Charming, nicely updated 3/2, great spaces



**NEW LISTING**  
5303 ORTEGA BLVD #202 - \$239,000  
Southpointe/Ortega, 3/2, fireplace + garage



Ellen Gould  
904.716.9106



**EAGLE HARBOR**  
1746 FIDDLERS RIDGE - \$309,000  
Updated 5/3, 2423sf, serene lake view



1840 MALLORY ST - \$799,000  
Renovated Historic 2-story near the river



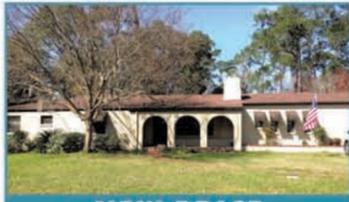
**NEW PRICE**  
1819 MALLORY ST - \$499,000  
Turnkey 4/2.5, 2600sf near the river



**RIVERFRONT**  
5015 ORTEGA FARMS BLVD - \$885,000  
Captivating 4354sqft home, 2 master suites



Tom Sandlin  
904.237.0458



**NEW PRICE**  
4224 SHERWOOD RD - \$289,900  
Spanish style 3/3.5, 2691sf, Stockton dist



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
1947 ST GEORGE CT - \$199,900  
Orange Pk 4/2, deck overlooking pond



**PARK PLAZA**  
505 LANCASTER ST #10A - \$775,000  
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**CONTRACTED IN 12 DAYS**  
2118 ST JOHNS AVE - \$399,000  
Location & charm! 3/2.5 in St Johns Quarter



**NEW PRICE**  
1271 WINDSOR PL - \$269,000  
Charming 3/2, perfect Avondale location



**CONTRACTED IN 20 DAYS**  
4676 MARTINGALE RD - \$149,000  
Move right in this 3/1, Stockton district



**NEW PRICE**  
2961 HERSCHEL ST - \$389,000  
1919 bungalow, 3/2.5, huge master suite



Ted Miller  
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**RIVERFRONT**  
5043 ORTEGA FARMS BLVD - \$699,000  
Charming 3/3, breathtaking pool/yard



**NEW PRICE**  
4877 WATER OAK LANE - \$314,900  
Ortega Forest 4/2.5, huge lot near Stockton



1852 TALBOT AVE - \$689,000  
Elegant Avondale beauty, 3300sqft + guest apt



**JUST LISTED**  
5128 ARAPAHOE AVE - \$369,000  
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**ORTEGA FOREST**  
4202 ROBIN HOOD RD - \$309,000  
Beautifully updated 3/2, nicely landscaped yard



**CONTEMPORARY GEM**  
1818 ELIZABETH PL - \$725,000  
Avondale treasure updated to perfection



**WATERFRONT**  
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Art or against the law?

Last month *The Resident* asked readers to weigh in on the arrest of local artist Kevin Southworth for painting utility boxes under the alias "KHG" for Keith Haring's Ghost. Thank you for sharing your opinion about art versus graffiti.

It's Art

Chip Southworth should definitely be allowed to continue his artistic work on the electrical boxes. Art everywhere is a way to channel desperation into inspiration. Haring and Banksy got started by painting what was termed graffiti or street culture art. Now their art is known and appreciated around the world, and sells for huge amounts of money. The Ghost of Haring art done by Chip Southworth was a big improvement over mundane, gray electrical boxes that nobody ever looked at. Skip allowed us to feast our eyes on good art, and he did it using his own talents and materials. I don't think he should be penalized for improving our city. We need more folks like him.

- Sonia Vivian

In response to the Graffiti "ghost" being caught, I would like to express my opinion in which his "vandalism" is really art. I think that the city should pay him to repaint the boxes lighter colors so the equipment does not fail.

- Gracie Surface

Surely there are better uses of the sheriff's officers than to arrest a creative artist. I have greatly enjoyed searching San Marco for KHG's interesting art. I have photos of



each one I found and am making an altered art book with them. For heaven's sake, dismiss the charges, the

poor guy's wife has cancer! I am happy to report that someone new has taken up the cause and there is a new one in blue on Hendricks Ave. All the street art is fascinating and makes me

happy. Just a thought, Baltimore allots 1% of its city budget for public art.

- N. Hunt

When I first saw the electrical boxes with the great art on them I thought how wonderful that the city commissioned an artist to help beautify Jacksonville. I was greatly disappointed that the city did not sponsor it, simply could not simply look the other way to it, and worse, arrested the artist. I believe Chip Southworth should be commissioned to continue his work, it is beautiful!

- Joseph Weinman

It is appalling that in Jacksonville we would chose to punish Chip Southworth versus thank him for turning ugly utility boxes into works of art. The art is not vulgar nor offensive. While I can't speak to the "colors of the paint increasing the temperature in the boxes," I would be in favor of paying Chip to continue to paint the boxes (in "appropriate" colors) to add to the artistic expression of our city and not have him face jail time or fines.

- Diane Raines

I completely support Mr. Southworth in his efforts to beautify the community! What a disservice to penalize someone for giving their talents to the public. Certainly Mr Southworth should be commissioned to paint all the utility boxes. Why should the boxes be ugly just because they are utility boxes?

- Paula Higgins

It's about time Jacksonville's city officials and leaders recognize the uniqueness of such beautiful and creative areas as Avondale/Riverside, San Marco, Park & King, Murray Hill, and The Beaches. Kevin Southworth should never have been arrested, let alone fined. Wouldn't it be better to have the neighborhoods meet with Kevin and other artists to see what their ideas are and what and how much of it would work in each community? (The art(s) should be available for all to enjoy, muse over, and inspire creativity. I also find that for a city that appears to be striving for a new look and to bring in new businesses, we should suffer the embarrassment of having one of our creative residents arrested. We can do better.

- Jane Escobar

It's Against the Law

The property in question is public property and thus is owned by all. It seems quite pretentious of anyone to decide that they have the right to change that public property without the consent of the owners (the people in the form of their elected representatives). It is not only illegal, it could be dangerous - overheating of utility boxes could cause failure of critical utilities and subsequent harm to people. The perpetrator violated the law - he should pay a price in accordance with the provisions of that law.

- Charles Davault

Chip Southworth should not be allowed to continue with his graffiti. If he is allowed to paint pictures all around town other people will feel they can do it as well. We have enough distractions when we drive now with all the billboards, red light cameras, and drivers who are texting or speeding. How many court cases do they want to determine if it is art or graffiti?

- J.M. Dailey

Graffiti is NOT art! Graffiti is graffiti and remains one of the biggest sources of Pollution in the country. No one has the right to randomly express their feelings by defacing personal and/or public property. Artists are not above the law.

- H. Mallon

I kept seeing these in various places all the while very troubled. "How awful! What IS going on?" was my thought each time. It's an open invitation to all-out NYC-style graffiti.

- Loretta Fleming

CORRECTION

An editorial error was made in a statement on Page 30 of the April issue in a story titled "Local lawyers treat friends, make a few more." To clarify, it should be known that State Rep. Daniel Davis has not endorsed anyone running for his seat that will be open this fall. *The Resident* regrets the error.

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# Local artists get opportunity to enhance Downtown garage

May 26 deadline to submit proposals

Springing off the success of last year's "garage makeover," the City of Jacksonville's The Art in Public Places program, along with the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and the Office of Public Parking announced last month a state-wide call to artists for the Water Street Parking Garage Enhancement Project.

The Water Street Parking Garage, located at 541 Water Street, is a seven-level structure of over 70,000 square feet per level with the capacity to house nearly 1,500 vehicles. Five strategically located sites have been identified to create distinctive 2D and 3D installations. The primary goal of the outdoor installations is to integrate public art and infrastructure enhancements into the redesign to further enhance public perception about the ease, availability and affordability of parking Downtown.

In 2013, a similar call was issued to paint the stairwells of the Yates Garage Towers. The winners of that competition were from St. Augustine and Neptune Beach.

Professional artist teams will enhance the façade and exterior of the facility and surrounding streetscape through the addition of design elements, artwork,

video panels, or creative lighting to develop a more customer-friendly appearance and an improved pedestrian environment with automobile accessibility. Artists must demonstrate the ability to translate artistic

Professional artist teams will enhance the façade and exterior of the facility and surrounding streetscape through the addition of design elements, artwork, video panels, or creative lighting to develop a more customer-friendly appearance and an improved pedestrian environment with automobile accessibility.

concepts into materials that are appropriate for public space, taking into consideration maintenance, safety and longevity.

Florida artist teams may submit concepts for all eligible project sites considering the specific parameters and goals established for each. An art selection panel of local art, design and community professionals will create a team constructed from the selected winning designs. Special preference will be given to artists from the First Coast five-county area (Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Baker or Nassau). Professional artists and artist teams must demonstrate experience in large-scale outdoor art projects. Supporting material must illustrate collaboration between architects, designers and/or engineers.

Selection criteria are based on artistic excellence, sustainability, related artist experience, level of community engagement, improvement of the pedestrian environment, and the design's function as an identifier into the Spark District, a zone targeted for revitalization through the arts, as spearheaded by the Cultural Council. For more details or to apply, visit their website at [CulturalCouncil.org/WaterStreetGarage](http://CulturalCouncil.org/WaterStreetGarage). Deadline to submit a proposal is May 26, 2014.

# Post Street emergency road closure

Due to an emergency sewer replacement project, the JEA has closed a portion of Post Street from James to King streets until May 30 or project completion. JEA crews are replacing a 260 foot section of failing sanitary sewer pipe from 2772 to 2726 Post Street. Crews will work Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eastbound traffic on Post Street will be detoured to King Street, left on College Street, left on James Street and back to Post Street. Westbound traffic will be detoured right on James Street, left on Forbes Street, left on King Street and back to Post Street.

Residents residing within the boundaries will have access to drive with caution within the construction area. Restoration of the project area will begin after the sewer main has been installed. If you have questions, concerns or complaints, the JEA asks that you contact JEA Project Outreach at (904) 665-7500 or email [projectoutreach@jea.com](mailto:projectoutreach@jea.com).

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# Tour of Willowbranch Library repair project revealing

*Project manager finds more damage than bargained for*

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

With just a little stretch of the imagination, one could look at the Willowbranch Library and instead see a box – Pandora’s Box, to be more specific.

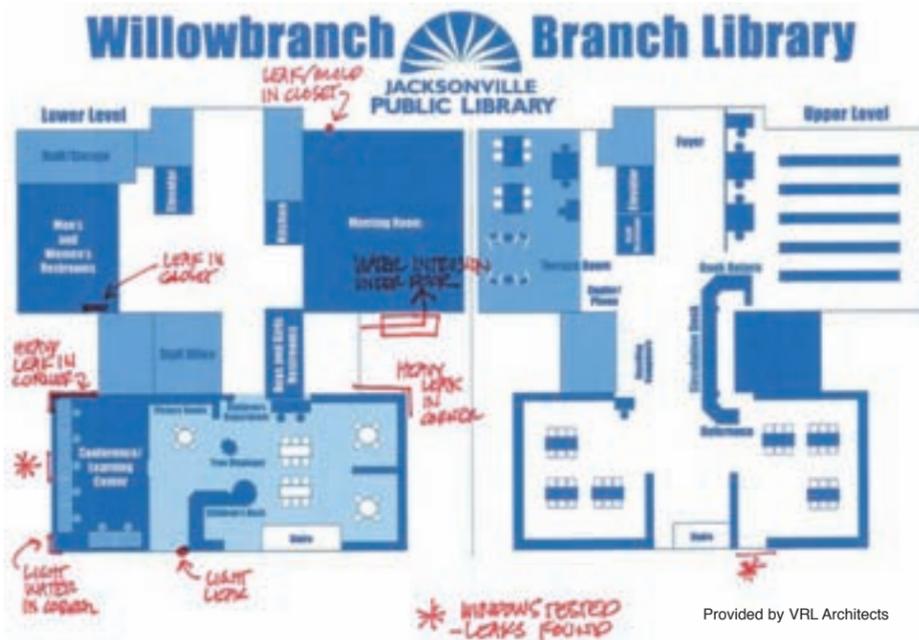
Just as in the Greek myth about a beautiful box (actually a jar), that when opened against all caution unleashed a world of woes, the branch library at 2875 Park Street is starting to look like a box of construction woes.

The 84-year-old structure is the oldest existing branch library in the Jacksonville Public Library system. Designed by Bernard Close and dedicated Nov. 17, 1930, it is said to be one of the last major Mediterranean Revival structures built in Florida.

After weathering the threat of closure in 1992 due to budgetary constraints, the building went through a \$1.6 million renovation in the mid-1990s, which added a children’s department and a conference/learning center. Further renovations were done in 2004, an underdrain was replaced in 2006, and emergency waterproofing repairs in 2010.

In May 2011 the Library’s Capacity Plan included a recommendation to turn Willowbranch into a genealogical repository, against protest by residents. That plan was shelved, according to Kathy Lussier, community relations and marketing manager. In 2013, Willow Branch was initially one of six libraries targeted for closure, again due to budgetary constraints.

In the meantime, the building has been leaking. Lussier noted that “over the last five years, the Children’s section in the basement has been closed for almost four of the five years due to water intrusion problems. It was closed



Provided by VRL Architects

for two years then opened and then closed again, and is now well into the second year of being closed – the second time.”

