

THE Resident

SAN JOSE

SAN MARCO

ST. NICHOLAS

VOL. 7 • ISSUE 4



Jewel of a Dog

Rock Star loves his plush perch at a landmark shop in San Marco Square. To read more about much loved pets, turn topage 26

Frisch Takes on Water Taxis

Prominent leader steps up

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, in typical fashion, 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."

See **TAXI** on page 12



Robbie Cunningham, owner of Trident Pontoons, Harry Frisch and Ben Frisch of Beaver Street Fisheries, and District 6 Councilman Matt Schellenberg in front of the 100-passenger water taxi delivered early last month to Sadler Point Marina.



Pet a pup

Vinnie, the four-year-old Poodle-Papillon mix is a star at the Taylor Manor Assisted Living Facility and his fan club waits for his bi-weekly visits.

..... PAGE 28

Summer FUN



The boys of summer

Sporting baseball jerseys and ball caps, these young athletes at a Bolles' summer camp pause for a photo opportunity. Read about more summer fun

..... PAGE 34

JEA performs smoke test in San Jose



The JEA tested sanitary sewer lines in the San Jose/Lakewood area last month to identify areas within the JEA sanitary sewer system that may be allowing unwanted infiltration of water, usually from rain or irrigation, into the system.

By identifying these areas, JEA is able to reduce the amount of water it is required to treat at its reclamation facilities, thereby reducing operating costs. In the

process, JEA is also able to sometimes identify private plumbing issues with individual homes and businesses.

"The feedback we're getting is good," said Greg Corcoran, JEA project outreach coordinator. "We think it's a real advantage as we get to figure out if there are any problems with our lines and also help out our customers while we're here."

The smoke used for this work is very similar to condensed air and is not harmful to people or pets. Smoke will not appear in customers' homes or

businesses unless there are dry fixtures or issues related to their private sewer systems. The rising smoke alerts the testing crew to potential problems which they promptly investigate. Customers are notified through door-hangers if plumbing issues are discovered on private property.

See **JEA** on page 4

San Marco youth spends summer in Denmark

Hendricks Avenue Elementary School fifth grader Robert Ritchie represented the U.S. at a Children's International Summer Village (CISV) held in Roskilde, Denmark this summer. His delegation (two girls, two boys and an adult leader from Jacksonville) attended the Village with others from 11 countries. "CISV is a great experience and I learned so much at the Peace by Piece village," said Ritchie.



At this four-week camp, the delegates participated in a mix of activities exploring an educational theme designed to develop intercultural awareness, self-awareness, leadership skills and cooperative skills. The Jacksonville Chapter of CISV (www.cisvjax.org) has offered international and local programs for Jacksonville youth ages 11 to 18 since 1976 and will host a Village in 2015.

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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 11** – 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 pleasur.

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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Celebrating 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.

Annual Up the River Downtown swim participation growing

The third annual on-the-water community event, sponsored by JumpingFish and the St. Johns Riverkeeper, promised to be bigger than ever. Thus far, 16 swimmers have committed to the 10K swim from Jacksonville University to the Riverside Arts Market on Saturday, Aug. 23.

The swimmers will be accompanied by an armada of kayakers and stand-up paddle boarders, dragon boats, Jacksonville Fire Boat and more as they launch at 9:30 a.m. from the Riverkeepers' headquarters at JU. Proceeds from the event will benefit Special Olympics Florida. To join the armada, sponsor a swimmer or for more information, go to events.jumpingfish.net.

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Councilwoman Boyer commended for two efforts

BY KATE A. HALLOCK

RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

For 10 months Lori Boyer had a standing weekly meeting on her schedule. From August 2013 to May 2014, the 30 members of the Task Force on Consolidate Government chaired by Boyer met in three subcommittees to review the city-county consolidated form of government legislated back in 1968.

Recently Boyer and those committee members were acknowledged for their efforts in City Council Resolution 2014-401.

An excerpt states:

“The Task Force’s three subcommittees produced dozens of recommendations for structural and operational changes and improvements, which the full Task Force reviewed in great detail and adopted as its own recommendations in the form of proposed Charter and Ordinance Code amendments and recommendations for administrative policies and procedures.”

Boyer also received an award for her leadership of this nearly year-long effort to identify weaknesses and opportunities for improvement in the current form of government. In her newsletter Boyer shared four of those issues:

“First, our City lacks a strategic plan and vision that helps guide and coordinate the decisions and priorities of the City government and City independent agencies and creates a cohesive effort toward common goals over time. Second, our neighborhoods often feel that our government is too big and bureaucratic and doesn’t hear their concerns or address their unique needs. Third, we suffer from significant turnover among City employees which is exacerbated by term limits on elected officials creating a regular loss of institutional knowledge and hampering operational efficiency. Finally, the promised cost-saving from centralizing common services has not been fully realized.”

She also noted that there were “many other more specific issues that



Former City Council President William Gulliford presents District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer with a plaque acknowledging her leadership of the Task Force on Consolidated Government. Photo by Wesley Lester, City of Jacksonville

were addressed as well. Some examples might be employee health care and its rising cost, the St. John’s River, zero-based budgeting and procurement code changes.”

Noteworthy recommendations

The three subcommittees – Governance & Mission; Neighborhoods, Infrastructure, Planning, Services & St. John’s River; and Organization, Operations, Personnel, Budget, Borrowing, Risk & Economy – held meetings for public input and waded through volumes of material to come up with recommendations to address some of the weaknesses in the consolidated form of government. Some of those recommendations include:

- Move City elections to November in a non-state and federal election year, with January 1 as the date on which officials take office. The purpose is to allow newly elected Mayors and Council members 4-6 months of experience on the job before they are faced with preparing and adopting a new annual budget.
- Create a Strategic Plan

developed and regularly monitored by a commission comprised of representatives of each independent government agency and authority as well as the Mayor, City Council and in collaboration with a broad-based Community Advisory Council. The purpose is to provide common goals, transparent evaluation of efforts across agencies toward achieving those goals, and a mechanism to bridge administrations of different mayors, different Authority CEOs and Boards, the business community and the citizens.

- Incorporate into the Charter the Neighborhood Bill of Rights, adopted by ordinance 19 years ago but never codified. Among other things, the bill of rights provides that neighborhoods should be consulted in advance of projects impacting their area and the City should encourage the creation of voluntary neighborhood associations as a means of encouraging civic engagement and participation.

- Eliminate Central Service billing within the General Fund in most circumstances. Generally, the Task Force found that the potential cost savings of centralized services were undermined by users opting out, primarily due to the lack of control

over charges which were inflated by incorporating several cost factors that made them non-competitive (such as a department’s share of unfunded pension liability for prior employees).

All the recommendations contained in the final report will be available on the City Council webpage under the link to Task Force on Consolidated Government.

Legislation for Larsen

In his July 14 address to City Council about the 2014-2015 proposed budget, Mayor Alvin Brown acknowledged Boyer’s efforts to ensure that residents in her district had access to safe drinking water. He said “Quality of life means giving every Jacksonville citizen an opportunity to enjoy the unique assets that our city has to offer. But some in our community do not even have access to basic services like city water.

