

THE Resident

San Jose

San Marco

St. Nicholas



a social

Spring

swings into action

SEE MORE PAGE 18

Local area schools and nonprofits throw spring flings and raise funds for growth and stability.

Boot Scootin' at Ole Cowford



Bill and Valerie Robinson with Hurley Haywood



Catholic Charities take to the beach

Lara Patangan, Lisa Wagner, Christina Petre and Melissa Werstine



Derby Fundraiser for SJEDS

Jenny Clarke, event co-chair; director of development and marketing with her co-chair, Sally Abbey

San Jose Catholic hosts Cuban-themed Soiree



Mandy Smithisler, Nicole Clifford, Michelle Bressler and Pam Cratem



Support for American Cancer Society strong at Episcopal

Episcopal School of Jacksonville teacher Phillipa Marks gets a big kiss from her mother and cancer survivor, Moya Marks. The pair both help to fulfill the goals of the American Cancer Society through the Relay For Life and other initiatives. Cancer never quits, and neither does a group of like-minded students from the St. Nicholas-area campus of Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Throwing out first pitch, Bolles legends retire jerseys



Legendary baseball coach Don Suriano and Chipper Jones, future Hall of Fame Major League standout for the Atlanta Braves, pay tribute to their time spent at the Bolles School's San Jose campus. Suriano, a longtime coach, and Jones, a first round draft pick, shared their fondest memories, greeted fans and took a trip down memory lane.

SEE MORE PAGE 15

One Spark was 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 Tukz 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

... See **AQUARIUM** on page 6

Gift Guide
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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

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



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

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

artistic expression of our city and not have him face jail time or fines.

- Diane Raines

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

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

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

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

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► 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

Raising other questions...

My family and I read with great interest Kate Hallock's article Graffiti 'ghost' artist Arrested. We have resided in Jacksonville for just under three years. We drive through San Marco frequently and have often taken note of the painted utility boxes, assuming that the paintings are supposed to be there.

I believe Hallock's article and its attendant questions are important because we are a society which habitually makes judgments based upon opinion or emotion, rather than upon fact- or in this case, law. The first question the public is asked is whether or not Chip Southworth's paintings are graffiti or art. Truthfully, that loaded question is not the point, because our opinions as to what is Art have nothing to do with the matter at hand. We all know it is against the law to deface or even "decorate" private or public property without the express permission of the owner. Laws exist to protect us from harm, and from the whims of others. If the ghost artist had painted his Keith Haring's Ghost work on Stacy Harper's car or house without her knowledge or consent, I do not believe she would be circulating her petition on MoveON.org's website.

It is interesting to learn about who Mr. Southworth is, and to know of his various accomplishments, but his background does not make it okay for him to do what anyone else would be punished for, according to the law. It would simply be unfair, and the just rights of the property owners would not have been protected. Our tax dollars are being used to correct the problem created by Southworth's actions.

The second question posed is does the punishment fit the crime? My response is "that is a rhetorical question," and personal opinions have no place here. According to the law, fines and jail time are the possible punishment. However, one can always ask a judge for leniency, as it certainly seems that Mr. Southworth is not a gang member who spray paints what we typically think of as graffiti; and first time offenders are sometimes given a break. It seems a bit much to ask the city to pay him to paint the boxes according to whatever specifications the city engineers may say is appropriate for the functionality of the utility boxes. If I were facing the possibility of 5 years in prison, I would be very grateful for a sentence of community service, and repainting the boxes at my own expense. I am sure that in light of Mrs. Southworth's medical condition, Stacy Harper could then be fundraising on their behalf and allow the community itself to respond out of charity, rather than be browbeaten with misplaced sentimentality. It seems to me that a veteran of the U.S. Navy Presidential Guard should know better than to do what he did in the first place.

Finally, Jacksonville would indeed benefit from more culture. But culture cannot be imposed. It is something which is organic and requires time to develop. Neither private whims, nor government funding can provide "culture-in-a-package." Not even our consumer-based society can develop such a thing. Perhaps we need to look at our roots and learn from our forebears about what is Good, and Beautiful and True.

- Cecilia Cunningham

Retail plazas getting good spring cleaning

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring cleaning is in the air as buildings on Hendricks Avenue are being renovated for future businesses looking to shine.

While what kind of business has yet to be confirmed for the San Marco Train Station, a 5,246 square-

businesses are planned for the site now being referred to as Hendricks Plaza, current tenants continue to keep the doors open during the renovation.

Further down the road, a former Dulux Paint store at 1406 Hendricks Avenue is getting more than a fresh coat of paint, as it is transformed into V Pizza.



Warren "Buzz" Tyre, of Triact Development, said more than \$400,000 in upgrades have been made to the site, situated on the corner of Hendricks and Nira.

foot former utility building, the developer said they are in "serious negotiations" with a potential tenant. The nearly century-old space is located next to the 4,000 square-foot Panera Bread with an adjoining brick patio and shared parking lot.

In addition, façade renovations are underway at 1620-1636 Hendricks Avenue. While there has been no response on what additional

Warren "Buzz" Tyre, of Triact Development, said more than \$400,000 in improvement upgrades have been made to the site, situated on the corner of Hendricks and Nira.

Rudy Theale, owner of V Pizza, signed a five-year commitment on the property, but his real commitment is to make the best Napolitano-style pizza in Jacksonville.

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Washington Post releases annual high school rankings

Three local schools rank in the top 15

For 16 years *The Washington Post* has ranked the nation's high schools based on the academic challenges they provide to the students. This year 10 Duval County high schools made its annual America's Most Challenging High Schools list, including Stanton College Prep, which ranked 7th in the nation, 1st in Florida; Paxon School for Advanced Studies, 14th in nation, 4th in the state; Samuel Wolfson, ranked 74th in the U.S. and 14th in Florida, and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, which ranked 123rd and 24th respectively.

Duval County Public Schools, the

20th largest school district in the country, is the only school district in the nation with three schools listed in

10 Duval County high schools made its annual America's Most Challenging High Schools list, including Stanton College Prep, which ranked 7th in the nation, 1st in Florida.

the top 15. The other school that made the top grade was Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts (15th nationally, 5th in Florida).

The prestigious newspaper ranks schools through an index formula that uses a simple ratio: the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and

Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given at a school each year, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year.

To view the full America's Most Challenging High Schools list visit <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/local/highschoolchallenge/>.

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 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. Deadline to submit a proposal is May 26, 2014.

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Residents to make pre-emptive strike at anticipated traffic

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In the 20 seconds it takes Shane Sheffield, a resident of Marco Place, to go outside to get his morning newspaper six cars whiz by, cutting through his otherwise quiet neighborhood.

It's an ongoing problem; one that he is concerned will be exacerbated by the planned East San Marco Development's 240-unit apartment complex and retail space anchored by a Publix supermarket.

Already, cut-through traffic speeds through Sheffield's neighborhood to avoid the congested intersection on the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard where zoning for the planned development was approved in March.

But Sheffield and other residents with similar concerns about speedy commuters are optimistic that a neighborhood meeting scheduled next month will steer them closer to a solution for when the rubber hits the road.

That meeting will be held on Wed., May 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at San Marco Preservation Hall to talk about neighborhood traffic in the area between Belote Place and Hendricks Avenue south to Pineridge Road.

While the mixed-use project known as East San Marco appears to be on hold because Whitehall Realty Partners was unable to secure investors to purchase the project from Regency Centers as planned, neighbors surrounding the areas of the development are still proceeding with efforts to curb cut-through traffic.

The purpose of the meeting, which will be led by Doug Skiles,

.....
"Development
is **good,**
it just needs to be
responsible.

Overall there are
more positives
than negatives."

Joe Mark

Resident of Broadmoor Lane

.....
president of EnVision Design + Engineering who was heavily involved in the renovation of San Marco Square, and Andrew Dickson, San Marco Preservation Society Traffic Safety Chair, is to present some potential solutions for traffic abatement and get a consensus from the neighborhood about which route they would like to take.

Through a petition process, a 75 percent consensus must be reached from residents on the affected street in order to implement changes. In addition, homeowners are expected to pay 50 percent of the cost of the preferred traffic calming technique. If approved, the City would pay the remaining cost.

Some residents have already met with Jim Robinson, Director of Public Works for the City of Jacksonville, and District 5

Councilwoman Lori Boyer to discuss the array of traffic calming options and the pros and cons of each.

Discussions included speed tables, stop signs, and adding medians and curbs.

According to Boyer, the issue of cut-through traffic in residential areas is not unique to this neighborhood and may become a pilot for other parts of San Marco including River Road and Colonial Manor which are experiencing similar problems.

At the upcoming May meeting a series of maps will portray the various options to reduce speed and the volume of traffic. Corresponding petition forms will be available for each so that the canvassing of residents can begin.

One potential solution that is receiving notable interest because of its simplicity and cost effectiveness is to make a one block portion of Belote Place from Atlantic Boulevard one-way, forcing drivers to take a right on Alford Place.

This would deter drivers on Hendricks Avenue from cutting through streets such as Marco Place to get to Atlantic Boulevard. Because Belote Place would be one-way for the segment that feeds into Atlantic Boulevard, cars would no longer be able to exit from that route.

