

JEA issues fuel credit to customers



Thanks to the JEA's diverse fuel mix (natural gas and coal, among other things) and its ability to switch to the lowest cost fuel, the utility agency is passing savings on to its customers for the second time in a year.

Beginning with the July bill, every residential and commercial customer with an active account will receive a fuel credit. Customers last received a credit in April, benefiting from low costs for natural gas.

Check the electric portion of your July 2014 bill (or, for some customers, the August bill) for a line item called "Fuel Credit." This one-time credit was applied to all active accounts based on the July 2014 meter reading. The credit amounts to two cents per kilowatt hour. Learn more at <https://www.jea.com/fuelcredit/>.

Puppy Love



Rodger, a 7-year-old Lab mix, was adopted at the No More Homeless Pets MegaAdoption Event at ACPS in April by Lan Ho and Matthew McGahee.

"At the event the volunteers were very honest and said that a large black dog of his age wouldn't find a forever home easily because dogs like him are overlooked every day," said Ho, of Lakeside Park. "We're so thankful for Rodger and know he thinks he's the one who rescued us."

See more Pawsitively Best FriendsPAGE 46

Christmas in July

Madeline Kohn and Billy Gaggins enjoyed unseasonal holiday cheer at RAP's Christmas in July party

SEE MORE PAGE 25



Women ruled at the 9th annual St. Vincent's Physicians Cup

From tee to green, three women bested a field of 124 at an annual golf event to raise funds for programs in patient carePAGE 20
Becky Hoch, Allison Vogt, Honey Moore



FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS..... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

Mayor's proposed budget includes funds for 5 Points

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The first step in funding the \$4 million streetscape project in 5 Points was taken last month when Mayor Alvin Brown included the improvement project on page 60 of the Proposed Capital Improvement Program FY 2015-2019.

That leaves just \$3,250,000 to go. According to the proposed design, Phase 1 will cover improvements to Lomax Street and to the 5 Points intersection.

"The improvements at the 5 Points intersection are designed mainly to make the intersection safer for pedestrians and bicyclists by providing for shorter and more direct crosswalks, and by slowing down vehicular traffic through this busy intersection," said Stephen Tocknell, of Tocknell Planning Services LLC. "By making the crosswalks shorter, space now used for vehicular traffic at 5 Points will be converted into public plazas that can be used for landscaping, walking and dining."

Although there has been at least one community meeting held where the plans were explained, Councilman-at-Large Robin Lumb is arranging for another public meeting to ensure that all residents and nearby businesses



understand the reason behind the project and the eventual outcome.

"The improvement to the 5 Points intersection will make it less confusing to drivers and more pedestrian friendly and the Lomax street improvements will provide wider sidewalks and a better experience for walking shoppers," said District 5 Councilman Jim Love, who is working with Lumb to convene the meeting.

The plan was developed so that minor improvements could be undertaken through the city's ongoing maintenance activities, according to Tocknell. "All of the major improvements in the study are included in either the first phase or the second phase."

The Phase 2 improvements would include changes to the intersections of Park and Post and Post and Margaret, improvements to Margaret Street, including intersection improvements on Margaret Street at Forbes Street and Herschel Street, and improvements to the midblock crosswalk on Park Street

between Lomax Street and Post Street.

A rough cost estimate for the Phase 2 improvements is \$3,250,000, although it is noted in the 2015-2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the source of the funds is yet to be determined.

Tocknell noted that if Phase 1 improvements are included in the city's final adopted budget for FY 2014-2015, construction could begin very soon after the completion of the design phase. "The design phase itself would take around eight months from the day that the design engineer is authorized to start work," he said. "We wouldn't have to wait for next year's budget to get started on the design work, but funding for the design work will still have to be raised from the area merchants before it could begin."

The project is estimated to take about two years to complete.



MHAA hosts tournament, summer camp

The Murray Hill Athletic Association held its Annual 10u Tournament in June, with seven teams participating and playing hard. The final game was between Dinsmore Sports Association and Sweetwater Athletic Association with Sweetwater winning the tournament. MHAA's Baseball League also made the park available for the Riverside Presbyterian RBI (Reviving Baseball to the Inner City) program in July.

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Publisher's Note

Welcome to August, where "Back to School" shopping and early rising routines rule the coming weeks. Unfortunately, the swelter continues, so try your best to get poolside and enjoy a last minute getaway. It's never too late to squeeze in one more trip and get to a resort nearby.

In this issue we unveil our newest column *Special Finds* on page 31 – it's a must read. We put together an honest review of some quick trip getaways that are close to home, complete with advice for families and couples looking for a great place to relax and unwind.

It's nice to have options and when it comes to travel,

we don't want to waste precious time and money so we hope that by sharing a review, we do our part. We also appreciate knowing about a great escape from another perspective – yours! If you have a Special Find or favorite getaway to share, send your photos and suggestions by email to pamela@residentnews.net.

Also in this issue are submissions from local readers about their pet rescues, dogs that are hard at work in our community businesses and a story dedicated to a pair of retired, legendary veterinarians. Our "Pawsitively Pets" issue is chock full of great material for your reading pleasure.

Growing up the daughter of a veterinarian with a clinic right next door to our home, this issue is dear to my heart. Enjoy!
 – Pamela Bradford Williams

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ASK Allison

Q: How long is the typical inspection period and how much does a home inspection cost?

A: The typical contract gives the buyer a 10 day period to inspect a house. At a minimum, the buyer should ensure that the roof, air conditioning, plumbing, wiring and foundation are in good shape. The cost ranges from \$350 - \$595.00 for a typical home. In addition, its important to get a wood destroying organism inspection (WDO) which is another \$125.00 - \$250.00. This looks for termite damage and rotten wood. Insurance companies have recently started charging homeowners a lot more for homes with older galvanized plumbing pipes and roofs with limited life left so make sure you contact your insurance company right away if these items are issues with the house you want to buy. Buyer and seller generally negotiate which items the seller will fix (or credit the buyer) and which ones the buyer pays for after the house sells.

JUST SOLD!
Major Riverfront Estate!



We are proud to announce the recent sale of this magnificent Marsh and Saxelbye historic home on Avondale's famous Richmond Street. Built in 1924, this one of a kind fully restored home on an estate lot, is one of Jacksonville's architectural treasures. Please join us in welcoming the new buyers to Jacksonville and the Avondale community!



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New catheter improves outcomes for abnormal heart beat

A new catheter being used by cardiologists at Baptist Heart Specialists is helping patients who have an abnormal heart rhythm.

The THERMOCOOL® SmartTOUCH™ Catheter is used for ablation procedures for patients such as those suffering from atrial fibrillation (Afib).

About 40 cases procedures since been performed at Baptist Medical Center, where cardiac electro-physiologists at Baptist Heart Specialists

were the first in the Jacksonville area to start using the new catheter this past spring.

Used for complex cardiac ablation, the catheter helps to improve patient outcomes, increase safety and reduce fluoroscopy or radiation exposure. The new technology enables doctors to accurately control the amount of contact force applied to the heart wall during radiofrequency catheter ablation procedures.

An estimated three million Americans suffer from Afib, a progressive disease that increases in severity and frequency if left untreated, and can lead to chronic fatigue, congestive heart failure and stroke. While most Afib patients today are treated with medication, about half of patients are not able to control their abnormal heart rhythm with medication or find they cannot tolerate the side effects.

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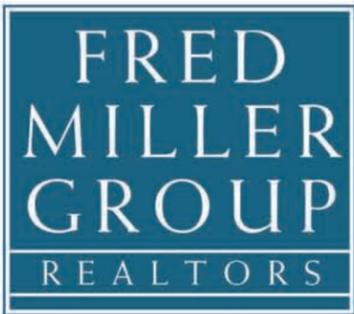
Riverwalk
1 bedroom
818 sq. ft.

Five Points
1 bedroom
701 sq. ft.

Brooklyn
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Cummer
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Avondale 3/2, corner lot, perfect location



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418 MONTVILLE CT - \$235,000
Brick 4/2, 2200+sqft, pool/pool house



JUST LISTED
4625 LANCELOT LN - \$369,900
Ortega Forest 4/2.5, 2300+sqft



JUST LISTED
1927 WOODMERE DR - \$699,000
Fairfax Manor 4/3.5, 4000sf + apt, river view



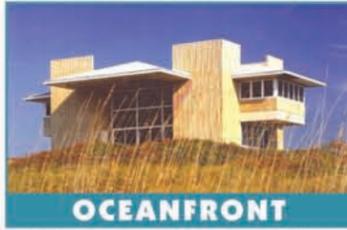
Ted Miller
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NEW LOW PRICE
3570 HEDRICK ST - \$660,000
Beautifully renovated, 4/3, 2532sf



REDUCED
1852 TALBOT AVE - \$649,000
Elegant 4/2/1, 3300sf, 2-car garage + apt



OCEANFRONT
2397 S PONTEVEDRA BV - \$2,000,000
Spectacular custom contemporary 4/4



NEW LISTING
2950 ARAPAHOE AVE - \$269,000
Appealing Old Ortega 3/2, corner lot



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CONTEMPORARY GEM
1818 ELIZABETH PL - \$695,000
Avondale treasure updated to perfection



BUY OR RENT
4877 WATER OAK LN - \$290,000
4/2.5, 2280sf, Stockton school dist



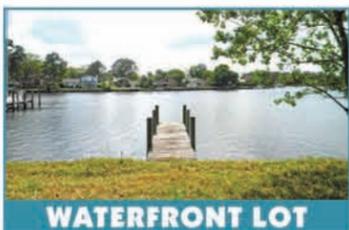
NEAR THE RIVER
1819 MALLORY ST - \$499,000
Shake shingle 4/2.5, steps from river



RIVERFRONT
5043 ORTEGA FARMS BV - \$699,000
One-story 3/3, 2649sf, views!



Nathan Miller
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WATERFRONT LOT
5119 YACHT CLUB RD - \$499,000
Pirates Cove .37-acre lot w/dock



RIVER VIEWS
1863 POWELL PL - \$479,000
Gorgeous shake shingle 3.3 near the river



RIVERFRONT
5015 ORTEGA FARMS BV - \$885,000
Breathtaking custom home, 4354sqft



RIVERFRONT
4700 IROQUOIS AVE - \$449,000
2-story Ortega Terrace 3/3.5, 2898sqft



Anne Clay McNulty/Lindsey Smith
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NEW PRICE
4624 LANCELOT LN - \$609,000
Gorgeous 5/4, 3571sf, pool, near Stockton



NEW PRICE
2681 HOLLY POINT RD E - \$2,350,000
Amazing riverfront estate, 6/6.5, 7000sqft



NEW PRICE
4109 ROMA BLVD - \$289,000
Lovely Venetia 3/2, double lot



REDUCED
1746 FIDDLERS RIDGE - \$289,000
Eagle Harbor 5/3, 2423sf, lake view



Tom Sandlin
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SOLD
4224 SHERWOOD RD
Spanish style 3/3.5, 2691sf, Stockton dist



UNDER CONTRACT
6242 PARK STREET - \$179,900
Waterfront 3/2, .9acre w/boat slip



UNDER CONTRACT
1224 HOLLYWOOD AVE - \$219,900
Charming Avondale bungalow, 3/2



SOUTHPOINT ORTEGA
5303 ORTEGA BLVD #202 - \$239,000
Lovely 3/2 townhome, fireplace



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editor's note

Where, oh where, has Victoria Freeman gone?

Loyal readers have been wondering and asking about long-time The Way We Were columnist Victoria Register-Freeman, having noticed that her name has disappeared from our masthead. Since inquiring minds wanted to know, I reached out to Victoria and here's what she said:

Dear Kate,

Thank you for asking me to shed a little light on "Victoria's Secret Exit" from her beloved Historic District. (I am beginning to feel like an ex-patriot.) Folks come up to me and ask a version of the following question...Why have you left the Historic District? How could you leave the street you have lived on for 30 years in three different houses? Have you, or your husband, received a bad diagnosis?

As Dragnet's Joe Friday used to say, "Here are facts, Ma'am." Robert and I have moved "across the ditch," to Fleet Landing, a continuing care retirement community in Atlantic Beach.

Part of our decision to move came from our desire to spend more time with our four grandchildren (none of whom live in Northeast Florida). To take these jaunts we needed a downsized abode that we could lock and leave. (And after years of tending veggie plots in my front yard, I wanted to become a part of a real community garden.)

Another part of our decision came from wanting some assurance that we would not burden the parents of these grandchildren with our own future health care concerns. After all, we are in good health for folks who have reached the Biblical three score and ten, but we know that situation can change quickly despite our ingesting kale smoothies and walking 10,000 FitBit verified steps each day.

We have NOT severed our ties with the Historic District. We still read *The Resident* from cover to cover. We still return, on a regular basis, to visit friends and family. Look for us on the sidewalks biking towards the Cummer, RAM, and any one of the incredible District restaurants. Wave at us as we stare at Wayne Woods' side yard teepee. And, who knows, given the number of Historic District folks who have retired to Fleet Landing, I might become the Resident News' first ever "foreign correspondent."

Sincerely,

Victoria Register-Freeman

Correction

The Jacksonville Doll and Toy Societe' was formed in 1989, not 1983 as previously noted in the July issue. Club members – collectors of dolls and antique toys – meet at the Murray Hill Library, the first Saturday of each month, beginning at 11 a.m.

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Neighborhood Volunteers

Nominations open until October 10

In our November issue on philanthropy and volunteerism, The Resident will honor those unsung neighborhood heroes, the ones who pay it forward without a lot of fanfare, the folks who quietly and consistently do unto others, those who

passionately care about their community. Send us the stories of those who go above and beyond with their time helping others and we'll share those stories – and choose a few winners – in November. Email a photo and 100 words via email to editor@residentnews.net no later than Oct. 10.



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JTA extends Riverside Avondale Trolley

Thanks to heavy promotion by local merchants and Riverside Avondale Preservation, and support from hundreds of "choice" riders on the first weekend of each month, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority deemed the six-month pilot of the Riverside Avondale Trolley a success. "Ridership has been really good," said Brad Thoburn, JTA vice president of planning. "It's an event now, but we want to make sure we have buy-in from the businesses before extending it to every weekend."

By "buy-in" Thoburn is talking about merchant sponsorship in the form of paid advertisements on the trolleys. The trolleys will continue to run on the first Friday and Saturday of each month, but to make this a weekly occurrence merchants are being asked to put some skin in the game. RAP's executive director, Carmen Godwin, would prefer to see the trolleys run on the merits of ridership.

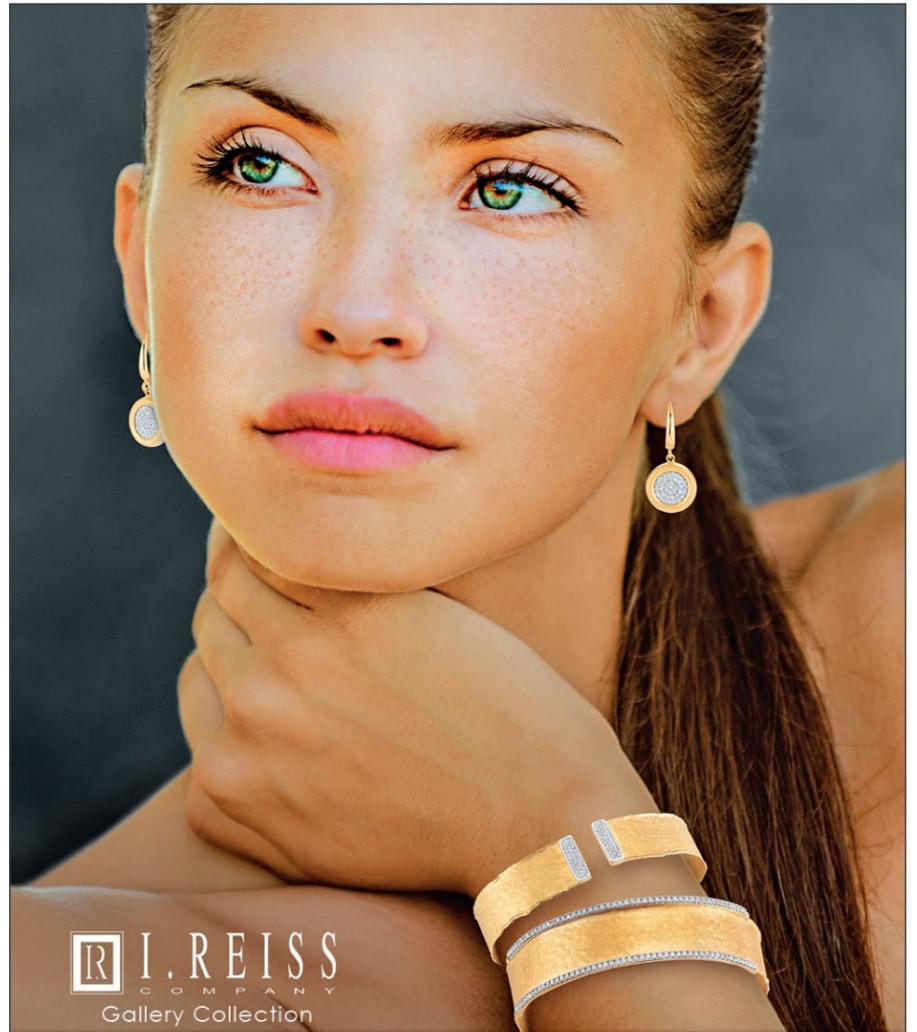
"We are more than willing to help spread the word to businesses about the opportunities available for sponsorship," said Godwin. "We want the trolley to run on a weekly basis but I am not sure anyone on our end feels that it should be dependent upon these sponsorships as this is one of the most successful routes, from our understanding, that JTA has, as it stands."

One concern among residents living near the Shoppes of Avondale is whether the original intent of the weekend trolley service has been forgotten. According to Alicia Grant, a member of RAP's Transportation Committee, the trolley service was intended to relieve the parking situation by utilizing parking lots on the perimeter of the Historic District, providing a place for out-of-neighborhood shoppers and diners to park.

Kay Ehas, chair of the Parking Study Steering Committee, indicated that potential parking lots have been identified but are privately owned and agreements are not yet in place to allow out-of-area visitors to park and then ride the trolley.

If a Downtown trolley is established, however, the need for parking lots may be lessened.

Similar to the proof of concept test done in Riverside/Avondale earlier this year, JTA will run the same test for a Downtown trolley on Aug. 1-2. If the concept tests out positively, Thoburn said the plans are to make 5 Points a transfer site for both trolley loops, affording Downtown residents the opportunity to take advantage of 5 Points, Riverside and Avondale nightlife and vice versa.



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Community garden starts with 20 plots

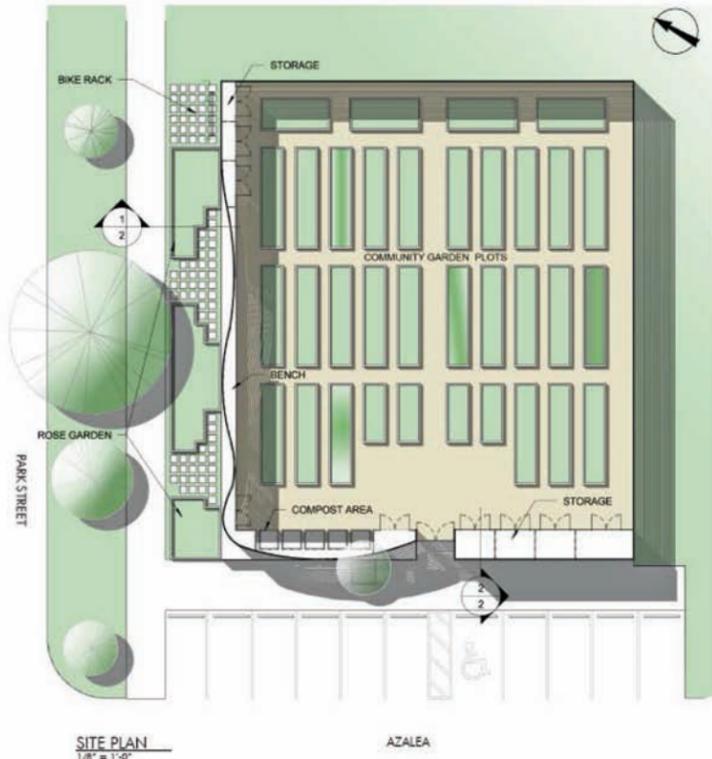
Riverside Avondale Preservation will share details of the winning community garden design to residents interested in participating in the planned garden at Azalea Terrace and Park Street. The meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at the site of what is currently the Willowbranch Rose Garden Park.

The winning design, Simple Curve, includes a curving wall to define the garden and form the initial experience of the space. The garden has 34 plots – although just 20 will be available initially – symmetrically organized along a central axis, and includes an educational and gathering space at the entrance. It will be fenced and include roses in a design salute to the original intent of the Rose Garden.

Designs were submitted and displayed at the Annual Tour of Homes in late April. Both the community and a panel of judges were invited to choose the design that would best fit the Historic District. The winner, Dorina Bakiri, has a Master's degree in architecture from the University of Florida and is employed by RS&H, a design firm that ranks 69 out of the top 500 ranked by Engineering-News Record. Bakiri, an Avondale resident, is an Emerging Design Professional, which is part of the Jacksonville AIA.