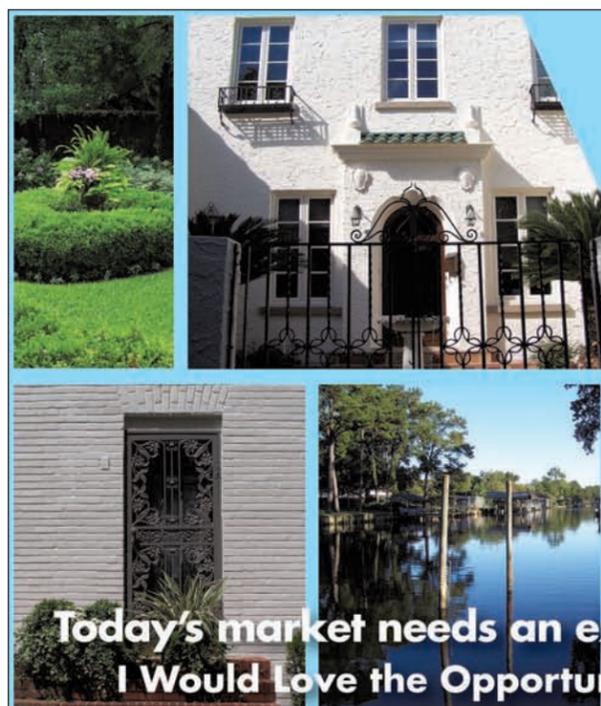
“Nearly 50 years ago, certain neighborhoods were promised access to city water – and those promises have not been kept. These citizens have been waiting far too long. Our City must make good on its word.

“I would like to commend Councilwoman Lori Boyer for working with my administration, the faith community and the private sector to fulfill that promise in the Larsen neighborhood. Legislation is currently before City Council to extend waterlines to residents of the Larsen neighborhood.”

That legislation – Bill 2014-385 – went into effect last month when Mayor Brown signed the bill at the Larsen Outreach Center.

According to the bill summary, there are approximately 300 homes in the Larsen Neighborhood Association and many are not connected to the City’s central water services system. Those homeowners cannot afford the costs to connect to City services and have been utilizing unreliable wells for drinking water.

The \$413,000 appropriation will be used by Northeast Florida Builders Care to provide planning, design, supervision, materials and labors to extend the water lines and connect all homes in the Larsen neighborhood.



Time Is A Simple Gift

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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JEAFROM 1

“JEA is having an infiltration of water. Any time a big storm hits, it spikes our system telling us we are getting more water coming in than going out. That tells us that there may be a broken pipe or something tied into our sewer lines bringing water into the sewer,” said Dave Velez, crew leader.

Smoke testing is done also when a consumer complains of a bad odor in a home. Smoke escaping from around the toilet may mean a broken wax ring around the toilet.

Depending on the size of the area (between manholes), the smoke test can last up to 30 minutes. While that’s in progress, crew members walk the street looking for visible signs of smoke coming from vents in the homes and businesses and storm drains.

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.

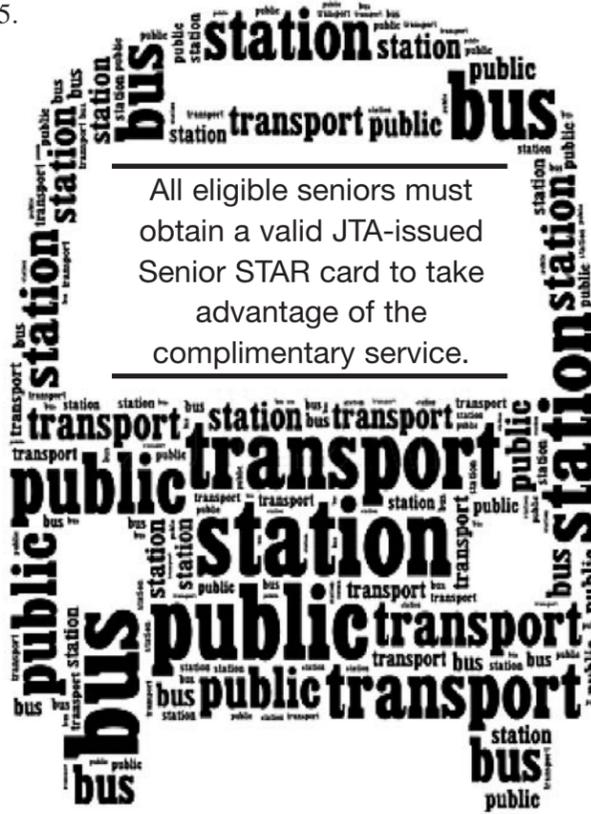
ADA/paratransit eligible customers who currently pay \$2.50 for service on the JTA Connexion will see a 20 percent fare increase, also effective Jan. 1, 2015. However, such customers who choose to use

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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Jax Bridges new program for small business help

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Late last month the JAX Chamber unveiled Jax Bridges, a new program to help small businesses connect with larger companies for mentoring, capital access and contacts in an effort to earn business with established corporations.

According to Carlton Robinson, senior director of the Chamber's entrepreneurial growth division, there are more than 140,000 businesses in the area that can either be a help or that need help to grow. Of those businesses, said Ted Carter, executive director of the City's Office of Economic Development, more than 91,000 employ less than 10 people. Often that means no one in the company has the wherewithal – time or resources – to get the business prepared for opportunities to earn the business of a larger corporation.

"Jacksonville is hitting its stride," said Carter. "Quantum growth will come from small companies. This [program] is a public-private partnership that will really make this an outstanding success."

Robinson stated that the goal of the program in its first year is to facilitate \$100 million in contracts to small businesses, by connecting small- to medium-size business owners with leading businesses in the area.

"It will be a unified effort between resource providers, corporations, small businesses and entrepreneurs to increase the deal flow in northeast Florida," said Robinson.

Business owners that sign up through the program's portal –

www.jaxbridges.com – will step through a qualification process that helps them perfect their plans and strategies.

Application to the program does not guarantee acceptance into the program as there is a matchmaking process to pair the mentoring and education needs of the small business owner to the opportunity that may result in access to capital. The application period ends Aug. 20 and Jax Bridges participants will be announced on Aug. 25.

Beginning Sept. 3, participants will spend the next 10 weeks in entrepreneurial education, sessions with lending institutions for access to capital, and teaming and strategy activities. During Global Entrepreneurship Week in November, the JAX Chamber will host the Exchange Event on Nov. 20.

Bi-Lo Holdings, which includes Winn-Dixie, is one of the large SM corporations creating a mentorship to help small businesses get ready to be a supplier to local companies such as Winn-Dixie. "When we successfully connect with local businesses in our community, it makes us a better retailer," said Derek Lott, senior director of supplier diversity for Bi-Lo.

Robinson stressed that participants must earn the opportunity, stating "You've got to compete. Business is a sport." He estimates that there will be 100 to 150 businesses involved in the entrepreneurial education phase of this year's program, but in the match-making process there could be more if they qualify.