In 2012, water intrusion studies were done by at least three engineering firms, under the supervision of VRL Architects, to determine where the leaks were occurring and those studies resulted in a proposal to the City of Jacksonville Public Works Department in January 2013.

Water testing of windows indicated that water gained access to the interior and the walls through gaps in the framing system, perimeter joints, and damaged glazing material. The repair recommendations included waterproofing and window renovations.

Finally, a year later the project was awarded to VRL Architects for \$195,700. Currently, remodeling work is underway, including window restoration, flashing and drainage improvements, to resolve longstanding water intrusion issues.

Lussier is optimistic about the project. “We anticipate the work being completed in June or July. At this time, we do not expect to have to close the branch.”

### • A most revealing tour •

Last month *The Resident* met with Stephen Lazar, executive vice president and project architect at VRL Architects, to tour the construction site. During that tour, which included Kathleen Brunner, branch manager, and Roxanne Henkle, president of Friends of the Willow Branch Library, Lazar pointed out some recent “unforeseen” discoveries.

“It’s good to find these things,” said Lazar. “We’re still trying to agree on a procedure on these newly discovered conditions.”

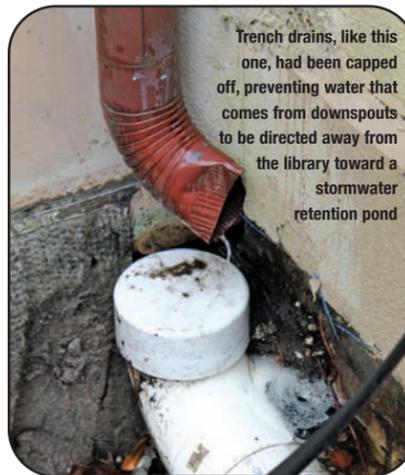
What they found when they removed some concrete slabs were drainage pipes that had been capped and covered up from prior construction work. “It’s a complicated project and that’s probably an understatement,” Lazar said. “It’s a beautiful building, but unfortunately designed by someone up north [who didn’t know that] we don’t do basements in Florida.”

The Pandoric box was opened once again. When *The Resident* asked about mold remediation, Lazar said he did not believe there was any mold, but the librarian said that was not the case. Brunner led the group to two storage closets in the lower level and pointed out evidence of mold growth on the walls and floors.

“That’s the first time anyone ever mentioned anything about this to us,” said Lazar. “But you can believe that when I leave here I won’t get 300 feet down the road before I’m on the phone.”

In the same room where mold was discovered in a storage closet – the meeting room which currently houses the children’s section – Brunner also said that a clogged drain outside of the building recently created a flood of “gunk that just spread across the room and my staff grabbed wet-dry vacs to suck it up.”

Suffice it to say, Lazar and his contractors have their work cut out, but



he’s not unduly alarmed by what’s been uncovered. “We have to think about each one of these situations and consider different alternatives...from taking all the dirt out, taking all the waterproofing off and starting again from scratch. That’s a major effort and above and beyond what we’re doing right

now,” he said.

Since the library’s \$1.6 million renovation nearly 20 years ago, the ongoing attempts to repair the leaks will, in the end, have cost the City close to half a million dollars.

“It’s been an ongoing project for a number of years; we’re trying to fix it ‘once and for all,’” concluded Lazar.

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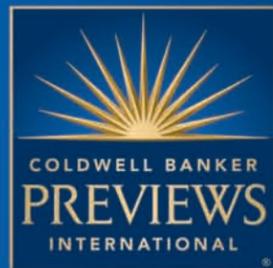
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# Boaters at Landing not sympathetic to Foxy Lady's needs

*Dinner cruise captain hopes docking compromise works*

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Just a little over a year ago, the Jacksonville Lady came to town, looking for a home.

The 96-foot Skipperliner, owned and operated by Captain John Michkowski of Foxy Lady Cruises, eventually found a permanent berth at River City Brewing Company. From there, Capt. Michkowski conducts public and private cruises on the St. Johns River.

He likes the set-up on the Southbank. "River City Brewing is secure, I have catering set up with them, there's parking," he said. "We work well together; it works out super with these guys."

A partnership with the Jacksonville Symphony, however, requires that the Jacksonville Lady load and unload guests for a pre-symphony dinner cruise from the Hogan Street or Pearl Street [W. Coastline Drive] docks. For nearly a year Michkowski was able to move the ship to the Northbank, setting up signs indicating the site was reserved for four hours, enough time to load, cruise and unload passengers.

Michkowski did so under Jacksonville Municipal Code Section 123.102, which states that "Vessels moored at the Northbank or Southbank Riverwalks shall pay a fee computed on length of vessel in feet, measured at the dock. Dockage will be based on 24-hour periods beginning with the time of arrival and ending with the time of departure.

Charges are \$1 per foot for dockage and water and \$1.15 per foot for dockage, water and electricity."

"I have an agreement with the City through Parks and Recreation that we can rent these docks, in front of the Hyatt, the water taxi dock, the Hogan Street or the Pearl Street dock," the captain explained. "I always have to go over and ask the boaters to move and they usually move. But I had a rude awakening a couple of weeks ago. This guy didn't want to move."

Michkowski tried to explain to the boater that he had reserved the dock to pick up 110 people for the symphony dinner cruise. He called Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator/Dock Master, who told him that those docks could not be reserved.

"The City ordinance is such that someone can park there for 72 hours and not have to leave," said Michkowski. "So it's Russian roulette every time we have to come over here to pick up guests."

Since the Lady's skipper couldn't get the boater at Hogan Street to budge, he decided to scope out space at Pearl Street where he encountered another boater. While seeming to be sympathetic at first, when push came to shove, that boater wasn't interested in moving either – until Michkowski proceeded to pace off the length and determined he could squeeze his 96-foot ship into the remaining dock space.

"We're trying to give our guests an option [to board on the Northbank] rather than busing them over to River City Brewing dock," he said. "I understand these are recreational docks and that boaters are going to be upset if we have permission to park there and we can reserve a spot."

## Suitable compromise?

Shortly after that incident, Michkowski's partner with the Symphony, Bill Cosnotti, appealed to Jim Love, District 14 Councilman, who convened a meeting on Apr. 2 to discuss dock space rules.

Captain Michkowski explained that he had worked with the Office of Economic Development prior to purchasing the new vessel for the Jacksonville market. Foxy Lady Cruises operates a sister ship in Green Bay, WI and he wanted to explore a warmer climate.

"Bring people in from out of town, that's what we want to do, bring them Downtown," he explained. "I haven't tapped the [tour] bus market yet on purpose. Typically older people on the buses can't walk long distances to get to us."

The walk from the parking lot at River City Brewing down to the Jacksonville Lady's slip would be a long walk for the typical tour bus set, so Michkowski thought space on the Northbank Riverwalk would solve that problem.

"I can't park in front of The Landing as it will block patrons' view," he noted. "I would prefer to be near Hogan Street for the Omni and Hyatt hotel guests." The meeting minutes noted that Suber indicated Foxy Lady Cruises had started out using the

Liberty Street dock but it was too far for guests coming from the symphony or the Omni Hotel.



Captain John Michkowski getting ready to depart from the Hogan Street dock

Michkowski also said there was not enough parking at Liberty Street.

After deliberation and a review of the ordinances, Paige Johnston, Assistant General Counsel, was asked to put together legislation to amend a current 10-minute docking zone rule at Pearl Street by extending it to 30 minutes. The change would affect all vessels, including recreational boats, reducing the number of loading/unloading instances from six per hour to two.

"To make it a 30-minute loading/unloading zone for everybody is a good idea for now until they can make something permanent," Michkowski said. "I was left with the impression that they will look at that."

## What do you think?

The change to the docking ordinance for loading/unloading will extend the Pearl Street dock zone times to accommodate Foxy Lady Cruises. The captain will need two 30-minute periods for loading and unloading passengers. Previously he would reserve the space for four-hour periods, ensuring that upon return from the dinner cruise he would have space to disembark his guests.

Let us know if you think the change from a 10-minute to a 30-minute docking period will have any drastic or adverse effects on boater access to The Landing. Is it a fair compromise? Send your thoughts to editor@residentnews.net by May 15.

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# Growler Bill has craft brewers snarling

*Senate bill unacceptable to industry*

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Florida Senate appears to be letting “big business” have its foot-stomping way, as senators voted 30 to 10 to support Senate Bill 1714, which will severely restrict how craft breweries conduct business – and make money.

It all began last year, when craft brewers asked for a change in legislation to allow distribution of a 64-ounce growler. Fourteen months later the result could have disastrous consequences for Florida’s popular brew pubs, among them Intuition Ale Works, Aardwolf Brewing Company and Bold City Brewery.

Back in March 2013, Senate Bill 1344 was passed to decrease regulation on permissible container sizes under Florida Law Section 563.06, F.S. which only permitted the smaller (32 oz.) or larger (128 oz.) bottles. That law permitting a 64 oz. container was to have gone into effect July 1, 2013.

## Enter the big boys

The craft beer industry is small, accounting for about eight percent of all beer sold nationally, and in Florida the market share is less than six percent. According to the Brewers Association there are 47 craft brew-friendly states – Florida is not among them – that permit beer makers to distribute their own beer under various limitations.

Enter Anheuser-Busch InBev, a Belgian-Brazilian multinational beverage and brewing company headquartered in Belgium. It is the world’s largest brewer and has a 47 percent market share in the United States. Apparently, for Florida senators, that’s not enough.

Senate President Don Gaetz endorses SB 1714, much to the dismay of the 50 or so craft brewers in Florida. SB 1714 supports the three-tier system of manufacturer to distributor to retailer without any consideration for the craft brewer. Brew pubs cut out the middle man for sales of packaged products from their tap rooms, but do use distributors to sell those packaged products to retailers.

The bill would limit craft brewers to selling just 20% of their total production out of the taproom, based on a limit of 2,000 kegs per year. Anything produced above that would require the brewers to sell it to a distributor, then buy it back at a 30% markup for taproom sales.

## Local brewers speak up

Intuition Ale Works founder Ben Davis said that the bill “requires craft brewers to sell our bottled and canned beer directly to a distributor and buy it back from the distributor if we want to sell it in our own taproom! This would end Underdark Day as we now know it and cut into the profits of locally-owned small breweries across the state.”

Susan Miller, owner of Bold City Brewery, noted, “The main issue with

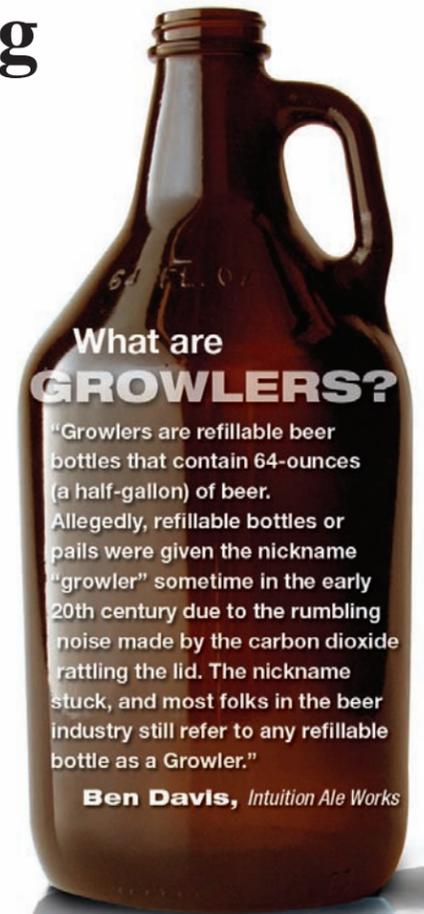
SB 1714 is that breweries would not be allowed to sell their packaged products (bottles, cans and kegs) directly to the public without purchasing it back from the distributors. I can see how some breweries would see this as a problem, given that small breweries depend on their taproom income heavily, especially when first starting up. Many breweries have planned bottle releases during the year and sell them exclusively out of their taprooms. Those would not be allowed, unless they sold the special brew in quart growlers, which is not optimal.”

According to Davis, SB 1714 is “places ridiculous additional regulations on our taproom operations and basically is a shakedown proposed by the wholesalers.”

Aardwolf’s co-founder Preben Olsen shares that sentiment. “This bill is completely unacceptable and this sentiment is unanimously shared by all members of the Florida Brewers Guild,” he said. “‘Allowing’ breweries to sell 64 ounce growlers is only a guise to build support in the senate while simultaneously placing new, unnecessarily strict and undue regulations on the budding industry.”

## Unacceptable in any iteration

The bill, which has gone through several revisions, was passed on Apr. 29. The last iteration of the bill would permit taprooms to sell bottles or cans for on-premises consumption, but as noted earlier, with limitations on volume.



“This bill takes revenue from my business and gives it to wholesalers. The half-gallon growler is not worth the price of new regulation and a decrease in our revenue,” Davis said.

For Jacksonville’s craft brewers and their loyal customers, Olsen found the elephant in the room. “It’s sad when public officials are supposed to be for the people, only to seek to serve those who line their own pockets, especially when those interests are of foreign owned, conglomerate companies versus that of a new, local start up,” Olsen noted.