RAP is currently working with the City of Jacksonville on agreements regarding use of the space and maintenance, which will be managed by a RAP volunteer committee.

RIVERSIDE/ AVONDALE COMMUNITY GARDEN



SITE PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

AZALEA



ARIAL VIEW



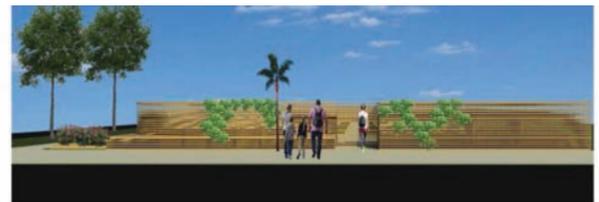
ROSE GARDEN



COMMUNITY GARDEN



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Public/Community Meetings

Bus Route Optimization

Who: JTA
When: Monday, August 4, 5-7 p.m.
Where: FSCJ Kent Campus, Building E, Room 112F

Willowbranch Library Ordinance 2014-429 to appropriate \$150,000 for water intrusion repair

Who: City of Jacksonville
Finance Committee
When: Tuesday, August 5, 9 a.m.
Where: Council Chamber, City Hall

Stockton School Park Track Project

Who: Jim Love, District 14 Councilman
When: Wednesday, August 6, 5 p.m.
Where: John Stockton Elementary School

Public Hearing for Route Optimization

Who: JTA
When: Thursday, August 7, 10 a.m. to noon, also 5-7 p.m.
Where: FSCJ Downtown in Room 1058

Hobnob 2014, non-partisan "meet the candidates" event

Who: Jax Chamber/WOKV
When: Thursday, August 7, 5 p.m.
Where: Hyatt Regency Riverwalk

Riverside Avondale Community Garden

Who: Riverside Avondale Preservation
When: Thursday, August 7, 6 p.m.
Where: Corner of Azalea Terrace and Park Street

I-10/I-95 Project Development & Environment Study Meeting

Who: Florida Department of Transportation
When: Thursday, August 28, 4-7:30 p.m.
Where: The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue

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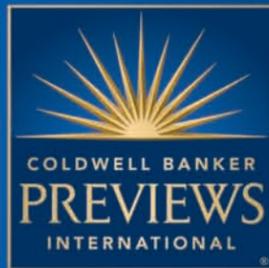
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Seller's are selling and buyers are buying. Avondale-Ortega-Riverside-Venetia is a steadily moving market which proves that the economics in our community are strong. Our home values have increased very fairly over the past three years and our momentum is solid. CEO Budge Husky of Coldwell Banker National is predicting a 5-6% appreciation in home values in 2014 and the indicators point to long term appreciation. Hooray!

At Coldwell Banker Avondale, we have been pleasantly surprised with the strides our community has made. It wasn't easy to bounce back from the depths of the bubble bust. We offered our very best efforts to guide our customers through a difficult time in real estate, one which none of us had ever experienced. We hope that all of you who came to us during the hard times were pleased with our results. Thank you for trusting us to help you.

No looking back now; it's all about progress in our community. Our restaurants are jammed up daily and nightly and our stores are busier than ever with new stores opening all the time. Drive through your neighborhood - remodeling is back with a vengeance. Not only is it flippers hitting Lowes every weekend, it is us too, the homeowners,

renovating our little pieces of heaven. Have you tried to find a handyman or contractor lately? The are booked for weeks or months on end. Our recent office renovation took longer than expected due to the huge demand on vendors, but it was well worth the wait. Renovating makes life easier and more beautiful. It also raises the value of your home and your neighborhood. Our community has many fine local companies who appreciate the intrinsic history amongst us. Try one of them for your project.

All of this equates to rising home values. Buyers are taking advantage of near record low interest rates and lenders are lending because there is demand. Our Realtors have been so busy this summer that someone commented how empty our office has been lately...I can tell you it's because we are out working as hard as we can to keep up with business. We have an agent on hand for immediate questions, but you can always call one of our professionals on their cell phone. Coldwell Banker Vanguard Avondale on the corner of St. Johns Avenue and Ingleside (catty-corner to the Brick who we absolutely adore) welcomes the opportunity to surprise you, assist you and help you buy or sell a home.



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You asked for it
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It was recently brought to **The Resident's** attention that the railings on the bridge over Azalea Creek on Herschel Street had deteriorated to the point of danger. Large portions of the concrete railings were missing, allowing for the possibility of a person or a pet to slip through the gaps into the creek below. **The Resident** reached out to the City's Public Works Department to find out if and when repairs were planned for the bridge. Martha Foote, of the 630-CITY Public Records Request Department provided the following:

"Public Works will be replacing the existing structure with a new box culvert and replicating the existing balustrades to preserve the historic aesthetic.

There are two large AT&T duct banks that are along the existing structure that had to be carefully considered and accommodated in the design of the new box culvert. AT&T will have a specialty firm construct a type of bridge to support and raise their duct banks to allow for our construction; we understand that cost to AT&T – not the city – will be about \$220,000. Our construction costs are estimated at \$310,000. JEA is also providing funding to include directional drilling of a 12-inch water main in this project. We don't have a cost estimate for that portion at this time, but again, those costs will be borne by JEA.



After: The orange safety netting appeared shortly after **The Resident** inquired about the condition of the bridge railings



Before: Gaps in the bridge railings over Azalea Creek are large enough for a person to slip through

We expect the project to be advertised within a few weeks, which should put construction start before the end of this fiscal year. Completion is expected in early 2015. Due to the significance of this project, this section of Herschel will have to be completely closed. We will be able to provide more specific schedule and information after we get a contractor on board."



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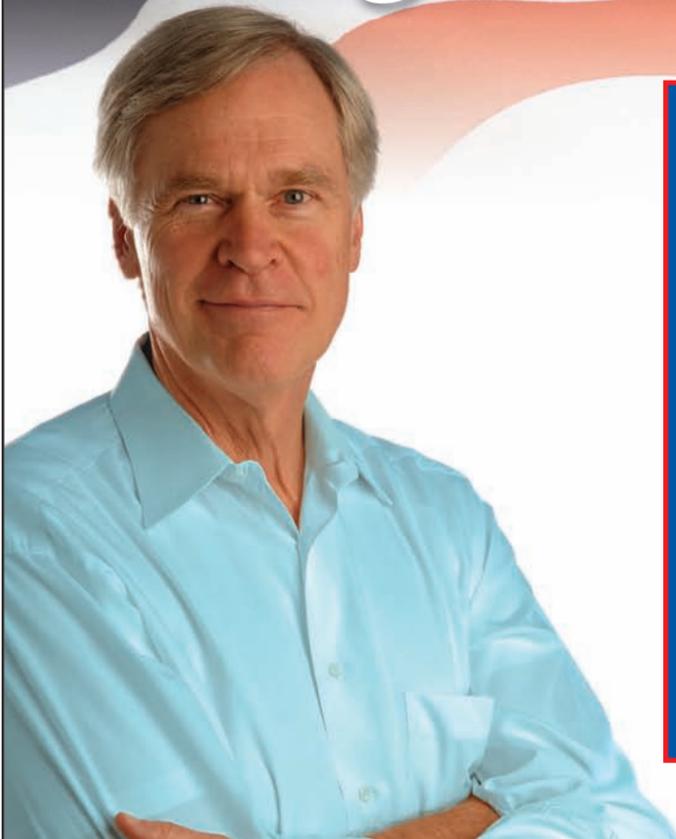


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Harry Frisch, founder of Beaver Street Fisheries, at the delivery of the 100-passenger water taxi at Sadler Point Marina.

Water taxis one man's dream come true

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In spite of Harry Frisch's good intentions, the City of Jacksonville doesn't seem to be any further along with resolving the issue of water taxi service. When the second pontoon boat, seating 100 passengers, was delivered early in July, Frisch came out to Sadler Point Marina to look at his purchases.

He was, typically, modest about his efforts to keep water transportation alive in downtown Jacksonville.

"I'll tell you, it's not [just] helping out the City, it's helping out myself, my family, my friends, the business and everything in Jacksonville," he said. "I like to do things that everybody says is impossible. Give it to me."

Frisch, who came to the United States six decades ago, has a fondness for Jacksonville voiced by many transplants to the area. "I'm here in Jacksonville over 60 years and didn't have very much when I came here. Jacksonville has been very good to me and it was important to give back."

He also sees the city's potential for greatness.

"I'm kind of selfish about it," Frisch stated. "I'm telling you right now, four or five years from now, with the Jaguars and all the other good things that are happening, Jacksonville will be the finest city in the United States. You can take that to the bank."

He's a huge supporter of Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, and wants to do his part in attracting visitors to the city. "People from the whole world will come to visit us. You have a man there with vision and the money to support it," Frisch said, speaking of Khan.

When Brooks Busey, owner of Sadler Point Marina, came out to meet Frisch and thank him for his help in keeping the water taxis in Jacksonville, the San Jose/Beaulerc resident shrugged it off.

"Someone had to do it; it was important for Jacksonville. Some logistics didn't work properly and it was made a big issue when it didn't

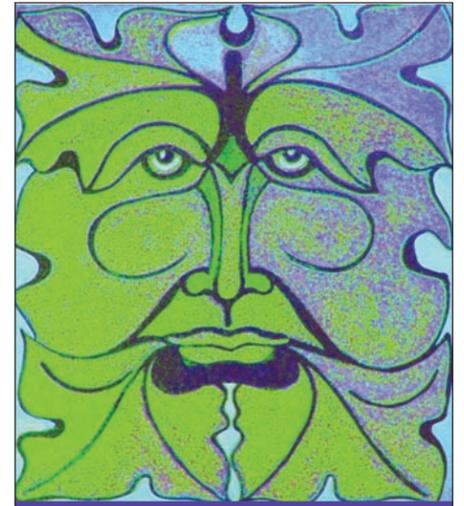
need to be. We didn't want the boats to get away," Frisch said. "Too bad they weren't running for Fourth of July, but better late than never."

This isn't the first time that Frisch has done something for Jacksonville with little to no expectation of return. When he founded Beaver Street Fisheries, he soon realized that something was missing and did something about it. "The Farmer's Market is not a profit for us, but Jacksonville has to have a farmer's market."

That is also true of the water taxi service, according to Frisch. "Jacksonville without a water taxi wouldn't be Jacksonville."

As of press time, both water taxis were still sitting up on blocks in the boatyard on the Ortega River, awaiting Coast Guard inspection and certification, a temporary operator and a permanent owner.

Although it was a sweltering day when Native Choice was delivered, Frisch wanted to see his taxis. "I'm all excited to see them. It's like a dream come true."



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Riverside Dog Park nearing fundraising goal

Thanks to businesses, corporations and individuals, the fundraising goal for the Riverside Dog Park is close to reaching the mark, but there are still some sponsorships and individual opportunities available to leave your own mark on this community endeavor.

The John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park is a two-acre, off-leash, eco-friendly play place for the historic urban neighborhood's furry friends. Located under the Fuller-Warren Bridge in Riverside Park, this dog park will feature a large dog run with a shaded, open play area and a small dog run with plenty of shade trees for owners to relax under while their pups frolic with friends.

Thanks to matching gifts from John Gorrie Investment Group, LLC and Councilman Jim Love, Riverside Avondale Preservation has only \$50,000 left to raise in private donations. Residents can help make the dog park a reality by supporting the project with a financial donation.

You can become a major sponsor or encourage your employer to support the dog park. As a "Man's

You can become a major sponsor or encourage your employer to support the dog park.



Best Friend Major Sponsor" at the \$25,000 level or a "Red Rover Corporate Sponsor" at the \$10,000 level, you or your company will receive a multitude of benefits, including recognition on sponsor signage at the park entrance, and much more.

Consider dedicating a piece of park equipment in your name or the name of a loved one. From park benches, to trees, to light poles and doggie fountains, there's a piece of equipment just waiting for your name. Equipment dedications will be recognized with a custom plaque as well as on the RAP website.

Finally, you can purchase a brick. Show your support with a custom engraved brick at the park's entrance walkway. Engraved bricks make great gifts and you can also memorialize a furry friend of your own. Just 400 people buying a \$125 commemorative brick will get the project to its goal!

Call (904) 389-2449 or e-mail info@riversideavondale.org to inquire about these opportunities or to take advantage of one or more.

Support the dog park, have fun doing it

Plans are underway for a Dog Park Week fundraising event in September. Area businesses are getting involved to help raise the remaining \$50,000 that is needed to make the Riverside Dog Park a reality.

Participants confirmed as of press time for the week of Sept. 15-21:

All week: Biscottis is making dog treats and selling them at various stores in the Avondale Shoppes to benefit the Dog Park

Wednesday: Mellow Mushroom 10% of Sales to Dog Park (must mention dog park)

Thursday: Hawkers and Brew 5 Points 10% of Sales to Dog Park

Friday: Black Hive Tattoo Dog Theme Tattoo Sheet \$125 (get tattoo and dog park brick), first come first serve, all proceeds to Dog Park, and Rain Dogs silent auction and raffle

Saturday: Blue Fish 10% of Sales to Dog Park

Sunday: Sun Ray Cinema 1 p.m. showing of Best in Show with ticket sales to benefit Dog Park

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Phase 1 underway at Beacon Riverside



BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Rebuilding of the bulkhead along the riverfront for Beacon Riverside, a 15-story luxury residential tower on the St. John's River in the historic Riverside neighborhood, is part of phase one construction while early reservations are being converted into

contracts. According to Bryan Weber, Principal, Multifamily, NAI Hallmark Partners, this is preliminary work before tackling the site of the tower later this fall.

Farrell Bros. Marine Construction, Inc. is doing the bulkhead work along with construction of the residents' dock. Weber indicated that the project will "go vertical" after at least 50

percent of the units are under contract. "Based on our current success of converting those early reservations into contracts, we expect to be at 25 percent after this first round," Weber said. "Sales this fall should get us to 50 percent."

Weber also noted that Hallmark Partners is in active negotiation with a local contractor with significant condominium experience.

Sales agent selected

In an agreement with HP 500, LLC – an affiliate of Hallmark Partners – Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has signed on as the exclusive sales agent for Beacon Riverside.

Realtors from the real estate company's eight offices, including those in Avondale/Ortega and San Marco/San Jose, will look for 45



homeowners interested in riverfront living. The condominium, located between Lomax Street and Bishopgate Lane, offers 2,400- to 5,000-square-foot condominiums beginning in the upper \$700,000s, with penthouse plans topping \$2 million.

Hallmark is also developing the 220 Riverside apartment/retail project and partnering on the Unity Plaza public park area in the Brooklyn neighborhood.

For more information about Beacon Riverside, contact Director of Sales Nicole Dana at (904) 696-9200 or visit www.beaconriverside.com

Jacksonville Songwriter Residency partners with St Johns Riverkeeper for songwriting contest

For the first time, the Annual Gram Parsons Guitar Pull Songwriting Contest will offer a songwriting category specific to the St. Johns River. The Jacksonville Songwriter Residency and Safe at Home Productions are partnering with St. Johns Riverkeeper to honor the legacy of Gram Parsons and the St. Johns through original songs that have been inspired by the ecology and environmental issues associated with the river. Parsons attended high school at The Bolles School, spending much time along the banks of the St. Johns River with his guitar and music. His immense influence on country and rock music popularized what he called "Cosmic American Music."

The Jacksonville Songwriter Residency recognizes that inspiration for new artistic material can come from anywhere, including the St. Johns River. This American Heritage River has made an indelible impression on musicians for centuries, inspiring such notables as Frederick Delius, Woody Guthrie, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Susan Tedeschi, Derek Trucks, JJ Grey, and Gram Parsons.

The contest offers two categories: Ecological and Environmental issues concerning Florida's St. Johns River, and Cosmic American Music representative of Gram Parsons's legacy.

Original song submissions may be posted on the Gram Parsons Guitar Pull and Tribute Festival Facebook event page or emailed to jacksonvillesongwriter@gmail.com by Sept. 6. Submissions will be judged on originality, melody, lyrics, and relevance to the criteria.

Professional songwriters, publishers, or other music industry professionals will judge contest entries and select five finalists to perform their river-related songs at Jack Rabbits (1528 Hendricks Avenue) on Sept. 20, at 8 p.m.

One winner in each category will receive a \$250 cash prize, one weekend pass to the Gram Parsons Guitar Pull and Tribute Festival at the Okefenokee Fairgrounds in Waycross, Georgia, Sept. 26-27, and an opportunity to perform at the Festival.

Shannon Blankinship, St. Johns Riverkeeper Outreach Director, says "The St. Johns River plays a critical role in our community and the lives of so many people, including musicians. This contest provides a wonderful outlet for the creative expression of our river and what it means to us. We can't wait to see what our talented songwriters come up with!"

Learn more at www.jacksonvillesongwriter.org or gpgpfest.com/contest/.

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The silliest thing happened the other day when I was at my listing on the Ortega River. I was testing the boat lifts when the geese came honking about. After a day of stress trying to get to all my appointments on time, I sat down on the

dock and let the geese amuse me. Sometimes I forget to remember how precious our little world in our little neighborhood really is. The next day I found myself at the duck pond sending emails on my iPhone taking the time to wonder how much my customers on Greenridge are loving

their new home. Time is a simple and precious gift that I promise to remember when I am at your lovely home. Your pride and joy home is my pride and joy job. I love my job and it's because of you (and your homes). Thank you.

—Anne Rain



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Noise ordinance not much help with train noise

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The “Train Horn” Final Rule, established nearly 10 years ago, has more latitude than one might expect. But to take advantage of the flexibility offered, many hoops must be jumped through.

According to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Final Rule on Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings, published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2005, is intended to first maintain a high level of public safety, then to respond to community concerns about unwanted horn noise, and finally, take into consideration localities with existing whistle bans.

“A Quiet Zone is a linear section of track, typically in an urban environment, where all of the crossings have equipment necessary to warn all users of the crossing of an oncoming train,” explained Michael Dowell, FDOT Rail Corridor Programs Engineer. “Crossings that do not have adequate equipment will have to be upgraded, grade separated, or closed.”

Local public authorities may request approval of Quiet Zones in which train horns may not be routinely sounded. The public authorities responsible for traffic control or law enforcement at the highway-rail grade crossing are the only entities that can designate or apply for Quiet Zone status. In Jacksonville’s case, either the city traffic engineer or law enforcement would work with the rail

operator to submit a waiver of exemption if warranted, according to Christian Hancock, public information officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.

Creating Quiet Zones requires cooperation with and approval from railroad officials, who must use a risk index approach that estimates safety outcomes, that is, the likelihood of a fatal or non-fatal casualty resulting from a collision at a highway-rail crossing, according to the Final Rule.

All crossings in a Quiet Zone must be equipped with flashing lights and gates and implement one of three measures: the average risk at the crossing is less than the National Significant Risk Threshold; supplemental safety measures are present, or safety improvements compensate for loss of horn as a warning device.

Dowell stated that not all of the 266 highway railroad grade crossings in Duval County have the necessary equipment to qualify as a Quiet Zone. “The information to determine the equipment that is currently out there can be obtained from the FRA with verification by the Department of Transportation using a field review,” he noted.



A 1984 Florida statute permitted local nighttime whistle bans at highway-rail grade crossings along the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway from Jacksonville to Miami? At least until a 1991 Emergency Order by the Federal Railroad Administration pre-empted that statute.

It took 10 years from initial public outreach in 1995 to the June 24, 2005 effective date of the Final Rule to require that locomotive horns be sounded at public highway-rail crossings? That same ruling provides the flexibility for localities to silence horns, but it’s a costly process.

“Some of those crossings may actually meet the requirements for Quiet Zones,” said André Goins, FDOT Rail Operations and Programs Administrator. “But the FRA does not make that call. It must be done through a formal process.” Goins was reluctant to provide any estimate of costs to establish a Quiet Zone, but noted that it was not inexpensive.

Once a Quiet Zone is established, the train conductor is barred from routine sounding of horns at the affected crossing, but has the ability to use the horn if he determines the situation warrants, stated Goins.

Florida has just 12 quiet zones, none of which are in Duval County, and Goins said that the only inquiry from Duval County to request that a Quiet Zone be established came from the Baldwin neighborhood.

HOW NOISY IS IT?

If a Quiet Zone cannot be established, residents must live with the noise. Outside of Quiet Zones, trains must sound the horn 15 to 20 seconds prior to a train’s arrival at the

highway-rail grade crossing, but not more than a quarter mile in advance of the crossing. Residents living near such crossings claim to be annoyed by both the duration and the level of the horn sound.

Just how bad is it? It depends on your personal threshold for noise pain.

The maximum volume level for a train horn is 110 decibels. Some sources show that is comparable to a power saw, a rock concert or a snowmobile, while other sources indicate that some common sounds at 110 dB include a car horn, a motorcycle, and a baby crying. Although pain begins at around 125 dB, even noises within the upper 70 dB range, such television or a vacuum cleaner, are annoyingly loud to some people.

While train horns blowing between 96 and 110 dB are uncomfortable, since the 15-20 second duration of two long, one short and one long blast is brief, the exposure is not threatening to one’s hearing.

Interestingly, the ordinance enacted this year monitors and limits sound from concerts in Metro Park to a maximum of 105 decibels, which is typically sustained for far longer than 15-20 seconds. The difference, however, may be that of frequency and time of day. Residents living near railroad crossings endure the discomfort of train horns day and night, while concerts in Metro Park are limited to just 12 per year.