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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.

Yes, this is luxurious family living at its finest. Relax on deck. Put your feet up and enjoy a glass of wine. Take a vacation to another time and place on your very own legendary vessel.

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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Thoughtful work needed to validate harbor deepening project

Port Task Force hearing from all sides

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

On June 17 City of Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown joined other politicians, JAXPORT representatives and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in signing a proclamation declaring "Harbor Deepening Launch Day."

The next day, the Jacksonville Port Task Force held a public meeting that seems to suggest that Mayor Brown was putting the cart before the horse. Although the nearly \$800 million

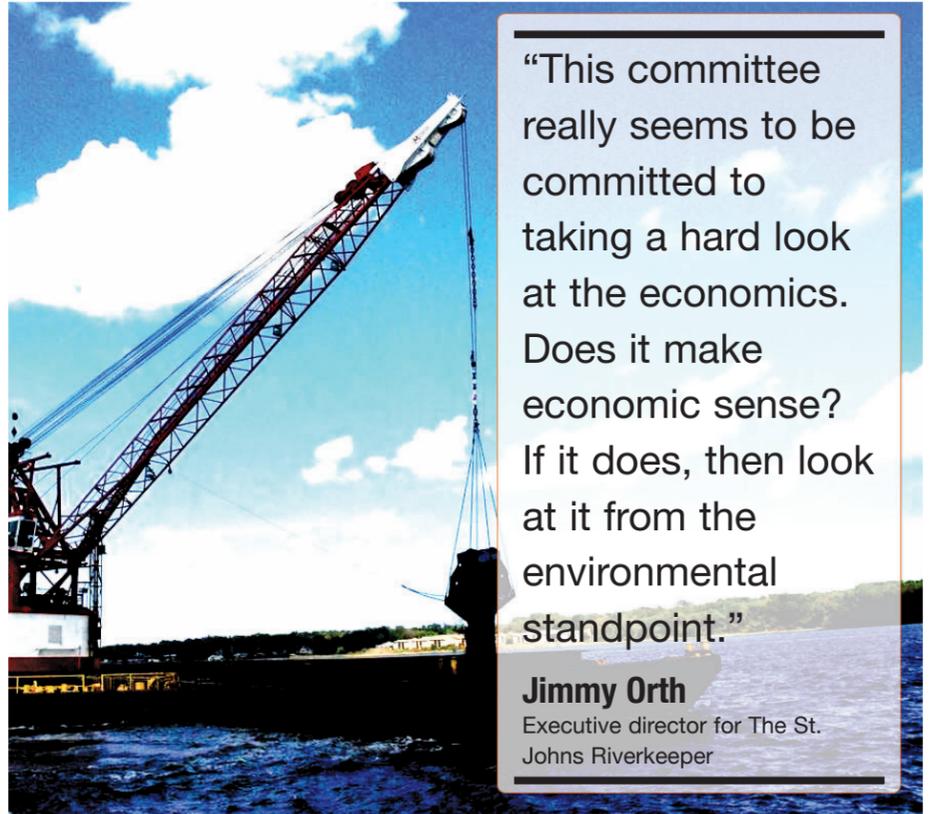
project got a green light from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and it is following the proper timeline for design and engineering of the project, [skeptics and those seeking a more careful review have voiced concerns and it's not just the activist, environmental organizations] it may be premature to advertise that the project will happen when the Port Task Force will not complete its work until 2015.

According to Jimmy Orth, executive director for The St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Jacksonville Port Task Force was established by Mayor Brown to look at the dredging proposal, including finding a revenue source to pay for the project.

"I believe the mayor thought this was going to be a group of cheerleaders for the project," Orth stated. "I think this committee really seems to be committed to taking a hard look at the economics. Does it make economic sense? If it does, then look at it from the environmental standpoint."

There are other factors, too, that will dictate whether the Port of Jacksonville will win the bid against ports in Savannah or Charleston. Federal funding for approximately half of the project needs to be secured, and then the balance of the funding must be found locally.

At the June 18 Task Force meeting, Orth noted that "sometimes it's better to be what you can be, not what you want to be" in reference to Jacksonville's lack of competitive advantages against the other ports.



"This committee really seems to be committed to taking a hard look at the economics. Does it make economic sense? If it does, then look at it from the environmental standpoint."

Jimmy Orth
Executive director for The St. Johns Riverkeeper

What's at stake?

The first speaker on the agenda at the meeting in early June was Dr. David Jaffee, professor of sociology at the University of North Florida, who immediately addressed the issue at stake: economic impact versus the environment. If taken seriously, Jaffee's presentation, Seven Questions to Ask About \$1 Billion Spending of Public Funds for St. Johns Dredging/Deepening, coupled with an independent review of the economic impact study and a look at potential environmental impacts could turn the ship in another direction – away from support for St. Johns River channel deepening.

Jaffee, who is critical of the harbor deepening project, recommended that an independent cost-benefit multi-port analysis of the project be conducted to determine how the costs and benefits are distributed. He also requested a look at "a strategy for an economically vibrant port that does not depend

on \$1 billion and damage to the St. Johns River."

John Baker, executive chairman of Patriot Transportation Holding, and a member of the Task Force, lives in Ortega, a community that resides between the St. Johns and Ortega rivers. Dr. Quinton White, executive director of the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University, is also on the Task Force. For Orth, that's encouraging.

"A lot of the members [of the Task Force] are boaters and all have expressed a real love for the river," said Orth. "I think they really want to take a good look at this as a viable project for Jacksonville and what's the return on the investment."

The Riverkeeper has been vocal about the channel deepening proposal from the first announcement back in May 2013 and throughout the review process, and it sees this public meeting as a good sign that the Task

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Force is not just a rubber stamp. "This, to us, is a real important avenue for the public to learn more about this. We were concerned that there was a lack of dialogue before we started getting engaged with it," Orth stated. "We feel that the Army Corps of Engineers underestimated the environmental impact and greatly overestimated the economics."

At the public meeting Jaffee's presentation was followed by representatives of five companies, the JAX Chamber and JAXUSA Partnership, all speaking in favor of the channel deepening project, as did JAXPORT's Brian Taylor, citing job opportunities and the economic benefit to the city and surrounding communities.

Orth said that this is a case of people pitting jobs against the environment, and that it's not black or white. "It forces us in the community to take a look at all of the benefits and all of the costs and it is worth whatever the damage may be. It forces us also to look at the value of the St. Johns."

Why should we be concerned?

According to environmental groups, the impacts are huge and cannot be undone, even through proposed mitigation. All of this remains to be seen, or is speculative, due to the fact that real evidence won't avail itself until the project is complete.

The environmental concerns are that salinity will move farther upstream, impacting hundreds of

acres of wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) and killing or stressing numerous trees in some sections of the river. The most significant impacts to wetlands are expected to occur along the St. Johns River, within the Ortega River, Julington, Durbin and Black Creeks, according to the Riverkeeper. Also, water may remain in the river for a longer period of time, increasing the probability of algal blooms.