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# Fair winds of change at Cultural Council

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When it comes to powerful Jacksonville advocates of the arts and culture, two names rise to the top repeatedly: Robert Arleigh White and Tony Allegretti. Each of these men is an icon of the arts community, each having taken major leadership roles in promoting and enhancing creativity on the First Coast. So, with Tony Allegretti now the new Executive Director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, following a 13-year stint of outstanding leadership of the Council by Robert Arleigh White (2000 to 2013), it is a win-win scenario for all concerned.

"The conditions are brilliant," commented Allegretti as to his May 1, 2014 transition into the leadership role at the Cultural Council. "I'm so lucky to come on at this time and I want to keep and expand upon the excellent work Bob and his staff have done as grant-makers. The Council's investments in the 20-plus art institutions in this city have garnered such a good return that I'm going to continue working closely with those institutions in addition to building new programs."

Among the new programs mentioned by Allegretti are the SPARK District, The Looking Lab, Jacksonville Songwriters Residency, Swamp Radio and a new sculpture installation in the Main Street Park coming in September. And, just as their devotion to the City of Jacksonville and the arts and culture



of Northeast Florida have created parallel paths in the past, Allegretti and White will continue working in many of the same arenas going forward.

## Parallel paths past and present

For example, White has been a segment producer, writer and performer with Swamp Radio since its first live performance in July of 2013.

"Swamp Radio is a podcast that can be heard from time to time on WJCT," explained White. "It is akin to a Prairie Home Companion, but instead of focusing on a fictional place, it is about Northeast Florida. White notes that Swamp Radio creator Ian Mairs is most generous and regularly features local talent such as storyteller Derek Coughlin, musicians Grandpa's Cough Medicine, historian Emily Lisska, the Willow Waks (a young couple from St. Augustine), and more.

White and long-time collaborator Charlotte Mabry (principal percussionist with the JSO) recently participated in a performance for Swamp Radio podcasts at the Florida Theater. White and Mabry have also performed at the Lazarra Hall at UNF, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Another parallel between the current and former Executive Directors of the

Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is their connection with Theatre Jacksonville; White having served as executive and artistic director for 10 years and Allegretti serving as marketing director thereafter for several years. During White's years at Theatre Jacksonville, he was directly responsible for the artistic direction of 50 plays and worked to produce dozens more, increasing annual attendance from 16,000 to 84,000.

As head of the Cultural Council, White advanced the success of arts organizations in Northeast Florida through vigorous advocacy at local, state and national levels. Under his leadership, the Council maintained funding for dozens of partner organizations during one of the nation's most challenging economic downturns. In addition to promoting myriad arts initiatives, and being actively involved in Leadership Jacksonville, White, with the help of his staff, created a first-ever "economic impact statement" for arts and culture which is now emulated by arts organizations throughout the state.

White's successful decades-long legislative and community advocacy have garnered him a Mayoral Proclamation, a City Council Resolution and, most recently, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville has named its most prestigious award The Robert Arleigh White Award for Arts Advocacy.

"I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to put my skills and talents to work for these fine organizations," said White, adding that he is excited his friend, Tony Allegretti, now has the opportunity to use his experience, energy, imagination and unlimited capacity on behalf of the Cultural Council.

## Impressive résumé

Allegretti most certainly has vast experience in the arts community of Jacksonville. Since 2001, he has racked up an amazing portfolio of projects and events in which he was integrally involved. These include the magazine Springfield Arts and Living, a charitable event called Art & Bill's, a productive stint as marketing director of Theatre Jax, producing the soundtrack for Hamlet at the last Shakespeare at the Met in 2001 with Lester Shane, Culturati (art event) in 2001, 100 Windows of Art with Downtown Vision, Art Walk (10 years beginning

in November 2003), helping launch David Luckin's Electro Lounge on NPR, first director of RAM (Riverside Arts Market), Community First Saturdays, Downtown Perspective Series, Skyway Report, and most recently, as a creator at One Spark.

A partner in Burrito Gallery and Uptown Market, Tony Allegretti is also Chair of the Experience Committee and a member of the Bold City Brigade. In his "spare" time away from the arts and cultural community, Allegretti was also a consultant for Hospice, meeting to talk with families about the benefit.

With the reputation of being the acknowledged "Downtown Jacksonville Aficionado," Allegretti is passionate about the "collective creativity" of Jacksonville's arts community and the general camaraderie of the people on the First Coast. And, speaking of collective creativity, the combined talent and energy of former executive director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Robert Arleigh White, and current executive director, Tony Allegretti, is phenomenal.

For future reference, a few decades from now when a new generation of creators takes the helm in the cultural and arts scene of Jacksonville, it is helpful to contemplate what inspired these two Jacksonville icons of creativity.

Robert Arleigh White's first taste of theatre occurred when he was 14, attending high school in Honolulu, Hawaii, where his father, Navy Commander Robert White, was stationed. "My best friend there, Leonard Thiesen, said, 'Hey, they're having auditions after school today. We should do that.' And we did. The rest is history. By the way, small world, Leonard lives in Avondale today, half a mile away from where I live."

For San Marco resident Tony Allegretti, the daily inspiration comes from the encouragement of his wife Tammy and two young children, as well as memories of his mother's tenacious "can-do" attitude while raising her children, working full-time, volunteering and being creative.

Currently, as Allegretti takes the leadership role at the Cultural Council, White is busy as principal at Robert Arleigh White and Associates, advising clients on legislative strategy, fundraising and organizational development. "There's something different every day now. It's an exciting time for Jacksonville and for me," says White. "The possibilities are limitless."

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— Author Unknown

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# Hot, sunny days hinder fence repair



When Stephen Lafave's brick fence along St. John's Avenue was partially destroyed by a late night motorist in early February, he lamented that it would be difficult to match the historic bricks and to find a mason to fix the wall.

Now, just three months later, the fence has been repaired – or nearly so – by someone who thrives on "historical match work." Coincidentally, Jeff Dietz had repaired another wall on LaFave's

property some years ago, so he knew immediately what he was up against.

"When I saw the accident on the front wall, I called him [LaFave] right away and asked to help with it. I'm going to try to put it back the best I can," said Dietz, who owns a home design and construction business in Ortega.

"One of the challenges is that we can only work in the mornings because the southern exposure sets up the mud too fast," he explained.

"We have to go slow with brick selection and it's taking more time than I thought."

But, weather aside, the project will have been completed in less than a month, and the brick fence will have been restored to nearly its former beauty.

"You can never replicate the aging [of the brick]," said Dietz, "but we saved and re-used the best."

For LaFave's peace of mind, one hopes that motorists will put on the brakes driving along that stretch of St. John's Avenue.



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# Memorial Park Association chosen for Donate Your Dime

The Memorial Park Association restoration fund is getting a little boost from a grocery store.

Until mid-July, when you shop at the Whole Foods Store in Mandarin, they will donate one dime back to the Memorial Park Association for every bag you bring for your groceries. At checkout, simply let the clerk know that you would like to donate your dime back to Memorial Park.

"We are all enthusiastic about the funding support Donate Your Dime

may allow, as well as casting the net a little wider for awareness of the Association and park," said Patricia Houlihan, president of Memorial Park Association. "Please spread the word – our dimes add up!"

## Special park event

Mark your calendars for a Memorial Day Event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. The association will hold the event on Monday, May 26, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the park.

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# Resident concerned about traffic in Avondale

My husband and I live on Hedrick Street, which is two blocks off the Shoppes of Avondale on St. Johns Avenue. We drive through the retail area often to go out and come home, and frequent the shops on foot.

Because vehicles today are so large, and the shoppes so busy (a good thing!), we regularly need to pull out well into the roadway to see past large autos and trucks parked on St. Johns Avenue before pulling out of Dancy or Ingleside or Talbot. Already very dangerous. We have almost been hit broad-side several times at the above intersections. Add to that cars slamming on brakes and/or backing up to grab a parking spot in the strip. Add to that speeding cars in the strip, a common occurrence.

I very much appreciate Councilman Love's changing the speed limit to 25. However, I feel that was just a tiny step in the right direction. People are still exceeding the speed limit. I propose dropping the speed limit to 10 or 15 miles



per hour from at least Dancy to Edgewood on St. Johns Avenue. And enforce it. Once word is out that tickets are actually being written, many dangerous situations will be eliminated. Compare downtown Avondale to a school zone...high foot and car traffic. Please prevent the inevitable in the future for all drivers and walkers in this intensely traveled area. Help keep everyone safe. **Thank you.**

— Margie Huber

## Councilman Love seeks the best solution

As a result of Mrs. Huber's letter, *The Resident* asked District 14 Councilman Jim Love to look into a solution with the Florida Department of Transportation. Councilman Love wrote to James Bennett, Urban Transportation Development Manager, FDOT District 2.

Love offered two ideas for consideration. One is to apply some type of traffic-calming method, such as a roundabout at Edgewood and St. John's avenues; the other was to have FDOT deed a portion of St. John's Avenue – through the Shoppes of Avondale – to the City of Jacksonville in order to lower the speed limit.

The Councilman indicated that the FDOT's Traffic Operations Engineer is considering



solutions, but shared that Bennett stated that roundabouts do not always create a better pedestrian environment because pedestrians do not have a right-of-way as vehicles never have to come to a stop.

Bennett also indicated in his response to Love that the FDOT has previously expressed interest in transferring that roadway to the City, which has "strongly objected" to taking ownership due to maintenance responsibilities.

*The Resident* will keep readers informed of the outcome of Councilman Love's request. If you have an idea for traffic calming through the Shoppes of Avondale, please let us know. Send your

thoughts to editor@residentnews.net.



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## Traditions team gives solid advice for complex real estate market

Traditions Realty is aptly named, particularly when serving the traditionally discerning residents of Jacksonville who have come to expect excellence and nothing less.

“Our family feels at home every time we walk into Traditions, and we have absolute faith and trust that our Realtors will handle our real estate needs with as much care and thought as they would their own families,” said Lori Shad, whose family works exclusively with the experienced and knowledgeable Realtors at Traditions to buy, sell and rent their properties. “We know we’ll always get solid advice about the best way to handle our complex real estate situations,” Shad shared, “and this advice is rooted in the many decades of experience represented by the team of Realtors at Traditions.”

It was in 2009, during one of the worst economic downturns in recent history, that five seasoned Realtors got together and formed Traditions Realty, LLC, a full-service firm based in historic Riverside. Adhering to that uniquely American tradition of facing adversity head-on and never giving up, the team at Traditions built their reputation by listening to people and knowing the market trends. “Listening and knowing are two actions that have sustained us in these challenging times and helped us become the go-to company for buying, selling or renting homes in Northeast Florida,” said Sacha



Higham, one of the original partners in Traditions.

Now celebrating its 5th anniversary, Traditions Realty has grown to more than 30 agents, and from its original location on Park Street to an historic two-story home at 1046 Riverside Avenue, just a block south of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Again, the Traditions name aptly describes the solid, tasteful elegance of the high ceilings and wooden floors of the charming historic home

“The cooperative attitude at Traditions

means that every agent’s unique talents are shared with the buyer or seller,” said Shad. “Realtors in the office frequently team up to provide the best service for clients.”

Karin Tucker of Riverside agreed. “I have listed, rented and bought property through Traditions Realty with Beth King as my Realtor,” said Tucker. “Their professionalism and advice have left me feeling knowledgeable and secure.”

Sally Suslak, the managing broker of Traditions Realty, resides in an historic

home in Riverside and is President Elect of NEFAR and a Director for Florida REALTORS. “Riverside and Avondale, as with most historic districts, have achieved high “walkability” scores nationally,” said Suslak. “At Traditions Realty, we bring to our customers that same warm, neighborly feeling of taking a walk with a friend around the block to your new home.”

Buying or selling, the housing market is a complicated place. To find the house of your dreams or, when selling, to get the price-point you want, you need a dependable, knowledgeable expert by your side. Traditions Realtors know Jacksonville; they know the communities, the properties, and the people who are looking to buy or sell them. By providing widespread advertising, a comprehensive analysis of your property worth and market values, guidance and support through the selling process, and fast results, Traditions guarantees your experience will be a profitable and enjoyable one.

“Our office is filled with listening agents who take the time to provide an in-depth consultation to determine the individual needs of our clients and then go out of their way to meet and exceed those needs,” said Higham. “This is an exciting time for real estate...our city is growing by leaps and bounds. It’s thrilling to be part of that growth!”

To find your perfect home today, call Traditions Realty at (904) 683-5230, visit [traditionsjax.com](http://traditionsjax.com), or stop by their historic office at 1046 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32204.



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# One Spark a bright move for aquarium advocates

*AquaJax wins crowdfunding votes*

BY KATE A. HALLOCK  
 RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It's old news at this point that visitors to the 2nd annual One Spark crowdfunding festival put their money where their votes were for an aquarium in Downtown Jacksonville.

But, the people behind AquaJax – the name of the advocacy group for a Jacksonville aquarium – are convinced that “the people have spoken” and they continue to make great strides forward.

Within two weeks after the festival ended, George Harrell, president of AquaJax, met with Harold Samms, the JTA's senior manager of service delivery, at Visit Jacksonville's office. “They [the JTA] want us to incorporate in the aquarium design a station for the Skyway; they are proposing to extend the Skyway to the aquarium,” said Harrell in an interview with *The Resident* late last month. “The aquarium then becomes the glue that holds Downtown together with the sports complexes.”