For more information about the Train Horn Rule and Quiet Zones, go to www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0104.

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Street striping bill doesn't address lack of parking

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Residents in the Park Avenue and King Street area and in the Shoppes of Avondale area may be wondering what has happened to the recommendations put forth by the Parking Study Steering Committee (PSSC) earlier this year. According to Kay Ehas, chair of the committee, the striping requires legislation before Public Works Department can proceed with the plan. "We're finalizing the legislation now," said Ehas last month.

The proposed ordinance – which has not yet been finalized for City Council review and approval – provides for "striping parallel parking spaces, including striping in a checkered (alternating) pattern along certain roadways to designate on-street parking." The bill also seeks to reduce the speed limit of certain roadways from 30 miles to 20 miles per hour.

The parking study and formation of the PSSC were a result of the increase in parking space demands brought on by an increase of bars and restaurants in the Park & King and Avondale commercial areas. Members of the PSSC and the study consultant (Ghyabi & Associates) met with residents and business owners during public forums to discuss the study and subsequent recommendations by the steering committee.

The legislation, as proposed by the steering committee, would require striping on certain streets and leave open the option for more striping and traffic management in the future without further legislation. The striping plan would require the city to apply striping "to standards," and remove a portion of available parking in front of homes in residential areas surrounding the two areas.

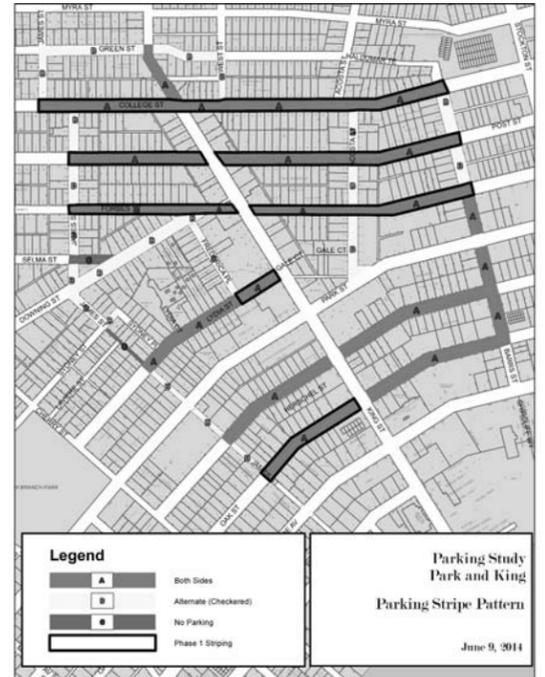
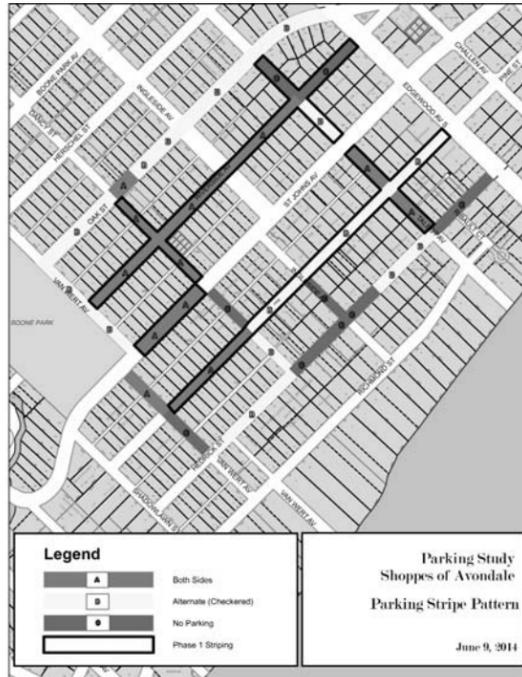
Residential parking would be further reduced on streets that were deemed too narrow for [simultaneous] two-way traffic flow. For example, a "checkered" striped parking scheme will allow parking on alternate sides of streets to "contribute to maintain slow speeds conducive to traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety," according to the proposed bill. This would also reduce the amount of available on-street parking.

Bike and pedestrian friendly streets

The working draft of the bill does not currently appear to address the issue about the lack of parking as much as it does to provide legislation for conversion of some streets in the Historic District to "context-sensitive streets," which is a design concept for making streets more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. A few streets in Riverside and Avondale are extremely narrow and do pose a danger for emergency vehicles such as fire trucks or rescue vehicles.

Riverside Avenue between Talbot and Edgewood is an example of a section where on-street parking may not be permitted. Residents and visitors to homes on the targeted streets that do not have off-street parking (i.e., a driveway) may be forced to park a block or more away.

District 14 Councilman Jim Love, who is working with Riverside Avondale Preservation to address



inadequate parking in the Historic District, expressed the desire that property owners have a voice about the proposed legislation. He wants to give residents the option to approve – or disapprove – the plan by using signed petitions.

"Every street and block is different and we should be careful to take the needs of the residents into considering what we do to improve the

streets," said Love. "Some streets have no parking problem and some, particularly those with multiple-unit housing, have no street parking."

Legislation governing speed limits and where parking is or is not permitted on these streets is a positive move for bicyclists and pedestrians, and may provide relief for homeowners who have battled encroachment on their lawns and driveways.

What do YOU think?

Let us know your thoughts about the proposed parking / striping patterns (to see maps in color, visit residentnews.net, search keyword "striping") and send your comments to editor@residentnews.net no later than August 18.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

DLC Nurse & Learn celebrates 25 years

DLC Nurse & Learn will be celebrating a milestone anniversary this month with a "25 Years of Miracles and Hope" fundraiser/lunch on Aug. 12.

"I started DLC because I was a special education teacher in Duval County at a school for kids with severe disabilities and

none of the parents were able to be employed for the simple reason that no child care centers were able to accept children with handicapping conditions, especially if the children had medical complications as well," said Amy Bugge, executive director and founder. "It really seemed unfair to me that these families were given no child care options. Murray Hill United Methodist gave me the space to get started and 25 years later we have served over 1800 children and their families, given away nearly \$3 million in tuition scholarships and therapy services and provide child care with nursing at two locations to children of all abilities."

Larissa, a DLC Nurse & Learn client said gratefully, "Thanks to you, our children have a place to fit in, to feel accepted, respected and loved. Thanks to you, we can have some time to rest and to feel at ease, knowing that our children are well taken care of. Thanks to you, our children achieve more than doctors predict. They start talking, walking sitting, etc. Thank you all for bringing smiles to all the children at DLC Nurse & Learn for the last 25 years. We love you and respect you and don't know how you do it all, but we're really glad you do."

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at www.dlcnl.org, or send payment to DLC Nurse & Learn, 4101-1 College Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205. The event will be held in the Murray Hill UMC Fellowship Hall.

From JCCI to WJCT – longtime member moves

Murray Hill resident Michelle Simkulet was honored recently by former employer JCCI, who established a new award in her name for outstanding volunteer service. Simkulet served the JCCI for 17 years as chief financial officer, office manager, volunteer coordinator and director of Forward, among other roles. She moved on, literally right around the corner, to work for WJCT as Manager of WJCT CreativeworX, where she is involved with event management. About the Michelle Simkulet Heart of Service Award, to be granted each year at the annual October meeting, Simkulet said "I just don't have the words to express what it means to me, to be acknowledged in such a way. The culture of service is something I learned from JCCI staff and volunteers...I was just following their lead."



New retail offerings in Historic District Green Man Gourmet re-opens under new ownership



Longtime customers of Green Man Gourmet will be happy to see that the store at 3543 St. John's Avenue in the Shoppes of Avondale has re-opened under new ownership. Martha and James Smith have added more specialty products to the shelves and former owner Pete Eldridge will be mixing up new spices. Much of the product will be as local as possible, according to James, bringing back customer-favorite vendors for tasting events. Hours are currently 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. For more information, visit www.greenmangourmet.com.

Corrado's Bakery 'n Bistro opens on Lomax

A new bakery and bistro in 5 Points offers a pleasant lunch offering quiche, salads, sandwiches as well as fresh-baked desserts from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and will eventually have evening hours with a light fare dinner and a tapas menu, and a selection of wine and craft beers. Corrado's Bakery 'n Bistro, at 813 Lomax, is open and operating under Pat Corrado, along with his daughter Angelina and granddaughter Elyse. Call (904) 354-0444 for more information.



Caffeine and ale interesting blend in 5 Points



Things are brewing – pun intended – in 5 Points. Initially funded by an IndieGoGo online fundraiser, BREW 5 Points is a new bar experience celebrating the American craftsman in coffee and beer.

Located at 1024 Park Street, the new concept bar is open to the public with a variety of hours from 7:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. depending on the day of the week. The café/bar opens each day with espresso – and also fresh drip until 10 a.m. – and offers American canned craft beers all day. A limited menu – by design – offers easy, light fare to complement the morning coffee crowd and those looking for laidback evening nightlife. Craft sodas are also available, according to proprietor Jack Twachtman. Call (904) 374-5789 for details.

Imported pottery shop draws varied clientele

Handmade, handpainted European pottery that's oven, microwave and dishwasher safe is kitchenware, but when it's numbered and signed by the artist, it's something special. Isabella May, owner of European Imports and Polish Pottery, recently opened a shop at 3564 St. John's Avenue in the Shoppes of Avondale, after selling from her Eagle Point home or online.



What brought May to the Shoppes? "Biscottis!" she said. "I love the place!" May also said the foot traffic is invaluable for the business and has customers from all over Florida and beyond. The shop is pet-friendly and May's pug Gunter is often in residence.

Shops hours are Monday to Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact May at (904) 383-0546 for more information.

New art studio opens in Murray Hill



Right in the heart of Murray Hill, Roux Art, a new art studio at 1143 South Edgewood Avenue will offer classes in painting, decoupage and mosaics. The grand opening last month of Kate and Kenny Rouh's studio also showcased the progress on the couple's *Street Pipes Mobile Mosaic* project, backed by a Spark Grant from the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville with financing from Florida Blue. The pipes will be displayed

in one of the City parks for about a year, with the potential for rotating through the park system. The grant was the impetus for the studio, which will be open afternoons and evenings. Call (904) 465-4591 for more information.

Law firm receives philanthropy award



Tritt & Associates, P.A., a Riverside construction law and business litigation firm, received the Leadership in Philanthropy award at the 2014 Excellence in Construction Awards hosted by the Florida First Coast Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

The law firm, which won the award for the associate member category, is dedicated to giving back to the community and is a regular sponsor of community organizations and events in Jacksonville. Accepting the award, Arnold Tritt, Jr., managing partner and Ortega resident, said "Ever since I was young, my father instilled in me the importance of giving back to the community. I am truly honored our firm was given this award."

In addition to the firm's annual sponsorships, Tritt serves on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida, ACE Mentoring Program, and gives pro bono legal services to many local organizations. The firm's Director of Business Development, Katie Schoettler, a Riverside resident, serves on the Board of the Disability Learning Center.

Avondale resident member of Leadership Jacksonville 2015 class

Leadership Jacksonville, an organization that develops youth and adult leaders in Northeast Florida, recently celebrated the graduation of its 2014 class and selected participants for its 2015 program.



Harold Stankard

Jason Spencer, a Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo and resident of Avondale, is one of 55 leaders from throughout the community brought together to learn about the First Coast, build relationships with other leaders and analyze major areas of community concern.

The Class of 2015 will engage in two weekend retreats, one in August 2014 and one in May 2015, nine day-long programs and independent course work over the course of one year.

On a related note, Ortega Forest resident Harold Stankard was named to the Leadership Jacksonville Board of Directors, along with five other new members. They join 10 returning board members, including Peggy Bryan of Ortega. To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit www.leadershipjax.org or call (904) 396-6263.

Exciting, new Japanese restaurant open in Shoppes of Avondale

Jack and Ellie Li are double newcomers to the area, recently moving into Avondale and also opening a new Japanese grill and sushi bar at 3620 St. John's Avenue. Jack brings 10 years of sushi expertise to the restaurant, which offers a focused and exceptional customer experience. "We have planned this for a long, long time," said Ellie. The menu is extensive and innovative; the hours include lunch, dinner and late night. For more information, visit www.sushikojax.com or call (904) 388-5688.



Windsor celebrates opening with gala



Gail Matillo, Executive Director of FL-ALFA, Jennifer Stratton – Windsor Residence Director, Kristin Green, Windsor Sales Director, Gwen Thibault, Divisional Vice President of Operations for Legend Senior Living, Donna Crivaro, RN Trainer with FL ALFA, Andi Luri, Regional Nurse, Danny Gilland, Windsor Maintenance Director, Nicole Hodge, Windsor Health Care Coordinator, Anrique Narciso, Windsor Executive Chef, Joana Baker, Windsor Life Enrichment Coordinator

It was smiles and greetings for residents and families of The Windsor Assisted Living and Memory Care during a gala opening reception on July 16. Hors d'oeuvres specially prepared by Executive Chef Anrique Narciso were served at a buffet while guests mingled and met staff, investors and affiliated medical partners.

Local lawyer named to Leaders in Law

The Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) selected attorney Katherine Schnauss Naugle as a member of its 2014 class of Leaders in the Law at the organization's annual convention held in Orlando last month. Schnauss Naugle received the award as a member of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (JWLA), which is the Jacksonville Chapter of FAWL.



"I'm very excited and honored to be selected," said Schnauss Naugle, an Ortega Forest resident. "As immediate past-president of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association, I was privileged to work with such a great group of women. We all try to support each other and the legal profession as much as we can."

With an office in Riverside, Schnauss Naugle concentrates her practice on estate planning, guardianship, probate and elder law. A third generation Jacksonville native, she attended The Bolles School, obtained a B.A. in History from Emory University, a J.D. from Stetson University College of Law and an MBA from Stetson University School of Business Administration.

She regularly donates her time to Jacksonville Legal Aid, is a member of the Jacksonville Bar Association, and served as past president of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Small Business Resource Network. The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Roy H. Schnauss, she is married to Cameron Naugle, owner of Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services, and is the mother of two children.

Melrose Avenue Preschool new to BOA

Amanda and Patti Moody



A different type of preschool opens this month at 4305 Melrose Avenue in the business area known as BOA (Between Ortega and Avondale). Owner Amanda Moody and her business partner Patti Moody have moved into and renovated the two-story school, creating an imaginative space with an outdoor learning environment for children as young as 18 months and through kindergarten.

"It's experiencing and learning through play," said Patti, of this type of education. "You give children the environment they can create in."

"We're looking forward to being a new addition to this community," Amanda said. The mother-daughter team recently ran Discovery House on Park Street.

After an open house on Aug. 16, the school opens with 45 students on Aug. 18. For more information, call (904) 388-0606.

Avondale resident joins HabiJax

Chris Folds, of Avondale, is the new development manager for Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc. (HabiJax). Folds previously performed public policy duties for the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida and is alumnus of Florida State University and the University of North Florida. He is responsible for donor prospects and retention, engagement and outreach, special events and grant applications.

The organization also hired Harry Peltz as manager of its ReStore, the retail store that sells new and refurbished home goods and serves as a funding source for HabiJax; Octavious Carr, an experienced mortgage service industry professional, as its portfolio support manager, and Davetta Williams, whose background includes work in human resources

for the Defense Department and as coordinator of programs for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as its volunteer manager.

"We are excited to have Davetta, Chris, Harry and Octavious on board at HabiJax at this active time for our organization," said HabiJax President and CEO Mary Kay O'Rourke. "They each bring a strong background in their respective professions as well as a love for helping people and the community. We look forward to our sponsors, donors, volunteers and the community getting to know our new team members."



Supercuts celebrates 15 years at Roosevelt Square Mall



Store manager Michelle Major, owners Steve and Joanne Reitz

The Supercuts store at Roosevelt Square Mall is celebrating 15 years in business at that location, but it's actually the "middle child" for franchise owners Steve and Joanne Reitz, who opened the first Jacksonville Supercuts store in 1984 and the most recent this past January in Julington Creek. Three decades as a Supercuts franchisee has given Joanne an appreciation for customer loyalty, and that was never more evident than when a competitor recently opened right around the corner.

"We have a great staff, a great management team and this has been a great location for us," said Joanne. Steve added, "Our customers are

very loyal. We're looking forward to 15 more years - or more - here."

Built on the walk-in business concept, Supercuts is open seven days a week. Call (904) 981-0430 for hours or to get your name on the waiting list.

Ortega residents elected to DVI Board

Bill Adams and Jed Davis of Ortega are two of eight new members elected to the Downtown Vision, Inc. Board of Directors. Adams and Davis join Tony Allegretti, Keith Brown, Teresa Durand-Stuebben, Burnell Goldman, Traci Jenks and Patrick McElhaney.



director of the operating entities administered by the Davis Family Office. He also serves on numerous area boards and is chair of the Next Generation Task Force for Mayo Clinic Florida.

"We're lucky to have such an infusion of young talent who bring new perspectives and connections to a wide range of organizations that have a stake in Downtown," said Debbie Buckland, DVI's chair. "They've already begun to roll up their sleeves and proactively demonstrate their commitment to Downtown."

For a complete list of board members and bios, visit www.downtownjacksonville.org.

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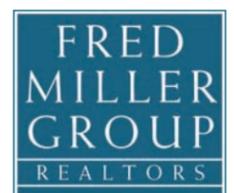
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JTA proposes fare, route changes

Seniors age 60-plus have ridden Jacksonville Transit Authority buses for free since 1989, but it hasn't always been that way. Two years prior, when City Ordinance 87-1536 went into effect, a "senior" was defined by the age of 65.

Now JTA is proposing to return to that earlier definition and, effective Jan. 1, 2015, will move the minimum age for seniors back to 65. Seniors between the ages of 60 to 64 – born on or before Dec. 31, 1954 – will be grandfathered into the fare policy adjustment in order to continue to receive complimentary fixed-route bus service. The good news, then, is that no seniors currently enjoying free ridership will lose that benefit. It just means that for those born on or after Jan. 1, 1955, the wait is a little longer.

ADA/paratransit eligible customers who currently pay \$2.50 for service on the JTA Connexion will see a 20 percent fare increase, also effective Jan. 1, 2015. However, such customers who choose to use the fixed-route bus service will ride for free.

All eligible seniors must obtain a valid JTA-issued Senior STAR card to take

advantage of the complimentary service.

Later this year, the JTA will also introduce route optimization, which includes renaming routes, creating more direct routes, coordinating transfer schedules, increasing service frequency and decreasing travel time. Riders will see the potpourri of alphanumeric route names changed to numbered routes, according to Cheryl Riddick, external affairs and community engagement coordinator. A public meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 4, 5-7 p.m., at FSCJ Kent Campus, Building E, Room 112F. Two sessions of the public hearing for route optimization will be held Thursday, Aug. 7, at FSCJ Downtown in Room 1058, from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In late November the JTA will also launch NextBus, providing riders with a website and mobile app that will provide riders with "time-to-next-bus" information and trip times. To see the website, go to www.nextbus.com and look for Jacksonville Transportation Authority.



All eligible seniors must obtain a valid JTA-issued Senior STAR card to take advantage of the complimentary service.

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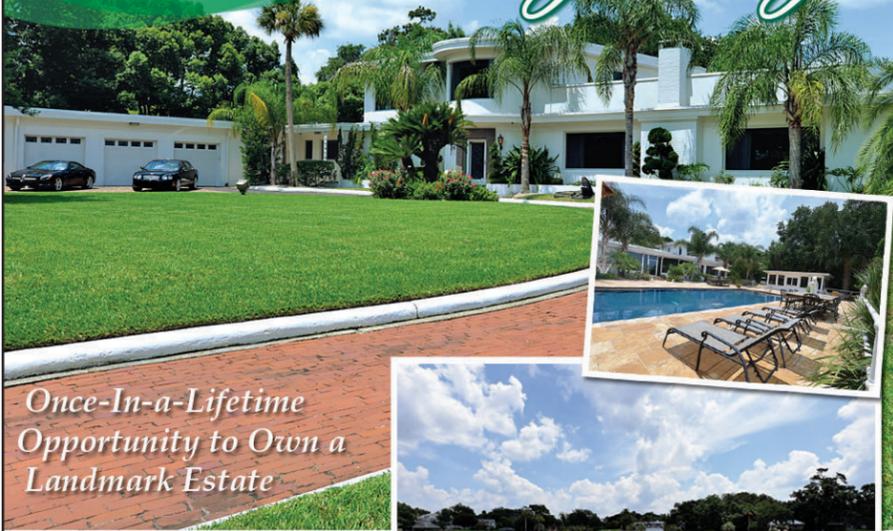
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From nearly every area of the home a panoramic view of the waterfront is afforded, momentarily distracting you from its unique, built-in amenities such as deep cedar closets. Gorgeous crystal chandeliers hang from nearly every ceiling, a stunning spiral staircase is a centerpiece, while granite, wood and marble floors and countertops gleam in colors nearly as rich as the fabulous oriental rugs throughout. In the dining room, surrounded by Miami Art Deco Crown Molding on ceilings, walls and baseboards, there is a lustrous wooden dining table for 10 with plush upholstered chairs once owned by Malcolm Forbes.

Everywhere, elegance and style reigns supreme – even the laundry room provides a breathtaking view of the tropical gardens leading down to a three-acre expanse of perfectly manicured lawn that slopes gracefully to the 700 feet of bulkhead along the St. John's River. Multi-level decks lead from this beautiful home, some of them shaded by 300-year-old oak trees, some sporting granite-top tables and stainless steel grills in the summer kitchen.