Sedimentation is also a concern, changing the flows along the main channel and increasing silting in creeks and coves, said Orth. In some areas, at low tide, sedimentation is a deep as 18 inches, making boating difficult in some areas. Trees that hold the banks in many of the local tributaries, cypress trees in particular, are prone to weakness and even death due to heightened saltwater concentrations

The environmental concerns are that salinity will move farther upstream, impacting hundreds of acres of wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) and killing or stressing numerous trees in some sections of the river. The most significant impacts to wetlands are expected to occur along the St. Johns River, within the Ortega River, Julington, Durbin and Black Creeks, according to the Riverkeeper.



and removal of their banks by turbid waters.

In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts to threatened and endangered species from the blasting that will be necessary.

Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has allocated funds for mitigation – less than \$3 million – it won't be enough to offset the damage done from the dredging, according to Orth.

He noted that the Corps has acknowledged the limitations of its models for predicting future conditions and measuring impacts, but the Riverkeeper is fearful the damage will be much worse than the models predict. "Dr. White said the models are as only as good as the input," Orth said. "The river is so complex that we can't assume that the model will tell us everything that can happen. Once

the dredging is done, you can't reverse it."

In a recent editorial, Orth concluded "By dredging the river deeper, we may actually just be digging ourselves into a deeper hole. The expense and financial risk is substantial and the environmental impacts to our river would be irreversible. In addition, the damage done would only compound our existing pollution problems, setting us further back in our efforts to restore the river's health."

Have some input?

The Resident encourages your input and thoughts on the proposed dredging project. Share your opinion, email us at editor@residentnews.net.

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CONSERVATIVE FOR CONGRESS

Noise ordinance not much help with train noise

Quiet zones an expensive solution

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

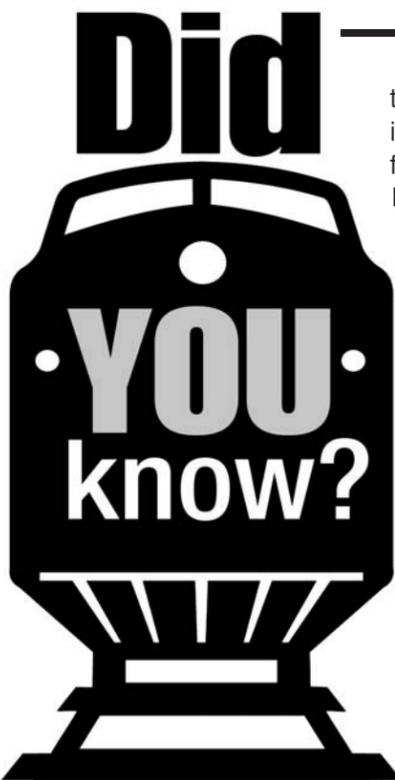
law enforcement would work with the rail operator to submit a waiver of exemption if warranted, according to Christian Hancock, public information officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.

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.

“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



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.

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 as 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.

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.

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Local memory care housing to expand in Jacksonville

Less than a year after opening Arbor Terrace Ortega, the only stand-alone memory care facility of its kind in Jacksonville, local developer Whitehall Realty Partners and The Arbor Company, an Atlanta-based senior living management group, announced the addition of two more specialized assisted living communities.

The partners broke ground on Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra and purchased land for Arbor Terrace San Jose, both of which will specialize in memory care for residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

Arbor Terrace San Jose, located at 6755 St. Augustine Rd., and Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, located at 5125 Palm Valley Rd., will be 64-bed,

memory care-only assisted living communities.

Arbor Terrace properties differ from many memory care programs by focusing solely on serving seniors with memory care needs, taking them into account in every phase of the facility's development including concept, design, interior finishes, staff training and daily programming.

"The need to support a growing population of individuals with memory care needs continues to increase exponentially. In St. John's County alone, there are more than 4,000 people living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia," said G. John Carey, founding partner of Whitehall Realty Partners. "The demand is growing daily, with Alzheimer's rates anticipated to dou-

ble in Florida over the next ten years. We are working to meet that need with thoughtful, specialized care and living communities."

Whitehall Realty Partners will maintain ownership of all three local Arbor Terrace properties and has partnered with The Arbor Company to operate the communities. With more than 25 years of experience in senior living management, The Arbor Company has a proven track record of quality resident care and personalized attention in its communities.

The Arbor Company's memory care programs emphasize delivering exceptional care within a structured environment to provide enhanced safety to residents with Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders. Unlike many other management companies, The

Arbor Company has a dedicated Alzheimer's team trainer who works intensively with memory care programs to help staff deliver compassionate and clinically advanced care.

Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra is scheduled for completion summer 2015, while the on-site sales office will open Oct. 1. Whitehall Realty Partners expects to break ground on Arbor Terrace San Jose in late 2014 with a fall 2015 opening. Each project represents a total investment of \$11.5 million and, once operational, will employ approximately 50 people.

To learn more about Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra or Arbor Terrace San Jose, call (904) 701-7227. Learn more about Arbor Terrace Ortega at www.at-ortega.com.



SAN JOSE POOL HOME, 3/2, granite kitchen, French doors, courtyard pool area, corner lot, shade trees, \$200,000. #727222 Amanda Everett 904-415-2711



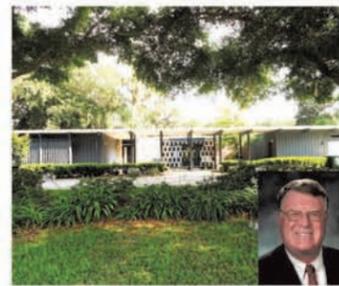
ALL BRICK, 3/2, Mandarin area, great room, high ceilings, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, privacy fenced yard. \$195,000. #713447 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



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BEST VIEW ON THE LAKE, 3/2/2, gated community, spacious & beautifully updated, gourmet kitchen. \$445,000. #716779 The Transition Team 904-349-1390



NAVIGABLE WATERFRONT, 3/3, great room, game room, formal dining room, dock & boat lift. \$331,000. #704456 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



ART DECO POOL HOME, 4/5, open floor plan, formal living & dining, huge FL room, gourmet kitchen, teak cabinets. \$425,000. #720551 Don Raines 904-923-0139



A-RATED SCHOOLS, 4/2, Open plan, great room, high ceilings, big kitchen, screen patio, cul-de-sac. \$195,000. #723048 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288

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LAKEFRONT HOME, 4/2.5, formal living & dining, fireplace, surround sound & 3-car tandem garage. \$330,000. #715184 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



HUGE FAMILY HOME, 6/4, swimming pool, hardwood floors, newer kitchen & roof, fenced backyard, near a park. \$325,000 #699631 Cassius Wilcox 904-571-8134



FABULOUS LAKEFRONT 2/2.5 Townhome, beautiful sunsets from 2 balconies, minutes to downtown & beaches. \$140,000 #708213 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-716-7863



HISTORIC HOME, 3/2, living room has fireplace, new custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances & granite countertops. \$249,000. #727634 Don Raines 904-923-0139