During that exclusive interview with Harrell and San Jose resident Tuzk Taaca, the men shared excitement about The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' partnership with AquaJax, but expressed disappointment that the

Downtown Investment Authority's community redevelopment plan released last month did not specify support for an aquarium. “When the draft paper came out there was no mention of tourism, not a word. By the next meeting, I had word that they added tourism to the business plan, but did not specify the aquarium,” Harrell said. *The Resident* obtained a copy of the plan, but it was not immediately clear that tourism in any shape was part of that plan, which appears to focus on venues such as Snyder Memorial, Hemming Plaza, MOSH, and Friendship Fountain as well as retail enhancement, housing, signage, lighting and cleaning, and Art in Public Places.

## Visit Jacksonville in AquaJax's corner

In addition to support from the Zoo and the JTA, the City's tourism bureau is also pulling for the aquarium.

“Visit Jacksonville commends AquaJax for its desire to revitalize the downtown area by building a new attraction to bring more visitors to Northeast Florida and the City of Jacksonville,” said Paul Astleford, CEO of Visit Jacksonville. “The AquaJax group is among a number of organizations that are promoting innovative plans to increase awareness about our city and bolster tourism here.”

Last year, tourism accounted for \$2.2 billion in direct and indirect economic impact to Jacksonville. “A world class aquarium in Jacksonville would certainly increase that impact significantly – not only benefiting the tourism industry, but also all of us who live, work and play here,” Astleford noted.

## When, where, how

If the momentum continues, Harrell predicts that they could be cutting the ribbon in three years. The group projects one million visitors its first year, which could generate over \$335 million in direct spending and another \$5.6 million in bed tax revenues.

Where that ribbon-cutting will occur remains to be seen. Harrell and Taaca left the interview with *The Resident* for a tour of two potential sites near Metro Park, the most advantages being the vacant property directly behind Metro Park Marina, where a children's park used to reside. “The one piece of the puzzle that we don't have yet is to get the City to lease us the land,” said

Harrell. “It would be perfect. There's a room there to accommodate the JTA station.”

As for financing, the prize money received from One Spark – nearly \$14,000 – is just a drop in the bucket compared to the projected \$100-125 million cost for an aquarium with a five-acre footprint. But it's a start in helping to further the cause, and it's been reported that AquaJax would seek to obtain 40 percent to 50 percent of the project cost through fundraising, from both private individuals and corporate sponsors, in exchange for naming rights to different exhibits and venues within the aquarium.

## Who's behind AquaJax

Along with Harrell, AquaJax's “inner sanctum” includes a variety of individuals from all other Jacksonville, among them Brad Huber, a commercial real estate investor who handles AquaJax's real estate and, as the project advances, its financing; Paul Astleford, CEO for Visit Jacksonville, who introduced Harrell to Dan Maloney, Deputy Director of Conservation and Education for the Jacksonville Zoo; Paul Frase, former NFL player and president of The Joshua Frase Foundation; Lisa Almeida, CEO of two local chapters of The Freedom Boat Club and recently named Up and Coming Entrepreneur of the Year at the Women in Business Awards; Lew Belkin, former economic development director for the Jacksonville Housing Authority, Dean Phifer, an aquarium guru who is also working with the nonprofit group to bring the USS Charles Adams to the Northbank, Alex Sifakis, president and founding partner of JWB Real Estate Capital, and Tuzk Taaca, president/owner of Safety First CPR and Safety Training.

The core for the nonprofit advocacy group also includes 12-year-old Carly, a sixth grade student at Mayport Middle School who badly wants to be a marine biologist and feels an aquarium in Jacksonville will help her reach her goal.

According to Taaca, “I have my personal reason for wanting an aquarium...I want it for the kids! All over the country, aquariums have educated, inspired, and motivated youngsters of all ages. Our project can bring what our kids read and study in school to life!”

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Local bank notes five years at San Juan and Herschel

Florida Bank, headquartered in Tampa, serves customers at three locations in the greater Jacksonville area, including its branch at 4211 San Juan Avenue, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary on that corner. According to branch manager Tanya Guydos "We're excited to be celebrating five years in this neighborhood. It's been really well accepted."

Florida Bank also participates in the community, partnering with a local veterinarian to provide a location for pet vaccinations. "The idea of having a smaller community bank here



The Florida Bank staff, here to serve you – Mercedes Cooper, Jamie Ray, David Dantini, Tanya Guydos, Sandra Moore (not pictured)

has been really good for us; it's a nice location," said Guydos.

## Timuquana CC hires banquet manager

Timuquana Country Club has a new Banquet and Special Events Manager. Shay Broderick, a North Florida native, is moving back to the area after a stint with a top New York City public relations firm. Broderick will assist the club's members in planning events including weddings, debutante parties and meetings.



"Shay is a great addition to our staff," said Nathan Stewart, general manager. "She is very experienced in event management and planning, and brings a lot of enthusiasm."

Broderick is a graduate of the University of Florida, was a member of Delta Delta Delta and was active in campus activities.

## Renowned surgeons lead new Stroke Center

Avondale resident Eric Sauvageau, M.D. is one of two internationally renowned neurovascular surgeons who have joined the staff of Baptist Health and Lyerly Neurosurgery to lead the region's only stroke and cerebrovascular center. He joins Ricardo Hanel, M.D., Ph.D., at Baptist Medical Center to provide adults and children access to stroke and other cerebrovascular care.

Considered the most experienced cerebrovascular surgeons in the region, both have advanced endovascular fellowship training from the State University of New York at Buffalo and Neurovascular and Skull Base training at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Ariz.



The new Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center adds the final building block of Baptist's comprehensive neurological services to provide advanced minimally invasive procedures that will make a profound difference in the lives of patients and their families.

With facilities unlike any other in the country, four floors of the Wayne and Delores B. Weaver Tower are being dedicated to the care of neurological patients.

"We are available 24/7 with neuro-critical care coverage to take care of the community," Dr. Sauvageau said. "There is no single neurological, cerebrovascular or neuro-oncological disease that cannot be treated by Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville."

## Lanier receives Catholic healthcare award

Jane R. Lanier, President and Chief Development Officer, St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, has been awarded the Sister Mary Concilia Moran Award for her dedication and service to Catholic healthcare. Lanier, an Ortega resident, was appointed Executive Director of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation in 1999.

"It is an honor to be recognized by such an incredible organization as the Catholic Health

Association," said Lanier.

"Our vision comes from faith and trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are to be His eyes and ears, His hands and feet, and bring His compassion and caring through our hospitals and community programs. Only then can we refer to our business as a health ministry."



## Hugh's Riverside Automotive – keeping motors revving for 20 years



Celebrating 20 years of servicing the automotive needs of the community, Hugh Gunter and son-in-law Eric Juchniewicz look forward to many more years at 620 Chelsea Street. "We've got over five generations that have run this business and it's our 20th year in business. My technicians are seasoned and, collectively, we've got over 155 years of experience," said Gunter. Stop in and see what an honest, trustworthy mechanic can do for your vehicle.

## New men's grooming service opens in Shoppes

Ken Moore, of International Blades & Shears, has recently opened shop offering elegant grooming services for men in The Shoppes of Avondale. Serving its male clientele from head to toe, the barbershop and spa is a step back in time when men were serious



about their grooming. "My daughter goes to Fishweir so I became aware of the area and really liked it," said Moore, who recently retired from the Navy. Moore and his staff welcome you at 3616 St. John's Avenue.

## Ray Ware Hardware still prestigious at 75

Four generations strong, Ray Ware Hardware is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its 1939 beginnings. Once on Riverside Avenue, the hardware boutique at 4048 Herschel Street is a lasting family business that has a legacy of offering unique decorative cabinet hardware, door hardware, plumbing fixtures and more. Get down to brass tacks – or stainless, ceramic and more – when it comes to creating your home's unique style.



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# Coldwell Banker opens with a fresh perspective

The agents at the Avondale Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty office couldn't be happier with their new space. After months of renovations, the newly minted build out is now complete with glass enclosures, unique workspaces and a clean new look.

"Today's really, really special to us, we've had a long path to get here. We closed our doors about three and a half months ago and it wasn't an easy transition for us," said Broker Charles Boyett. "To see our team come together and actually grow during this down time is really quite special, as a unit we've bonded." The unveiling came complete with a reception with the Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting, a food truck and



refreshments, over 150 visitors stopped in to see the new space April 8. Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty occupies office space on the corner of Ingleside and St. Johns Avenues at 3610 St. Johns Avenue.

# Avondale Travel welcomes cruisers and jet setters



There's a new option available for those seeking a well planned, unique travel experience anywhere in the world, the best part— all of the arrangements can be made

by a trusted team right in your neighborhood. After all, Lou Black and his daughter Leigh Elizabeth Bryan have been in the business of satisfying clients since Leigh was an infant. Leigh is now the President of the local Avondale Travel office located at 3657 St. Johns Avenue and she's poised to use her travel expertise and put it to work.

"I learned to cruise before I could crawl," said Leigh. "Whether he knew it or not, my dad was slowly grooming me for a career in business, I loved listening to him work deals growing up." Lou and Leigh are proud to rebrand the Avondale Travel name, as Lou had once sold the travel agency and affiliated networks for a hefty sum years ago to a larger conglomerate. The Avondale Travel name is back in the family and service to the next generation of travelers is underway.

# Riverside attorney named to Haiti Children Project Board

Sean Cronin, an attorney at Riverside-based Cronin & Maxwell, was

elected to the Board of Directors of the Haiti Children Project, a South Carolina-based charity that provides shelter, education, medical assistance and spiritual guidance to children in the western Haitian town of Jeremie.

Haiti Children Project supports projects at the Gebeau Complex in Jeremie that include an orphanage that cares for 39 children and the fully functioning Gebeau Medical Clinic, which offers primary and emergency medicine, dental care, a pharmacy and a tuberculosis (TB) clinic.

Cronin became involved with Haiti

Children Project and the TB Clinic through Orange Park United Methodist Church. It sponsors and supports the TB Clinic by providing diagnostic equipment such as x-ray machines, medical supplies, funding and volunteers.



Cronin has taken several mission trips to the TB Clinic and seen its positive impact. "With 50% of the Haitian population testing positive for TB, it provides a vital resource to help educate, diagnose and treat people with this ravaging disease," Cronin said.

For more information about Haiti Children Project, visit [Haiti.project.org](http://Haiti.project.org) or call (803) 513-0114.

# Community Loaves opens storefront

The gals behind Community Loaves recently expanded their wholesale and market operations, opening a retail shop at their Murry Hill baking facility. Now fans of their fresh baked sourdough and other baked goods can stop in at 1120 Edgewood Avenue S, Wednesdays through Saturdays. Owners Sarah Bogdanovitch and Meredith Corey-Disch describe themselves as "girls who want to deliver bread on bikes" but their hearth ovens keep them so busy they've enlisted Ben Wilson of Community Couriers to help with deliveries. Call (904) 381-0097 for shop hours.



Sarah Bogdanovitch and Meredith Corey-Disch

# Local actor in Broadway musical national tour

Avondale resident Mark Poppleton has a role in the national tour of the Broadway musical, The Addams Family! Poppleton plays Mal Beineke, the father of Wednesday Addam's normal boyfriend, in the one-night show presented by the FSCJ Artist Series on Friday, May 2 at the Times-Union Center's Moran Theater. "If your kids don't know the Addams, this is a family-friendly chance to introduce them to one of your old favorites," said the actor.



Poppleton has several shows and independent films under his belt, including roles in My Fair Lady and White Christmas at the Alhambra.

"I think that any time you can see a live show – whether a musical, a play, a concert – you treat yourself by going to see it," Poppleton said. "I have been doing theater for so much of my life, and it still amazes me how many people have never been to the theater."

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H E A L T H C A R E

# Garden to Table Dinner debuts Ninah May Holden Cummer Awards

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens hosted the second annual Garden to Table Dinner on Mar. 31, and debuted the inaugural Ninah May Holden Cummer Awards.

The launch of the new awards program recognized local members of the community who have helped build artful connections between people and the environment. Award recipients included Bitty McRae for the Individual Award, Jim Draper for the Artist Award, the St. Johns Riverkeeper for the Community Award, and the Haskell Company for the Corporate Award.

The Cummer celebrated McRae's vision for preserving spaces that are beautiful and accessible by honoring the Riverside resident with the inaugural



Bitty McRae, recipient of the Ninah May Holden Cummer Individual Award, with Preston Haskell, accepting the Ninah May Holden Cummer Corporate Award for the Haskell Company.

Ninah May Holden Cummer Individual Award. For over five decades she has provided unparalleled support to The Cummer and to Memorial Park in a tireless commitment to preserving gardens and parks across the region.

McRae was the first Chair of The Cummer Ball in 1978 and served a ten-year term on The Cummer Board before forming a Garden Committee and leading the restoration of The Cummer Gardens for 12 years. McRae is also a founding member of the Memorial Park Association and can often be found orchestrating plantings to maintain the park she has grown to love.

# A beautiful day in the neighborhood for RAP Home Tour



Keith Waldrip with Nicole Cole

Who can't resist the chance to peek at some of the area's unique homes?



Linda and Steve Johnson take in history in their antique Mercedes Roadster, a 1982 380SL hardtop convertible, as they were enjoying the tour on Seminole Road

Tour has been a great fundraiser for RAP and we were certainly blessed this weekend with fabulous

Tour Homes and beautiful weather," she said.