Nearby, the gleaming marble pool deck leads to the large concrete and stainless steel pool where, once again, you can almost hear the children splashing happily as the blue Italian inlaid mosaic tiles sparkle in the sunlight.



Keep walking through the lush botanical gardens to the large lavish playground below where many a pick-up game of football has been played, and you come to the newly constructed 400-foot, golf cart-accessible dock and 4,500 square-foot boathouse that can accommodate two 40/50 foot boats. Standing on the dock with the St. John's River at your feet, manatees and dolphins cavorting nearby and white clouds drifting in the blue skies above a cinematic view of Jacksonville, you can shut your eyes for a moment and imagine it is July 4th and colorful fireworks can be seen exploding in at least three directions.

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This storied San Marco residence, where families have lived and played for more than six decades, is on the market for the first time in 50 years. A one-of-a-kind Art Deco home, sitting on the largest piece of riverfront property in San Marco, with a sloping lawn that can easily accommodate a helicopter landing, it is truly a priceless piece of history. At the end of Brookwood Road – at the end of an era – as the sun sets on the St. John's River, the eagles soar overhead, watching to see who will be the next voyager on this spectacular yacht-like San Marco landmark.

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Rotarians support high school running program



Thanks to the support of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, about 40 area high school students participated in and completed the 26.2K with Donna half marathon back in February. The club provided financial support and a water station, but more importantly, running buddy support. Each student needed about \$55 to cover the cost of team shirt, sweatshirt, insurance, transportation, and training materials; the Rotarians gave a grant of \$2,200 to support the free, school-based running program.

In early June the club again supported the runners of Marathon High for next season by celebrating National Running Day with a 5K group run that began and ended at Mellow Mushroom. Donations will help fund participation in the 2015 26.2K with Donna.



Rotary President Jeanine Sasser with Deborah Dunham, Marathon High Director, and Ed Lombard, Jackie Culver, Rotary Immediate Past President John McCorvey, Margo Althuis-Brown

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Special roast honors Lakeshore resident for 29 years of community service



New DESC Executive Director Jeff Matthews with Mary Spuhler, who retired after 29 years as executive director

Mary Spuhler, immediate past executive director for Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, was gently roasted and greatly toasted last month at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. After spending 29 years providing emergency food, clothing

and financial help to those in need, Spuhler turned over the reins to Jeff Matthews, formerly executive director with Volunteers in Mission.

Spuhler was praised for giving DESC clients an attentive ear, whatever advice she could, and a bit of hope along with the material goods they



came to get at the Council office at 215 N. Ocean St. Many community leaders turned out at Spuhler's retirement party, honoring her for nearly three decades of service.

While short-term needs were met at DESC, Spuhler often worked to provide insight to the overall circumstances that led clients to the Council. Her overall goal to prevent these families in trouble from becoming homeless

will continue in the mission under Matthews' leadership.

Spuhler is a recipient of the Florida Council of Churches Christian Services Citation for distinguished leadership and compassion in ecumenical ministries. She has served on the Jacksonville Community Council (JCCI) and is a 1997 graduate of Leadership Jacksonville.

AIA helps to improve life with donation to ALA

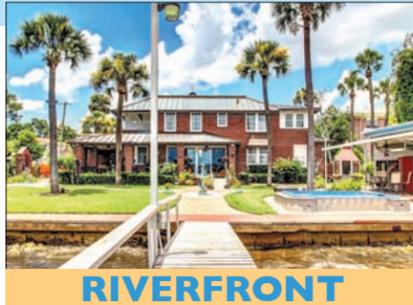
The Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) made a \$1,500 donation to the American Lung Association last month. Through the donation the local AIA chapter supports the mission of "Improving Life One Breath at a Time" and continues the fight for community health in Northeast Florida. Pictured are Riverside resident Tom Hurst, AIA past chapter president, Nicola Barnack, area director, American Lung Association in Florida, and Jacksonville AIA member Lee J. Poehmann, also of Riverside.



Properties are Moving Quick! List Today!



2529 Hugh Edwards Drive
Great investment property. 4BR/2BA with living room, dining room, kitchen, bonus room, laundry, and fenced back yard. 1,473 sq. ft. \$69,000



1881 Powell Place
This 3BR/3.5BA home features a full kitchen with breakfast nook, butlers pantry/caterers' kitchen, formal dining room, formal living room with panoramic views of St. John's River. 2,889 sq. ft. \$987,000



2124 Myra Street
3BR/2BA 2 story with rocking chair front porch and in-ground pool! This restored home is ready for new owners. Downstairs Master suite, formal living and dining rooms. 2,398 sq. ft. \$299,900



2534 Oak Street
For Sale or For Rent. 9 smaller offices with waiting area and break room. 2 accessible restrooms. 3-4 parking spaces and lots of on street parking. 2,265 sq. ft. \$2000/mo. or \$299,900



3027 St. Johns Avenue
Main house features 5BR/4.5BA a restored lift, library, downstairs family room and upstairs family room, butler's pantry, hardwood floors, 10 foot ceilings, and windows galore. 4,317 sq. ft. \$995,000



1308 Donald Street
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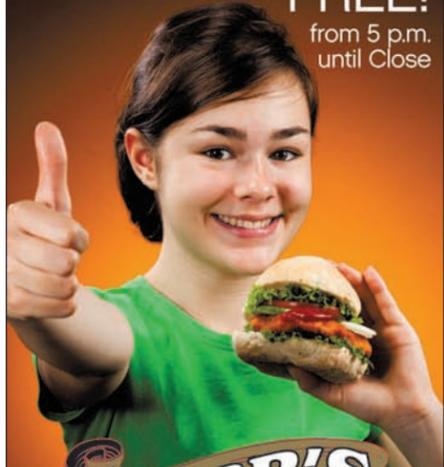
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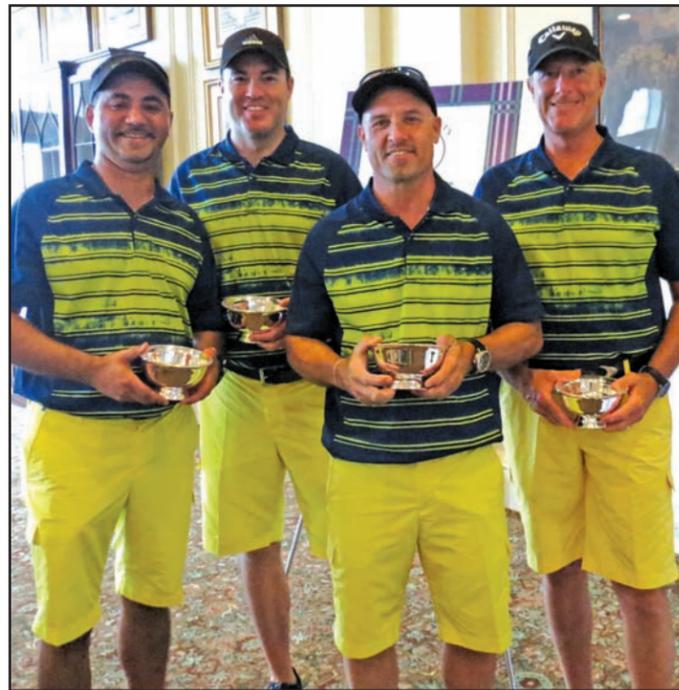
Three graduating seniors get college boosts from JMA

The Jacksonville Marine Association presented three scholarships at its annual awards meeting, thanks in huge part to sponsor 121 Financial Credit Union. The \$2500 scholarships were given to Alison Christovich (the Grace Rogers Scholarship Fund), Hunter Koike (the John T. Lowe Scholarship Fund) and Christian Hill (the Pete Loftin Scholarship Fund). Present at the meeting held at the Marina at Ortega Landing were JMA board members (back) Rusty Gardner, Joe Springer, Larry Redmond, Barton Holmes, Davis Johnston, SVP Operations at 121 Financial Credit Union; (front) Mary Lou Hull, Vicki Williams, Kenny Sherwood, Buddy Haskell, JMA president Dick Boger.



Women ruled at 9th annual St. Vincent's Physicians Cup

In a field of more than 124 players, the women ruled the 9th annual St. Vincent's Physicians Cup Golf Classic in May. First place, sponsored by Drs. McClow, Clark & Berk, P.A., went to



Gene McCoskey, D.O., Dan Perez, Matt St. George, Lance Leepart

St. Vincent's Medical Center radiologists Becky Hoch, Allison Vogt and Honey Moore.

The Cup is a joint tournament by the St. Vincent's Riverside Physicians Giving Society (begun in 2006) the St. Vincent's Southside Physicians Giving Society (started in 2008) and the St. Vincent's Clay County Physicians Giving Society, newly formed in 2013. Each society has created its own physician-directed endowed fund to support programs that improve patient care.

The Steering Committees, made up of physician members, meet annually to review requests and select programs for funding. Over the past nine years, the Physicians Giving Societies have funded over \$600,000 in programs such as nursing scholarships, an early childhood literacy program, and mission outreach.

Title sponsor at the event played at the Timuquana Country Club was Merrill Lynch. Second place, sponsored by Pulmonary Critical Care Associates, went to Gene McCoskey, D.O., Dan Perez, Matt St. George and Lance Leepart.

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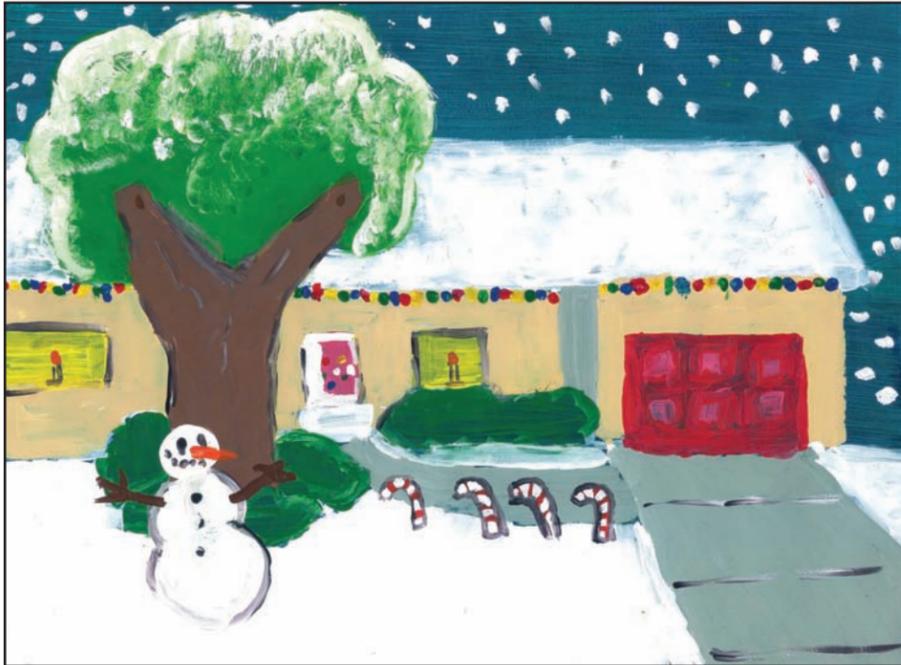
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Sulzbacher Give a Good Night holiday card artist chosen from children at center



The Southside Women’s Club was the venue for the 17th annual “Give a Good Night” fundraiser for the Sulzbacher Center. Celebrity judges, including Dan Murphy, senior vice president and treasurer for Fidelity National Financial, Inc., chose artist Sadie Stokes’ design representing her “dream home for the holidays.” Stokes is one of the homeless children who live at the Center and participated in a workshop to



First Coast News’ Keitha Nelson, Fidelity National Financial Treasurer Dan Murphy, Regions Bank Advisor Joan Eicher and Sherry Bishop of Harbinger Sign were all on hand to help judge the annual holiday card competition



Southside Women’s Club President Sandy Marshall with Joyce Haines, Judy Schultz, Third Vice President Alice Mound, Shelby Cooper and Dee Crowder

create her painting, which will be featured on the Center’s holiday cards.

By purchasing a card you can help provide essential services to the families and individuals who turn to the Sulzbacher Center for help and hope every day. Give a Good Night cards are available at www.giveagoodnight.org or by phone at (904) 394-8051. For more information, visit www.sulzbachercenter.org.

Give a dollar – help fill a backpack

Local food banks, including Feeding Northeast Florida, are preparing for the upcoming school year and the fight against childhood hunger. Winn-Dixie’s Summer Backpack Hunger Relief Program will help the one out of four children in Northeast Florida who don’t know where their next meal will come from. Donations at any

store register now through August 19 will provide meals for healthy minds and bodies to thrive in the classroom. Every dollar donated will go directly to regional food banks to help fill backpacks with nutritious, fresh foods.

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Nursing assistants enjoy lunch on Community Hospice

Nursing assistants received a special treat last month at the 3rd annual Great Food Truck Round-Up, sponsored by Northeast Florida Community Hospice. A free hot lunch with beverage was given to nursing assistants at eight locations, including St. Catherine Labouré Manor in Riverside, where the Super Food Truck partnered with Community Hospice.

“It’s an opportunity for us to recognize them [certified nursing assistants] for the hard work they do,” said John Erstling, senior vice president of Community Engagement and Philanthropy at Community Hospice. “It’s very appropriate to acknowledge these individuals; it’s very hard work, physically demanding and challenging, but very rewarding.” One of those who took advantage of the free lunch was Janice Marsh, a CNA at St. Catherine Labouré Manor for over 26 years. She

said “It’s an honor to serve those who cannot help themselves. It’s our job to do what we can to be those eyes, feet and hands for these people. It’s my calling and that makes the difference.”

Mitzi Saul, senior marketing coordinator at Community Hospice, started the celebration three years ago. “They [CNAs] are an integral part of our inter-disciplinary team and they are wonderful in our community, so we just want to treat them to lunch and say ‘thank you’ for what they do.”

Saul negotiated a great rate with the eight food trucks, which provided the lunch “out of the goodness of their hearts,” she said. Along with Super Food Trucks, the line-up included Bono’s BBQ, Chunky Tomato, Baby’s Badass Burgers, Driftwood BBQ, S.O.S. Diner, Wiki Wiki Hawaiian Shave Ice and Grannie’s Chicken.



Dale Farrow, Healthcare Relations for St. Vincent’s, John Erstling, Community Hospice SVP, Community Engagement and Philanthropy, Janice Marsh, CNA at St. Catherine Labouré Manor, Mitzi Saul, Senior Marketing Coordinator for Community Hospice

Local philanthropists establish endowment at Cummer

Jim and Joan Van Vleck, Riverside residents, have made a gift of \$200,000 to establish the Professional Development Endowment at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The endowment will provide regular opportunities for growth and development for the staff, which the Van Vlecks feel are the Museum’s more important asset.

Jim, a former Museum board

president, and Joan helped shape the guiding principles of the endowment, which encourage staff to seek development that is outward looking, broad and challenging. Each year, staff will be encouraged to apply for development opportunities that will advance their professional goals and their role at The Cummer.

“The element that connects great art and fabulous gardens to our community is staff excellence...we

invest in art, we invest in gardens, we want to make certain we always invest in staff,” said the couple.

This endowment is the most recent example of the Van Vlecks’ commitment to The Cummer. They are also members of the Ninah Cummer Legacy Society and The Director’s Circle, and have generously funded capital projects both within the Museum and in The Cummer Gardens.



Cummer employees Emily Magevney, Jan Dorsey, Kristen Zimmerman, Jim and Joan Van Vleck, Wendy Porter – Photograph courtesy of Ingrid Damani

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Cocktails for Cause embraces Vision for Excellence

Attorneys and guests joined Public Defender Matt Shirk at The University Club's Cocktails for a Cause on July 11 to support Vision for Excellence Summer Camp.

Shirk created the nonprofit in 2010 with the vision of "preventing some of our youth today from becoming our clients of tomorrow." The program provides young people with educational resources, interaction with positive role models, self-esteem enhancing activities and community building opportunities which will result in good decision making skills and a desire to produce positive contributions to the community.



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David Parrish, Jacqueline Welti, Richard Ceriello

Christmas in July

Members of Riverside Avondale Preservation were treated to a Christmas feast – in July. The event, sponsored by Dr. Barry Stevens, First Coast Endodontics, and held at the River Room at Beau Rivage on July 25. RAP executive director Carmen Godwin celebrated her "half birthday" with approximately 100 of RAP's 400 members at the event. RAP is also celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and members recalled some of the earlier days when the society was formed.



Trey Csar and four-month-old son Max



Keith Holt, Jeffrey and Tammy Terry, Carmen Godwin

Front, Lisa Shepherd, Barry Stevens, Torrie Parette; back: Joy Walker, Malcolm Jones, Tempest Arant



Docent program at Cummer a ministry to community

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Who are those men and women, young and old, who know so much about the exhibits at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens? Mostly likely, artists or art educators, right?

Not so fast. The docents – those who lead tours at the Cummer – come from a variety of backgrounds but they do all have at least one thing in common. They love children.

Mary Summers, president of the Board of Docents, said that when the group was formed in 1970, it was a group of women from Riverside who started volunteering to take school children on group tours. Now in its 43rd year, the Docent Corps put in 3,000 hours last year leading more than 23,000 adults and children through the museum.

“The amazing thing [about the docents] is the talent and breadth of experience that comes in from the community,” said Summers, who has been a docent for eight years. “Everybody’s here because they want to be here. It’s like the ideal school. Everybody loves to learn, everybody loves the Cummer, everybody loves children.”

Avondale resident Betsy Towers concurs. “We have quite an outreach here to the Title One schools...I look at more as sort of a ministry. That’s what really brought me to the Cummer, the outreach to the children, to have the chance to plant the seed of curiosity in their little minds and hearts,” said

Towers, who began as a docent in 1993. “If we can show kindness, graciousness and beauty, and give them hope that they don’t have to live that way when they grow up, then there are endless possibilities. We know that it works.”

During the 2013-2014 school year, the 40 active docents showed more than 18,000 children from 200 schools how to see in a different way. They use the Feldman method of critiquing art, a simple four-step structure consisting of description, analysis, interpretation and judgment.

John Hall, who lives nearby in Riverside, employs the method for his tours. “I like the Pre-K and Kindergarten kids,” he said. “They are so loving and receptive and when you sit them down in front of a painting they start talking. I also love the storytelling program where you get them to tell a story about a piece of art. Some kids are natural story-tellers and will go on and on.”

Hall was named Docent of the Year for the 2012-2013 school year and was awarded the Riley Gordon Granger, Jr. Distinguished Docent Award. “Joining the Cummer in 2011, John has given over 100 hours in tours and is highly involved in the Junior Docent Program,” noted an in-house newsletter. “During VSA [Very Special Arts program], Hall was an amazing tour guide, and consistently shows a willingness to be flexible. He connects with every school group he meets and loves trying



Betsy Tower, Provisional Docent Coordinator, Mary Summers, President of the Docents Board, John Hall, 2013 Docent of the Year

new tours and working with students of all abilities. John’s positive, upbeat personality makes him a joy to work with and a true asset to the program.”

No art background necessary

To become a docent, one must enroll in the Provisional Docent Class, an intensive nine-month training program, in which future docents put in 180 hours of learning. “It’s a big commitment...a real commitment,” said Towers, who is the Provisional Docent Coordinator. “People have to look at it like a job.”

“The docent training is fantastic,” said Hall. “As I was taking it the first time, it was blending what little I knew about history with the artist’s view of what was going on at that time in history and how they were showing it. It was rounding out my understanding of the world.”

The training doesn’t stop there. The docents meet once a month for a brown bag lunch and training on upcoming exhibits. They are also encouraged to attend any provisional docent training session for refreshers.

Docents serve one day a week during the school year, conducting two school tours on their designated day, and are also there for the Tuesday Night Highlight Tour and on First Saturdays.

For the first time this past January, the provisional art history lectures were opened to museum members and Towers said they were overwhelmed with the number who attended. In order to preserve the learning experience for the docents-in-training, the Cummer’s Education Department has decided to offer a separate course for museum members this next year.

“You don’t have to have an art background or an education background. The docent program is open to anyone who loves children and is interested in looking at art,” concluded Towers. “We’ll take care of the rest.”

The next docent informational session is Sunday, Aug. 17, 2-4 p.m. If you are interested in being a member of the Docent Corps, contact Betsy Towers, Provisional Docent Coordinator at (904) 705-5608. If you are interested in being a member of the Junior Docent Corps (middle and high school), contact Karl Boecklen at (904) 899-6005.

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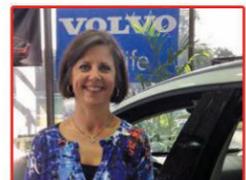
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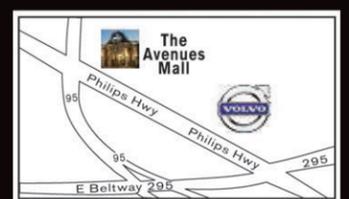
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BUSINESS PROFILE

Ellen Diamond – Back to bridges

An admirer of French Impressionist painter Claude Monet and his famous bridge paintings such as Bridge at Argenteuil and Waterloo Bridge, Ellen Diamond shares his fascination for bridges. This summer, as she painted a picturesque bridge on the Seine River in Paris, Diamond reflected on the beauty of bridges much closer to home. Her thoughts drifted to the graceful charm of the Ortega River Bridge. Upon her return from Europe, Diamond set out for Ortega with her camera, sitting in the park for hours and capturing the changing play of light on the bridge as day turned to dusk.