LAKEFRONT TOWNHOME, 3/2.5, great room, screen porch overlooks lake, granite eat-in kitchen. \$285,000. #725158 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



ADORABLE BUNGALOW, 3/2, hardwood floors, crown molding, wood burning fireplace, oversize master suite. \$219,900. #727699 Joseph Poletto 904-738-6446



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PICTURE PERFECT, 4/3.5, gated community, shows like a model, downstairs master suite, side load garage. \$569,900. #718594 Jon Singleton 904-421-3580



AMAZING HOME, 4/3.5, Lakefront on preserve lot, great room, surround sound, gourmet kitchen. \$535,000. #725879 David Butler & Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



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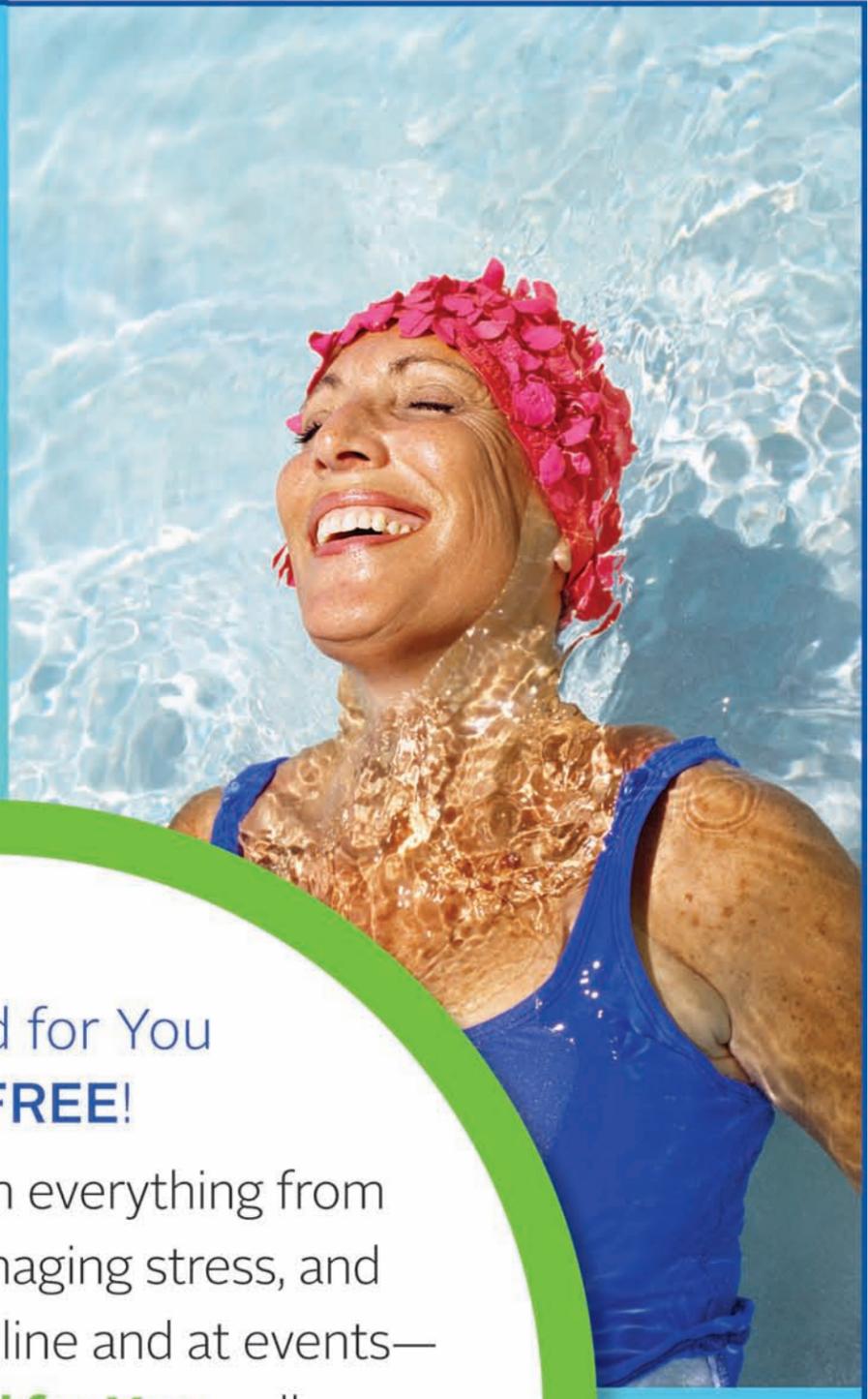
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Phase 1 underway at Beacon Riverside



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

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.

Winn-Dixie has a rich history of supporting local communities.

Veterans ride to help homeless vets

Allison Vega Ownby, public relations and marketing manager for The Sulzbacher Center (black T-shirt) accepted a \$3,500 check at American Legion Post 88 (located off Spring Park Rd) from a Fun Run motorcycle ride to benefit the Sulzbacher Center's Veterans Program. Rich Verne, the Director of the Post 88 American Legion Riders holds a painting, a gift to Post 88 in recognition of their ongoing support of the Center. It the original painting was done by Ali Isabelle and it was used as the Center's 2013 Transformations event logo.



Episcopal's memorial plaza an award winner

The Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (FLASLA) has given the Dale D. Regan Plaza at the Great Oak a 2014 Award of Excellence for design. The Plaza at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville was designed by Chris Flagg of FLAGG Design Studio, LLC.

The Design Awards Committee presented the award at its Annual Conference and Annual Design Awards Gala luncheon last month in Key Largo.

When Episcopal lost Head of School Dale Regan in the spring of 2012 the School and her family reached a consensus that the Dale D. Regan Plaza at the Great Oak would be a fitting memorial. Flagg offered his design services free of charge to create a Plaza in her memory.

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TAXIfrom 1

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/Beauclerc 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.



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

"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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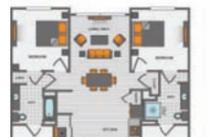
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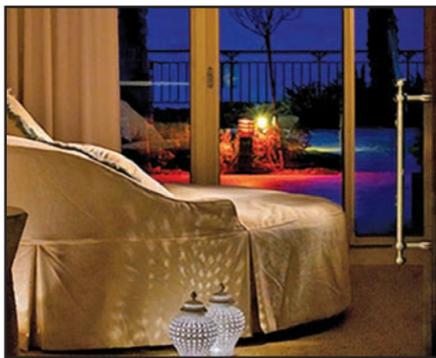
EAU Palm Beach Resort and Spa delivers on promise to rejuvenate, renew

The moment you walk in to this stunning beachfront property, a unique scent takes over your senses, a scent that leaves you yearning for more. We found out that this “signature scent” was custom blended by Votivo – titled Palm Beach Breeze, it is truly unforgettable [and available to take home]. Pairing the scent with the visuals of endless Carrere marble, urns brimming with seashell keepsakes and crystal chandeliers as far as the eye can see, the glamour of Palm Beach is ever present.

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 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



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



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, 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!