According to Walker, local neighbors and visitors from outside of the city, and even from out-of-state, came to see the wonderful Tour sites. "One comment I heard over and over during the

This year RAP Home Tour offered a delightful variety of new and old, large and small homes in several styles.

Joy Walker, Home Tour Chair, bubbled over with enthusiasm for the event.

"This year's 40th Anniversary Home

Tour, was 'I have walked past this home in awe for so many years and always wondered what the house was like inside. Please thank the homeowner for allowing me to come in and take a look around,'" Walker shared.

"On behalf of RAP and myself, I



The Home of RAP Founder Wayne Wood hosted plenty of visitors, complete with tipi in the side yard

would like to thank the homeowners who invite people to come inside and to share a bit of their life, and Wayne Wood, RAP's founder who had his lovely home on this year's Tour," she said.

Walker also noted that Ethan Allen, C&K Designs, as well as all the decorators, sponsors and volunteers made the RAP Tour a big success for another year.

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# Social REGISTER



## Local realtors come together for charity

“Keep it local” was the focus for participants and sponsors at the Megastar Invitational Cosmic Bowling Challenge in March. Local realtors in Riverside, Avondale and Ortega bowled for charity. Traditions Realty, Coldwell Banker, Exit Realty, Fred Miller Group and Watson Realty put together teams and competed for the top prize, which included a donation to the charity of the winner’s choice.

“It’s a fantastic group of Realtors. It was great to see professionally competing offices come together for a night of fun and friendly competition,” said Mark Ross, Mortgage Loan Officer, Megastar Financial

Corporation. “The first annual Megastar Invitational Cosmic bowling Challenge was far more successful than we had ever imagined. Special thanks to the participating offices as well as the local sponsors.”

Exit Realty came out on top with 378 points and took home the first place trophy as well as bragging rights. The agency chose the Jacksonville Humane Society as the charity of its choice and donated \$300.

Second place went to the Fred Miller Group and Watson Realty was the third place winner. The realtor with the highest score was Watson Realty’s Todd Jarvis, who bowled a 146.

## Riverside Presbyterian supports Angelwood



Rev. Michael Williams and Sharon Williams with Alexis Woods from Angelwood

Members and clergy from Riverside Presbyterian Church came out to support Angelwood, a local non-profit organization serving children and adults with developmental disabilities, not only by playing golf but also volunteering as they have for many years. The Angelwood Golf Classic was held early last month at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club and proceeds benefited programs such as respite care, behavior services, summer day camp and an arts-based adult day training program. Angelwood serves to improve quality of life for those with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, Spina Bifida and intellectual disabilities.



Rev. Dr. Stephen Goyer, Rev. Bill Hoff, Joe Eberly, Palmer Bell



Sarah and Brent Trauger

## Daniel Kids the real winners at annual BBQ championship

Grills were manned and basting brushes wielded as more than 50 teams, including Fred Miller Group of Ortega, competed for top honors at the 6th Annual Jacksonville Backyard BBQ Championship. EverBank Field was filled with about 2,500 supporters of both Daniel Kids and each BBQ team at the event to raise funds for the Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship for Daniel Kids. Participants voted Elkins Construction as the People’s Choice for the third year in a row, while judges crowned JAMS BBQ the Amateur Backyard BBQ Champs and 2 Smokin’ White Boys won the Pro Division Championship.



Fred Miller Group got in on the action



Elkins Construction was voted 'People's Choice'

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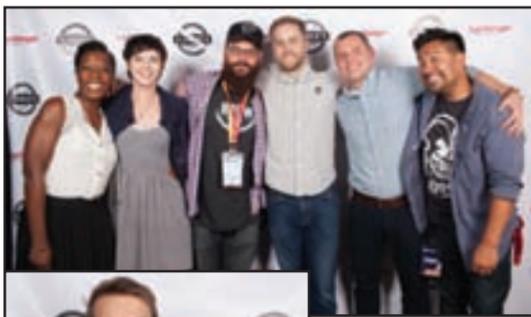
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# The Elements – fitting name for new MOSH group

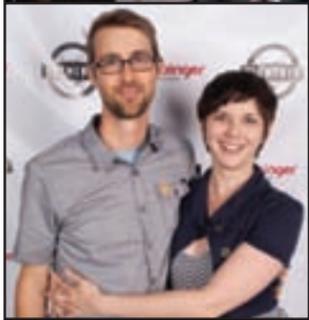
The Museum of Science and History launched a new member-based supporters group geared toward young professionals ages 21 to 20. The Elements board members are Christian Harden, Board Chair; Crystal Floyd, Co-Chair; Guy Barnhart, Sorcha Baty, Annie Bryan, Clay Doran, Sondra Fetner, Rachel Landis, Varick Rosete and Jack Twachtman.

Sorcha Baty, executive assistant for MOSH, said “I grew up in Jacksonville and have some really great memories of my time at MOSH. My motivation is to reignite people within my age group about this amazing museum and show them that the museum they loved as kids can still interest them today as young adults.”

The Elements will sponsor social, educational and volunteer events to support MOSH.



Above: Elements Board Members Sorcha Baty, Crystal Floyd, Jack Twachtman, Christian Harden, Guy Barnhart, Varick Rosete



Left: Shaun Thurston, Crystal Floyd



Tom Sandlin, Allison Deppe, Alise Ferranti

## CAPTivators 2nd Annual Run Your HeART Out 5K a great success

The second annual CAP Run Your HeART Out 5K was hosted and organized by the CAPTivators, a group of professionals between the ages of 21-45 who help to promote the work of Cathedral Arts Project. There were 83 registered runners and \$8,700 was raised at the race that began and ended at The Shoppes of Avondale on Apr. 5.



Jennifer Clements, Elyse Card, Forrest Holland and Lucas Meers

## Boot stompin’ good time at Sheriff’s Round-Up

More than 300 cowboy and cowgirl wannabes kicked up their boots and kicked back to the Bay Kings Band at the first ever Sheriff’s Round-Up to benefit the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville (PAL). The Hyatt Regency was the Mar. 29 venue for a silent auction, casino games, live music and good grub for the guests who raised more than \$97,000. The amount was nearly double the original \$50,000 goal and will provide a nationally accredited afterschool program, summer camps, athletic programs, mentoring, teen leadership and a new workforce development program for more than 2,200 children annually. To find out more about JaxPAL or how you can get involved visit [www.jaxpal.com](http://www.jaxpal.com) or call (904) 854-6555.



PAL Managing Director Renee Naughton and Roger Gibson, PAL Board President and Partner at GHG Insurance

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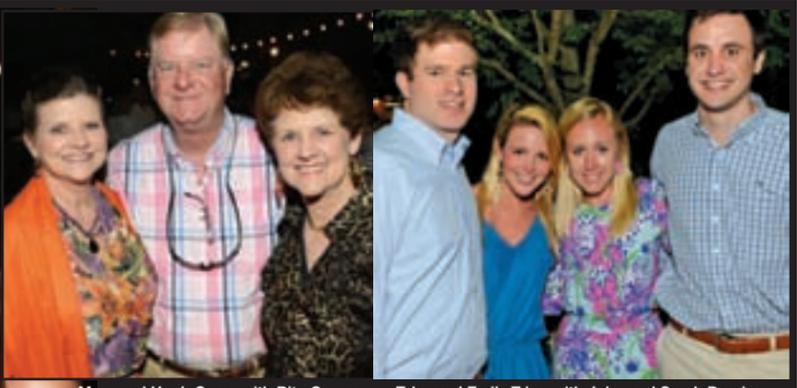
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is Howze  
Terry Kent



Mary and Hugh Owen with Rita Cannon Tyler and Emily Tripp with John and Sarah Dominey

## LAND OF THE TIGER FITTING VENUE FOR GALA

Guests of the 19th annual ExZOOberation fundraiser mingled – safely – with leopards and tigers for a night of roaring good fun as they bid and outbid each other for rights to name and adopt a giraffe, a zebra and leopard cubs among other animals at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens. The Apr. 12 Tigers at Twilight event at the Trout River Plaza was chaired by Betsy Lovett and brought in significant support for one of the top-rated zoos in the country. Patrons enjoyed live music by the JU Jazz Trio while noshing on exotic Asian-inspired dishes and bidding on live and silent auction items, including get-aways and cocktail cruises.

## VEGAS-STYLE FUN NETS PROCEEDS FOR JACKSONVILLE AUTISM SCHOOL



JSA Executive Director Michelle Dunham with Event Chair Rebecca Witt and Board Member Libby Kelly

The Ante Up for Autism Gala was a night of fun and excitement at the Deerwood Country Club on Apr. 5. Friends and families in support of children with autism turned out to spin the roulette wheel and throw the dice to raise funds for the Jacksonville School for Autism. Live and silent auctions included once-in-a-lifetime experiences with golfing, racing and yachting packages. The event raised funds to help ensure the school's ability to serve the growing needs of the autism community.



kes and Tennis Shoes Chair  
ck Cox and wife Debi

## GALA RAISES BENCHMARK FOR HEART DISEASE RESEARCH

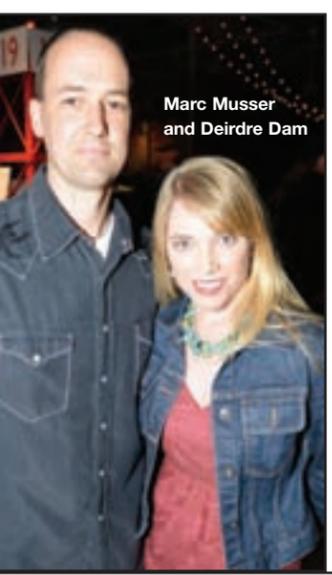
Early last month the American Heart Association-First Coast raised more than \$500,000 to support the organization's efforts to fight cardiovascular disease and stroke. Chaired by Rick Cox, Fidelity National Financial, the 6th annual Tuxes and Tennis Shoes Heart Ball, held at TPC Sawgrass was the most successful gala in the local organization's history. The evening also included a special presentation for Bill and Carol Foley, leaders in Jacksonville's business and philanthropic communities.



Paul and Adriana Renner with Jay and Renee Farhat



Honorary Chairs Joie and Susan Chitwood with Craig and Nancy Meeb



Marc Musser  
and Deirdre Dam

## SALTWATER COWBOYS 'N GALS FIGHT CANCER IN A BIG WAY

Event chairs Francy and Matt Robertson and honorary chairs Alex and Scot Ackerman welcomed guests to the American Cancer Society's 19th Annual Cowford Ball, which went off without a hitch last month. A good time was had by all who attended the Apr. 5 event at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, making the rounds between live and silent auctions, midway games and gaming tables, and doing a lot of dancing and dining.



Will and Karla Newton with Woody and Keely Woodall



John and Jennifer Lazzara with Victor and Kathy Soler-Sala



Carter and Cheryl Bryan with Hugh Maddox and Mary Owen



Margie and Paul Deegan with Pete and Carolyn Lansdale



Renee and Jay Farhat with Ricky and Michelle Bedoya

## GLASSES RAISED FOR SURF'S UP NIGHT OF GIVING

The 21st Annual Gala of Giving saw many glasses raised in honor of Catholic Charities and its emergency financial assistance programs offered to the community. The fundraiser, held Apr. 12 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort, drew patrons from all over Jacksonville to support the agency's goal of preventing unexpected homelessness due to financial crises. Call Catholic Charities at (904) 354-4846 for information about the nearly 14,000 individuals helped last year and the more than 46,000 meals distributed to those in need in 2013.



Gary and  
Tiffany Wheeler



Darlene and  
Wycke Hampton



Above:  
Jane Slater with  
Christie Martin  
and Holly Allen



Left: Ibbey Greene  
and Tennis  
Chairman  
Kevin Greene

## YACHT CLUB CELEBRATES A GREAT MEMBER-GUEST WEEKEND

The STEEG, as it's become known in tennis and club circles, was a hit for the local membership and their guests. In honor of the late Steward B. Steeg, the first commodore who made tennis a priority at the club, the weekend is dedicated to the growth of members who enjoy the sport. The competition during the weekend tournament is fierce, but before the tennis begins, the party welcomes competitors. To kick things off Friday night, Tennis Director Louis Ballantyne was surprised with a trip to Wimbledon and the party got off to a celebratory start. EverBank was the title sponsor of the opening party and the headline tournament sponsors were Miller Electric and The Brumos Companies. For results of the tournament, call to speak to Louis Ballantyne at 389-4281.



# Avondale Travel Agency delivers The Ultimate Vacation Experience

When planning a vacation, it's tough to know if your stay will be exceptional and that the arrangements you spent hours planning will all work out for the best. Just because you've spent a large sum of money to book the trip doesn't mean you're sure it will all work out. If there is a problem, can you call someone who can straighten it out? Not if you go it alone. This is one of the grey areas of travel planning in the internet era that is a challenge to figure out, especially when you are unexpectedly facing a problem.

Avondale Travel has opened its doors to serve those seeking an exceptional experience, one without many of the hitches that can occur if you book yourself. If you've never used an agency before, you're in for a real treat as the new boutique firm caters to clients through extraordinary service. After all, 40+ years of travel industry experience is guiding the team that you'll encounter at Avondale Travel.