Her resulting painting of The Ortega River Bridge has a soft, ageless quality that transports one to the end of a long, lazy summer day of sailing on the river.



The waning sun is reflected in soft luscious shades of blue and gold and green as sailboats approach the historic old drawbridge. The painting is a sensitive, nostalgic depiction of a cherished landmark, one that has inspired artists and photographers since it replaced the old wooden bridge in 1928.

"That bridge calls to me," said the artist. "It is so well done – constructed in such a way that it catches the light from every perspective." Diamond first painted the Ortega River Bridge back in 1999, when she was doing a series of four local bridge paintings. In addition to the Ortega Bridge (sometimes called the Old Ortega Bridge, sometimes called the Ortega River Bridge), the series included The Main Street Bridge, The Bridge of Lions and The old Palm Valley Bridge (that has since been demolished). That spectacular series of bridge paintings is now a permanent collection of the Mayo Clinic.

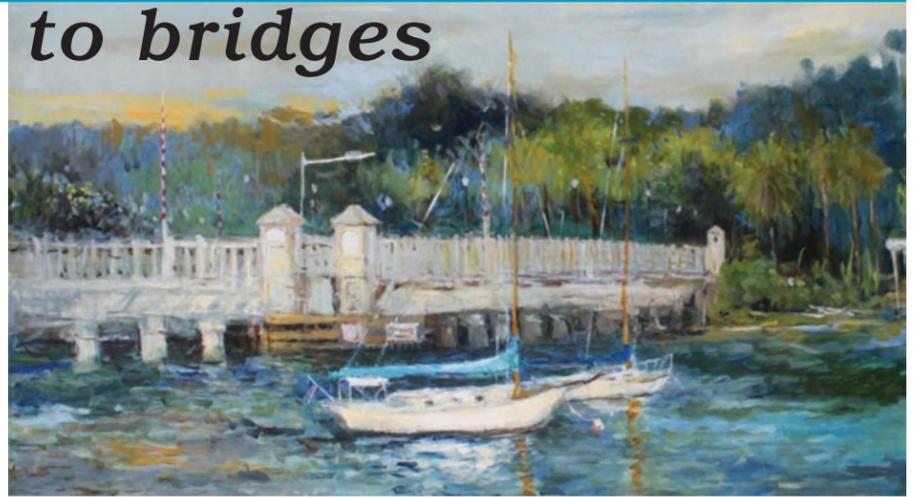
A "bridge hunter" with unlimited vision and scope, Diamond has painted footbridges and oriental garden bridges, bridges in Maine and Long Island, Venice and Paris, and several more bridges on the First Coast.

Internationally acclaimed for her brilliant use of color and light in paintings portraying the luxuriant landscapes of Provence and Tuscany, Diamond grew up in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of famed portrait painter Ben Clements, whose classical sketches of celebrities

"That bridge calls to me. It is so well done – constructed in such a way that it catches the light from every perspective."

Ellen Diamond

Discussing the Ortega River Bridge



were regularly featured in The New York Times and TheHerald-Tribune. Her beloved mentor, Diamond's late father is still much in evidence throughout her elegant Sawgrass home, where Clements' portraits of her grandfather and brother, and her three children grace the walls. His striking self-portrait holds a place of honor in the artist's home studio, on the wall overlooking the easel where his daughter continues the family tradition of creating beauty on canvas.

Diamond's diverse imaginative artistry runs the gamut from abstract to figurative, cubism to realism, and, invariably, her colorful compositions trick the senses with lively momentum... are those clouds moving, do I detect the scent of lilacs, did that water just ripple?

A prolific painter and teacher who is globally known as an accomplished contemporary impressionist, Ellen Diamond has been represented for more than a quarter of a century by The Framing Establishment & Fairfax Gallery on Herschel Street. "We're excited about Ellen's latest painting of the Ortega Bridge and proud to have it here," said Jan Beauth of The Framing

Establishment. "People in Ortega have a sincere love for that bridge. I grew up right off of Woodmere and must have crossed it 500 times or more!"

Prominent Ortega resident Helen Lane noted that she considers the Ortega Bridge "handsome," and, as to the work of artist Ellen Diamond, Lane was extravagant with her praise. "Her paintings are spectacular," said Lane. "She flashes out beautiful rays of light like a diamond."

"The Ortega Bridge" acrylic on canvas, 40x30, is available at Framing Establishment – Fairfax Gallery, 4216 Herschel Street. The image is available as giclee' on canvas or paper, and can be customized to accommodate your budget and decorative needs.

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REGISTRATION – Wednesday, August 20th, 5:30–7:00 p.m.
Classes – Wednesdays, August 27 – Oct. 8, 2014

For Adults

5:00 p.m. Classes

Early Bird Yoga – CYT Instructor – Jayne Parker – \$35.00. Beginner to intermediate Vinyasa Yoga classes. Move through postures that will invigorate and allow you to tap into a more abundant life. Vinyasa means flow, the postures are linked with movement. Students are encouraged to move at their own pace as they breathe.

6:30 p.m. Classes

Gentle Yoga – Instructor Jill Pagan – \$35.00. This class offers gentle movement of breath and body. Motion is lotion. This class will focus on breathing with an introduction to simple modified poses. Class suitable for all levels. Jillian Pagan trained in Kripalu yoga at Discovery Yoga in St Augustine Florida.

Line Dancing – Professional Instructor – Joy Bellemare – \$35.00. A slower, easier way to exercise but lots of fun and fellowship. All the latest dances and no partner needed because lines of them are provided!

Painting – Instructor – Christianna White – \$35.00. Students may chose their medium – Acrylics, with an introduction to oils. Ms. White has a vast experience in both and will work with students using either. She has a knowledge of art history and loves to share tidbits as she teaches. She has taught painting to all ages and is affiliated with a number of local programs, including the Cathedral Arts Project. She will be present at registration and will have a materials list available.

Calligraphy – Instructors Geneva Rentz and Carol White – \$15.00. Learn and practice this beautiful art of handwriting. Materials list available at registration.

Guitar – Professional Artist/Instructor – Arvid Smith – \$35.00 (this class is also open to teens). For beginners and those with limited knowledge. A guitar is required.

Dog Obedience Training – Certified Instructor – Pam Wiltgen, of “Far Fetched Tales Dog Training” – \$70.00. This class is for all breeds and sizes. The fee is per dog and can include multiple owners. Children welcome with parents.

Faith Discovery: “Why Be a Christian?” – Pastor Chris McNeill – No Charge. Rev. McNeill recently was appointed to Riverside Park United Methodist Church as the Minister. He grew up outside of Charlotte, North Carolina and comes to Jacksonville with a rich resume, including Clinical Pastoral education and Christian Counseling. He holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

Adult Handbell for Beginners – with Dan Marks – \$5.00 – for youth and adults. Musical background helpful, but not necessary, Learn handbell techniques and how to play simple pieces. Educational and lots of fun in a relaxed setting..

Introduction to a Vegan Lifestyle – A New Way of Cooking and Eating – Julie Watkins, Instructor – \$35.00. Join the founder of The Girls Gone Green, Julie Watkins, every week as she highlights in a fun, yet informative way how to approach a vegan lifestyle. She’ll prepare amazing meals right before your eyes which you’ll be able to sample in each class. You’ll receive tons of resources and recipes as you begin a healthier and happier journey no matter where you are in life right now!

For Children

5:00 p.m. Classes

Handbells for 3rd–5th Graders – Instructor – Bonnie Allen – No charge. Children learn to play handbells in a fun setting. No previous musical experience required. Children must be available for a few performances during the year.

Christian Karate – Instruction provided by United Martial Arts – Karate moves are taught in a safe, respectful, Christian environment. Ages 5 and up. Students have the opportunity to earn belts as they learn. No uniforms required.

Beginning Violin – Professional Instructor – Stephanie Lindsay. Mrs. Lindsay holds a degree in Performance from Boston University and has 17 years of experience as both a performer and instructor. Her teaching background is the Suzuki/Indiana School style and she has taught with Jumpstart Strings in the DCPS. She performs with both the Jacksonville Symphony and the Naples Philharmonic. Information about violin rental available at registration

6:30 p.m. Classes

Christian Karate – See above description.

Children’s Art Class – Instructor – Bebe Alexander, certified Art Instructor who holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Visual Art Studies from the University of Florida. Mrs. Alexander, a mother of two, has a wealth of experience teaching children of all ages. The students will be hand building with clay, learn watercolor techniques and work on a mixed media collage and create using recycled materials.

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More information
available at registration
on August 20th.

Karate and Art are all \$30.00 for the first child in a family and \$15.00 for a 2nd class or other children in the same immediate family.

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Aside from the beauty of the surroundings, the staff proves eager to please and “My pleasure...” becomes the answer to all of your requests. After learning of the accommodations at the front desk, a member of the bell staff thoroughly reviews the property from top to bottom, leaving no stone unturned. If this is your first visit, you’ll certainly benefit from the brief, but complete rundown of the property. The warm-up to the amenities is quick and painless, as the property is laid out for convenience and ease, a quick reference by way of finger pointing is all you need.

Making your way to the guest rooms, the appointments are elegant and simple. A large entertainment center houses the mini-bar, complimentary water and coffee and ample supplies of dark and milk chocolates show up at each turn down. Many of the rooms have balconies – you’ll want one – overlooking the grounds. The property is laid out thoughtfully, as views of swaying palms and the resort pool are highlighted by the blue hue of the ocean and styled fountains along the perimeter. The bathrooms are complete with the beautiful combination of glass



the amenities for kids rival any resort and exceed expectations. AquaNuts lives up to its name, as staff provide water borne programming and other fun that suits children from ages 5 through 12. For teenagers, there’s Coast, set up to provide a dance scene, DJ equipment and good times. The best part of the trip can sometimes be the opportunities for everyone in the family – EAU provides these moments...now to the spa!



and more marble from floor to ceiling, as a soaking tub and a fully enclosed shower are complemented by the make-up mirror [a must for her] and plush towels. The king bedroom also comes complete with a love seat for little one, as it doubles as a bed once the time for tired eyes arrives. The high thread count sheets put icing on the king-sized cake.

From the world-class spa to the children’s amenities, four dining options, a separate adult pool, and a business center – complete with work stations and private rooms, the property lacks nothing for the guest experience. Many properties can seem to go on forever; this resort, while not small, delivers on the intimacy of a small resort but boasts an extensive list of amenities that sprawl out over several

acres. The shores of the barrier island of Manalapan provide an ocean of crystal blue and a characteristic breeze relieves guests from the summer swelter.

If you’re a couple seeking a break or a business traveler, the amenities afford you the ability to be without interruption, as the spa, adult pool and lobby bar “Stir” are great places to unwind.



Gorgeous furniture and lobby lounges accommodate several parties at a time and food service and cocktails are served throughout, including the outdoor patios by the fire pit. One of the highlights for couples [or kids] is the table top S’mores fire pits, an absolute must do!

For families travelling with children,

If the spa getaway and a sensual retreat are your goal, this is the place for adults to hunker down. Conde Nast rated the 48,000 square-foot spa as one of the top 25 spas in the world. You’ll believe it once you’re swinging in the “Self Centered Garden” complete with swinging chairs, waterfalls and reflecting pool. It’s definitely a unique setting, another must.

There is truly something for everyone on property or a short drive away. Worth



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In Memoriam

**Walter "Audie"
Mott Lampe**

JANUARY 31, 1941 - JULY 13, 2014

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Walter Lampe was an inspiration to many, a man who made a lasting impression on everyone he met. Audie, a childhood nickname first used by his older brother Skippy when both were toddlers, was a family man first and foremost. At the



time of his death he had been married to his college sweetheart, beautiful wife JoAnn for 51 years. The devoted couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year by gathering family and closest friends, according to Downing Nightingale, Audie's friend of 40 years.

"I remember once he dived straight into dark water after my young son, little Downing, who had fallen off the dock. He never hesitated. Brought him right back up, but that was Audie, he was a brave man all his life," Nightingale said. "And we never forgot that."

Audie achieved many accomplishments, but perhaps his greater legacy is the influence he had on younger

men and women, who call him a true Southern gentleman, a fatherly mentor. His caring heart, attention to detail, calm strength and ability to navigate complex situations helped mold their lives and build character.

times clashed on opposite sides as experts in appraisal or eminent domain cases. However, instead of adversaries, they remained friends.

A man who fully enjoyed life, Audie had wide interests from celebrating the University of Georgia to Nascar races, flying his Baron Airplane or visiting his mountain home and boating on Lake Rabun in Georgia. He and his brother Skippy, 75, remained close to their Alpha Tau Omega fra-

"I remember once he dived straight into dark water after my young son, little Downing, who had fallen off the dock. He never hesitated. Brought him right back up, but that was Audie, he was a brave man all his life," Nightingale said. "And we never forgot that."

His granddaughter Mead Rogers, 17, eloquently described her grandfather's combination of intellect, strength and tenderness in heartfelt words.

"My friends wish they had a 'Dadaw' just like you because you are gracious and kind, but you can still whip people into shape! You are so respected and have earned that...you have a servant's heart, with a leader's mind. You're an inspiration, a hero," Rogers said.

Audie enjoyed a distinguished career in real estate appraisal, first in partnership with Stewart B. Steeg and then in the company he founded, Walter M. Lampe, Inc., now Lampe Roy & Associates, Inc. His colleague Heyward M. Cantrell, president of Cantrell Real Estate, called Walter a formidable opponent in the courtroom, where they some-

ternity brothers, even after 55 years, still meeting to golf or attend ball-games together. Skippy said Audie was a talented pianist who gave lessons and played in a band as a young man.

"We were very close growing up...especially after the death of our younger brother, Garland. We've never been separated except when Audie was in the Navy for two years. We've been blessed with a close, loving family. Our tradition every December 22nd, our father's birthday, was to visit all the family graves and then at Christmas when the family gathered, we would talk Audie into playing carols on the piano for us all to sing," Skippy said. "Audie's wife JoAnn has been an angel during his illness, she never left his side. We are sure going to miss him."

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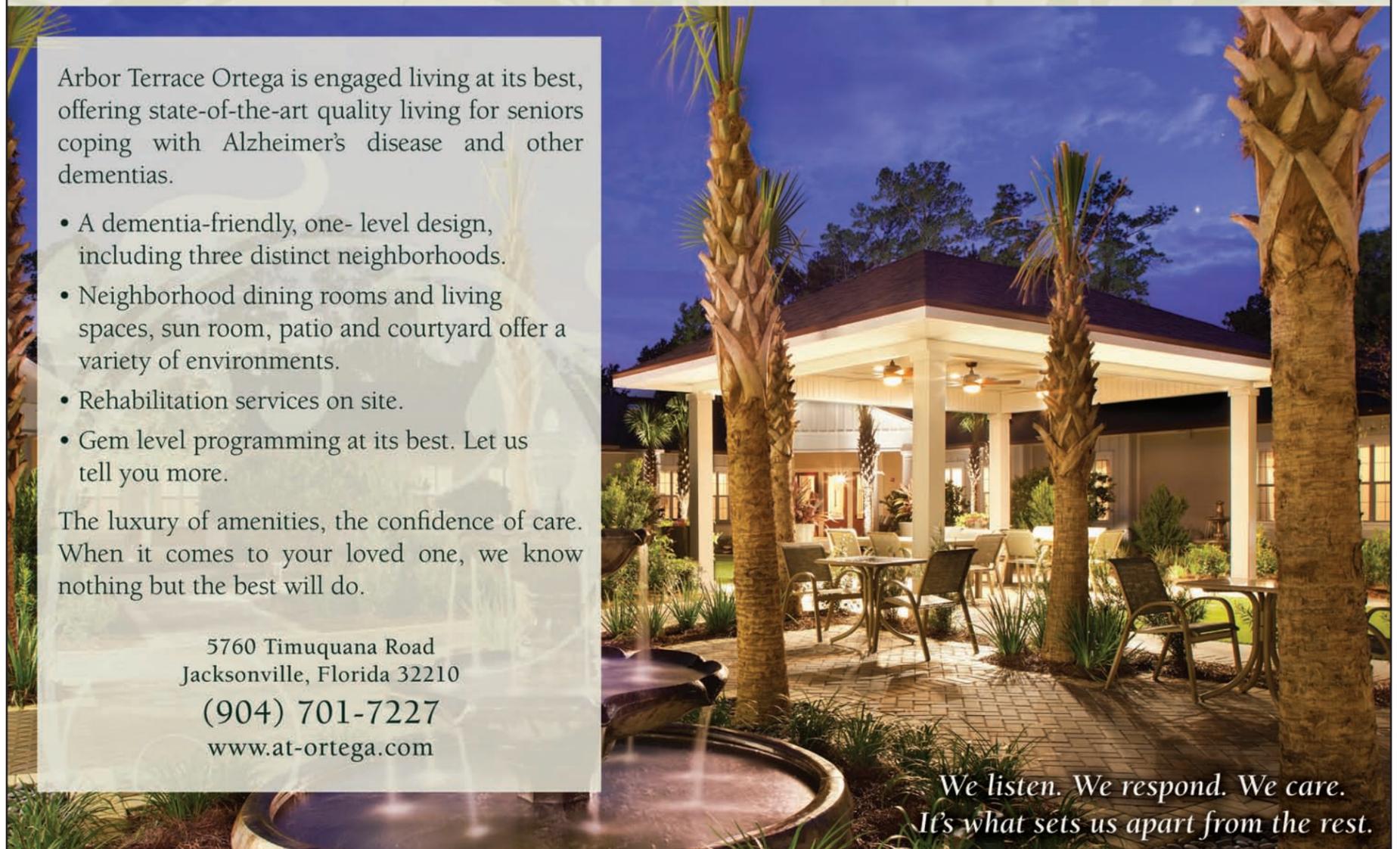
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Veteran finally receives well-deserved recognition, medals

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“Better late than never” may be a sentiment shared by Ortega resident Tesch Brundick as well as the members of the Southern Museum of History. In Brundick’s case, it is better late to receive war medals six decades after serving in the Korean War than never to have received the acknowledgement at all.

Brundick served with the Coast Guard from March 1949 to August 1952, when he received an honorable discharge following a boiler explosion on the Coast Guard Cutter USS John Lowe. As an Engineman Third Class, Brundick jokes that the incident was the only time an officer saluted him. “I said, ‘Sir, I don’t know if you know this but there’s ice cold water coming in from the struts and he said, oh, don’t worry about a thing,’” Brundick recalled. “I said, ‘Yes, sir, I am worried about it,’ and went over the side. He said, ‘Don’t forget me.’”

Brundick, who grew up in Ortega and attended the Bolles Military School, was scalded in the explosion. His Purple Heart has been applied for, but was not yet received at the time of the July 15 ceremony at the Museum of Southern History. At that presentation, Brundick was given the National Defense Service

Medal and the Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service Medal, as well as his Honorable Discharge Button. He was also a recipient previously of the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, the precursor to getting any further awards, according to Brundick.

Dealing with the truth

For the 350-some members of the Museum of Southern History, “better late than never” may be the corollary to their philosophy: Learn the truth and deal with it.

While L.A. Hardee, a member for the past 12 years, mixes a fair amount of jokes with information about the 3,500 square foot museum, he’s serious about its mission to preserve the history, ideals and chivalry of the South.

Hardee said the building is structurally almost an amazing feat, joking that “if the termites up there ever quit holding hands, we’d be in trouble.” But what’s really amazing about it is what’s inside: one of only three flags still existing of the 36 made to adorn the casket of Abraham Lincoln.



Ben Willingham, retired Navy captain and president of the Museum of Southern History, presents medals to Tesch Brundick as his wife Betty looks on

Located at the site of a former gas station at 4304 Herschel Street, the museum was started in 1975 at the offices of Giles Patterson, Jr. The storage of artifacts and memorabilia grew into a collection of such magnitude that it was moved to Herschel Street in 1994. Today the museum has over 6,000 volumes in its library dedicated to the War Between the States (aka the Civil War).

The museum accepts no public funding in the interest of preserving “intellectual honesty,” according to

Hardee, an Ortega native. Ten volunteers, all ex-military, put on presentations for more than 3,000 students of all ages every year. Children are given the opportunity to handle and fire the old muskets in the courtyard behind the museum.

Since the building is leased, funds to pay the rent and utilities are raised by appealing to members, friends and neighbors. For more information, contact Jim Shillinglaw at (904) 388-3574 or visit www.museumsofhistory.com.