"The most compelling solution is to make a few segments one-way which costs virtually nothing," explained Dickson. "Whatever happens there, whether it's East San Marco or some other development, you are going to have more pedestrians and more cars. We have some tools to make positive changes and would like to proceed so the petition process can start for the improvements the neighborhood wants."

Joe Mark, a resident of Broadmoor Lane, is eager to start the process acknowledging that regardless of the fate of East San Marco, the neighborhood is already dealing with the hazards of speeding commuters and the potential development has been an impetus to find a solution.

"Development is good, it just needs to be responsible. Overall there are more positives than negatives," said Mark. "We had a problem before and we still have a problem so maybe something good will come out of it."

Likewise, Sheffield is optimistic that a solution can be reached.

"Cut through-traffic was not what my neighborhood was made for," said Sheffield. "But Robinson was very receptive to helping us find a solution. Whether there is a development or not, it's an issue we need to address."

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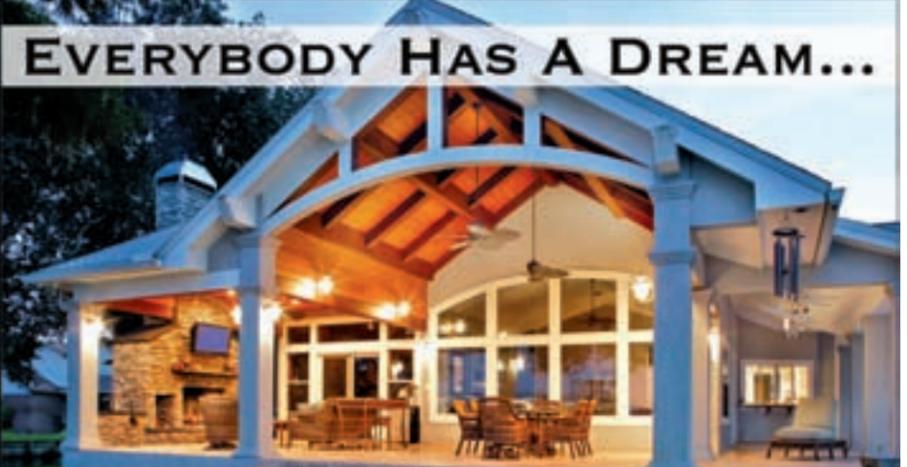
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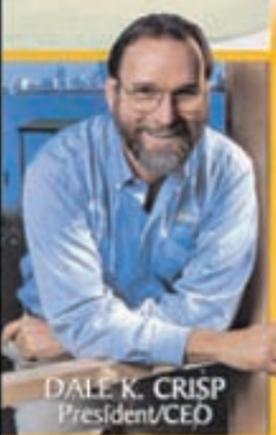
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AQUARIUMfrom 1

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 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.

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 Tukz 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!"



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



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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.”

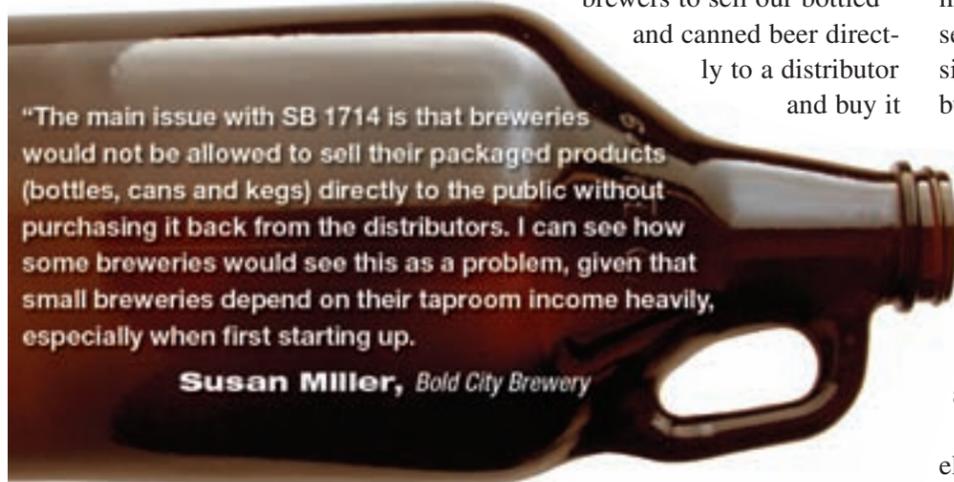
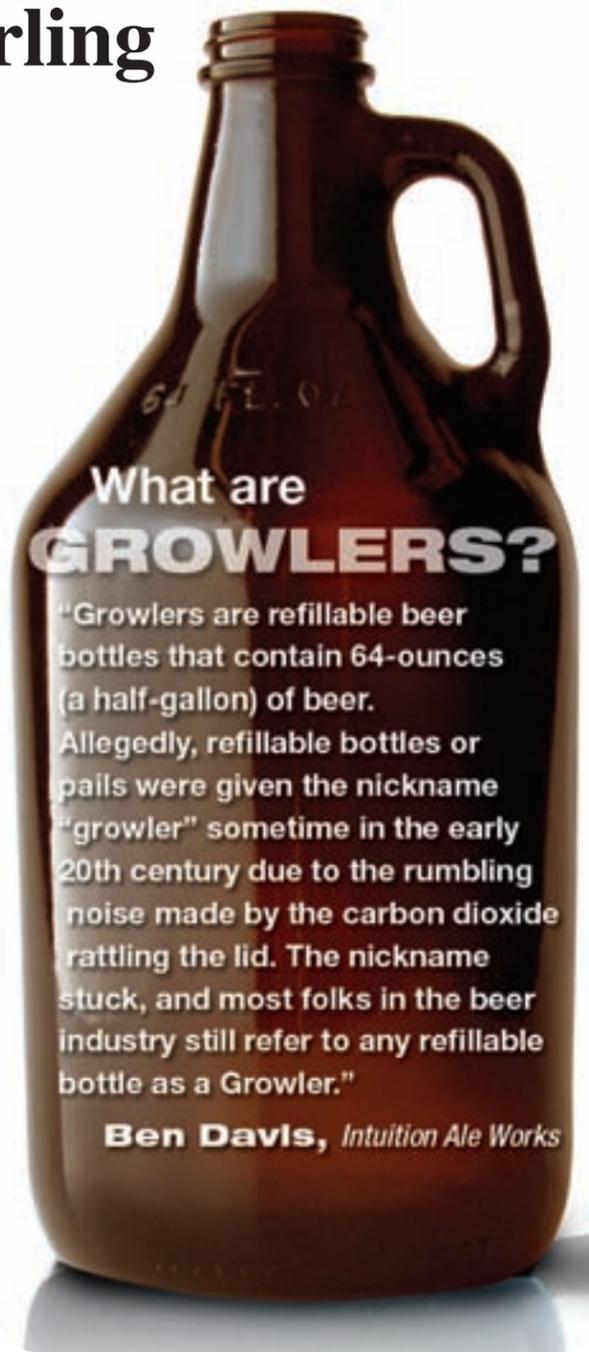
According to Davis, SB 1714 is “places ridiculous additional regulations on our taproom operations and basically is a shakedown proposed by the wholesalers.”

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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Sidewalks and signals part of Safe Route to Schools upgrades

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While traffic patterns continue to evolve with the redevelopment of San Marco Square, the Overland Bridge Project and the tentative construction of the East San Marco development,

steps in the right direction and thinks that as traffic patterns continue to adapt there will be “unintended consequences both good and bad.”

Feinberg said there would undoubtedly be an increase in traffic as a result of the proposed East San Marco development, which is positioned across the street from the

popular magnet school, Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School.

“East San Marco will have a big impact on traf-

Chair, said much of what is being done as part of the Safe Route to Schools Initiative, which encompasses an area from Mitchell Avenue to La Salle Street, is already underway.

Specifically, the construction of new sidewalks on Mitchell Avenue to Arcadia Place; on La Salle Street between Hendricks Avenue and San Marco Boulevard; on Landon Avenue on the school side of Hendricks Avenue and on Thacker Avenue between Landon Middle School and the San Marco Library.

Construction is expected to be complete by mid-summer.

“One thing that is great about it, is that we are finally filling in the gaps in the sidewalks in San Marco,” said Dickson. “It is all part of a general movement in San Marco to make it pedestrian-friendly through street design.”

In addition to the sidewalks, pedestrian signal upgrades will be located at the intersections of Hendricks Avenue with LaSalle Street, Landon Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard and San Marco Boulevard.

While Dickson said he would have liked to see a crosswalk on Atlantic Boulevard around Minerva Avenue or Mango Place, it’s currently not part of the school-safety initiative.

Still, if the Publix ever materializes as part of the East San Marco project, he believes it will attract students from Landon Middle School to the supermarket, which then requires a tenuous trek across Atlantic Boulevard.

While still conceptual, local planners and bicycle advocates are considering ramifications to implementing design elements similar to those used in San Marco Square, including on-street parking and crosswalks to manage existing traffic and any that is sure to ensue with the development of East San Marco.