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 Avenue is unparalleled in its world class brands for shoppers and the eclectic Delray Beach is 20 minutes south down the coast. The fishing is outstanding and the diving equally excellent, as you’re four miles to the Gulf Stream. If you’re looking for a resort that delivers an outstanding visit, it can be found about four hours from our neighborhoods, not a far cry to extraordinary.

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<p style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">1159 PONTE VEDRA BOULEVARD</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">1159 PONTE VEDRA BOULEVARD</p> <p>5 BR / 6 BA / 2 Half BA / 7,988 square feet</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">210' OCEANFRONT \$6,000,000</p>	<p style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">MANDARIN CUSTOM ALL BRICK HOME</p> <p style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">REDUCED</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">12820 BAY PLANTATION DRIVE</p> <p>5 Bedrooms / 3.5 baths / 5,536 square feet</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">1 ACRE ESTATE \$775,000</p>
<p style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">SAN JOSE RIVERFRONT GATED</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">2217 MILLER OAKS DRIVE N</p> <p>6 bedrooms / 5.5 baths / 5,644 square feet</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">POOL/DOCK/BOATLIFT \$2,750,000</p>	<p style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">110' MANDARIN RIVERFRONT</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">12926 RIVERPLACE COURT</p> <p>5 Bedrooms / 5.5 baths / 5,820 square feet</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">DOCK/COVERED BOATLIFT \$1,575,000</p>
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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Area residents join 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.



Seven residents from the San Marco, San Jose neighborhoods – Daniel Albert, Esq.; Christian Harden, Vice President, Hallmark Partners; Henry Li, Vice President/CFO, Jacksonville Transportation Authority; Jeffrey Winkler, Director, RealSense Coalition of

the United Way; Joanelle Mulrain, CEO, Mulrain Resource Group; Erin Skinner, community volunteer, and Kathy Miller, Senior Vice President, Regency Centers Corporation – are among the 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, San Marco/San Jose residents Deborah Moore and Charles Hedrick were elected president and president-elect, respectively, of the 2014-2015 Board of Directors.

To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit www.leadershipjax.org or call (904) 396-6263.

Pizza baked, served authentically

Fast, fresh, best is what V Pizza promises to San Marco residents. The new pizza restaurant opened at 1406 Hendricks Avenue two months ago and general manager Florio Murataj said business has been great. Operating three wood-fired ovens – Amore, San Marco and Felice – imported from Italy, the restaurant serves a variety of Italian dishes. The all natural, fresh ingredients are also imported. Angelo Bondi is food manager and Matt Kepp, manager. Call (904) 527-1511 for details.



Sidecar serving up cool craft cocktails



A classic cocktail inspired managing partner Matthew Carson to name the new bar at 1406 Hendricks Avenue, Sidecar. Carson, together with beverage director Kurt Rogers, mixes up classic drinks as well as new craft cocktails for a crowd that ranges from after-work business people to a late-night crowd. “We liked the idea of being in the urban core,” said Carson, “not in a strip mall.” While a year in deliberation, it took just a little over three months to renovate the former warehouse space into a beer garden and cocktail bar in the heart of San Marco. Check out their offerings at Sidecar Jax on Facebook.

Bistro AIX under new ownership

The partners who currently own and operate Ovinité at the St. Johns Town Center acquired the restaurant Bistro AIX due in part to a longstanding business relationship with Ovinite’s managing partner Chad Munsey, the original general manager of Bistro AIX. Ovinite’s executive chef Ian Lynch also began his culinary career at Bistro AIX and will act as the executive chef for both restaurants.

Bistro AIX, which first opened in 1999 was owned and operated by Terry Schneider, Mike Schneider, and Ann Riley who said in a joint statement, “We reached a point in our lives where we saw the need to put into place a succession plan to ensure the continued success of Bistro AIX. We believe Chad and his partners are just the group to lead AIX into the future.”

The partners plan to continue operations as normal at Bistro AIX with updated and expanded menus with new lunch options and a raw seafood bar.

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.

Best way to “do dishes” is with paint brushes

Katie Yallaly enjoyed painting pottery with her girlfriends in college, then when she got a job working as a child abuse investigator for the Department of Children and Families, she needed an outlet for stress. “It was my zen time; I would get immersed in a project and it was my down time,” said Yallaly.

Fast forward a decade and Yallaly is now celebrating the 10th anniversary of opening her first paint-your-own pottery store, Doing Dishes, at 5619 San Jose Blvd. in Lakewood Plaza. Five years ago she opened in Edgewood, then moved it to the Shoppes of Avondale, and recently opened a third store in St. John’s County.

Doing Dishes is a family-friendly studio, with



in-store events, parties and even field trips, taking the experience on the road. For more information, contact Doing Dishes at (904) 730-3729.

San Marco area residents elected to DVI Board

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

Durand-Stuebben is the director of business development with Auld & White Constructors and sits on boards of NAIOP, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and JAX Chamber Board of Governors.

Jenks is the senior director of the office of brokerage services at Cushman & Wakefield and was president of NAIOP in 2013. She also founded the Downtown Catalyst Club.

“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

Stuebben



Jenks



Buckland, DVI’s chair. “They’ve already begun to roll up their sleeves and proactively demonstrate their commitment to Downtown.”

DVI’s board officers include: Debbie Buckland, BB&T, Chair; Oliver Barakat, CBRE Group, Inc., Secretary; William R. Prescott, Heritage Capital Group, Treasurer; and Michael A. Jennings, Prudential Financial, Past Chair. For a complete list of board members and bios, visit www.downtownjacksonville.org.

Seafood Gourmet 20 years in San Marco

Two decades after what was supposed to be Didier Busnot’s retirement, his seafood market at 5043 San Jose Blvd. continues to serve the high end gourmet seafood that local residents have come to appreciate. The Seafood Gourmet specializes in ready-to-cook seafood meals, gluten-free seafood soups, organic meats and a variety of smoked seafood products. Customers claim that Busnot, a professional chef, offers seafood entrees not seen anywhere else. The fresh catches are posted daily on the chalkboard. Stop in and see for yourself, Tuesdays through Saturdays. Call (904) 730-0077 for more information.



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New scrubs more than protection; will aid in patient communication

Baptist Health employees have ownership in system-wide change

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

It's one thing to introduce little changes here and there within an organization, it's quite another to change a culture. That's what Baptist Health had to do in order to implement a game-changing strategy for combating transmission of patient-to-staff contaminants.

The issue at stake – especially for Wolfson Children's Hospital staff – was the historical latitude in uniform choices. Nurses working with children traditionally wear colorful print scrubs with cartoon characters or holiday-appropriate designs. That was going to change.

"Instituting a large change in any organization is a lot of work, more than you've ever dreamed," said Diane Raines, Baptist Health's senior vice president and chief nursing officer.

"You have to continue being positive, giving the message and it takes a while to catch. You can make a lot of changes for no particular good reason and people just get weary, but the reason for this supersedes all the fuss."