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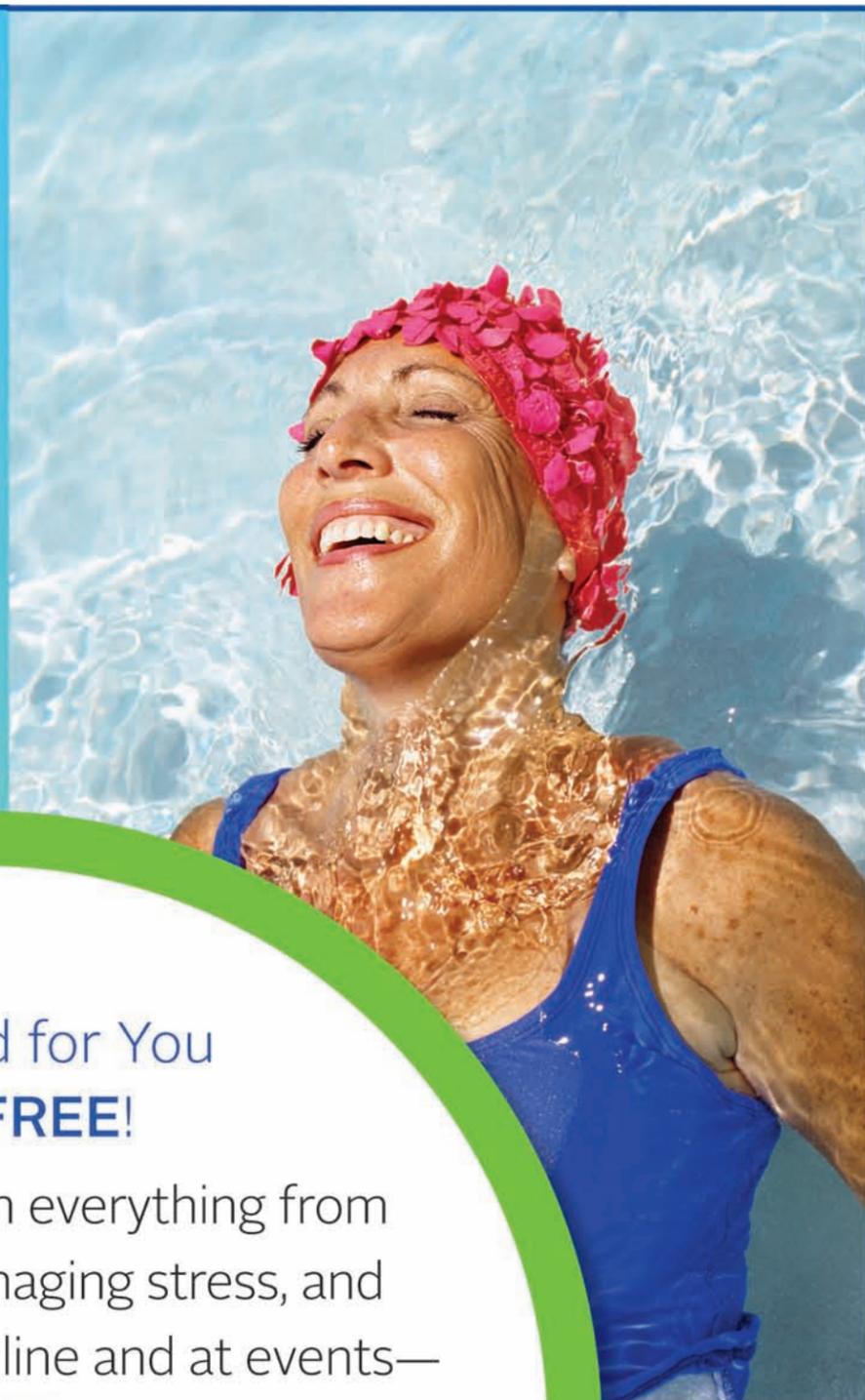
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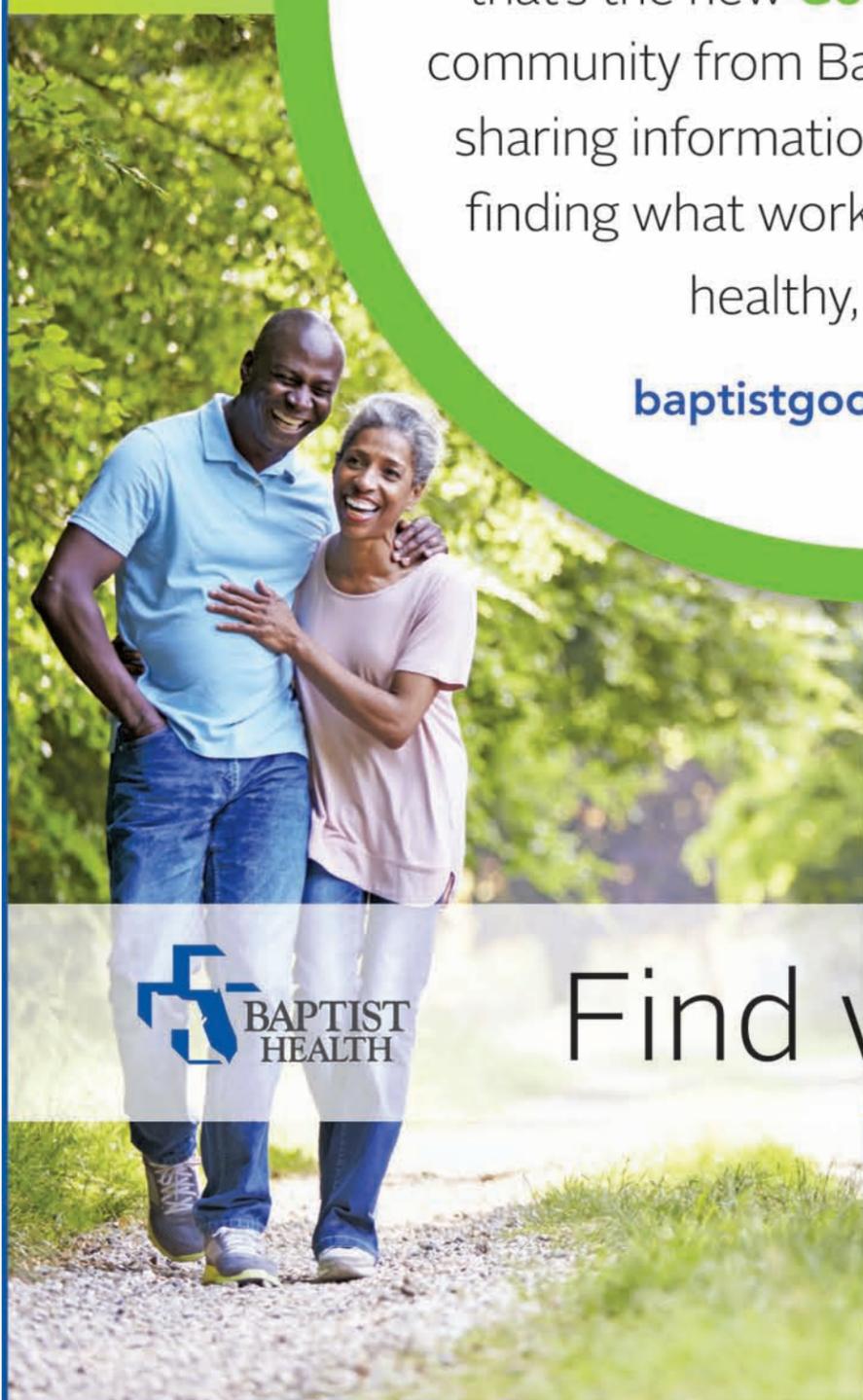
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for you.

Betty Baird

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Still working at a sprightly 80 years of age, Betty Baird's first retirement in 1994 from teaching for 20 years at FSCJ lasted about one month. She was bored to tears, and decided to apply for a part-time position with Timuquana Country Club where she is on a first-name basis with everyone.

"I've worked in nearly every area of the Club and enjoyed them all. When I first helped in the business office or answered phones I was supposed to say, 'Timuquana Country Club, how may I help you,' but after so many years I just say 'This is Betty, how may I help you'... everyone knows me. The golfers visit me through the Club's back door and everyone else comes through the front," Baird said. "I love people and fixing problems. I've met the nicest people and over the years have watched younger families with several generations spending more time together. I especially enjoy the big, beautiful events because they are so much fun – the Confederate and Magnolia Balls. There were 1,000 people there on July 4th!"

Research in the media and on the Internet about the importance of human interaction, connection and touch is no surprise to Baird. She reached her own first-hand conclusions based on years of helping her personal friends and Club members at Timuquana.

"I've noticed that people are extremely cautious and hesitate to hug or touch the elderly or disabled in wheelchairs or those who use walkers or canes...probably from fear they might lose balance and fall or be hurt. I know that we all crave a good hug and they especially just want to be treated normally," she said. "Several members bring their wheelchair-bound relatives to visit me or they pull up to the door at the Club, so I can give them a big hug...that is a true privilege. They know that I would help them in any way if they ever needed me. And the truth is I know that I'm fortunate to have good health and energy to be able to continue to work part-time and be active out in the community. I appreciate them as much as they do me."

Baird's family came from Mississippi where her father worked for what is now the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and her mother cared for their six children. They relocated to

Jacksonville in 1938 for her father's career and Baird graduated from Andrew Jackson High School. She has only lost one sister and remains close to her four brothers who are all going strong and range in ages from 67 to 83. The siblings gather annually at Gold Head Branch State Park in Keystone Heights to rent cabins, sit, relax and talk all night, Baird said.

Baird was divorced from her first husband and her second husband is deceased. She had four children, three of whom survive. Her oldest daughter lost her battle with brain cancer five years ago at the age of 56: a heartache Baird handles with quiet wisdom.

"I believe that God does not give us anything we cannot handle and we decided early on that we were not going to spend our time together crying. We did the things she most wanted to do together. We visited Bermuda, Mexico and New York while she was in remission and could travel. She was a nurse and helped so many patients during her life...I'm proud of her and thankful for the time we had," Baird said. She remains close to her other two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Baird enjoys fishing with her family from one daughter's pontoon boat in the St. John's River at Green Cove Springs. She enjoys finding unique seashells and sea glass and giving them as gifts. Working crossword puzzles, reading non-fiction or good crime stories, and hunting treasures at garage sales are favorite hobbies. At Christmas she takes pleasure in whipping up her much-requested Strawberry Jello® Cake, which she bakes for a long list of family, friends and co-workers.

Baird has volunteered for the local Suicide Prevention Center answering the crisis hotline and feels great compassion for those suffering from depression and other personal problems.



She has found homes for many unwanted animals and greatly enjoys the daily antics of her rescues: a Shih Tzu, Charlie, and her poodle mix Buffy the Vampire Slayer (long story). Buffy, who is deaf, delights in tormenting Charlie by hiding treats high on a bed where he cannot reach them. Baird said it's always a happy homecoming after work when she gets home each day because Charlie forgets all about Buffy's teasing and excitedly runs to fetch the deaf poodle since she cannot hear Baird's arrival. A simple, yet profound lesson: let the past go and enjoy each day to the fullest with loved ones and friends.

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The Way we Were

BILL SCHMIDT

BY SUSAN BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While widely known in Jacksonville as the quintessential hometown boy who grew up surrounded by lifelong friends and family in Venetia and Ortega, Bill Schmidt was born in Ocala, Florida where his father was serving as a WWII Army Air Corps Flight Instructor. It was when the war ended that Christine and Gert Schmidt brought their son to Jacksonville. Gert (a graduate of Cornell University Hotel School) had accepted the position of General Manager of the George Washington Hotel. Bill's first home was the hotel's penthouse. His swing set was on the hotel roof and Chester, the head bellman, enjoyed walking the toddler on the sidewalks of downtown Jacksonville.



Bill, age 4

Their first home was in Fairfax Manor, where Bill's first buddy was next-door neighbor Marky Jackson. In 1949, when Bill was five, the family moved into a 1925 English Tudor home in Venetia, then considered out in the country. "Burma Weller had her horse fenced in her side yard on Timuquana Road and she used to ride through the neighborhood," Bill recalls, noting that there was limited garbage service and the Wesconnett Voluntary Fire House Auxiliary, where his dad volunteered, was on call for emergencies.

Few people remember names, faces, places and events going all the way

back to kindergarten, but Bill Schmidt does. In fact, many of his schoolmates from Mrs. Archibald's Kindergarten on Edgewood Avenue Circle continue to be in Bill's circle of friends. Among the kindergarten alumni who remain in close proximity are Charlene Boggs Hughes, Cynthia Craig Bliss, Michael Hughes, Downing Nightingale, Claudia Hart Mally, Louise Baker Daleen, and Tommy Sadler. Dee Ramsay Burnett was May Queen that year and Bill was her "knight in shining armor on his trusty steed" (broom stick and sock horsey).

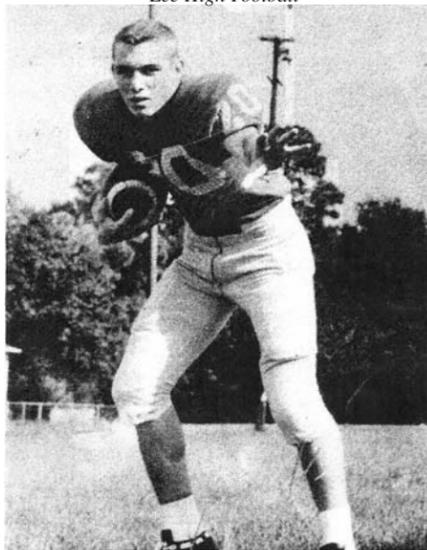
Bill and his brothers, Kent and Jack, attended Venetia Elementary School No. 68, which was so close that they walked home for lunch from 1st grade

on. Youngest brother Bobby started at Stockton because the family had moved to Ortega Forest Drive by the time he was two. The St. John's River was nearby, too, and Bill and his cohorts fished often from his 8-foot pram with the three-horsepower Evinrude "kicker," thereby beginning his lifelong love of fishing. Recently, on a 4th of July fishing outing with family on the St.

John's River, Bill helped his grandsons reel in and release several 40-pound redfish.

A 1962 graduate of Lee High School who went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with several others in his class (Mike Hoyt, Hap Stewart, Graham Allen, Ray Rodgers, Bobby Martin, Bobby Sharp, Tiger Fehr, John Brewer, Lane Fulenwider and Tommy Christy), Bill Schmidt is now semi-retired from a long and successful career in advertising and public relations. As one of Lee High School's most devoted alumni, Bill chaired the 20th, 30th and 40th reunions, demonstrating strong leadership qualities that he attributes to lessons learned when he in the 5th grade at Venetia Elementary No. 68.

Lee High Football



"Back then, the school board initiated a pilot leadership development program to identify potential 5th graders to be chosen as 6th grade school boy patrols," Bill remembers. "I was chosen and was in awe serving with the likes of leaders like Ed "EJ" Johnson (now known as "Killer" because of his golf game!)." While in 5th grade patrol leadership training, Bill took his first "date," 4th grader Peggy Paul Bryan, to the annual school boy patrol dance at the Armory. And, speaking of dancing, along with many other 6th graders in Venetia and Ortega, Bill was enrolled in Mrs. Faye's Ballroom Dance Class in Ortega Village, where they learned fox-trot, jitterbug and waltz, but bopping was NOT allowed!

Bill was attending Lake Shore Junior High School when he "rocked, but did not bop" with Dee Dee Nesbitt Griffin at his surprise 13th birthday party. As a 7th grader, he was one of the "munchkins" invited by Mildred Thurmond to her 9th grade sister Maryanne's Sunday Dance Party at the Ortega Pier. As it turned out, that was the last dance held there, as the pier was soon condemned by the City.

At age 14, as one of the Boy Scouts in Troop 26, Bill matriculated to an

Explorer Post. He had earned 18 merit badges, but needed 21 to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. "My father, in his wisdom and strict German manner, insisted that I complete the requirements to become an Eagle Scout before I could get my driver's license," recalls Bill. "To this day, I'm grateful to him."

Acquiring their driver's licenses meant that "The Big Five" (Mike Hoyt, Tony Sexton, Tommy Tillis, Jerry Patterson and Bill Schmidt) could carpool to Lee High School every morning and pile into Gert Schmidt's classic turquoise and white Edsel for date nights at the Normandy Drive-In Theater, drive to the Sandwich Inn on Riverside, A&W Root Beer on the Southside and enjoy Frosties at Penny Burgers on St. John's Avenue.

Bill's high school sweetheart was the popular Sandra Johnston (nicknamed "Fireball") who later became his wife and the mother of his sons, Bill, Jr. and John. Sadly, after 27 years of marriage, Sandra Schmidt passed away in 1991. Soon thereafter, on a blind date that Bill calls a "God-wink," he met his wife, Mary Dudley Childers Schmidt.

They have been married for 19 years.

Inspired by his late mother, Christine, an accomplished artist, Bill took up the paint brush late in life and discovered that he had inherited some of her artistic ability. In 2010, he and artist Carole Mehtens



Mary Dudley and Bill

co-founded the Jacksonville Artists Guild with regular speakers, member juried shows and community art projects, now 130 members strong.

A sentimental man whose friends and family mean the world to him, Bill Schmidt will sometimes pick up a paint brush in his Algonquin Avenue studio loft and pause...memories will momentarily dance across the blank canvas, taking him back to the way things used to be. "Life was good then," muses the Ortega artist. "And it's good now."

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OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

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Animals
Veterinarians part of local history

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Two longtime Jacksonville veterinarians, pioneers in their field but now retired, together spent nearly 100 years caring for livestock and domestic pets. Drs. E. Howard Acree and Vincent Kerr entered veterinarian school for different reasons in different states, but both loved animals and overcame obstacles to become revered veterinarians and part of the history of Northeast Florida.

Dr. Acree, 88, was born in rural Tennessee, the youngest of three sons. His father, in the banking field, relocated the family to Tampa, Florida, then to Jacksonville. Acree graduated from Robert E. Lee High School where he was a track and field athlete and met his wife Emily Mallard, a cheerleader. Acree enlisted and served in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1946 and 1947, then returned home to marry Emily.

He completed college and his veterinarian training at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University and started his practice with local dairy cattle and the thriving dairy industry in 1952.



"We lived in Dinsmore near the dairies. My office was several Chevrolet cars I completely wore out driving through five counties to so many farms and big dairies at that time."
Dr. Acree

something important from the military base," he said. "That was a laugh when they saw what it was."

As land values rose, the dairies gradually sold their land and left. Dr. Acree adapted and began to work with Dr. John Plant at Herschel

Animal Hospital part-time. He retired in 1996 due to post-polio complications.

The Acrees raised five children. Their son, E. Howard Acree II is also a veterinarian in practice at Cedar Hills Animal Hospital on the Westside. Dr. Acree's lifelong sweetheart, his wife Emily, passed away in

1994. Acree speaks softly and tenderly when he says that their 47 years of marriage were not long enough, they were so happy.

Their close family includes 11 grandchildren and four great-granddaughters who gather often for cookouts, holidays and celebrations. Dr. Acree served as American Legion Lakeshore Post 137 Commander and was active in Kiwanis, Rotary and at Florida Yacht and Deerwood Country Clubs where he enjoyed swimming with his family and golf.

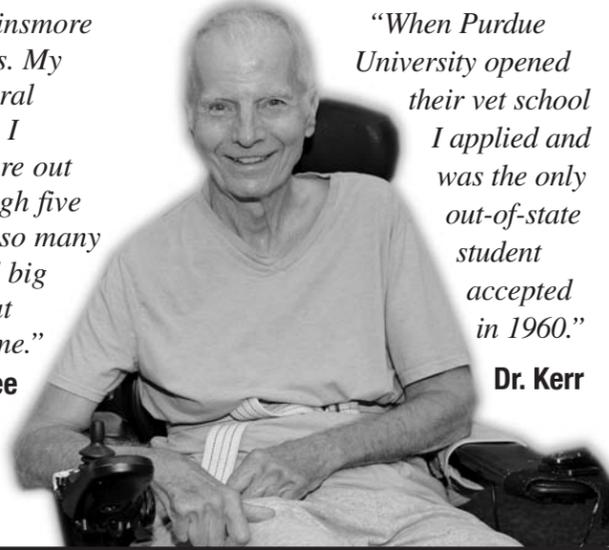
Unfortunately, in 1953 Acree contracted polio, but he was lucky. He recovered from slight paralysis of his left side and leg, regained his strength and continued working.

"We lived in Dinsmore near the dairies. My office was several Chevrolet cars I completely wore out driving through five counties to so many farms and big dairies at that time. I liked seeing the country, but it was a 24/7 job. If we ever took a vacation it was back to old country

places and family in Clarksville, Nashville or Bumpus Mills, Tennessee, or to Kingsley or Santa Fe Lakes and a cabin for good old-fashioned fun. The children loved it," he reminisced.

Acree recalled one stressful experience, while leaving the Naval Air Station after his children's baseball games. He was abruptly stopped, swarmed and searched by security.

"Because I had to carry every tool, utensil, medicines, everything I'd possibly need in the trunk of my car...it was so loaded and weighted down they suspected me of stealing



DR. VINCENT J. KERR AND WIFE DIANE

Dr. Vincent Kerr grew up in New Jersey where he worked in greenhouses during high school. He vividly remembers visiting Cornell University, where he argued mightily to convince a counselor that he should be admitted as a pre-veterinary student.

"When Purdue University opened their vet school I applied and was the only out-of-state student accepted in 1960."
Dr. Kerr

"At that time they required a farm background in poultry, cattle or some type of basic knowledge before admittance into a specific field of study. If I'd been the son of an alumnus, that might have helped too. That counselor told me, 'you're no veterinarian' which was devastating...I had tears in my eyes when my father and I left. My dad wisely talked me into going back. Fortunately, the counselor recognized my horticultural work experience and sent me to take some sample plant cuttings, which were carefully examined. I was finally admitted into agriculture and completed my B.S. degree," Kerr said.