“When there is development, there is a lot more activity and a lot more potential conflicts between pedestrians and cars,” said Dickson. “One thing we should look at whether or not East San Marco materializes is extending the design of the Square down Atlantic Boulevard.”

“I encourage children and their families to choose at least one day a week that they walk or bike to school even if the bus or carpool is available.”

– Ashley Smith Juarez
San Marco resident and District 3
Duval County School Board Member

pedestrian safety for neighborhood school children remains a driving focus as components of the Safe Route to Schools initiative are implemented into current infrastructure.

Safe Route to Schools is a federally funded effort to increase pedestrian safety while encouraging children to walk and bicycle to school. The national program was signed into law in 2005, dedicating \$612 million to safety projects across the country.

Locally, the Florida Department of Transportation carries out the project by improving crosswalks, fixing, adding or connecting sidewalks, adjusting the timing of lights and utilizing street signage. The City of Jacksonville is responsible for necessary maintenance.

San Marco resident and District 3 Duval County School Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez said the program is an important way to for students to travel safely to school while incorporating physical activity into their daily routine.

“Integrated physical activity is important to student health today and to habits that will serve for a lifetime. I appreciate the community’s efforts to promote this opportunity,” said Smith Juarez. “I encourage children and their families to choose at least one day a week that they walk or bike to school even if the bus or carpool is available.”

Valerie Feinberg, a San Marco resident instrumental in getting funding approved by the FDOT, is encouraged that pedestrian safety has taken many

steps in the right direction and thinks that as traffic patterns continue to adapt there will be “unintended consequences both good and bad.”

“If you look at current traffic, you have a police officer trying to manage traffic,” said Feinberg. “So we already see that it’s an issue.”

“If it’s possible that it would have a relief on the traffic impact then we need to have the conversation,” said Boyer. “There is an array of things that can be done, but they could further back up traffic down Atlantic or increase cut-through traffic. There are consequences everywhere.”

DCPS needs to join conversation

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer observed that working with Duval County Public Schools on making changes to the current carpool lanes at Landon Middle School may be part of the solution.

Andrew Dickson, San Marco Preservation Society Traffic Safety

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Digital billboard not welcome on Southbank

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A proposed billboard on Kings Avenue is not a welcome sign to residents and business owners who met last month over concerns that their scenic views from neighborhood high-rises would be replaced with advertising space.

At issue is a static billboard that was removed on the north side of I-95 as part of the Overland Bridge Project. Its owner, CBS Outdoor, wants to erect a replacement billboard that would potentially mar the view of residents living in area high-rises, including those in The Strand, The Peninsula and San Marco Place condominiums.

Originally rejected by the Downtown Development Review Board, CBS Outdoor appealed to the Downtown Investment Authority in December for a resolution on the billboard's relocation. After three hours of debate, the issue was deferred until a workshop could be held and the volumes of material could be studied.

While there are currently no plans for that workshop, the DIA was scheduled to meet last month on the issue. But because of a scheduling conflict, the meeting was postponed and will likely be held at the DIA's regularly scheduled meeting on May 21.

Regardless of how the DIA rules,

the issue will eventually end up before City Council before a final resolution is made.

Neighbors unite

Meanwhile last month, Jane Condon, a resident of San Marco Place Condominiums since 2007, organized a neighborhood meeting held at The Peninsula to inform the community about the potential billboard.

"The consensus is that no one wants a billboard in our neighborhood, particularly one that size and one that is digital," explained Condon who said it will also impede the view of the downtown skyline that drivers traveling north on I-95 access. "The size is such that people driving are going to see it blinking away - 10,000 blinks a day."

The proposed two-sided billboard, which shows an ad for Subway in the CBS Outdoor rendering, will be digital on the side facing northbound on I-95. Its digital advertising could change every eight seconds, which translates into 10,800 times a day.

Condon is concerned that although the digital side would face away from nearby high-rises, the ambient light it would cast would be an unwelcome glow for residents.

Even if the billboard were entirely static, like the one it is meant to replace, Condon would not welcome it.

"There is no guarantee that the sign

company isn't just trying to get a toe-hold in and quiet our group, only to come back later and make both sides digital," explained Condon. "We want to be very cautious."

Alicia Grant, an Avondale resident who was one of the founding directors of Scenic Advocates for Jacksonville, is opposed to the potential billboard on Kings Avenue and Draft Ordinance

denied, denied. This billboard is going to shine all down I-95 South."

According to Grant, billboard companies have spent \$6.7 billion lobbying for billboards.

"That ought to tell you how much they are making," said Grant. "What gives them the right to buy our visual space?"



2013-493, which could reverse components of a 1987 charter amendment passed by a voter referendum which stopped the construction of new billboards and removed hundreds of others from neighborhood roadways.

"It's not a legal billboard because it's not allowed to be digital," said Grant. "It should have been denied,

No legal standing

According to Bill Brinton, an attorney who worked on the original charter amendment almost 30 years ago and helped draft the 12 settlement agreements that resulted, CBS doesn't



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▶ have the right to erect the proposed billboard on Kings Avenue.

Brinton explained the legalities at the neighborhood meeting held at The Peninsula.

“There are three separate and independent reasons it should be denied,” said Brinton. “They don’t want us to consider the charter, the settlement agreement or the overlay. What are we supposed to be considering?”

Brinton said CBS Outdoor’s application fails to satisfy six standards in section 656.361.4 of the ordinance code, which deals with the appropriateness of the project as it relates to factors such as the Downtown Master Plan, the impact on the value of properties and the Downtown Overlay Zone.

In addition, Brinton sites that CBS Outdoor makes no reference to Article 23 of the City Charter, which bans off-site commercial billboards as decided by Jacksonville voters in 1987.

Lastly, Brinton said the proposed Kings Avenue billboard is prohibited by the Downtown Sign Overlay Zone.

Brinton is currently representing Scenic Jacksonville in the lawsuits over enforcement of both the settlement agreements and charter amendment and said in the case of the proposed Kings Avenue billboard, it is larger than the one it is meant to replace, violates setbacks and is digital, which is in conflict with the settlement agreement.

“It’s a completely different animal than what was at the other site,” said Brinton noting the massive scale and the one-sided digital face of the proposed billboard. “People are suspicious. Once they have the structure up what’s to say they won’t change the other side to digital in the future?”

Businesses object

As a business owner, Jim Rinaman III, of Rinaman and Associates, attended the meeting because he doesn’t want to wait to look to the future to see how a billboard will affect either his view or his property value.

He believes a sign going up will bring the area down.

“First of all, I don’t see why they are going to have a sign, when the city voted against it,” said Rinaman. “It’s going to hurt my business, and I don’t want to have to look at the sign. The bottom line is that I don’t think anyone would want a sign there without some ulterior motive.”

In his opinion, that motive is money.

“These parties fight all over the

country to put up billboards,” explained Rinaman. “They have no interest in Jacksonville. They just want to make money in someone else’s backyard.”

According to Rinaman, whose law offices are located on Kings Avenue, he and other nearby businesses have worked hard to revitalize the area and thinks banning the billboard is as much about civic pride as anything else.

Explaining the improvements he and other business owners have made, Rinaman doesn’t see the addition of a 65-foot vinyl billboard as keeping with the neighborhood’s redevelopment efforts.

Instead, he likens it to pollution.

“When we had a paper plant stinking up the city, we did something about it,” said Rinaman. “This is visual pollution. At the end of the day, it’s a citizenship thing.”

For more information, go to ScenicAdvocatesforJax.org.

“These parties fight all over the country to put up billboards. They have no interest in Jacksonville. They just want to make money in someone else’s backyard.”

Jim Rinaman III

Owner, Rinaman and Associates

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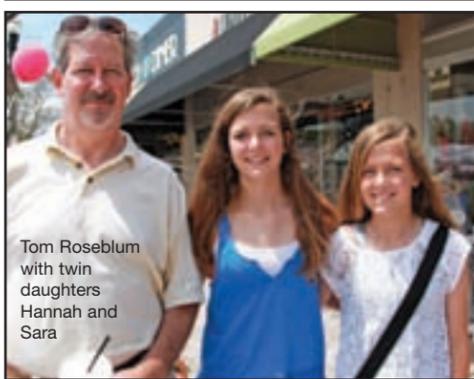
Residents were out and about in San Marco last month, enjoying a sunny weekend and the ambiance of Art on the Square at the annual spring Art Festival. The Square has also seen a turnover in shops recently, with the closing of San Marco Diner – now Beach Diner; Beau Outfitters, formerly at the Shoppes of Avondale, moving into the space recently vacated by All Spiced Up; a new toy store, Heyday, in the former First Place Sports location, which in turn moved over to the space formerly occupied by Edward’s Tobacco Shop.



Stephen Morgan, Gretchen and Whitney



Andy and Kristen Allen with Ava, camera-shy Payne



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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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Old cemetery goes high tech, thanks to St. Nicholas resident

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While there is not much hope of bringing life back into a cemetery, a St. Nicholas woman has found a way to bring the deceased into the digital age.