Baptist Health is the first health system in the world to widely adopt protective staff and patient garments that repel fluids and minimize the risk of transmission of organisms. As part of a continued commitment to patient safety, Baptist Health partnered with Vestagen Technical Textiles of Orlando, a global innovator in the development of advanced textile technologies

Early last month the health system based in San Marco distributed new scrubs to each employee (more than 30,000 pieces of staff uniforms, lab coats and scrub jackets to over 6,000 employees) at no cost, and offered them the opportunity to purchase additional items.

"Baptist has been nice enough to buy three sets of scrubs for everybody during this transition, but then people have the option to buy more. Baptist

has used its negotiating power to get special pricing exclusive for Baptist, which saves the staff a lot of money," said Vestagen president and CEO Uncas "Ben" Favret III. "These aren't uniforms you can buy off a retail shelf."

Soft surfaces, like uniforms, are vectors for the spread of organisms in acute care settings. The Vestex® textile technology has a durable fluid barrier, an antimicrobial to prevent organisms from being acquired and retained on the fabric, and a special breathable material for wearer comfort.



Vestagen president and CEO Ben Favret demonstrates the repellant properties of the new scrub uniforms for Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital staff.

• Hospital staff helps guide change

According to Favret, hospitals have color-coded uniform systems for a reason, but they'll have 16 or 18 different colors. "One of the reasons why you go to a color-coded system is to improve patient communication and when you have 16 or 18 that's not a policy of



communication, it's a policy of confusion," he said. "We did the research on how many colors do people really remember. The number was between six and eight. We tried to make the color make sense. If they're green, they are here to clean; if they wear blue, they are here to care for you. We wanted to make it memorable for the patient and fit it into the patient experience, and fit that into their whole uniform policy."

Anticipating a certain amount of resistance to the idea of moving from colorful prints to solid blue for the nursing staff, Raines created an implementation team of 100 employees, representing each of the disciplines within Baptist Health. That team was charged with being the spokespersons for their departments and providing feedback about the new color coded uniforms.

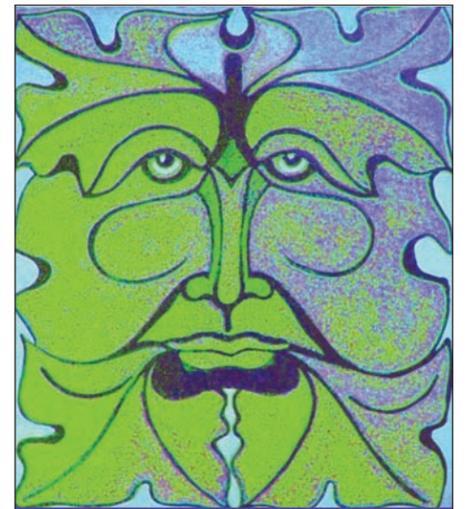
Veronica Scott-Fulton, Vice President of Operations and Patient Care Services at Wolfson Children's Hospital, explained "We first looked at the change in the culture. At Children's Hospital they all wear very colorful scrubs as a distraction. We have to start with the culture, and we talked about what we were gaining, to help our patients and be safer for us."

Scott-Fulton noted that it was tough for the nurses to go to a solid color, but in a later phase prints will again be offered. "We're trying to let them know this is about quality, safety and outcomes and that goes beyond one's personal style," she said. "It's going to help the nurses because they won't be taking those germs home to their own children, because they are never absorbed into the fabric."

Part of the essence of being a nationally designated Magnet Health System means that Baptist Health staff would have input into their work environment. The adoption of new uniforms was a great example of that essence, according to Raines. "This was not just for the nurses, it's also about all of our clinicians working together, having the opportunity to design it," Raines said. "They really own it. They're excited now."

"You can look at a uniform and say, that's a health care professional. The color coding creates a sense of identification," added Favret. "Health care worker uniforms today provide no protection, but with the Vestex technology, they have a degree of protection with sacrificing any degree of comfort...or style."

Baptist Health invested more than \$1 million in phase one for the uniforms and patient garments in its commitment to safety and the brand promise of "Changing Health Care for Good." Baptist Health plans to roll out patient apparel featuring the same technology in September.



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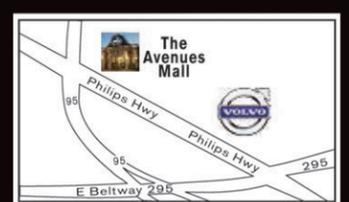
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Social REGISTER Pine Castle 17th annual golf classic

Pine Castle's 17th Annual "Independence Golf Classic", presented by 121 Financial Credit Union, was held July 14 at Deerwood Country Club.

Since its beginning in 1997, the Independence Golf Classic has raised over \$1,000,000, which supports the long-term success of Pine Castle's vocational and life skills training, job development and coaching, a seniors' program, and long-term residential care.

"As we celebrate over 60 years of Pine Castle's service to the Jacksonville community and surrounding counties, we look back on a time when people with disabilities weren't fully a part of society, and there were no educational or employment services available to them," said Jonathan May, executive director. "Consistent community support for programs which assist citizens with disabilities demonstrates that today, everyone matters."

The tournament's Awards Luncheon, sponsored by Sam's Clubs of Jacksonville, provided an important opportunity to honor Publix, Chartwells Thompson, Service Solutions and Goodwill of North Florida,



First Place Gross Division: Alan Henderson, Karisa Akin, Jeff Wyatt, Clay Churchill, representing the tournament sponsor, Jason Hyrne and Jeff Wyatt of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

four area companies that have partnered with Pine Castle and demonstrated leadership in the creation of job opportunities within our community for those with disabilities. Pine Castle's Community Employment Program has provided qualified



Pine Castle Executive Director Jonathan May, Publix employee Curtis McMakin, Pine Castle Job Coach Angela Gibson, Publix assistant customer service manager Anna Roberts at the Awards Luncheon, which honored four area companies, including Publix, that partner with Pine Castle

employees and on-the-job training and follow-up services to the business community since 1988.

For more information about Pine Castle's programs and services, call (904) 733-2650 or visit www.pinecastle.org.

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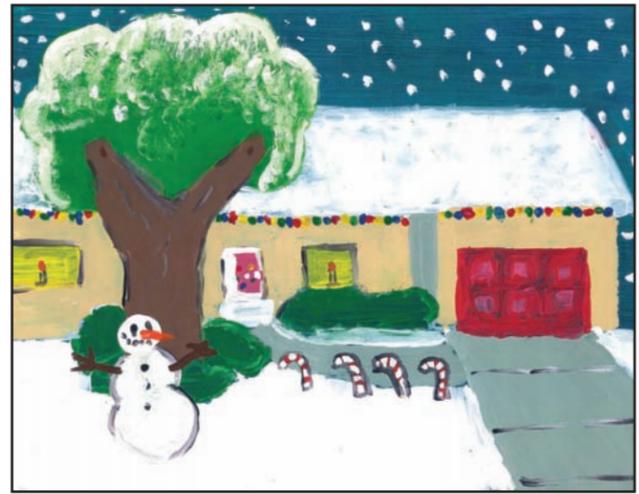
First Coast News' Keitha Nelson, Fidelity National Financial Treasurer Dan Murphy, Regions Bank Advisor Joan Eicher and Sherry Bishop of Harbinger Sign were all on hand to help judge the annual holiday card competition.