Dr. Kerr, still determined to become a veterinarian, worked summers on a farm and kept diaries of his animal work. However in 1960 there were only 17 U.S. veterinarian schools, averaging one seat for every 10 applicants. Even with good grades, effort and some experience, Kerr endured multiple rejections.

"I re-grouped, worked a year in tetanus antitoxin research for Lederle Laboratories and was a test subject for development of the oral polio vaccine. The good news is that it worked and I was immune from polio," he said. "When Purdue University opened their vet school I applied and was the only out-of-state student accepted in 1960."

That honor was just the first of many that would prove how wrong the Cornell counselor had been about Kerr's aptitude for veterinary medicine.

Dr. Kerr met Diane Janney at a country club where they both worked during college. The couple married in 1963. Diane studied business at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and also worked for a bank. After Kerr graduated from

Purdue, they moved to Boston where he practiced at Angell Animal Medical Center, and then to Nashville for 10 years in a multi-vet practice. During those years they raised wholesale chrysanthemums for extra income and that's not all that was blooming. Three Kerr children were born: Vincent, Pamela and Daniel.

In 1974 the Kerrs moved to Jacksonville where Doc worked for veterinarian Sam Johnson, passed his national board examination and was licensed. Then Kerr bought

Johnson's practice, office and home on Edison Avenue and became the third vet to practice there after Drs. Grace and Johnson. Diane was office manager.

"In all those years, up until January 3, 2013 when he suffered a serious fall and had to retire, he worked full-time, never turned down a patient, treated thousands of pets and helped several generations of pet owners. Edison is the area's oldest animal hospital, with a vet there continuously since the early 1900s," Diane said. Diane's saucy humor is evident on the Internet where her LinkedIn work reference states, Slave at Edison Animal Hospital. Doc often referred to himself as "Diane's Slave," so the fun was mutual.

The Kerrs love helping animals, people and their community. Dr. Kerr was happy to get up and go to work every morning, and to the pets and owners who love the Kerrs, there is no more wonderful, beloved couple or respected clinic. Kerr also treated cattle, goats and worked at the horse and dog tracks in their heyday, with a large racing greyhound practice. Many clients brought pets from all over Florida, as far as Miami, to Doc Kerr.

"A vet may have an incredible facility, but what matters, what builds the practice and loyalty...the true reason people bring their pets, is that they know and trust the vet to keep their pets healthy and well," Diane said, "...and that's Vince Kerr."

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difference. The early years make the most difference. Leading children with a strong spiritual focus is something that excites me.



Q: As new Head of School, what are your biggest goals for St. Mark's Episcopal Day School?

A: I've inherited a really good school. There are no real problems to overcome, so it's really, what does education in the 21st century bring. Elementary education really pushes everyone else. Giving children a really strong foundation is critical. If you don't do it early, you have remediation no matter what no matter how smart they are. A strong education like St. Mark's provides makes the

Q: What leadership skills should parents, staff and students recognize about you that will help you achieve these goals?

A: I've been doing this since 1979, so this is starting my 36th year and I've been going to school for 51 years, so I've never not had a first day of school. I think love of children, and support of families raising children is what makes me love what I do ... I think I was born to do this. I love working with young children and families, and I love getting up every day to come into work in the morning. My strengths of governance and administration and leading the program are very strong.

Q: You're relocating from the Northeast...how do you plan to adjust to the Southeast and its often unbearably hot summers?

A: We had no intention of going anywhere south of Baltimore, really south of Hartford, Conn., and then a friend recommended me for St. Mark's. We came down last December and fell in love with the school and the sense of neighborhood. We live on Oak Street now and it's very much like our neighborhood in Cambridge, Mass. People know each other, there are a lot of St. Mark's students there. I love to ride my bicycle to work in the mornings.

Q: Do you have pets?

A: We have a six-year-old dog, Princess Leia, a mixed breed golden retriever and black Lab, which we rescued from a shelter. We got her as a puppy, which was really nice. We are thinking about adopting a dog here, to give her a playmate.

Conklin and his wife Elizabeth have two daughters, Katie and Lizzie, who will attend ninth and seventh grades at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

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Jr. Residents

NOL finishes third in state baseball tournament

The Navy-Ortega-Lakeshore (NOL) 9/10-year-old Little League baseball team finished third out of 300 other Florida All Star teams in Ft. Myers at the state tournament last month. Just making to state was an achievement of its own. NOL had to win the District 11 tournament hosted in Hilliard, which they did, going 5-0 with a combined score of 64-8. As District 11 Champions, NOL went undefeated in the Section 3 tournament, beating Northwest Volusia County 6-3 and Merritt Island 7-6. This was the first time since 1997 a 9/10-year-old team from NOL advanced to the Little League State Tournament.

The team's players come from Riverside Presbyterian Day School, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, Fishweir Elementary School, The Bolles School and Assumption Catholic School.



VBS programs build faith with crafts



Isabella Goss shows off her costume at St. Paul's Catholic Vacation Bible School program "Weird Animals."

Raising a river ruckus



The river runs deep in the blood of Scott and McRae Busey, son and daughter of Brooks Busey, owner of Sadler Point Marina on the Ortega River and Jennie Busey, Education Director for the St. Johns Riverkeeper. The Busey kids display the bobbers that they and other children made at the River Ruckus at the July 5 Riverside Arts Market. The Riverkeeper's booth included the skull of an alligator, a sure attraction for kids of all ages.

New face at RPDS

Riverside Presbyterian Day School has hired Will Gay as Director of Communications & Marketing. In this position, Gay hopes to expand the use of multimedia to better tell the RPDS story. "This next school year will bring the launch of our online



Viewbook to rpds.com," said Gay. "It will be packed with information and videos for families to get a glimpse of our outstanding educational institution before stepping on our campus."

Gay was Strategic Communications Specialist for FSCJ from 2011-2012 before moving to Grand Rapids, Mich. in 2013 as a videographer for Cornerstone University. "I would love to thank my family, which has been so supportive leaving our home in Michigan and moving back to Jacksonville for this opportunity with RPDS. Thank you so much to my wife Kathryn, and son Maddux!"



At St. Mark's Episcopal "Workshop of Wonders" Vacation Bible School children focused on taking ordinary things and making them extraordinary with God. In this project, Ben Magevney and Walker Richards took random objects found at home – water bottle, ruler and pennies – to make a scale. During the week, the children held a food drive for St. Mary's Episcopal Church downtown.

Shopping spree at Wal-Mart, thanks to Extra Degree

Nearly one third of the 296 students at West Riverside Elementary School participating in the Extra Degree challenge were recipients of Wal-Mart gift cards, commemorating their achievements in FCAT scores of Level 3 or above. Principal Sylvia Johnson shows off the long register tapes for the purchase of \$2,100 in gift cards – courtesy of anonymous donors and the SAC – for 89 students. "The community support is awesome," said Dr. Johnson. "Even from people who don't have children." West Riverside is the oldest continuously operating elementary school in the state of Florida.



Annual backpack give-away Aug. 9

Riverside United Methodist Church, 819 Park St., will help get your child off to a great start this school year. The annual "Rockin' Back to School" backpack give-away will be held Aug. 9, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. while St. Vincent's will be on hand until 2 p.m. to provide required shots and updates to



health records. The Jacksonville Library will also be there to help kids sign up for library cards and local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops will be available to share information. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and be registered for the give-away. Each registered child will receive a backpack filled with items needed for the start of school. Supplies are limited and will be handed out until 11:00 or when the backpacks are gone.

Shooting a few hoops in Riverside



The Yates Family YMCA gymnasium on Riverside was the scene of fun and frolic last month when 40 school-aged children chased a basketball – and each other – up and down the courts during a basketball skills camp.

The Riverside Presbyterian Church Basketball League – which provides more than 400 boys and girls with an opportunity to play organized basketball each year – partnered with the Jacksonville University Dolphins, the women's basketball team, to teach the children ball handling, footwork and shooting.

Lee alumnus seeking funds to feed football team's needs

Richard Daniels, Lee High School Class of '62 and member of the last team to win the state championship, is on a mission to feed the football team. Working with Lee Head Coach O.J. Small, Daniels is raising funds – approximately \$600 per game each for both Senior and Junior Varsity teams – to allow the players to eat a pre-game meal together.

Many of the players come to play a football game on an empty stomach and not sure if they will get an evening meal. Daniels' goal is to raise \$15,000 for the meal fund and has asked fellow Lee alumni to help. While there are many ways to help, to contribute financially, send checks payable to REL Athletic Department, c/o Richard Daniels, 1793 Preston Trail, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. For more information about other ways to help, contact Daniels at (772) 631-9465 or dickmids@aol.com

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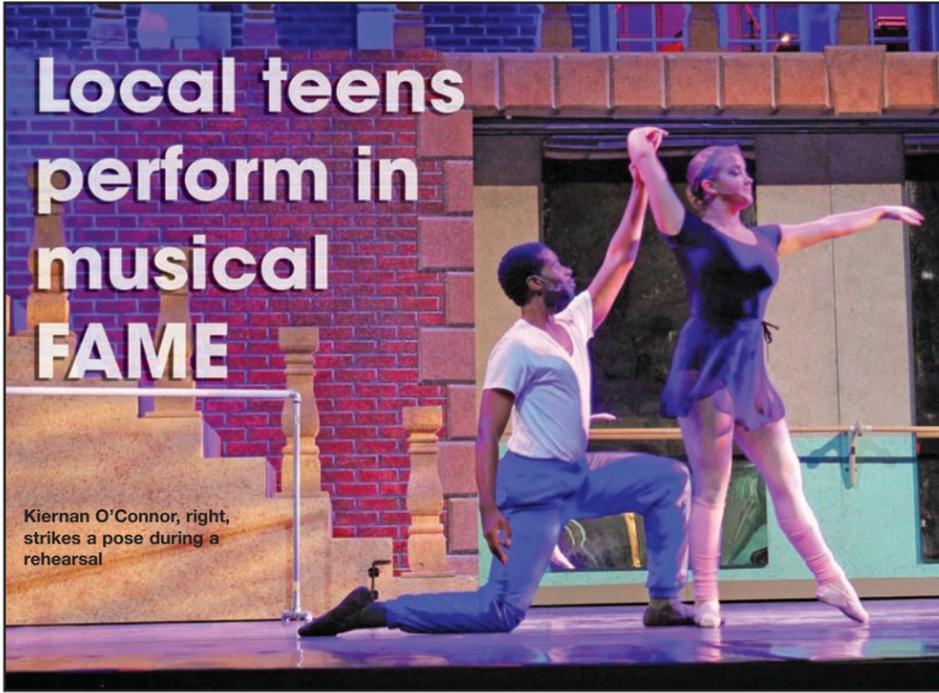


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Kiernan O'Connor, right, strikes a pose during a rehearsal

Kiernan O'Connor and Emily Sweetz, both of Riverside, had the opportunity of a lifetime to act in a Broadway show, FAME - The Musical, here in Jacksonville at the Wilson Center. They participated in the 9th Annual High School Summer Musical Theatre Experience, a program where local students work with theatre professionals to put on a show.

The Resident had a few questions for O'Connor, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Sweetz, a freshman, also at DA, about their experience.

RN: What does it mean to you to be able to train with professional directors?

O'Connor: It's a really great experience to be able to work with people who have trained professionally in the field I'm hoping to pursue, and be able to use their knowledge of the business in our training for this show.

Sweetz: It is helpful knowing that the directors really know what they are doing, and it helps me know what is to be expected going into other professional musicals. I'm always learning something, there isn't a wasted minute!

RN: Do you relate in any way to the musical FAME? If so, how?

O'Connor: Absolutely. The students in the musical go to a high school for the performing arts and I attend a

high school where we are also able to study our art on a daily basis, so many conflicts these characters face are very relevant within the school I attend.

Sweetz: I attend a school for performing arts much like the Fame school. I can relate to all the dance students thinking about the drama with the characters Iris, Tyrone, and Mabel, because there are people who have similar stories to those characters at my own school.

RN: Do you plan to pursue a theatre career or is it too early to decide?

O'Connor: I'm not completely sure, but I definitely want to continue to do theatre of some sort throughout my life.

Sweetz: I most definitely would love to pursue a career in theatre after my education! I would really love to perform on Broadway someday.

RN: What was your favorite song/scene from FAME and why?

O'Connor: Hot Lunch! It's such a fun number to open the show with!

Sweetz: I love so many of the scenes, but one of my favorites is in drama class when Joe sings his song "Can't Keep It Cool." The lyrics are hilarious and so are his classmate's reactions!

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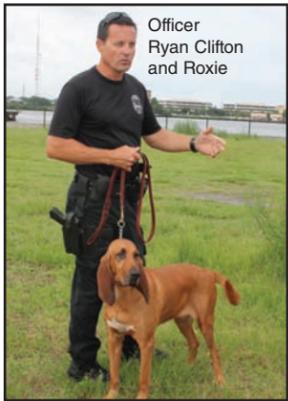
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The game is on for K-9 teams



Officer Ryan Clifton and Roxie



Officer Ed Sullivan and Halo



Officer Wes Bowen and Felony

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Officer Eddie Sullivan of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office K-9 team equates working with his K-9 dog Halo to racing.

"It's like driving a Ferrari. The Malinois, his breed, is great for this type of work," said Sullivan. "Halo has the speed to get there quicker, can maintain that speed, turn quickly – he has great counterbalance – can run about 35 miles per hour and is an effective hunter."

Fleeing felons beware – this dog's bite exerts about 300 lbs. of pressure per square inch. As Officers Sullivan and Wes Bowen explain, "Police service dogs are not trained for deadly force but to detain – bark and guard. They stop, release and heel when the person surrenders. Jacksonville is the only city in Florida to use the detainment method."

The 20 K-9 officers and 22 dogs on the force train daily; the training sleeve worn in practice has a metal bar as protection from those powerful jaws. On duty, officers wear a 25-pound vest with places for gun and ammunition, a radio,

taser, pepper spray, flashlights, tourniquets and a remote for the dog's collar. The remote allows the handler to use stimulation if the dog is "goofing off" to help him refocus.

Demonstrations of the bark and hold technique and drug discovery show how attentive Halo and Officer Wes Bowen's German shepherd Felony are when given an assignment. Handlers use verbal and visual commands and immediately reward the dog for compliance. Officer Bowen said, "Felony is looking for his reward – the dogs want to please their handlers."

The dogs stay comfortable while on duty in specially equipped Chevy Tahoes, with an air conditioner for the dog and a beeper that goes off if the car rises above 90 degrees, alerting the officer and activating a fan.

Bred in Europe, the dogs are trained locally, for patrol, tracking, detainment, apprehension, searching for evidence or missing persons with specializations in either bomb or drug detection, not both. The K-9 units patrol the Daytona 500, sports events and are in attendance for events with visiting dignitaries.

At \$7,000 each and about \$8,000 in

training, these canine police officers are deserving of special care but are not pets. They live in large kennels at their handlers' homes so that "going to work is more appealing." When it's time for retirement around age eight they are usually adopted by their handler. After all, there is a strong bond between the animals and their partners.

Officer D.H. Hall handles Roxie, one of two bloodhounds in the K-9 unit donated by the state prison. She completed her first successful find shortly after joining the force when she located an elderly woman who had wandered from her nursing facility and was lost in the woods. Bloodhounds are not biters. Bandit, a Belgian shepherd, found his niche as a drug dog.

Officer Bowen said this about police dogs and their interaction with other dogs: "Most wild dogs shy away; if we have to go into someone's yard and there is a dog – that's tricky." However, neither he nor Officer Sullivan has ever had to shoot a dog. Bowen said laughing, "The worst attack was a Yorkie...that dog just would not stop. It took two cans of pepper spray to stop it."

Regular ole dawgs

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Let's hear it for the "regular ole dawg" – the mutt which may or may not come, sit or stay given the mood of the moment or the treat being offered.

These dogs, like Miss Georgia belonging to Nan and Johnny Livers of Avondale, do not fetch, jump through hoops or catch Frisbees but lollygag around waiting to see what their people

are up to. That foundling which you now love like a first born child; the hairy beast that sleeps by your newborn's bed; that smelly old mongrel which stands on his trembling hind legs, forepaws stretched across your midriff as you lie in bed ill, or Rog who wraps himself around the shoulders of his master cuddling him like a child.

Let's hear it for these unsung heroes of the dog world. Lucy and Toby who snuggle with a grieving widow who says they are "good medicine for an aching soul." Then there's Miss Lola who paces back and forth in front of the stairs so the toddler doesn't fall. What about Taz who senses agitation in someone with mental illness and presses against them to say "I'm here"?

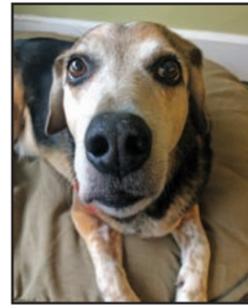
Goofy looking dogs that joyously romp to the

front door yapping hello when you just went to take out the trash five minutes before. Pooh Bear who gazes at you with adoration, head tilted to the side a silly grin on his face. Dogs that give slobbery kisses to hear a child giggle; dogs who howl, heads out the window, ears flapping in the breeze as you sing in the car; crazy dogs who think they can jump high enough to catch airplanes at NAS JAX (and get arrested).

How 'bout them dawgs? No fancy titles or awards at Westminster, just plain old pups lolling around, getting under your

feet, shedding all over your furniture. These aggravating curs take over your life, your thoughts, and your checkbook and love you with total and unconditional devotion.

Randy Madison describes his pound puppy Benjamin as "a thirty dollar dawg with a twenty dollar rebate." Besides taking Madison for a daily walk, Ben's job description at Inky Fingers in Riverside includes "serving as a doormat and keeping the riff raff out. He just relaxes everything; he's a hard worker and he's never missed a day in 13 years," said Madison. Regular ole dawg, indeed.



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A special time of need requires a tender heart

Delivering angel wings to family pets

It takes a unique individual to assist a grieving family as they let go of their faithful best friend. For Dr. Katie Stender, guiding families through this difficult time has become her life's calling – and it shows. When you speak with her, it's evident that she has committed her heart and soul to helping pet owners celebrate the life of their dear companion. By obliging last requests, counseling families and approaching end of life care with an open heart, an otherwise disturbing or frightening experience becomes a warm, tender goodbye with all the consideration that a loved one deserves.

The sole focus of her mobile veterinary practice is providing support to relieve tension and ease the minds of those preparing end of life care for their pet. Her own personal experience of losing her beloved yellow Labrador, Daisy, helped shape the way she cares for the aching hearts of families when they need her the most. Dr. Katie shared, "Daisy struggled with chronic arthritis for years, like most aging pets do, but the day she could no longer get up, she looked at me and I knew it was time that she earn her much deserved angel wings." Dr. Katie and her family gathered around Daisy in their home, where she was surrounded with infinite amounts of love and warmth and her pet siblings. Daisy felt no pain as she gently slipped away in the comfort of her own bed and the peaceful memory of this moment was forever etched in Dr. Katie's mind. She knew as a veterinarian she wanted to help other families and their pets have the same beautiful experience.



"I truly believe it's the single most important appointment you will have with your veterinarian," said Dr. Katie, as she talks about the critical time in the life of pet owners. Veterinarians across the board tend to take care of pets, but when the life of a critically sick pet or aging animal becomes too heavy a load to carry, the family usually gets advice they don't want to hear or they're not ready to hear.

Fortunately, Dr. Katie knows that the process must be handled in a tender fashion.

She also knows that it's not always the case in the standard veterinary practice to take the time for such moments. Most people fear the arrival of the end of life. The thought of a cold, metal table at the veterinarian's office doesn't exactly evoke warm emotions. Often times, pets can be in a great deal of pain and difficult to move, and are most comfortable in their home. This is where the Lap of Love veterinary methodology and Dr. Katie Stender step in.

"I look at it as such an honor, a privilege, to come in to someone's home and give their baby the gentle attention they deserve," said Dr. Katie of the trust that's placed in her hands. She's so committed to the sensitivity of the experience, taking calls to carefully counsel clients through their uncertainties, and when it's time to make that final phone call, Dr. Katie is there.

In most cases, family members are present, but not always. Dr. Katie has performed the procedure for an active duty service member serving in Afghanistan via Skype, complete with a shrine of memories and flowers – a truly unique service that illustrates her passion for serving clients and their special needs. She also makes a clay paw print and a clipping of fur for a keepsake.

If you're seeking these services and it's been hard to let go, Dr. Katie is truly the Lap of Love for the pet in need – of angel wings!

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Canines who serve their communities receive some well-deserved recognition

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

CHARMING Pint-sized star

Cami, a long-haired Chihuahua, is ounce for ounce 10 pounds of love. Along with eight other team members, Cami is a star at Wolfson Children's Hospital as she engages patients in a game of miniature basketball. She cuddles and brings giggles into the lives of children who are facing surgery, rehabilitation, cancer or other terrifying situations. Owner Sandy Mercier explains, "Cami takes the edge off so there is less stress and anxiety. She is a magnet for children; she's just their size; she is very expressive; she speaks a universal language."



little head and listen – trying to understand."

Little Cami was intuitive enough to understand the meaning behind his words. The child calmed down especially when presented with one of Cami's trading cards with her photo and a bio on the back. "As we left he was kissing the trading card with her picture," said Mercier.