A two-dimensional barcode known as a QR code – an abbreviation for quick response – has been added to the entrance of the St. Nicholas Cemetery by Kay Ellen Gilmour, a retired cardiologist, who helps keep the rich history of the neighborhood cemetery alive by sharing her research on those interred there.

Gilmour, who has lived across the street from the buried dead for the past 43 years, became interested in genealogy after her mother passed away, leaving a trunk full of family documents, photos and memorabilia dating back to the mid 19th century.

Becoming increasingly curious about her deceased neighbors, Gilmour began digging into research on the graves.

“I just kept going. I got drug in by my own curiosity and it got more interesting and interrelated,” Gilmour said. “Then I found that I had a whole lot of stuff, so I wrote a book.”

That book, *Genealogical History of Florida: Revealed in the Old St. Nicholas Cemetery*, is an account of the 240 people buried there depicting the life and times of the city dating back to when it was still called Cowford.

The book, now in its second edition, contains research on those resting in the centuries-old tombs not just

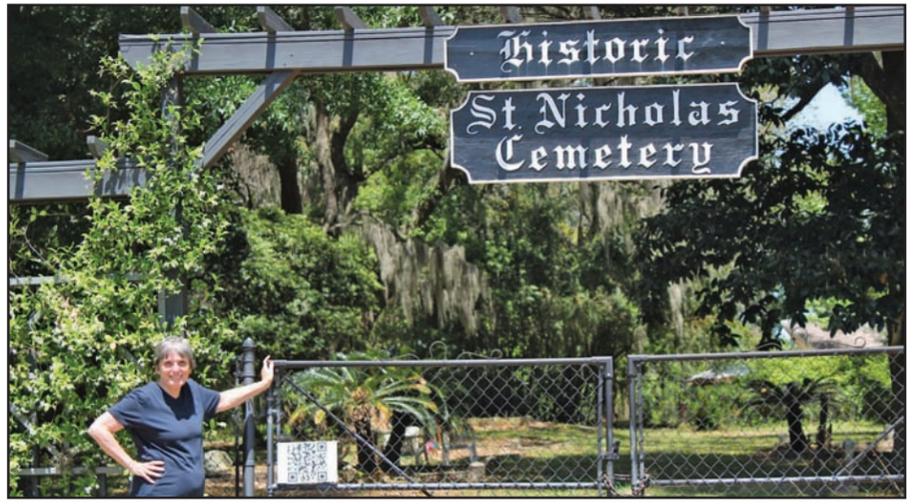
on the dates of their birth and death, but the dash in between – their lives. Civil War battles, prisoner of war camps, interactions with Native Americans and African slaves, 19th century professions and life on the St. John’s River are all described as they relate to the people buried in the small neighborhood cemetery.

Now visitors can scan the new QR code located on the cemetery’s gate with the QR Reader app on their smart phone or iPad, and access a website that gives a brief history of the St. Nicholas neighborhood, the coordinates of the cemetery, an enumeration of the names and dates of the people buried and the location of their graves. It also links to Amazon.com where Gilmour’s book can be purchased.

Proceeds from the book, along with luminary sales, pay for the monthly upkeep of the cemetery, essentially ownerless as it is not a City-owned property, nor has anyone stepped forward as its rightful owner. Before proceeds from the book were donated, it took a two- to three-day biannual neighborhood effort to clean up the heavily canopied cemetery.

As one of City’s oldest burial sites, reflecting a 163-year period in the City’s history, the names of those interred on the aged tombstones read like a Who’s Who in the annals of Jacksonville history.

But what Gilmour thinks makes the cemetery unique is the cosmos of the 19th century life represented by the 240 markers, with 49 different surnames.



“There is a wide scope of sociological layers of people who lived represented there. There are Confederates, Yankees, blacks, whites, a former Governor, senator, judge, boat captain, business leaders, and slaves,” explained Gilmour. “It was not a family, church or cultural cemetery. The majority there were not related by blood, but by space and time.”

Gilmour has found a way for the cemetery to keep up with current times with the addition of the QR code.

Although she jokes that she did not even know what a QR code was before shopping at the pet store for cat food, once she realized she could create a web page and connect it to her book, she was determined to bring the old cemetery into the electronic age.

“It is a win-win for the cemetery and for those doing research in genealogy,” said Gilmour. “It provides true historical information that is worthwhile not just for the neighborhood but for others doing research.”

Gilmour, who gives regular lectures for the Southeast Genealogical Society and can trace her own roots back to 1710, said studying genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies in the United States.

“It’s fun. You get to be Sherlock Holmes in your living room. It’s the challenge, the gotcha,” said Gilmour explaining the allure of filling in the branches on the family tree. “People want this information on who they are and where they came from.”

In the case of St. Nicholas cemetery, the genealogical research done by Gilmour will get new life with instant access to information the QR code offers giving both a glimpse of 19th century life as well as a humble reminder that regardless of one’s roots, the living share a common fate.

“The cemetery offers an unusual mix of sociological strata of the times,” said Gilmour. “People who would not have necessarily mixed together in life, they mix in the cemetery.”

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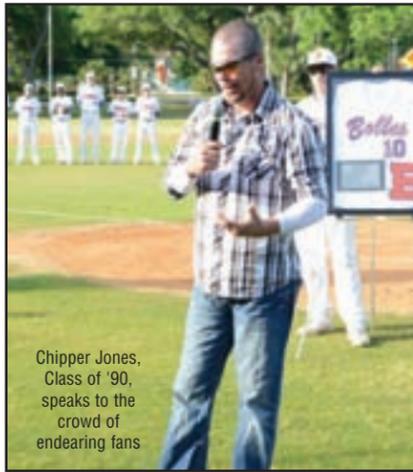
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Bolles retires jerseys for alumnus, retired head coach

The Bolles School officially retired the numbers of alumnus Chipper Jones '90 and past head coach Don Suriano on Apr. 11, preceding the Bolles vs. Bishop Kenny baseball game on Hugh Donovan Field on the San Jose Campus.

Jones' No. 10 was retired in honor of his outstanding baseball career including First Team All-State in 1988, '89, '90; 1989 State Champions, Tournament MVP; 1989 Florida Player of the Year; First Pick of 1990 MLB draft; 1999 National League MVP; eight-time All-Star; 1995 World Series Champion; 2008 NL Batting Champion; two-time Team USA member, World Baseball Classic; only switch hitter in MLB history to hit lifetime .300 with 300 HR, and 2,726 Major League hits, 468 home runs, and 1,623 RBIs.

Suriano served as the Bolles baseball head coach from 1982-97 and his No. 2 was retired in honor of his outstanding coaching career including Bolles State Championships in 1983, '89, '91; State Runner-up: 1990; 10 Regional



Chipper Jones, Class of '90, speaks to the crowd of endearing fans

Championships; 1989 Florida Times-Union Coach of the Year; 10 State Final Four Appearances, 12 District Titles. His career record was 559-234 in 28 seasons and he was a five-time Florida Athletic Coaches Association Coach-of-the-Year, the 2014 FHSAA Hall-of-Fame Inductee and a two-time USA Today Top 10 Rankings in 1983 and 1991.



Coach Don Suriano shares memories about the growth of the baseball program, thoughts on baseball in the modern era

Spruced up for spring

The membership of the San Marco-based Rose Garden Circle are a positive group of ladies, matter of fact, they keep themselves busy by enriching the lives of others. As evidenced by the participation of membership at the spring beautification at the North Florida School of Special Education illustrates their ability to share in the beauty of the outdoors and a love of civic beautification.

"The Rose Circle is donating money for all of the plants here, the labor and the hard work," Melody Bachman, current president and resident of the Miramar area. Margie Fox of Foxy Foliage and member of the circle, helped donate her hard work in the design phase of the project as well. The beautification took place April 9 at the school's campus at 223 Mill Creek Road.



Malinda Durham, Joann Purdie, Jerry Ferguson, Melody Bachman, Kathy Mease, Erin Nowikowski, Karen McCombs, Mindy Hawkins, Gail Beveridge, Jennifer Newman and Trisha Vecchio, kneeling are (l to r) Elise Nowikowski and Margie Fox

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A mother understands what a child does not say...
— Author Unknown

I'd like to wish all Mothers a beautiful Mother's Day

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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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The Garden Club struts FASHION & Florals



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



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

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.

Sherrill Dewberry, Carol Weinstein, Marianne Hocker, Margaret Schumacher



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.



Above: Red Hat Club: Victoria Lauricella, Gary Germond, Lynn Bascelli, Marie Shashy
Left: Jennifer Sheffield, Tammie Frost



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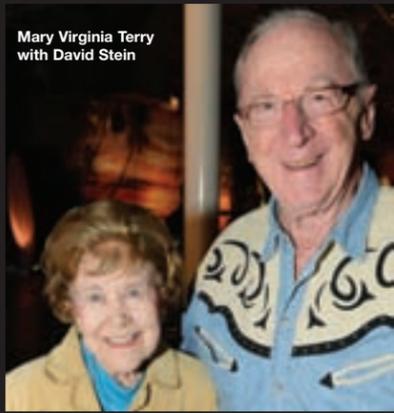
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Christen Trogolo with Dr. Kathryn and Kristian Vilano

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.