## Industry Leader, The History

For some, it will be like taking a trip down memory lane, as Avondale Travel once occupied the same building where it resides today at 3657 St. Johns Avenue where Lou Black and his team ran one of the most successful agencies in the country, right from the Shoppes of Avondale. With his family by his side, Lou travelled the world and helped countless others discover travel as it was meant to be. With a platinum reputation in the industry, 48 offices and growing rapidly, and having done over 50 million in annual sales, Avondale was sought after by many national agency companies. Black sold Avondale Travel in 1989, but he retained ownership of Orange Park Travel, which has now been open continuously for 40 years. Orange Park Travel served as a strong foundation for the now-revived Avondale Travel. With the

experienced staff of the Orange Park office, two seasoned managers answered the call to return to Avondale Travel, bringing over 100 years of experience in the travel industry with them. "We are fortunate to have team members with such extensive and broad experience to assist customers with all their travel needs, whether it is a customer's first time on a cruise or a customer's around-the-world trip," Lou explained.

## All Grown Up, Agency Reinvigorated

A new generation is taking over the family business and has grown up on the reputation and legacy that had been laid by the Avondale Travel name. Lou Black's daughter, Leigh Elizabeth Bryan, is now taking on the reigns, poised to arrange life altering travel experiences for clients seeking this 'hand held' style of arrangements. "I learned to cruise before I could crawl," said Leigh, of her fascination with travel and her level of experience. With over 90+ cruises and a dozen trips to Europe under her belt at the age of 27, Leigh has travelled the world in search of the ultimate getaways. She continues to learn, receiving many certifications such as a Seabourn Cruise Line Specialist, Avalon Waterways Specialist, and Disney Destinations Specialist. To say that she is seasoned, for such a young lady, is an understatement. Her father Lou couldn't be more proud. "It's every man's dream that his children will succeed him in business by taking over and continuing to work hard to build and grow the name," he said, glowing with pride.

## Cruising and Travel Today

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*"I learned to cruise before I could crawl."* Leigh Elizabeth Bryan



they go. "We make dreams a reality. Whether it be a private dinner in front of the statue of David, or truffle hunting with the lead truffer in Provence, we make it happen. Any special requests that our clients have, we ensure they are not only taken care of, but exceed any expectation they may have." said Bryan.

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**4429 Iroquois Avenue**  
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**SOLD**

**4109 Nisida Place**  
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# GOGIVERS

## Becky Hamilton

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Becky Hamilton grew up on a North Carolina farm surrounded by critters and wildlife of every kind and can't remember a time when she didn't love caring for animals. She and her husband Curt, a U.S. Postal worker, have five children, but they are furry and all but one are rescues: three dogs and two cats. When her employer, Gate Petroleum, wanted to organize community service projects for employees, Hamilton, vice president of real estate, knew exactly what to do.

"We began to volunteer at Animal Care & Protective Services, which we call Jacksonville Family Pet Adoption Center, on a quarterly basis as one of our community service projects (others

were Quigley House, Seamark Ranch and Dreams Come True). That's how I became involved with Friends of Jacksonville Animals (FOJA). FOJA is an all-volunteer organization formed to work in partnership with the shelter to raise funds, assist with medical care, enrich the shelter environment, promote adoptions, train new volunteers and reduce euthanasia," she said.

Through her volunteer time assisting these animal welfare groups, Hamilton saw firsthand the needs and limitations.

"FOJA is limited to assisting at or through the shelter and we see so many outside community needs where pet owners on limited incomes could not provide food or medical care for their pets. It's an especially heartbreaking situation for poor and elderly people," she said. "To help meet that need, I started an animal care ministry at my church, St. Philip Neri Ecumenical."

On the church's website, Hamilton is

recognized for animal-related ministries inspired by the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. As members collect food for local food pantries, they also collect pet food, supplies and donations. They hold pet fair fundraisers and Father John Oliver annually conducts a Blessing of the Animals, which has included JSO officers and their K9 partners.

"We provide assistance to pet owners in need, or in cooperation with local San Marco non-profit vet St. Francis Animal Hospital. We cooperate for mutual aid," Hamilton said.

Hamilton's husband Curt has made her animal welfare activities his personal hobbies, too. He supports her projects and helps with off-site events. Every Saturday Becky is at the shelter to help wherever needed. Each month she teaches two free classes: play group

Curt and Becky Hamilton and rescue dog Harley



training (socialization) and pet adoption counseling.

Becky has been Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for her neighborhood for the past 10 years. She was a founding board member for the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, a position she held from 2004 to 2012. She continues to be active with the Arboretum and is eager to inform readers of the new pavilion with covered shelter that has just been built there.

## Francis Jennings



Francis Jennings, an Avondale resident for more than 50 years, has seen people's lives transformed when they find help, motivation and dignity through City Rescue Mission programs.

Her belief in those programs has led her to volunteer for more than 20 years in many roles, from receptionist to teaching weekly Bible classes. She has organized retreats off-site for those in the programs and on-site to introduce community groups to the Mission. She coordinates group donations of toiletries and comfort items.

Jennings goal? At age 86, she wants to recruit younger volunteers and continue to tell others what caring kindness can do, the pure joy of helping those in need to a better life.

"There are so many success stories to share, so many have turned their lives around. Although I can no longer do as much, I prayed for two years for someone to take over teaching the classes. I'm a firm believer that we must pass on our efforts to others so that the work will continue," she said. "A young woman from Lakewood who was in one of my classes years ago when she was just fifteen, remembers thinking that she'd like to help others too...she is now teaching the women's classes!"

Sherry Warren, City Rescue Mission Volunteer Coordinator, explained how Jennings was proactive. She organized dinners, holiday projects or activities to bring churches, clubs, potential employers and others to the Mission to interact, build relationships and see first-hand the needs and possibilities. She has helped organize fundraising events, like an upcoming musical concert by Pastor Tony Chance, a former entertainer, to be held at Avondale United Methodist Church in October.

"Mrs. Jennings is a longtime volunteer who has raised awareness of the Mission and its programs throughout the community. She built strong support connections all by herself over many years," Warren said.

Jennings also speaks compassionately of families and friends of those in programs at the Mission. She is aware that many privately struggle with difficult life situations. As a result, she has planned retreats to inform and support families of those in Mission programs.



Jennings loves living in Avondale and remembers when she and her late husband, David struggled to pay their \$129 dollar monthly mortgage. She's often asked why she did not go into ministry, especially after completing her master's degree in Theology. As an infant adopted by loving parents and blessed with a joyful life, she felt called to teach and help others. The Jennings had four children and now seven grandchildren.

She has bicycled all over the world with International Bicycle Tours and completed the Bike MS (Multiple Sclerosis) 150 mile charity bike ride. She served on the State Conference for the Methodist Church and completed four mission trips to Cuba. For years she volunteered at The Vineyard International Christian Sports Camp in Westfield, North Carolina.

Jennings said the City Rescue Mission receives no government funding and is a successful example of what a community can achieve. She encourages readers to visit the McDuff Avenue or Downtown location, see first-hand the programs, meet the clients, donate or volunteer. She believes a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy of caring for others is through regular giving or to include the Mission in will or estate planning.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

# Ray Ware Hardware – Four generations serving hardware needs beyond the norm

Ray Ware Hardware, named after its founder, is celebrating 75 years as a provider of decorative cabinet hardware, door hardware and plumbing fixtures that could well be described as "art ware." The company is managed by the fourth generation of family, Jason Kuder as company president.

Ray Ware started his business on May 17, 1939 at 562 Riverside Ave (where Florida Blue is currently located). Back then "Ray Ware Hardware dealt strictly with architects and commercial contractors" said Kenneth Kuder, grandson of Ray Ware.

"That was the crux of the business until the sixties when we got into the decorative lines."

Ray Ware Hardware has been at their current location on 4048 Herschel St. since 1983, when they purchased the building that was formerly an A&P grocery store. Since then, they have expanded to become home to dozens of high end plumbing and decorative door & cabinetry fixtures. Most recently they have added interior lighting into the mix.

Those name brands offer an assortment of décors and styles in knobs, pulls, hooks, hinges, escutcheons, bars, rings and more – everything the discerning homeowner needs to create a unique setting in kitchen, bath and throughout the house.

Although walk in customers are still the foundation of the decorative hardware business, Jason noted "We get

everything from homeowners looking for a cabinet knob, to designers who come in with their clients, to general contractors."



Ray Ware doesn't have a lot of employee turnover; many have been with the company for over 20 years. "That makes a big difference [in our success]," said Jason Kuder, president.

Looking for an exquisite armoire or towel cabinet? You can find that, as well as complementary mirrors and vanities, in one of many home bathroom collections displayed in the Ray Ware Hardware showroom. The hardware boutique is also the go-to place for historic home renovations, offering tubs, sinks and toilets that will help replicate the luxury and ambience of large bathrooms found in homes from the last century.

"Our market is definitely more traditional than other showrooms around the country, particularly in the neighborhood we are in," Jason said. "Our most popular brands include Baldwin, Rocky Mountain

Hardware, and Sun Valley Bronze for door hardware, Watermark, Sigma, and Phylrich for the bath, and Franke, Blanco, and KWC for the kitchen."

On the commercial side, Ray Ware Hardware has expanded to include a second location on 4517 Appleton Ave., where they have been running a metal door and frame fabrication shop since 1992.

"One of the foundations of our success in the commercial business is our door and frame shop," said Jason.



The metal shop was started in 1992 to create custom doors for Ray Ware's contractors.

"We have set up this business to furnish hollow metal frames, doors, and hardware installed as a complete package and this has grown to represent nearly 75 percent of our business."

According to Jason, Ray Ware Hardware has supplied numerous government projects and office buildings through general contractors and also has relationships with Mayo Clinic, UF Health, UNF, and Duval County Public Schools. Ken, a 1969 graduate of Lee High



Named for its founder in 1939, Ray Ware Hardware is celebrating 75 years as a provider of decorative cabinet hardware, door hardware and plumbing fixtures.



School, said that they were heavily involved in the high school's most recent renovation, supplying nearly all of the openings fabricated at their door and frame shop.

Ray Ware Hardware is not without its challenges, and the most recent has been the great recession. Ken and Jason both agree that the keys to surviving the recession have been their strong relationships with their customers as well as their dedicated work force. "For a small business to get through a recession like this and survive shows our resiliency, and gives us the confidence that we made the right decisions," Jason said. "We have a great team over here but we are also very fortunate to be in a strong community who continues to support small family owned businesses like ours."



Dewitt Kuder, son-in-law, with Ray Ware, founder of the local hardware company.

Visit the Ray Ware Showroom on 4048 Herschel Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call (904) 389-6659 to set up an appointment. Check out their many quality brands at [www.rayware.com](http://www.rayware.com).

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# Mothering through the ages

Front row from the left: Grace Stewart, Betty Malone, Shirley Johnson, Lois Carter, Bonnie Peavey, Latrelle Sheffield, Vera Edwards  
Middle row: Susie McNutt, Jean Yeaton, Evelyn Clifton, Ellie Connelly, Betty Jean Dick  
Standing: Dorothy Simmons, Harriet Nettles, Harriet Wean, Lucy Land, Ann Strohm (staff), Theresa Brendlinger (staff), Lucila Johnson, Mary Ruth Bosch, Juanita Daley



Love, patience and discipline – in equal measure – is the recipe for successful mothering, according to 20 residents and staff at Riverside Presbyterian House, 2020 Park Street. These great- and great-great grandmothers boast, among themselves, more than 100 great- and great-great grandchildren.

Shirley Johnson, who has 17 greats, said the best advice she would give moms today is “Stay with them and love them and have fun with them.”

“Be patient and love them, try to keep them on the straight and narrow,” adds staff member Theresa Brendlinger, with eight great-grandchildren of her own.

The advice just kept coming.

“Live for the Lord and set a good example,” said Lois Carter, 98, who has eight great-grandchildren and 13 great-greats – all from just two daughters of her own!

Bonnie Peavey, who couldn’t recall the exact number of great-grandchildren but knew she had 11 grandchildren and two great-greats, agreed: “Trust in the Lord and He’ll take care of it.”

Lucy Land, who has one great-grandchild, offered advice that may not be easy or even popular these days. “Mothers, stay home and raise your kids,” she said. Fellow resident Susie, McNutt, four great-grandchildren, concurred to the point of suggesting that mothers home school their children, as did her daughters.

These 20 women in their seventies, eighties and nineties are examples of what resident Betty Malone shared, “I’ve lived a long time and I guess whatever I’ve done has been pretty fruitful.”

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# FASHION & Florals

Sisters Layla, Elizabeth and Bea Croft enjoyed the sunny day and the fountain in the Garden Club courtyard



Kak Davidson and Doris Crosson

Also in April, member of the Garden Club Circles strutted down an imaginary runway at the Garden Club Passport to Fashion show and luncheon on Apr. 10. Fashions were provided by Stein Mart. "The show was fantastic, everyone had a great time and the outfits and models were adorable," said Deb Byrd, publicity chair. The Garden Club of Jacksonville was organized in 1922, has 38 Circles and over 900 members.