The trading cards give the patients a different focus than their illness – they can collect the cards as they are visited by the dogs or buy a set from the Woofie Wagon before they leave the hospital or even trade with each other. Sharing with family members and siblings

gives the child a new topic of conversation and something to look forward to. Mercier says Cami starts spinning around and won't let her out of her sight when she thinks it's time to go see about the children. "She has lots of personality and loves to meet people." There is no way to measure the joy that this charming little dog, her owner and the other team members bring to children at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Mercier tells of a young boy who was waiting for surgery and did not speak English. The doctors and nurses were having difficulty explaining procedures to him and he was very agitated. "We put Cami on the bed with him. His face lit up and he just poured his heart out to Cami in his own language. She was interested and would turn her

CARING – Therapy dogs go where needed



Kristi Kennedy, Volunteer Program Trainer of Community Hospice Northeast, explained that the 51 teams in their Pet Therapy Program go just about everywhere. Ranging in size from a 5-pound Chihuahua to a 150-pound mastiff the pups visit patients in long-term care, inpatient centers, homes, St. Vincent's Hospital, Mayo Clinic oncology, surgical waiting rooms and have even gone to the City Rescue Mission.

Kennedy said, "Anywhere the patients are – we'll go. With therapy dogs it is really about temperament – the dogs do not have to be perfect or perform special tricks – they need calmness and a desire to visit. Dog owners bring the dogs on a rotating schedule so the patients in long-term care have something to look forward to, something to focus on and talk about besides their latest procedure, diagnosis or treatment. Their presence eases many stressful situations."

Gwen Branch and 10-year-old yellow Lab Daisy, who is certified through Therapy Dogs, International, have been caring for hospice patients for seven years. Branch laughingly said, "All my patients would rather see Daisy than me. I'm just transportation for the love. I visited a lady without Daisy recently and she said, 'It was nice of you to drop by but if you don't have Daisy don't worry about it.'"

Branch and Daisy's first patient was a stroke victim who could not talk. "We kept going to see her for about two months and one day she held up a finger as if to say wait. It took her a long time but she managed to say Daisy's name. She actually got better and got to go home."

Another story she relates is that when a caretaker wanted a visit, the patient hadn't been responsive for time but managed to say "dog." His wife said "Not a dog, an angel."

Branch is quick to point out Daisy is not a service dog in the defined sense of the word. Her service is all about the patients. Branch explains how Daisy's entire demeanor changes when she knows she's going to work. "Put the bandana and the leash on and she prances around and gets excited; she gets more focused and obedient."

Why do Branch and Daisy devote themselves to caring for others? It's pretty simple; they like to help. Branch said if she could make a difference to just one person she would feel fulfilled. After seven years of a different kind of service – not a handler, not a dog...but angels.

CALMING Wearing many hats

A very social fellow, Reed plays ball, gives lots of snuggles, offers companionship and a sense of normalcy to the lives of the children, their families and the staff at Ronald McDonald House. By day he is a mild-mannered working dog

wearing the vest of Canine Companions for Independence but by night he's been known to don his tuxedo and make guest appearances at social gatherings and fundraisers. Handler Shelli Martin said, "Reed is in his element when socializing. He loves to have his picture taken. He's very calm and comfortable in crowds and he tolerates his regalia attire."

Reed will be wearing a party hat this month as he celebrates his third birthday and his one year anniversary at The House. As Reed and Martin have been bonding this year she's discovered that Reed has a special gift for comforting those with developmental difficulties and relates the story of a young child with autism who was also suffering from a brain tumor and had volatile outbursts. "We humans just couldn't touch that part of him but Reed was a source of calm; the child looked forward to being with Reed every day that he was here. Reed is very intuitive even with the staff. People tell me, 'You know I was having a bad day and Reed just came over and put his head in my lap.'"

When the vest comes off and the dog goes to their San Marco home, Martin said "He is just a regular dog." After a busy day cuddling children, comforting parents, soothing staff members and making public appearances, Reed loves playing in the back yard and keeping up with his many followers on social media. Be sure to check out REED THE DOG on Instagram or his Woof Wednesday on Facebook. You'll see him smiling in photos wearing a hat for every occasion.



CUDDLING Hug a dog to lower stress

Feeling a bit stressed? Anxious? Well, get those good-feeling molecules humming, lower your blood pressure and increase your feelings of well-being. How? Just hug a dog.

Students at the University of North Florida recently had such an opportunity at the "Paws for Stress" event during exam week. The turnout for the Canine Companions for Independence socialization and awareness event was remarkable. Lee Hoyt, puppy raiser for CCI, said it was quite a surprise that over 800 people showed up for a little friendly puppy petting. He remarked, "The petting line was all the way around the building. It was great but we were worn out and, even though they loved it, so were the dogs!"

Kelly Gates, UNF Assistant Director of Special Events, said, "This was such an incredible experience for students, faculty, staff and the families of CCI. My husband and I were so impressed that we went through the training to be puppy raisers and are on week three with our Golden Lab India."

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Pawsitively spoiled

BY CAROLINE HUNT
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

If you thought that birthday parties, bakery food and spa treatment were all luxuries enjoyed solely by the two-legged set, prepare to be surprised. Today's pampered pup can enjoy a range of specialized products and experiences that might inspire envy in his owners.

Avondale resident Kelly Novak brings her Golden Retriever Indy to Bark, where he recently celebrated his second birthday. At Bark, a dog boarding, training, grooming, and daycare center in 5

Points, pet owners can rent out the Barkyard, an outdoor spot with trees, toys, and dog-sized swimming pools. "There's a bone shaped one he loves – he considers it his pool," said Novak.

Indy also enjoys dog treats, especially pumpkin-flavored doggy birthday cake. "The treats they have are all made with ingredients you could eat yourself and come in lots of flavors – cheese, peanut butter, bacon. The cakes are iced with yogurt and they use fresh pumpkin. They even write



your dog's name on it and give you a little candle," said Novak.

Jefferson, a two-year-old black Lab and another Bark customer, loves to play with tennis balls. He often refuses to put a tennis ball down once he picks it up for fear that one of the other dogs will steal it.

"The funniest thing about Jeff and his obsession with playing fetch is that he is very clever," said Jamee Yocum, Bark's owner. "He sticks to the same ball throughout the day. He knows if you switched them too; he just drops it."

Jeff just celebrated his own second birthday with a free day at the daycare and a selection of tennis balls to choose from.

Another aspect of luxury pet care is making sure that the pet looks as good as it feels. Many dogs get one specific treatment that would not be out of place at a spa for human customers.

"We do a blueberry facial here," said Yocum. "Sometimes when a dog eats, its food will get stuck to the fur on its face and create a foul smell, and this cleans that off without stinging the eyes."

Plenty of dog owners get creative

when styling their dogs. "One of my own Yorkies gets an 'Asian fusion' haircut which entails longer ears that can be put in ponytails like a human child," Yocum said. "Another Yorkie gets the 'hipster style' haircut where the hair on the top of his head is parted to one side and sprayed over. Riley, a Chihuahua mix, gets a Mohawk down his whole body, from the top of his head to the base of his tail. One client even colored her dog's fur pink with Kool-Aid."

Happy Hound Dogs Resorts pays attention to the dog's emotions during the grooming experience. At its Blanding Boulevard facility, the bathing stations are designed with a sturdy set of wooden stairs for large dogs to walk up and into the sink. For smaller dogs, an enclosed tub keeps them secure. After a "no tears" shampoo, long-haired dogs move to the drying table with blower to ensure that the pups don't get a chill while there are ventilated air-drying cages for short-haired dogs that don't need a blower.

"We've designed this around what dogs need. I won't do anything to your dogs that I would not want done to mine," said co-owner Lisa Fine.

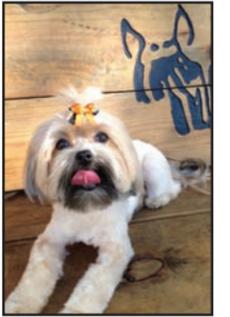
Fancy grooming isn't just for dogs. At Vanity Furs in Avondale, one of the most popular styles for cats is the "lion cut." This style, which removes all of the fur except for a "mane" on the head

and neck and small tufts on the tail and feet, is especially popular with the owners of long-haired cats.

"It reduces shedding and matting," said Jonathan Leonard, owner of Vanity Furs in Avondale. "Long-haired cats have a tendency to get matted, and this cut is easier to maintain. Lion cuts are a personal aesthetic and a cool experience to do."

The most important aspect of luxury grooming, for Leonard, is consistency. One of his favorite success stories is that of Parker. "Parker was a rescue dog who was found on the streets. I've been working with him for more than four years now. On his first visit here, he wouldn't get out of his kennel. Now he runs up and jumps into my arms. It's been a long process but it's been consistent and what helps is that the owner has been understanding as well."

This commitment to an animal's welfare is shared by many dog owners, who say that the best part giving special treatment is knowing that their dog is happy. To Georgia, another customer at Bark, giving her schnauzer the best treatment available is worth it because "it's good for his mental health and his physical health, and it's good for me because I know he's safe and loved."



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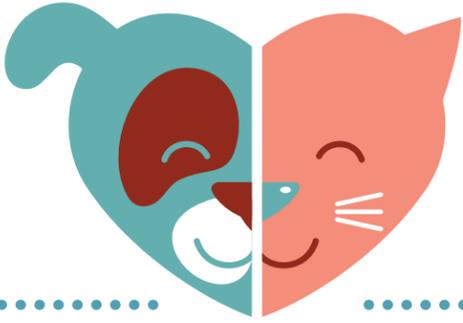
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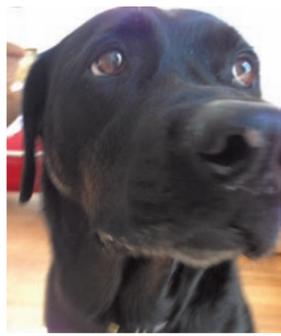
Who 'rescued' who? Adopted dogs show endless gratitude...



Coco is one of three rescued poodles, along with Jack and Angie, that provide joy to Murray Hill resident Merle Lear. "They travel well and are excited to stay in motels," said Lear, who is planning a trip of the East Coast this summer.



Melodie Brunson couldn't have a happier traveling companion than her 4-year-old Jack Russell terrier-Basenji mix, Freckles, who enjoys a ride with friend Kate Fetzer in her golf car.



Kimball O'Hara Keymer was named after Rudyard Kipling's character, who was described as "little friend of all the world." She followed Tannahill Glen Keymer home from a morning run one day as a six-month-old puppy, and despite months of searching for her owners, none were ever found. During that period Kim managed to eat all the furniture and rugs and befriend every visitor to the Keymers' Avondale home. "She took to our ancient pair of cats and designated herself as our protector," said Tannahill. "When our children were first born and arrived home, Kim laid herself at their bassinet and kept watch. She believes herself to be a dainty lap poodle, although she is a 55-pound mass of muscle. Kimball's favorite thing in the world is swimming and running in the park at blinding speed."



Lily, a part collie, part alien mix, according to Ortega resident Mary Anne Andrews, was adopted from the Humane Society as a puppy to grow up alongside Andrews' daughter Evelyn. The Naval Flight Officer said that Lily is a great companion for her daughter.

Mr. Vito came into Animal Care and Protective Services in August 2013 a bloody, neglected mess, said Elizabeth Wallace. "He had mange, skin infection, fungus, ear infection, heartworms. Pit Sisters, an outstanding local non-profit organization, pulled him and established a special program to raise funds for his extensive medical needs. In September I became his foster. After about two weeks I knew he had a home - mine." The Avondale resident has two other shelter dogs and they all enjoy a romp in Boone Park.



Ortega resident Barbara Newell with her Dalmatian-Malamute mix, Maggie, at the Cortez Park Fourth of July Parade.



"Our rescue came to us in 2010 thanks to my soft-hearted husband Alan" said Marilyn Mastin of Avondale. "He brought Trixi home from his work site on the Northside. She was as thin as the sticks in her stomach. She had missing fur, grease stains and was terrified. Her pups were gone. She had the usual heart worms, most of her teeth had to be pulled due to infection, and she had cancer. Thanks to San Juan Animal Clinic, she was treated by a canine oncologist. Today she is healthy and happy, loyal and full of herself. She loves to go for walks or to Palatka to watch her master skydive. We just love her."

See **PETS** page 46

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Dogs at Work

They help get the job done



Dan Gamsky of Daniel James Salon is a puppy raiser for Canine Companions for Independence. Every 18 months, Gamsky gets a new 8-week-old puppy and takes it with him almost everywhere he goes, including work. "My current dog is Reeter and he is a cross of a golden and a Lab and is 20 months old. In the salon as guests come in we try to not have the dog be the center of attention for his training but most guests want some interaction. Since he has a service vest on, most ask if they can greet him," said Gamsky. Some clients get down on the floor to wrestle

with Reeter. "We actually try to discourage this." Reeter goes back to CCI for professional training in August, and is the third puppy that Gamsky has raised in five years.



Lily, a golden retriever mix, is a para-therapy dog. Although she's never been certified, she takes her job at Heartland Rehabilitation very seriously. "She gets very annoyed if I don't take her to work with me," said Joseph Beough. The Avondale resident is a physical therapist and has been accompanied by Lily for 11 years, first at Brooks and now at Heartland. "She has a calming effect on patients who are agitated when they come in for rehab," Beough said.



Mabel, a 12-year-old Labradoodle, is the grand dame of Fairfax studio The Framing Establishment. Owner Jack Slaughter brings Mabel and Harlow, a 5-year-old miniature golden doodle, to work every day, where they hang out with their friend Gracie, 3, a Belgian sheepdog belonging to Katrina Bryant. All three serve as store greeters, but Gracie has the added duty of making sure that no one other than staff enters the second floor. All three eagerly wait for the postman and the FedEx delivery person – or maybe it's the treats they look forward to.



Sir Windsor, a 7-year-old Brittany spaniel, is the mascot and greeter at The Marina at Ortega Landing. "Everyone enjoys Windsor's curiosity when he walks up to them and requests to be petted; it always brings a smile to our boaters when they meet him," said Warren Hickernell, general

Peter and Sonya Oberdeck, with 14-year-old Megan. The golden retriever is Sonya's greeter at her home-based marketing and advertising business in Ortega.



When sailmaker Tom White opened his first shop seven years ago, his daughter Melody didn't want him to be alone so she gave her dad a Cocker spaniel pup. Bosun Moon has grown up in the sailmaking business and makes a point of checking out all the sails that customers bring in for repair. When White moved WindDancer Sailmaker across San Juan Avenue last year,

Bosun missed visiting with a neighboring dog and dashed across the busy street. "My heart was in my throat," said White. "No one even slowed down, but he made it across safely."



Scooter, a white Shih Tzu Maltese mix, was a boat dog, then rescued to become a shop dog with former Pier 17's

owner Cynthia Segraves. "There's safety in having a dog in your business," said Segraves, who takes her black Lab Grace canoeing with her.



Schwartzlee, a 7-year-old Polish Lowland sheepdog, is a little celebrity back in Winston-Salem, NC, where she operated an art gallery, with the help of companion Jack Horwitz. Schwartzlee's

Animals for Abstinence campaign scored her a day – August 6 – named in her honor. Now living in Ortega, Schwartzlee was re-homed from Southern California when she was 10 months old.



Leveraging the fact that many sailors and full-time cruisers have pets on board, West Marine has a policy of being a dog-friendly store, offering treats to customers' dogs. The store at Roosevelt Square Mall offers up a bit more. Dee

Dee, a 10-year-old mix of unknown origins, towers over her "work" companion, Daisy Duke, a 1-year-old Chihuahua dachshund mix, but they both provide equal amounts of love, affection and amusement to store employees and customers. Both dogs were rescued – Dee Dee from the ACPS as a pup and Daisy through a Facebook group. Although both sport canine life vests for their photo shoot, Daisy is the one who boats with owner Nikki Bowman while Dee Dee makes due with a swimming pool, according to owner Amanda Brookshire.



Riverside resident Laura Powell wears one of her many hats – puppy sitter, member of Jax Roller Girls and employee in a doctor's office – as she takes Herkey and Chanel for a stroll around the Riverside Arts Market.



Wally has worked in children's clothing, shoes and now the teacup poodle is in gifts and home décor, along with Ziva, a 2-year-old French bulldog. Both go to work daily with Scarlett McArthur, owner of the Scarlett Ladybug in Ortega Village. They sit together in a chair by the window waiting for their visitors, maybe because they get a treat every time a customer comes in. Wally has, on occasion, been mistaken for a wind-up toy. One of his customers would bring him bacon for breakfast.



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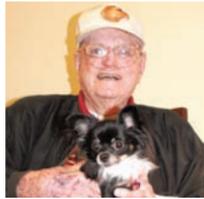
Frederick and Helen Wright, of Arbor Terrace Ortega, own two cats named Trouble and Homer. While sitting and chatting one afternoon recently, Fred said "the cats are blessings to us, they trust us, they protect us and communicate with us." Helen chimed in, "The cats motivate us

to move in the early mornings and help with socializing with other residents and staff." Although having pets requires a lot of dedication and commitment, both stated they love their cats to the moon and back.

"She's precious. I love her," said Claude Kelly of his little miniature long-haired Chihuahua Chrissy. Kelly, a resident of The Windsor, is 99 years old and has quite the list of accomplishments: World War II Veteran who was at the Battle of the Bulge with General George Patton, manager of Foremost Dairies for 40-plus years, and after retiring, established both the Clay County Fair and the NE Florida Council on Aging. Kelly's son and daughter-in-law bring Chrissy over each day to visit.



Charlie Trimmer: Ruth Trimmer, resident at The Windsor, couldn't part with her pets when she moved from her home in Mandarin. Charlie, her 7-year-old long-haired dachshund loves to stroll around The Windsor grounds and watch the fountain, while Cleo the cat takes it easy back in Trimmer's apartment. "He's a lover," said Trimmer of the gentle dog.



Front: Carolyn Essex with Mittens; Isla Davis and Snuggles; Linda Parent with Buddy; back: Madyline Gillis and Winston; Bill Brewer; Betty Bachorski with Lily

Winston, a Yorkie-Maltese mix, was supposed to be just a "loaner" to Madyline Gillis from her granddaughter, when a full-time job and two dogs became too much to handle. Five years later, Winston, 6, is in no risk of leaving his home with Gillis at Riverside Presbyterian House. Winston gets along with most of the other resident pets, except for Buddy, a 9-year-old schnauzer that belonged to Linda Parent. "I got Buddy when he was 12 weeks old and when I couldn't care for him any longer, he was adopted by Mike Burns," said Parent.

Bill Brewer's Bull Mastiff mix Tuffy died quite a few years ago, but the dog meant so much to Brewer that he wanted to share a few stories. "I call one A Tale of Two Sweaters," said Brewer. "Tuffy reminded me of the coach at Lee High School so I had a sweater made with an L on it; neighbors went to Jackson and made Tuffy a sweater with a J, but Tuffy tore up the Jackson sweater. What went on between the schools was passed to Tuffy."

Two of the facility's seven cat lovers include Isla Davis, who has had 15-year-old Snuggles since she was a kitten. "She's my treasure. I give her a massage every night as I sing to her," Davis said. On the other hand, Carolyn Essex' cat Mittens is just 8 months old. "I got him from the shelter, the only one left in the cage," she said. "He's company for me."

Pets on Board Salty Dogs & Cabin Cats



Veteran cruisers Mary Ann Timon and Don Mack wouldn't know what to do without a cat on board. They have even carried up to a half ton of cat food and litter when cruising their Hirsch 45. Kai, a Bengal, is their latest cabin cat and the first that wasn't adopted from a shelter. The purebred has a lot of energy and the couple has outfitted their sailboat with a

giant "hamster" wheel in the boat's cockpit so Kai can work off his energy. Scratching posts made of sturdy thick rope, perches throughout the cabin and rescue rope hanging from the bow are all concessions to their love for Kai.



This "mitten kitten" - as polydactyl cats are sometimes called - lives aboard with Bill Scott at the Marina at Ortega Landing. Bigfoot was rescued from a shelter at eight months old and lives the life of leisure as a cabin cat. Leash trained, Bigfoot enjoys a slow saunter through the grass, stopping to check out lizards and elicits comments from other boaters.



Duke, age 13, is a veteran of the seas. He's only fallen into the drink once, and generally wears a life vest when underway. Diane and Jack Toomey have had Duke for 11 years on both sail- and powerboats.

According to Diane, one of the biggest challenges is Duke's fussiness with grass. "There are some he doesn't just like to step on," said Diane, "which makes walking him interesting."



Jim and Delene Byers' little boating companion is a Maltese-Terrier mix named Olive, who has

sailed since she was a pup. "She is very adaptable and travels well, especially when treats are included," said Jim. Olive, 7, has ridden on most types of boats from kayaks, canoes, fishing boats, pontoon boats, ski boats, and jet skis to the dinghy and "her" sailboat. "When she sees her harness, she lifts her paw to help put it on because she knows she is going somewhere."

Still just a puppy, Baxter has a lot to learn to be a good ship's dog, including following in the paw-steps of his Peek-a-Poo predecessor Elmo. The rambunctious Yorkie Poo is still a little nervous when Art and Jenn Cody take their Hatteras out from The Marina at Ortega Landing. The Codys are confident, though, that he'll make the perfect boat dog. "He'll adapt to the boat, know what's dangerous and what's safe, when and where to go and not to go," said Art. "He's a bit stubborn now, but all dogs learn."

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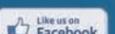
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