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.

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.



Tuxes and Tennis Shoes Chair Rick Cox and wife Debi



Michelle and Richard Barnett with Ricky and Michelle Bedoya



Honorary Chairs Joie and Susan Chitwood with Craig and Nancy Meeb

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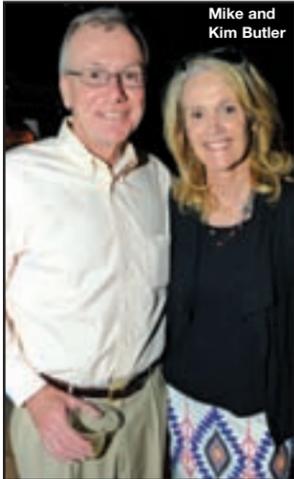
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LAND OF THE TIGER FITTING VENUE FOR ZOO GALA

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.



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.

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC TOASTS TO OLD HAVANA

The fundraising goals were exceeded as outstanding ticket sales and countless silent auction donations rolled in, setting the stage for an evening to remember. A team of hard-working parents and faculty worked tirelessly to plan the party to celebrate the SJCS Spring Fling titled Havana Nights, at Epping Forest on Apr. 26.



Brian and Susan Enoch with Jamie and Mick Ross, Maria and Larry Johnson



Carla and Danny Chin with Cathy Bosco and Mark Varjen

A DERBY DAY FOR SAN JOSE



The Kentucky Derby theme brought out the best dressed, as parents and proud supporters of the San Jose Episcopal Day School flaunted their fashion sense. The annual drive for

fundraising was held on the campus of the Friday Musicale. Complete with outdoor entertainment,



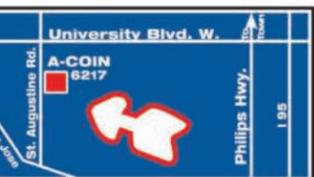
mint juleps and other libations, the party was a hit and raised much needed funds for the Episcopal School on San Jose.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

San Marco resident named NAIOP Emerging Professional of the Year

NAI Hallmark Partners' Christian Harden, a San Marco resident, has been honored by the Northeast Florida Chapter of NAIOP (National Association of Industrial and Office Properties) as the 2013 Emerging Professional of the Year. The award is given to the up-and-coming professional under the age of 35 who has distinguished him/herself among colleagues.



leasing broker. In 2013, Christian accounted for more than \$13 million in aggregate brokerage volume over 46 individual transactions. He also committed his own time and financial resources to participate in regional, national and international opportunities to cultivate the NAI Global network. From Orlando to Las Vegas to London, Christian has been an engaged representative for NAI Hallmark Partners, the commercial real estate industry and the City of Jacksonville.

Harden began his career with NAI Hallmark Partners in 2009 as an asset manager and

Harden began his career with NAI Hallmark Partners in 2009 as an asset manager and

New children's toy, clothing shop opens in the Square

San Marco resident and shop owner Lisa Leuthold is no stranger to small business or long hours. After owning a Downtown night club and a couple of clothing stores, Leuthold took time out to start a family. Now that her girls are 8 and 10 years old, she recently opened Heyday because "I needed a creative outlet."



The children's toy and clothing store is located in San Marco Square, 2016 San Marco Blvd. Store hours vary, Monday through Saturday. Call (904) 321-8697 for details.

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 work-spaces 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.

World swim champ to head the Episcopal swim program

San Jose resident Martin Zubero will be the new Swim Program Director for Episcopal School of Jacksonville, beginning May 12. Zubero will be responsible for overseeing both the Episcopal and Amberjax swim programs.



"Martin has all the characteristics we desire for the next leader of our swim program. In addition to his strong coaching and swimming pedigree, his values and philosophies are consistent with those of Episcopal. Martin has a strong understanding of what it takes to be successful and we look forward to him leading our program moving forward," said Andy Kidd, Episcopal's Athletic Director.

Zubero is a decorated Olympic and World Champion. He competed for Spain in three Olympics and won the gold medal in the 200m

backstroke at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Additionally, Zubero held the world record for the 200m backstroke from 1991-1999. He has received numerous accolades as a coach including being named the Florida Head Age Group Coach of the Year and the ASCA Age Group Coach of the Year for Florida Swimming. He has been inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame as well as the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

DCPS Superintendent joins Florida Council of 100

Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti has been invited to become a member of the Florida Council of 100, a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of business leaders, which exists to promote the economic growth of Florida and improve the economic well-being and quality of life of its citizenry. Representing more than 100 companies with over 600,000 employees, Council members have achieved a high degree of success and recognition in their business or profession; have demonstrated involvement in Florida public policy issues; and possess the personal qualities of character, personality, and leadership ability.



"It is an honor to be recognized for this opportunity," said San Marco resident Vitti. "[It] will allow our challenges and successes to be better understood while enhancing our voice statewide."

The Council works closely with the Governor and state agencies, the Legislature, the judicial branch, and other private organizations, to affect positive change in the state and achieve quality of life improvements for the citizens of Florida.

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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, and many would say San Marco’s historic neighborhoods, 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, or stop by their historic office at 1046 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32204.



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FAMILY TREE HAS ROOTS IN

Motherly LOVE

BY LARA PATANGAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Four generations of women, spanning from 94-years-young to 12-years-old, share more than just branches on a family tree. They also share roots grounded in love.

The matriarch of the family, Elizabeth Lee, who has lived in San Marco for 68 years, raised her two children in the neighborhood.

"I've seen so many changes here in San Marco," said Lee. "It's a wonderful place to live. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Living anywhere else would mean away from her daughter, her granddaughter and her great-granddaughter.

While Lee has two other grandchildren and five other great-children, all of whom she loves dearly, there is a special connection among the four generations of women who still call Jacksonville their home.

Lee's daughter, Barbara Jernigan, who lives only as far away as Miramar, considers herself blessed that her mother has not only been such a

huge part of her life, but of her own three children and their grandchildren as well.

"It's a blessing. That's all there is to it," said Jernigan. "She truly loves her family, and that carried into our generation and now it's important to our children. Family is important and you rally when they need you. Those are two things I learned from mother."

Jernigan's daughter Paula Jeter apparently learned the same lesson.

"It's all about family and traditions," said Jeter explaining how her mom learned to smock clothing for her daughter and made needlepoint stockings for her children and grandchildren as special keepsakes. "My mom is very into traditions, into all those details that make everything so special."

Jeter said Lee was an integral part of her life growing up, even taking her and her siblings to school in the morning. She feels fortunate that both her mom and her grandmother, whom she calls Gammy, are so involved in her 12-year-old daughter, Caroline's life.

Both Lee and Jernigan call

Caroline almost every day to simply ask about her day at school. Caroline said she likes spending time with her grandmother, whom she calls BeBe. They bake together and have a special dollhouse they are working on. Caroline helps Jernigan maneuver her new iPhone and enjoys hearing stories about her family from her grandmother's perspective.

But sometimes, it's not the words they share or even the things they do together that are most significant.

For Caroline, she likes the special way her BeBe says goodbye.

"Whenever we say goodbye, we hug and kiss and she lets out this little squeal," said Caroline. "I just love that."

Listening to each woman speak about the other is like listening to an echo of respect, admiration and love.

"I am proud of Barbara about everything," said Lee. "She is a lovely, sweet girl."

Barbara said she admired her mother's strength and willingness to do whatever needed to be done.

Not surprisingly, Jeter's feelings for her own mother are just as strong.

"My mom has always gone above and beyond," said Jeter. "If I can be half the mom to my daughter, that she has been to me, I would be happy."

Jeter's daughter, Caroline, doesn't think there is anything half-way about her mother.



Front, Caroline Jeter and great-grandmother Elizabeth Lee; standing, Paula Jeter and her mother Barbara Jernigan

"She's the best mom anybody could ever have," said Caroline.

Jeter cherishes the connection they all share, especially around holidays like Mother's Day.

"I can't think of a Mother's Day we haven't all been together," said Jeter. "Especially since there has been four generations. I can't imagine us not all being together on that day."

Caroline is already looking to the future saying it would be cool to have a fifth generation branch out on their family tree.

There would be Gammy, BeBe, her own mother and Caroline who said she would like to be called Nana because that's what she called herself when she was younger and couldn't pronounce her own name.

Regardless of what name any of them are known by, or how many generations are to come, they are a family rooted in love.

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Women find encouragement on all levels

Speaker Series funds literacy program

BY NANCY LEE BETHEA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Though she lost the 2011 Jacksonville mayoral election, San Marco resident Audrey Moran uses her experience to encourage women to run for political office. Moran spoke to a crowd of mostly women at the Riverside House on April 15 as part of the Women's Center of Jacksonville's 2014 "Women, Words & Wisdom" Speaker Series. She currently works as Senior Vice President for Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy at Baptist Health.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE

The Women's Center, located at 5644 Colcord Avenue in Jacksonville, helps nearly 10,000 women and girls annually through counseling, recovery and education services. Ticket sales from that event will help fund the Expanded Horizons Literacy Program, which provides free tutoring to women 18 and older. The program offers GED preparation, life skills workshops and computer training. Transportation and child care are furnished free of charge.