Jayne Maierhoffer, Joan Burchell and Brook Owens, president of the Garden Club of Jacksonville



Carol Waters and Elizabeth Niebrugge, looking as pretty as flowers themselves, were two of the many volunteers from the Garden Circles

The Garden Club of Jacksonville kicked off April with the 9th annual Blooms Galore and More plant sale, offering beautiful plants for home and garden as well as a variety of vendors selling jewelry, fashions, garden accents and more.



Mimi Barley, Jamie Hammonds, Becky Rood



Deb Byrd, public relations, and Irene Woodworth, fashion show chair

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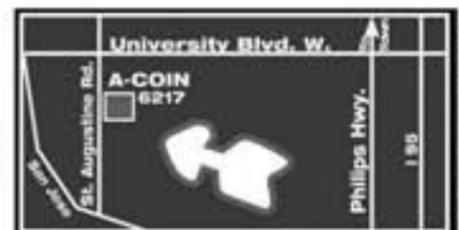
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BUSINESS PROFILE

# Maintaining Customer Trust through the Years

*Local shop repairs what is necessary, not what's profitable*



Taking your vehicle in for something as simple as an oil change to a more complex repair problem is probably in your Top 10 list of things you dread – especially if you're a woman.

Why? Because if you're not knowledgeable about automotive problems you likely fear being taken advantage of – and that's not uncommon.

Tom Harris, president and owner of Ortega Automotive has a solution for that.

"People need to find a local mechanic that they can trust. There's a lot of things being sold out here that the manufacturers don't even recommend and they are the

ones who know the vehicles," Harris said about the automotive repair industry. "A lot of the other stuff that's going on out here is upselling and I just don't abide by it."

What Harris is talking about is what people fear the most. The service rep comes out with a list of problems a yard long and you can already hear the cackling of the register.

"I can probably beat any franchise cost on the market," said Harris, referring to diagnostic fees and parts and labor on most all repairs. "Franchises are there to sell parts. They [the customers] have no idea that they are getting taken and they are spending a whole lot more than they ever need to."



"We find out what the problem is and address the issue. If we see something that people need we'll let them know about it and if they need it now we'll let them know."

Harris, who is A+ rated with the Better Business Bureau and in good standing on Angie's List, distinguishes Ortega Automotive from the chain shops by explaining, "We're not 'parts hangers.' We find out what the problem is and address the

issue. If we see something that people need we'll let them know about it and if they need it now we'll let them know. If they need to wait to get it done, that's fine.

"It's not my money and I know it. You have to spend your money the way you need to. There are hard times going on

and it's not cheap to get a car worked on. Instead of treating people like I'm never going to see them again, I want local, neighborhood people. Most of my customers know each other," Harris noted.

While Ortega Automotive has been in business since early 1993 at the Appleton Avenue location, Harris has been in the business far longer. He knows what he's talking about and isn't shy about saying so.

"Let's fix the problem you brought it in for and not load you down with other 'upsell' stuff that you don't need. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to do an oil change, it does however, take a professional to know exactly what to look for. When we take a car up in the air, we check the brakes, rotate the tires, look for oil leaks."

Harris and his crew of two – Tom Gordon and Derek Smith – hustle to get the job done, but aren't so hasty they overlook something. "We pay a lot of attention to detail. I hate it when people have to bring a car back because of something we didn't do. It says we're not doing our job."

It generally doesn't matter how old the vehicle is or the make or model, and the shop has all the diagnostic equipment needed. Smith and Gordon can usually be found in a brake repair, under the hood



"I'd like people to bring their vehicles in for an estimate. If the diagnosis from the dealer or the franchise is correct, I won't charge for ours."

with air conditioning, alternator or computer diagnostic problems.

"We work on pretty much everything as long as we have the information from the manufacturers," Harris said. "If I don't have the information I won't hang parts just to try to figure it out. We'll bow out gracefully and tell them that the manufacturer has not given us enough information to diagnose the problem properly."



Although they have generations of customers, Harris says that some of the younger crowd shy away from the rough appearance of the garage and take their cars to a dealer or to a franchise. "I'd like people to bring their vehicle to the shop for a personal estimate, as it's almost impossible to give an accurate

estimate over the phone. We're small potatoes, but we're trustworthy," Harris concluded. "No one here would ever try to sell someone something they didn't need."

**Call Tom Harris at Ortega Automotive at (904) 388-8800 for your next oil change. He's easy to find at 4517 Appleton Avenue, just off Hamilton Street not far from San Juan Avenue. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**



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## Bolles Spanish students take close second

Missing first place by just four points, 16 Bolles Spanish students earned a second place finish at the Florida State Spanish Conference in March.

Competing in impromptu speaking and presenting a play, Sempronio, the students earned a score of 453 points, according to Bolles Spanish teacher Cathy Soud.

High school freshman Annie Pentaleri, an Ortega resident, earned a "Sobresaliente" score in impromptu speaking as well as in declamations.



## McAfee's drawing talents scores a second place



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School student Kevin McAfee (second from left) won second place for the 3rd-5th grade group in the 2014 Regional Poster Contest for National Poison Prevention Week. He is shown with Florida/USVI Poison Information Center (Jacksonville) staff members Dr. Jessica Rivera (left) and Phyllis Bell-Davis, M.Ed. (far right), along with other winners from Jacksonville and U.S. Virgin Island schools. McAfee was one of 37 students participating from a 42-county service area.

## Avondale 8th grade student knows his geography

By KATE A. HALLOCK  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Walker Miller knows countries in the farthest reaches of the world. The 8th grade student at James Weldon Johnson Middle School also knows about those countries' natural resources, crops, weather, religions, monuments and land formations.

"I have always liked geography and in the fourth grade, I participated in the school-wide geography bees. I won the school bee and then took a test to qualify for the State Bee, held in April. I qualified by scoring in the top 100 of students in the state. Only one other fourth grader was there," Miller said.

Although he didn't make the Top 10 then, last year while in 7th grade, Miller won the State Bee and attended the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C. He is the first student from Duval County to win the state title.

"It was a great experience. I missed a week of school and got to see the final round live with Alex Trebek hosting," Miller shared. "The National Geographic Society hosted a bunch of events for the students, parents and teachers including a picnic, a tour and a special viewing of maps at the Library of Congress."

The Florida Geography Bee is hosted at Jacksonville University, run by geography professor Ray Oldakowski, another Avondale resident. "Each year, 100 finalists from all over the state (students in grades 4-8 who have won their



school geography bees and have the highest scores on a statewide test) compete to represent Florida in the National Geography Bee," explained Dr. Oldakowski. "The Florida winner receives

a trip to Washington, D.C. with his teacher and parents, and receives trophies, prizes, and a small cash award. The national winner receives a \$50,000 scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands."

Miller again represented his school in this year's state geography bee at JU on April 4, but unfortunately did not make the Top 10. "The kids who won studied really hard," said Miller. "One of the kids in the top three took off six weeks of school to study." Ameya Mujumdar, an 11-year-old 5th grader from Turner Elementary School in the Tampa area is the Florida State Bee winner.

But, this year's loss aside, Miller will always cherish that last year he was one of 50 finalists from among millions of students nationwide who participate in the National Geographic Bee.

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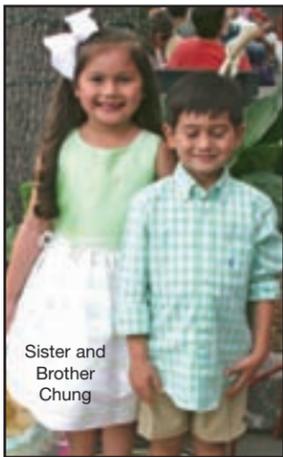
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Willie's annual Spring Fashion Show enjoyed a good turnout on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. More than 40 boys and girls of all ages modeled the best and loveliest of spring fashions, giving more than a little competition to nearby plants in bloom.



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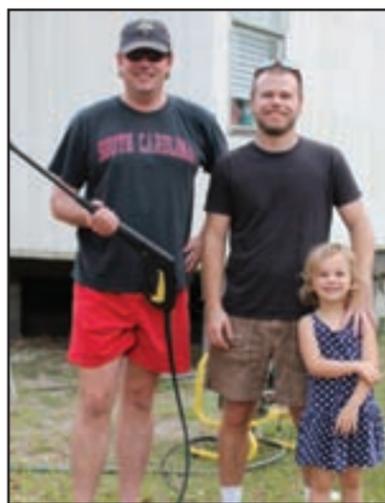
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## Clean up and green up at Fishweir

A small but devoted group of moms and dads were on hand (and knee) last month as they cleaned up the portable classrooms and planted flowers in the center courtyard of Fishweir Elementary School. Fishweir Dads, as they are known, prefer to spend more time doing and less time sitting in parent-teacher meetings so one of their first projects was to power wash years of accumulated grime from the walls of the portables. In the meantime, the Thorsens, Hailes and Lynches, led by the Green Queen, Mary Ann Myler, cleaned up winter debris in the Butterfly Garden and put in new plantings.



Renee Thorsen, Anya and Dagny, Jill Haile and Meghan, Sarah Lynch, Piper and Margot, Mary Ann Myler



Tim Durkin, Patrick Lynch, Piper Lynch

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# River Garden ranked 5-Star senior community

The nonprofit River Garden Senior Services, located at 11401 Old St. Augustine Road, was once again awarded a 5-star rating by *U.S. News & World Report*. Ranked as one of the Best Nursing Homes in the United States, River Garden offers traditional long-term care as well as short-stay rehabilitation services. Sponsored by the organized Jewish Community, River Garden is also a six-time recipient of the Florida Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care.

"River Garden is delighted to have been identified by *US News & World Report* as one of the best nursing homes in America. Our skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility has a longstanding reputation for excellence in human services, and we are proud that US News now joins the state and federal government in recognizing River Garden as a crown jewel in our community," said Martin Goetz, CEO. "With a 68-year tradition of excellence River Garden is the recipient of six Gold Seal Awards for Excellence and is rated a 5-Star provider by both CMS and AHCA."



River Garden Hebrew Home Board President Mark Lodinger with new president Marsha Pollock

Also, in late March, at the 68th annual meeting, River Garden Hebrew Home Board President Mark Lodinger passed the baton to incoming president Marsha Pollock, who has been on the board since 1990, most recently as vice-chair of the Admissions Committee.

# Age doesn't keep Avondale resident off the water



At his 90th birthday party last month, John Corse proved that he still has what it takes. A lawyer and former submariner in the U.S. Navy, Corse got up on a pair of water skis at his party and showed friends and family that he may have discovered the Fountain of Youth.

Corse swims several times a week, showing friends that he is a "very young 90." In addition to his youthful demeanor, Corse is described by life-long friend and neighbor Bill Barnett as "full of character, integrity and a great sense of humor."

When asked about his secret for longevity, Corse said "I just keep exercising, working and swimming. I attribute my continued interest in swimming to Rogers Holmes, 93, the leader of our swim relay group."

# Men's Garden Club to install new officers

The Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville, founded in 1945, cares for one of the area's gardens, the Camellia Garden in Riverside Park. This garden showcases some of the finest horticultural specimens in Jacksonville.

Men with green thumbs get together almost every month to exchange plants, and learn from peers and local gardening experts. The club's annual plant sale supports their community involvement missions, projects and scholarship funds. Some of their more notable endeavors are the Jim Watson Scholarship fund at the University of Florida, the Junior Master Gardeners Program in Jacksonville, and the 4H.

New officers will be installed at the club's annual barbeque on May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave. Donn Elliot, currently club secretary, will be the new president. The next meeting will be Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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# The Way We Were

## Eleanor Smith

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Eleanor Smith moved to a house on Jasmine Place when she was nine years old and, with the exception of three years when she and her husband, Lawton, lived in Jacksonville Beach, she has been a resident of Murray Hill. Eleanor and Lawton met at a Halloween Carnival Ruth N. Upson Elementary School when she was 11 years old and he was 12. "We thought we pretty well knew each other by the time we got married at Murray Hill Baptist Church on July 1, 1949, but you really never know a person until you live together," says Eleanor, with a laugh, noting that she and Lawton have been married for 64 years, so she knows him pretty well by now.

In 1955, the Smiths bought a house on Lawnview Street and, to Eleanor's knowledge, it was the only dirt street left in Murray Hill. "From Hamilton to Cassatt, it was still dirt," she recalls. "We're still living on that same street today, but much has changed in the past 59 years."

Eleanor, who graduated from Lee High School and attended Carson Newnan College in Jefferson City,

Tenn. for one year, worked in the accounting department at Bell South until their son Mark was born shortly after they bought their home on Lawnview. Eleven years later, their daughter Laura came along. Both children were born at the old Riverside Hospital and the late Dr. L'Engle was their pediatrician. When Eleanor took Mark to enroll him in Mr. Spurlin's kindergarten, Mr. Spurlin asked her if she'd be willing to teach the three-year old class. That was the beginning of a 15-year stint of kindergarten teaching, as she went from Spurlin's to Murray Hill Baptist and St. Johns Presbyterian, working mainly with four-year-olds.

In the meantime, after 34 years with Bell South, Lawton retired in 1983 and became one of North Florida's most popular square dance callers, participating with several clubs in Jacksonville including the Yellow Rockers, Mandarin Marauders and Dixie Grands, just to name a few. Eleanor enjoyed the square dancing clubs right along with Lawton and they had a great time getting to know people all over town through that wholesome community pastime.