Gillian Ticehurst, Women's Center Development Director and Riverside resident, helps administer the Speaker

Series each year. "The Speaker Series is informational, educational and entertaining to the community, but it also benefits programs at the Women's Center," she said. "Expanded Horizons was a response to community need, and it fits with our mission to improve the lives of women."

Many women referred to the Center are unable to read, write or perform simple mathematics, according to Avondale resident Alicia Grant, President of the Women's Center's Board of Directors. "Expanded Horizons matches the women with mentors and volunteers who will work with them in developing their literacy skills," Grant said.



Students from University of North Florida, (from left to right) Jasmine Armas, Jenna Troiso, Samantha Horne and Kaydria McCray

"It's a very important program in our community for being able to bring women out of the depths of poverty and to help them have hope for the future of their families and themselves," she added.

MORAN REFLECTS

The second of three speakers for the 2014 Series, Moran shared humor,



Audience members enjoy humor, as well as wisdom, from Audrey Moran's speech at The Riverside House on April 15. Moran spoke as part of the Women's Center of Jacksonville 2014 Speaker Series

history and encouragement with her supportive audience. Quoting statistics showing underrepresentation of women in local, state and national politics, Moran cited research, much of it from corporate America, proving better governance occurs when more women are in leadership roles.

"Women are more willing to compromise, and that's what democracy is," she said.

Moran reminded the audience that 10 of 19 City Council seats were held by women in 2000. Today, only three women sit on Jacksonville's City Council.

Nine in '15 is a grassroots initiative designed to encourage more women to run for office. Moran reminded the audience of the nine City Council seats open in 2015. She also said the group has formed search parties seeking qualified female candidates.

Moran then shared pros and cons from her own political campaign. Losing anonymity was difficult, she said. To illustrate, she told of an early morning gym visit. Wearing sweat

pants, a T-shirt and a dab of forgotten toothpaste on her mouth, when someone asked if she were Audrey Moran, she said she wasn't but said she'd heard Moran was awesome.

As for pros, Moran mentioned a spontaneous show of support when she arrived late to a Jacksonville Women's Network event. Another time at University of North Florida's Indian cultural days, a little girl ran up and offered a hug. "I want to be Mayor, too," the girl said as she wrapped her arms around Moran.

Moran also reflected on why women make good leaders. "Perhaps women listen better," she said, "because they're moms with different life experiences." At the same time, women often short-change themselves. "Women make great leaders, but we like to have everything wrapped up with a bow," Moran said. "So there's trepidation in going into something new. We want a playbook. Men just go with it."

To find out more about the Women's Center of Jacksonville or the 2014 Speaker Series, call (904) 722-3000 or visit <http://womenscenterofjax.org/>.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

An approach to cleaning that considers household health

If you've never met Rebecca Ramsdell, then you've never been blessed with the level of care, compassion and courtesy with which she goes about her daily routine. Those who have come to know her understand that her work is her passion and that her passion may just make your life a lot simpler— and safer. By caring for all things both great and small, her goal is to leave the least amount of impact. This means that she lives by the "Clean Green" mantra of working with the best products that leave you living in a clean environment, not a chemical heavy home.

Unmatched in her attention to detail, Ramsdell has been taking care of some of the finest homes in Jacksonville, as her work ethic has earned referrals for

years. By utilizing products that leave no lasting residue and toxins, safety for toddlers and elders, including your pets—is paramount. "The bottom line is that what I use in cleaning your home is not harmful to any living thing. I've always cared for the smallest living things, even roly poly bugs."

If you think she'll leave a stone unturned, you will be pleasantly surprised. Ramsdell has been known to wipe down shampoo bottles in order to be sure you're not slipping on soap or having household hazards in atypical places.

Beginning in the spring of 2002, Ramsdell spent several months testing products to find the best and then started Clean Green that July. "I wanted to spend my working hours making a small difference in the health of people, the community and the environment," she said. "It started by making the homes I clean more pleasant with the products and scents I use."

Ramsdell said that she was "green" before green, and believes that she was the first environmentally-friendly house cleaner in Jacksonville, and maybe in Florida.

She shared that in the early years she used to be focused just on getting the job done well and less on the client experience, but a recent near-death experience from an allergic reaction to a smoking

the "GREEN" Way to clean...

Ramsdell said that she was "green" before green, and believes that she was the first environmentally-friendly house cleaner in Jacksonville, and maybe in Florida.

cessation aid gave her a new perspective on life. "Everything is here for a reason and everything we do is for a reason, even if we don't know what that is."

"My vision is more about service with love and compassion for the families I take care of, their pets, the community, all living things," said the gregarious small business owner, who also provides pet- and house-caring services. "I care deeply for all living things, especially those closest to me. My clients are family to me."

Most of her business comes through word of mouth because clients are eager to offer a referral, but she's not going to go out and sell her services. "I'm very honest, I have high integrity. My clients tell me I have an extremely high work ethic," Ramsdell said. "I was raised to

believe that even if you have a menial job you can be the best at it... and that's what I do."

Ramsdell likes to leave little surprises for her clients, such as fixing things that she knows the homeowner would like to get to at some point, leaving flowers or small gifts, especially new green things or organizing something; it's these touches that separate her from the rest of the crowd. "I care about how clean the house is when I'm finished," Ramsdell said.

The Clean Green business owner is hopeful about growing her company and wants to bring on people who want to be part of a team that gives back to the community. She is proud of her service to clients and looks forward to celebrating Clean Green's 12th year in business.



"My vision is more about service with love and compassion for the families I take care of, their pets, the community, all living things." **Rebecca Ramsdell**

Contact Rebecca Ramsdell for a clean, green housecleaning estimate today. Rebecca can be reached at (904) 535-4194 or icleangreen@comcast.net.

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HAPPENINGS

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Hourly tours beginning at 9 a.m.; artists painting on site; master gardeners available. Donations support The International Foundation and a woman in Bangkok who rescues young Thai women from prostitution.

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

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

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

Champions for Speech & Hearing Spring Giving Luncheon

Wed., May 7, 11:45 a.m., Friday Musicale, 645 Oak St.
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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.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

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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.
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Fri., May 16, 6-9 p.m., Fletcher Park, 1652 Atlantic Blvd.
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NAMI Fun-d-raiser

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

5th Annual River Hops

Sat., May 17, 6 p.m., a gourmet pairings dinner at one of Jacksonville's stunning riverfront homes. Fundraiser for Northeast Florida School for Special Education; limited seating, contact mjensen@northfloridaschool.org or call (904) 724-8326

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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

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.

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 or call (904) 733-7078.

Camp Cummer
 June 9 - July 25 Elementary; July 28 - August 1 Middle School, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call (904) 355-0630 or visit cummer.org/camp-cummer

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

Cooper Morgan Dance Intensive
 June 9-27, The Performers Academy, 3674 Beach Blvd.
 Call (904) 322-7672 or visit www.theperformersacademy.com for details.

7th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam & Junior 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 or inriverocean.org for details.

Photographs at MOCA
 Through August 24 - The Museum of Contemporary Art presents The New York Times Magazine photographs, 333 N. Laura St.



Get your (biking) gear on and head to work

In a resolution (2014-0221) approved by City Council last month, Councilmen Don Redman (District 4) and Doyle Carter (District 12) encourage residents to get their bicycles out of the garage, get the tires, chains and brakes checked and pedal to work on Friday, May 16.

However, bicycle enthusiasts are sponsoring the Jacksonville Bike to Work Day one day earlier. On Thurs., May 15, Lakeshore Bicycles, Open Road-Avondale and World Famous City Cycle are leading riders to the Times-Union Building where they will meet up with riders from the other side of the river, before heading to Hemming Plaza for an 8:30 a.m. arrival.

But whether you ride on Thursday with the group or observe the event on Friday, the City's resolution states that National Bike to Work Day will highlight the positive use of bicycles, enhance an opportunity to get in shape while commuting, reduce commute costs, and improve overall attitude and morale.

"This Bike to Work Event is meant to bring as many people on bikes as possible to gather in Hemming Plaza. Besides promoting biking to work for the month of May, Bicycle Month, the event is focused on showing that there are a large number of people in Jacksonville that ride bicycles and want safe places to ride," said Alice Gould,

manager of World Famous City Cycle on Park Street. "It is an important gathering to show the demand that exists for bike lanes and protected bike lanes as Jacksonville has consistently been ranked one of the worst cities in the US for cyclists and pedestrians."

The City's approval of the resolution further encourages citizens to use their bicycles on that day for both recreation and transportation, urging all bicyclists and motorists to renew their understanding of, and commitment to, safe and mutually respectful use of the roadways.



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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 Reinvented

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

There is a shift happening in the world, one that Avondale Travel and the experienced staff are well aware of—that the internet age has soured many on

making their own travel plans. Avondale Travellers will have the experience they've been seeking, with the option of having a specialty concierge everywhere



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



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GOGIVERS

Margaret Janz

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As a new teacher Margaret Janz remembers classes of fifth and sixth grade students who could not read well. That began her lifelong career and volunteer commitment to teaching students of all ages to read and comprehend English. Janz, a retired Jacksonville University Education Professor Emeritus, is former director of the J.U. Graduate Degree Reading Program and a free reading tutoring program she ran for 20 years on campus. She was named J.U. Professor of the Year in 1996-1997.

"There are many students and adults who need help with reading and comprehension," she said. "Children learn to read in different ways. We must first figure out how to individually help each child have

success. It may not be a serious difficulty. It might be something easily corrected; then we see the children do wonderful things."

After retirement, Janz believed there was a community need for a free reading program. She approached her church, St. Mark's Lutheran, to see if they would support a tutoring program and provide the needed space.

"The church raised funds to buy materials for the children and many volunteer tutors - about 20 people over five years - came from the congregation. Donations keep it going," she said. "We train the tutors before the September start date, I distribute brochures to area schools and we work closely with teachers and parents."



Janz said she does an evaluation to determine greatest need for each student when they enter the one-on-one program. For tutoring held once or twice weekly, Janz selects and prepares each tutor to work with a specific child. If the child completes the full school year of tutoring, she does a full evaluation to measure improvement. Some students repeat the program and parents have been impressed with the results.

Janz' greatest satisfaction is when a parent or guardian says their child has learned to enjoy reading and choosing books, that grades improved or that they passed the FCAT. Janz said that a child with difficulty reading will struggle with all areas of learning.

getting to know...

"If we can plant a seed - the love of reading - in one child then we have done a lot," she said.

Janz has been a volunteer for St. Vincent's Hospital and enjoys offering rides to seniors who can no longer drive. She's a member of the International and Florida Reading Associations, Duval County Reading Council and Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. She supports the American Cancer Society and First Coast Laryngectomee Club in memory of her father, Fred Janz, who suffered from laryngeal cancer.

She enjoys spending time with her siblings Christa Feely and Fred Janz. Margaret loves music, the San Marco Chamber Music Society and painting. She adopted her rescue Border Collie Shellie who is so high-energy Janz lost weight the first week she had him. She and Shellie now train in Freestyle dog obedience combined with music and dance.

Greg and Laura Miller



When Greg and Laura Miller of San Marco retired, she from AT&T and he from the military, the couple had no trouble finding things to do together. The Millers felt blessed in life with good health and time on their hands and both wanted to devote themselves more to helping others. Volunteering was a natural next step as they divide their efforts and support between Wounded Warriors, the Salvation Army, City Rescue Mission, P.E.O. Sisterhood and their church, Southside Baptist's charitable activities.

Laura became a member and is committed to fundraising for the P.E.O. Sisterhood (Philanthropic & Educational Organization) because it directs funds locally, state-wide and internationally to help educate women of all ages who need financial assistance, through several methods. The group provides

scholarships for advanced degrees or research, educational loans and continuing education for women returning to the work force or seeking better jobs to support their families. Funds also support the women's Cottey College in Nevada, Mo., founded by the P.E.O. in 1927.

"There are women of all ages who just need help to attain or further their educations. Some are in the process of obtaining a variety of degrees up to doctorates, others are starting or completing important research projects," Laura said. "This is something women can do locally to have an important and much broader impact, helping many women worldwide."

The Millers have three adult children and seven grandchildren spread from Illinois and Georgia to South Florida, but Laura is called "Pe," or grandmother by many more than her own grandchildren! The loving term "Pe" is what the Karen (Kuh-wren) refugee families call Laura, who began helping them through her church in 2008. The Karen re-settled in Jacksonville through United Nations Humanitarian Relief. Laura has helped the Karen with everyday needs of all kinds including driving them to appointments, doing taxes, letters and job applications to hospital emergencies and births.

"I'm blessed. We share a 'heart language' and I'm so proud to see them doing well and joining the community," she said.

Greg does a regular rotation through the church, volunteering at the Sulzbacher Center downtown and both of the Millers are also volunteer receptionists for Southside Baptist.

"Greg does many things, but I often tell him he broke the glass ceiling when he started as a volunteer receptionist for our church! He also happens to be a great cook so he helps out in the kitchen assisting the chef with food preparation and then washes all the dishes for approximately 70 people who attend church dinners and quarterly luncheons when the community is invited to visit," she said. "He also works with other volunteers to maintain and repair the church's facilities."

Free time finds the Millers out surf fishing and Laura is happy to report that Greg cooks their catch while she is happy to handle clean-up duties.



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Local hunger needs inspire couple to launch food mission

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you believe that it's only the homeless who are hungry, you would be mistaken.

According to a 2012 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one out of every six people in the U.S. are hungry or food insecure, and one out of every four are children who can't do anything about it. Florida is one of seven states with a statistically higher household food insecurity rate and in North Florida, over 300,000 people lack enough food to meet their basic needs. Enter a new organization calling itself a "food service revolution."

If you think Hunger Fight is just another food pantry/food bank, you would be misled. Hunger Fight, established just over a year ago by San Marco residents Dean and Sherri Porter, distributes specially prepared food packages to local food pantries, with the emphasis on local.

"The first thing we heard from people we approached for donations was 'Where's the food going?'" said Dean Porter. "When we told them that the food is staying here, there was an unbelievably overwhelming response of 'Oh, awesome...it's staying here.'"

Hunger Fight's business model calls for both financial donations and volunteer efforts.

"People immediately think of us as a food bank and want to give us canned goods, but that's not what we do," Porter explained.

What the 501(c)(3) nonprofit does is raise funds to purchase the ingredients



Dean Porter, far right, and friends from The Father's Heart Ministries, will unload 50-lb. bags of rice at a local church for a meal packaging event.

for three types of meals and then enlist the services of local churches, schools, food banks and others to package the meals. A certain portion of the packaged meals remain with the food pantry of the host facility if desired. Five percent is stockpiled for disaster relief and the rest is distributed to missions such as Trinity Rescue Mission.

Porter says Hunger Fight is the only such organization from Atlanta to Orlando that tries to keep everything on the First Coast to feed the food insecure. "Stop Hunger Now sends everything overseas. There are seven international companies in the Midwest that send 90-95 percent overseas," said Porter. "We do have in our bylaws the ability to send 25 percent overseas in the event that one of the churches wants to do an overseas mission."

Career change a sea change

Porter is not your typical nonprofit worker. Although he was a preacher's kid and raised to volunteer, he admits that he was one of those who pushed away as far as he could. He started a

career in insurance with Prudential, went out on his own as an insurance agent, then moved back to Jacksonville to start a visitor's guide marketing company, and finally Gourmet Dine, a VIP dining club.

Enter wife Sherri who, according to Porter, "is one of these people who volunteer for everything under the sun."

Convinced by his wife to start volunteering with her, Porter said they both knew that God had a plan for them and it would start with children.

"It took 50 years for me to figure out what He wanted me to do, then another two years to finally let go," said Porter emotionally. "When you do, it's just absolutely amazing. The peace that comes over you is phenomenal."

After a lot of research they chose hunger as their mission. "Everybody's forgotten to eat breakfast or worked through lunch and gotten that headache or that uneasy feeling in the stomach," Porter said. "Everyone can relate to it because hunger has no social or economic boundaries whatsoever."

Last year Hunger Fight packaged just under 320,000 meals and they all stayed right here. This year Porter hopes to do in excess of one million meals and has a plan for that.

"We're in the early stages of planning an event to pack half a million meals in one day at the Prime Osborne on Nov. 8," Porter shared. "We're going to challenge 150 companies, churches and civic organizations to sponsor a table for \$900 and send a team of 12 for a team-building event. There will be two three-hour shifts and 50 packing lines."

According to Porter, those 1800 volunteers will package just over half a million meals in one day. "They will really be able to make an impact in the community. One meal a day in 2014 for everyone who is food-insecure means over 70 million meals, so while half a million sounds like a lot, it's really just a drop in the bucket," he noted.

Nutritious meal for a quarter

Hunger Fight prepares and distributes three types of meals that are fortified with nutrition: rice and beans, macaroni and cheese, and a soy/rice casserole – foundation meals that can be supplemented with a little bit of meat or chicken, but can be a meal in itself. Each meal costs just a quarter to make and Porter capitalizes on that in his outreach efforts to schools and churches.

When engaged to present his mission, Porter will distribute tubes of M&Ms for a dollar donation. Children and adults are asked to fill it with quarters and send it back to Hunger Fight. With the original dollar, a tube of \$14 worth of quarters will provide enough for two meals a day for a month.

Porter concludes, "It's not true that the hungry is only the guy panhandling on the corner. It's your neighbor, your colleague, a family member, that college student down the hall, that person who's lost a job, can't find a job, or has been downsized. We've been so busy policing the world that we've forgotten about home. We've got to bring it back to home."



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Bolles language students take second in two contests



Congrès team wins second place State trophy

Months of hard work paid off for 25 Bolles French students, who scored a second place trophy at Congrès, the 62nd annual State French competition.