Camping has been an enjoyable Smith family pastime as well. When their children were young, they had a little pop-up camper and used to go camping in North Georgia. They later got a travel trailer and would go to the mountains of North Carolina and camp at the Old Corundum Millsite Campgrounds. Some of their best

Thanksgivings have been spent at the Cherokee Campground on Jekyll Island where they joined with many other families and had old-fashioned fish

fries to celebrate the day. In 2003, 2004 and 2005, Lawton and Eleanor went traveling out west, flying out to Seattle, Portland and Denver and touring by motor coach. "Those were highlights of my life," says Eleanor, "but the true highlights of my life have been my children and my one wonderful grandson, John Adam Smith. He was born on July 7th, the day before I turned 60, and he was the best birthday gift ever."

When their grandson was small, they called themselves Grandma and Grandpa because that's what their kids called Lawton's parents, but little John Adam changed those names to

Gammaw and Gang-Gang. Today, he's 25 years old and a policeman in the town of Alachua, Fla. His grandparents couldn't be prouder of him.

Eleanor's adored grandson gave her a gift on her 70th birthday that speaks eloquently of his love and respect for his grandmother. On a framed piece of parchment paper in golden letters penned in his own childish hand, he wrote: "How I know Gammaw loves God: 1) She has a lot of Christian friends, 2) She works and plays the piano at church, 3) She has Christian books and things, 4) Reads the Bible a lot, 5) Has a Christian husband, 6) Has accepted Jesus into her heart, 7) Talks about God a lot, and 8) Lives a Christian life." Eleanor jokes that

whenever she's tempted to yell at her husband, she thinks of that little framed reminder on the wall.

Speaking of yelling, there was another time their 10-year-old grandson set them straight about keeping their temper. They were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in a fancy restaurant when John Adam asked for lobster. "It was so expensive, the price wasn't even marked on the menu," Eleanor recalls. "We were arguing over whether or not to let him order the lobster when he said, without even looking up from the menu, 'Quit your fussin' and try to make it to 51!'"

Eleanor and Lawton rarely eat out these days, not so much because it's too expensive (although it is that), but mainly because Eleanor is a good cook who doesn't mind fixing breakfast, lunch and dinner in her own kitchen. "I learned to cook on the phone," she says matter-of-factly. "When I got home from school, I'd call mother at work and she'd tell me what to buy for dinner at the grocery store on the corner of Edgewood. My sister and I would go to the store and then I'd call mother back at work and she'd tell me how to fix things." Eleanor's mother, Lucile Douglas Hubbard, was an office manager and a woman ahead of her time.

Today, Eleanor and Lawton, 85 and 86 respectively, remain active at Murray Hill Baptist Church and volunteer at St. Vincent's Hospital as well. "Lawton drives the little security cart in the garage at St. Vincent's on Monday and Thursday afternoon, I work in the breast center on Thursday afternoons," says Eleanor. "Our son Mark lives in Gainesville now, but our daughter Laura lives nearby and is a big help to us. She has MS (Multiple Sclerosis) but has never been debilitated by it - in fact, she works like a horse. She's a Complex Manager Assistant at Morgan Stanley."

A woman who has many precious memories and continues to enjoy life to the fullest, Eleanor talks of special moments she has managed to capture with a camera - like the day she caught her grandson and his "Gang-Gang" both fast asleep in the easy chair, a classic photo that now holds a place of honor on the piano. "God has blessed us," says Eleanor, "and if I ever have a moment's doubt, I see that little piece of parchment on my wall with the two sticks glued in the shape of a cross on the corner of the frame, and I'm instantly reminded of my blessings."



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# Seniors honored for their local "mission" work

Never underestimate the strength of a senior, especially the strength that comes in numbers.

Through the 9-year-old nonprofit, Seniors on a Mission, in 2013, 325 senior residents "worked" a total of 10,394 hours giving back to their communities.



Seniors on a Mission, Murray Hall lead missionaries: Mary Thompson, Artha Brownlee and Mary Irvin

Those jobs include collating and stuffing race bags, most often on behalf of 1st Place Sports, and organizing supplies and inventories at the Teacher Supply Depot and the Clothing Warehouse. Seniors are transported to

the workshop venues, where a free, nutritious lunch is served in exchange for three or four hours of work.

At the annual Filet Mignon Gala, hosted by Lakewood United Methodist Church last month, all seniors were honored and team lead missionaries were recognized. In Ortega, Nancy

Seniors on a Mission, Ortega volunteers: (seated) Jill Sprunt, Katherine Easley, Christine Teyssier; (standing) Gail Atchley, Nancy Schwanbeck (lead missionary), Delores Dahlstrom



Schwanbeck was honored as Ortega mission team lead and for the Murray Hill team, three women tied for lead missionary: Mary Thompson, Artha Brownlee and Mary Irvin.

Since Seniors on a Mission began in 2005, there have been 725 men and women who have donated over 78,000 hours for an estimated value to the community of \$1,652,000.

## No reunion, just a great big birthday party

The Robert E. Lee High School Class of '62 loves to party. They've celebrated every 10th anniversary and then some. Last month 68 or 70 of the remaining graduates – out of 587, about 100 have passed away – celebrated their 70th birthdays en masse at River City Brewing.

The party was organized by Susie Peters Marshall, who also chaired the 50th class reunion two years ago. The master of

ceremonies, Bill Schmidt, is the co-founder of the Jacksonville Artists Guild.

"We were able to find all but 20 of our classmates," said Joanne Griffin Caraway, who was chair of the 40th class reunion in 2002. Classmates came from as far away as Tucson and Tulsa, and two places in California. Of note, Congressman Ander Crenshaw is a member of this class and made a brief appearance.



Mike Hoyt, Susie Peters Marshall, Catherine Sears Towers, Bill Schmidt, Claudia Hart Mally, Joanne Griffin Caraway, Margaret DeHoff Stanley

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# HAPPENINGS

## American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

Sat., May 3, noon, Riverside Park, 753 Park Street  
Join the overnight celebration as track walkers keep the light moving. For more information, visit [relayforlife.org](http://relayforlife.org)

## 3rd Annual RAP Bootlegger Ball

Sat., May 3, 7 p.m., 1100 Stockton Street  
Flappers, food, and fun, including a casino room, entertainment, raffle, silent auction and more. Contact (904) 389-2449 or [info@riversideavondale.org](mailto:info@riversideavondale.org) for details.

## 3rd Annual Jewish Food Festival

Sun., May 4, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.  
Jewish food from around the world, L'Chaim Wine Wall (for blind auction), Bubbe's Bake Off, Kids' Corner. Contact (904) 733-7078 or visit [www.TheTempleJacksonville.org](http://www.TheTempleJacksonville.org)

## Mt. Acosta Classic Endurance Race

Sun., May 4, 3 p.m., Begins at Haskell Company, 111 Riverside Ave.  
The third annual run will benefit the Jared Bynum Scholarship Fund at Landon College Preparatory School.

## Riverside Fine Arts Season Grand Finale

Sun., May 4, 3 p.m., Craig Hall, 1100 Stockton Street  
Live music, silent auction and more. Tickets available online at [www.riversidefinearts.org/buy-tickets/](http://www.riversidefinearts.org/buy-tickets/)

## Sassy Tappers: On the Riverboat

Tues., May 6, 2:30 p.m., St. Catherine Labourer Manor, 1750 Stockton St.  
Riverboat show business entertainers; show suitable for all ages.

## Champions for Speech & Hearing

Spring Giving Luncheon Wed., May 7, 11:45 a.m., Friday Musicale, 645 Oak St.  
Donations will be matched by The Delores Barr Weaver Fund of The Community Foundation; drawing for four Jacksonville Jaguar tickets

## On the Move: Annual Multiple Sclerosis Luncheon

Thurs., May 8, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.  
Luncheon and raffle; call (904) 332-6810 for tickets.

## Jacksonville Historic

### Preservation Awards

Thurs., May 8, 6 p.m., Main Library Auditorium  
One of the honorees will be Dr. Keith Holland, for his work in recovering and preserving artifacts from the 150-year-old Civil War ship, The Maple Leaf.

## Mommy & Me Tea & Crafts

Sat., May 10, 10 a.m., Whole Foods Market, 10601 San Jose Blvd.  
For fun, mostly hand-made Mother's Day, register at [wholefoodsmarket.com/jacksonville](http://wholefoodsmarket.com/jacksonville)

## 2nd Annual Jacksonville Dance Theatre in Concert

Sat., May 10, 7:30 p.m., Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Munnerlyn Center, 2032 San marco Blvd.  
Local artists collaborate for an entertaining evening of dance. Tickets at [jacksonvilledancetheatre.org](http://jacksonvilledancetheatre.org)

## Zoo 100th Birthday Celebration

Sat.-Sun., May 10-11, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens  
Featuring activities, entertainment, music, crafts and more!

## Bike to Work Day

Thurs., May 15, beginning at 7 a.m. various locations, cycle to Times-Union building, then on to Hemming Plaza. Call (904) 636-7772 for details.

## Eye Wear Styling Event

Fri., May 16, 4:30-8 p.m., Vue Optical, 3588 St. Johns Avenue  
Meet the Tom Ford representative for eye wear straight from the runway.

## 5th Annual River Hops

Sat., May 17, 6 p.m., a gourmet pairings dinner at a stunning riverfront home. Fundraiser for NE FL School for Special Education; limited seating, email [mjensen@northfloridaschool.org](mailto:mjensen@northfloridaschool.org) or call (904) 724-8326

## NAMI Fun-d-raiser

Sat., May 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ortega United Methodist Church, 4807 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Benefit provides education, support and outreach for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Guided walking tour of historic Ortega, entertainment, kids games, arts and crafts, fashion show, silent auction and more. Contact [orteganamigroup@bellsouth.net](mailto:orteganamigroup@bellsouth.net) or (904) 388-5166 for details.

## McCoys Creek Clean-up

Sun., May 18, 10 a.m., McCoys Creek Blvd. at Stockton St.  
No registration needed. Wear close-toes shoes and waterproof boots if you are able. Bags and gloves will be provided. Kayaks welcome!

## Women's Center Speaker Series: Women, Words & Wisdom

Tues., May 20, 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. lecture, Riverside House, 2165 Park Street  
Guest speaker is Chevara Orrin; proceeds benefit Expanded Horizons Literacy Program. Call (904) 722-3000 for ticket information; visit [womenscenterofjax.org](http://womenscenterofjax.org)

## Jacksonville Jazz Festival

Fri., May 23, 5-10 p.m., Sat., May 24, 1-10 p.m., Sun., May 25, 1-8 p.m.  
The event will include stages along Bay Street, Marsh Street and the Shipyards, Newnan Street and at The Landing.



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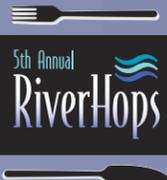
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# HAPPENINGS

## Tot Shabbat

Fri., May 23, 5:30 p.m.,  
Congregation Ahavath Chesed,  
8727 San Jose Blvd.  
Youngest members of congregation  
will celebrate Shabbat with dinner  
and an art project, followed by Tot  
Shabbat service at 6 p.m. Free, but  
RSVP at [TheTempleJacksonville.org](http://TheTempleJacksonville.org)  
or call (904) 733-7078.

## Ortega Arts Camp

June 9 - 13, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,  
through 6th grade,  
Ortega United Methodist Church  
To register, call Ms. Peggy at (904)  
388-5166 or [pkh48@bellsouth.net](mailto:pkh48@bellsouth.net)

## VBS/Summer in the City

June 9-13, Riverside Presbyterian  
Church, 849 Park St.  
Summer events for kids, ages three  
years to 5th grade. Register at  
[rpcjax.org/connect](http://rpcjax.org/connect)

## Camp Cummer

June 9 - July 25 Elementary; July 28  
- August 1 Middle School, M-F,  
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (904) 355-0630,  
[cummer.org/camp-cummer](http://cummer.org/camp-cummer)

## Cooper Morgan Dance Intensive

June 9-27, The Performers  
Academy, 3674 Beach Blvd.  
Call (904) 322-7672 or visit  
[www.theperformersacademy.com](http://www.theperformersacademy.com)  
for details.

## Summer Camp:

### It's a Magical Kingdom

June 9 - August 1; 7 a.m. to 5:30  
p.m., St. Matthew's Catholic School  
Choose by the week or all summer;  
weekly field trips; registration at  
[www.stmatthewscs.com](http://www.stmatthewscs.com) or call  
(904) 387-4401

### 7th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam & Jr. Angler Tournament

Sat., June 14, weigh-in begins  
2 p.m., Beach Marine,  
2079 Beach Blvd. Tournament funds  
Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship;  
visit [fishwithclay.com](http://fishwithclay.com) or  
[inriverocean.org](http://inriverocean.org) for details.

## Photographs at MOCA

Through August 24 - The Museum of  
Contemporary Art presents The New  
York Times Magazine photographs,  
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**Summer Sundays**  
June 15 - August 31  
Sunday School 9:00 : Worship 10:00

**Summer Events for Kids**  
June 9 - 13

- Vacation Bible School  
3 yrs. through Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders
- Summer in the City  
Rising 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

To register go to [rpcjax.org/connect](http://rpcjax.org/connect)

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*The Latin Jazz All-Stars / TIZER feat. Karen Briggs*

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*Mother of two*



**Dr. Jacqueline West, DMD**



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