Of those 25 students, several were from the San Marco, San Jose neighborhoods, including seniors Ryan Putnal (who got a perfect score for the recital for her poem) and Shereen Abubakr, sophomores Maria Muzaurieta, Renata Gonzalez, Marcya Fisher, Grace Gronvold, and freshman Annie Thanner.

Students participated in various competitions including a poem recital, an impromptu speech, a reading comprehension, a skit, play and a brain brawl. The team's second place win included 21 "Supérieur" ratings (the best), 17 "excellent" ratings and 1 "Bon." Five students had perfect scores.

"It was really fun, all the hard work definitely paid off," said Muzaurieta. "It's about learning and appreciating the language of hundreds of millions of people. Language should never be a barrier, rather a bridge."



Spanish students take close second at State

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.

San Marco resident Ashley Warren, a junior, earned a perfect score in impromptu speaking and a superior rating in declamations.

High school senior Katie Carr, a San Jose resident, earned a superior rating in impromptu speaking and won a cash award in the Senior Scholarship Competition, from the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Carr also participated in the play.



Anna Callaway, back row, second girl from right; Lanie Kirchhoff, back row, center

Two local girls play on winning volleyball team

The Jacksonville Instinct Volleyball Club U14 Girls team "Leopards Wild" finished first in their division in the 2014 Big South Volleyball Tournament in Atlanta. Two of the 11 players of the Instinct 14 Leopard Wild team include Anna Callaway, Episcopal School of Jacksonville and Lanie Kirchhoff, The Bolles School.

The Tournament was a three day event held April 4-6 at the Georgia World Congress Center. The Big South is the largest girls' volleyball tournament in the Southeast with 13,000 participants, 1,300 teams and over 50,000 spectators. In the American 14 division, the Instinct 14 Leopards Wild won all 11 of their matches and was the only undefeated team out of 123 teams competing.

The Instinct 14 Leopards Wild team win at Big South qualifies them to compete at the USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships in Minneapolis, MN beginning on June 24. The team also qualified with a second place finish at the Disney World Volleyball Showcase last month. The team is currently fund raising to offset the cost of their trip to Minnesota.

Girl Scouts help local animals

Brownie Troop 357 from Hendricks Day School donated 30 percent of their annual cookie sale proceeds to the homeless animals at the Jacksonville Humane Society. Maddie Weise, Victoria Williams, Samantha Harrell, Meagan Lamey, Natalie Navidi and Morgan Harrell took a donation check of \$299.45 to the shelter last month



before taking a tour. The girls also plan to donate cookies to local firemen and the homeless. "These girls have some of the biggest hearts around," said troop leader Jessie Harrell of the San Jose area. "As the Humane Society said in its thank you letter to the girls, they are a credit to their families and should feel very good about what they've done."

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Snug as wee bugs



Congratulations to Laura Gaver, who gave birth April 9 to twins Olivia Kathryn Gaver and William Henry Gaver. The twins join older brother Evan Gaver, 2, and father Glenn Gaver at their San Marco home. Laura is a graphics designer for Baptist Health. Happy Mother's Day, Laura!

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The Way We Were

Marvin and Helene Edwards

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Married 59 years and all of them spent in Jacksonville, Marvin and Helene Edwards have many stories to tell. Transplanted from major U.S. cities (Marvin grew up in Manhattan and Helene in Washington, D.C.), the couple jumped into Jacksonville with both feet, despite doubts about where they had chosen to live.



"I remember coming here as a bride and feeling like I'd fallen off the face of the earth," laughed Helene, who married Marvin in 1955. "I used to lie awake nights thinking of ways to get him to move back to Washington. Every bridge here was a dead end, and you had to turn left or right once you crossed it. I would think, 'What is the point of a bridge if it is a dead end?'"

Marvin was 11 years her senior and had once dated Helene's older sister.

"We were engaged on our seventh date," recalled Marvin. "Our families were well connected, and my cousin invited me up to D.C. at Thanksgiving and made arrangements for me to meet



Helene. By New Year's, I proposed."

Marvin's family had moved to Jacksonville in 1940, when his father – a mechanical engineer and general manager for National Container Corporation – was asked to move down and help open up a new mill for the company here. Marvin was a student at New York University, and he soon joined the Army/Air Force and served as a navigator during WWII.

"We flew planes made out of plywood, called the Mosquito, and were responsible for secret missions for the Office of Strategic Service (the forerunner to the CIA) that we called 'Red Stocking,'" explained Marvin. "After getting out of the service in 1946, I finished my senior year at NYU and came back to Jacksonville."

After they were married, Marvin and Helene built a house on River Birch Road across from Oaklawn Cemetery, where they still live today. At that time, everything between their home and the river (now a couple of houses away) was woods, and their residential street

is very narrow because it was a county, not a city, road. Helene asked Marvin, "Why are we moving so far out of town?"

"The builder wanted to know if we wanted to install AC in the house," added Marvin. "Helene said that

because they didn't have AC in

Washington, she didn't see why we needed it here, that people around here were pampered. I told her, 'If we don't get AC, then we won't be getting any heat, either.'"

It didn't take long for Helene, who was nearly nine months

pregnant, to appreciate her cool house. The couple raised their three children, Jeff and Douglas who were 23 months apart, and daughter Carolyn, four years younger, while Marvin worked as an investment counselor and economic/political advisor. He also dabbled in journalism and investigative reporting, and over the years, has contributed countless articles and columns to local papers such as the *Jacksonville Chronicle*, the *Jacksonville Business Journal*, and *Folio Weekly*.

Helene raised the children and then beginning in 1980, worked as a realtor for Watson Realty Corp. – mostly, she laughs, in order to get away from Marvin.

"Marvin worked out of the house, and we had three children in five years. I was always trying to keep the children quiet and out of his way," said Helene. "The boys loved trains, and there was a

fruit stand on Lovegrove Road [now University Boulevard] near where Publix and Stein Mart used to be. I would buy bananas, and we would go to the train tracks and sit and wave at the trains. We would also go ride the ponies that used to be where K-Mart was located on Philips Highway."

When they were older, the kids would ride their bikes to stores at the Miramar shopping center – which also housed a Winn-Dixie – and buy frozen Cokes, which were literally frozen Coke in paper cups. On raising children, Marvin said he never read a single book – yet, all three of their children have become wonderful, successful adults.

"Jeff was born an accountant, and Douglas did nothing but read books," he recalled. "I always wondered how you could write a book about children when in every family, every single child is different."



Marvin has always been a political activist, and some of his highlights include working for many years to bring better public education to Jacksonville and raise money to build a new building for the Humane Society. He was instrumental in bringing the Today Show's monkey J. Fred Muggs as a keynote visitor and in helping raise nearly \$15,000 – today's equivalent would likely be triple that amount. Last April he was made a knight through the French Legion of Honor.

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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 Hebrew Home Board President Mark Lodinger with new president Marsha Pollock

"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."

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.

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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. The volunteers – some in their nineties, some in wheelchairs – took 102 mission trips locally to touch the lives of 394,000 people in northeast Florida. The hours they worked are estimated to have a value of \$230,118 that other nonprofit organizations might otherwise have to spend to get the jobs done.

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

Seniors on a Mission, Lakewood volunteers – Ann Dellecker, Goldie Herrin, Patty Jennings-Hart, Marion Kaurup, Betsy White

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 Lakewood, Marilyn Kerr was honored as team lead as well as recognized as the 2010 Mighty Missionary (she donated 228 hours for a value of \$25,730).

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.

First Coast Cardiovascular Institute® Salutes EMS

Coordinated efforts improve heart attack outcomes

When local citizens call 911 for a cardiac emergency, they receive more than just transportation to the hospital. A rapid response from a skilled Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team can mean the difference between life and death.

An acute myocardial infarction, or heart attack, interrupts blood supply to the heart, causing permanent damage to the heart muscle. "There's a saying 'time is muscle.' That means the longer the heart muscle is deprived of blood flow, the more likely it is to die," says Youssef Al-Saghir, MD, the leading cardiologist at First Coast Cardiovascular Institute Clay County operations.

The most severe type of heart attack is ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, or STEMI. It occurs when a coronary artery is suddenly and completely blocked. The faster the blockage is cleared and blood flow is restored to the heart, the better the outcome.

By working together, EMS, emergency room physicians, hospital nurses, and cardiologists can shorten door-to-balloon time. This is the amount of time that elapses between the patient's arrival at a medical facil-

ity waiting to perform coronary intervention, and the point where blood flow to the heart is reestablished through a balloon angioplasty & stent procedure.

Area EMS personnel play a fundamental role in shortening this time line by performing EKGs in the field on patients who exhibit heart attack symptoms. Positive EKGs are then transmitted electronically to the doctor. The catheterization lab team is getting ready while the patient is en route. Upon patient arrival at the facility, not a minute is wasted. The life saving procedure is performed as prompt as humanly possible.

First Coast Cardiovascular Institute recognizes the crucial role of EMS in cardiovascular emergencies, and the importance of a coordinated effort. "The national recommendation for door-to-balloon time is 90 minutes. Our timespan is certainly below 60 minutes, and often below 50 minutes," says Dr. Al-Saghir. "The integral effort between us and EMS team has significantly improved our door to balloon time and our patients' outcome."



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