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

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

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 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.



Becky Hoch, Allison Vogt, Honey Moore

Women ruled at 9th annual

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 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.

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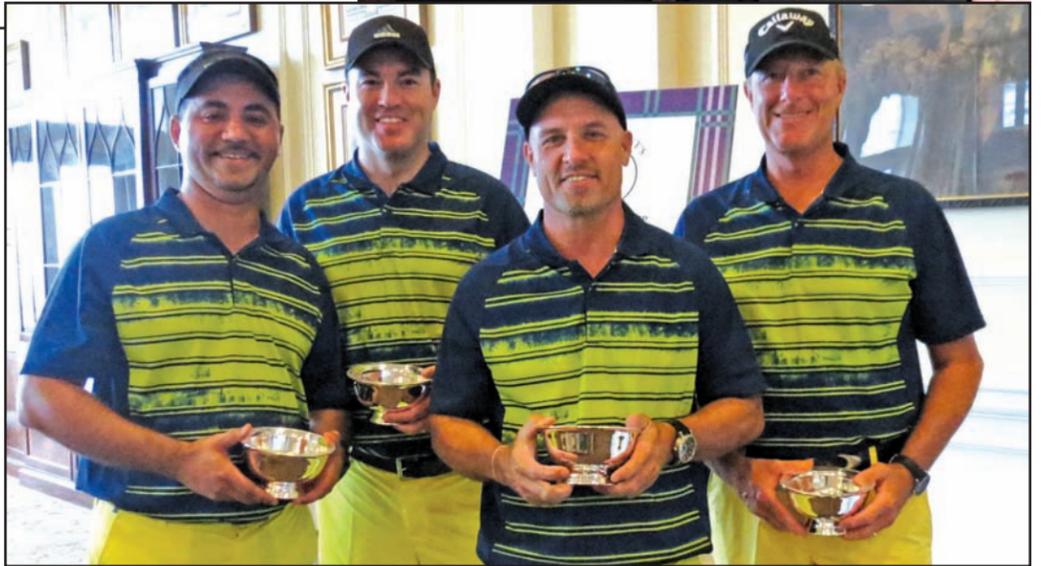
Attorneys and guests joined Public Defender Matt Shirk at The University Club's Cocktails for a Cause on July 11 to support Vision for Excellence Summer Camp.

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.

St. Vincent's Physicians Cup

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.



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



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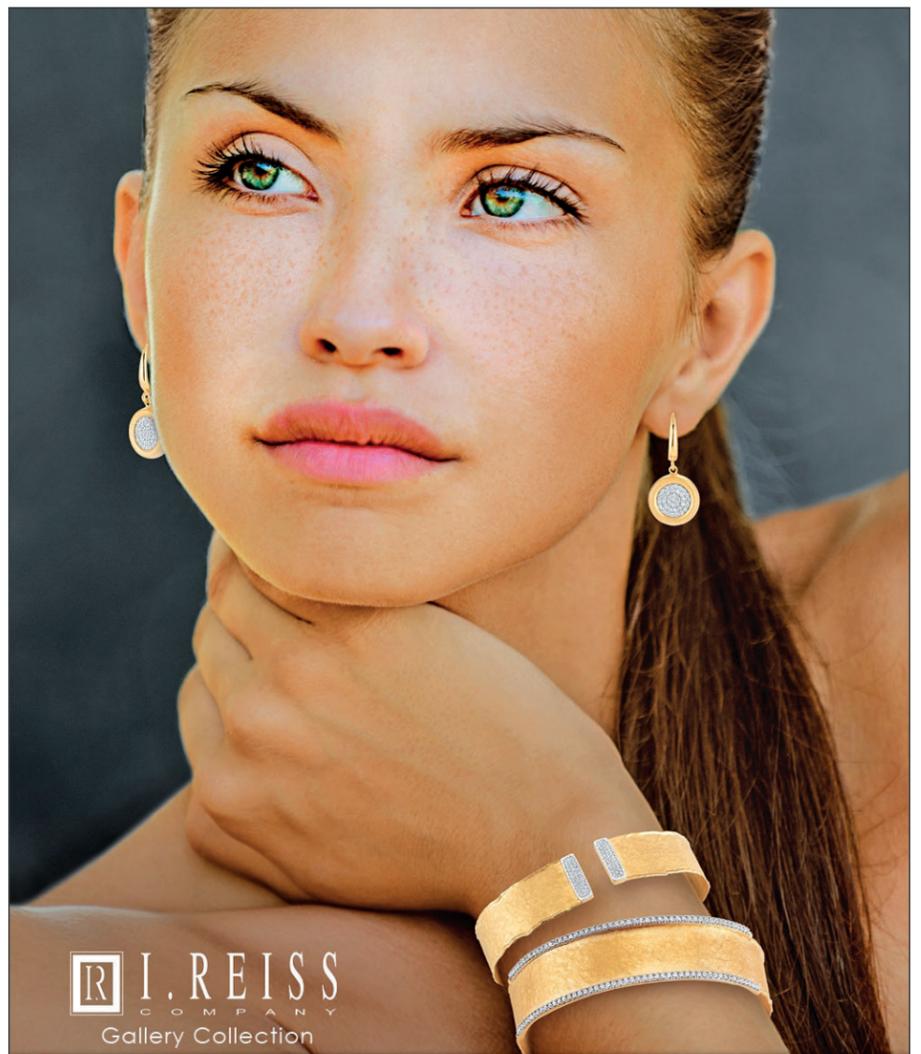
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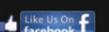


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JU's floating classroom promotes, enables marine biology

BY LORRIE DEFRAK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Starting this fall, Jacksonville University's floating classroom will plow full speed ahead loaded with young scientists studying the St. John's River and the life it supports.

Although dedication of the 48- by 12-foot pontoon laboratory and its new dock made a big splash at JU last January, the boat has been undergoing Coast Guard certifications and other operations in preparation for its full-time launching this coming semester, according to Dr. Quinton White, executive director of the university's Marine Science Research Institute (MSRI). Summer activities include classes and a youth marine camp.

Until now, very few students were able to go on the river to study it at the same time, and they had limited resources.

"We have small boats that hold two to three students, but this will hold 28, so we can take an entire class to do hands-on work on the river, which we have never been able to experience before," said White, who lives in San Jose. "I don't know of other schools that have this."

Built specifically for the MSRI by Trident Pontoons as a nautical classroom and lab, the boat is equipped for trawling, water quality and bottom sampling, observing manatees and dolphins, and various related activities.

Similar to the water taxis that transport people across the St. John's River

downtown, JU's pontoon is identifiable at a distance by its distinctive white and forest green awning, and up close by its sophisticated dredge and other equipment that give area marine science and biology students a significant academic advantage.

The boat's new captain Gary Kirkland compared it to a small barge with a platform so sturdy that students and their instructors are able to do bottom sampling and actually look at freshly caught plankton through microscopes while it is still running. A trawl net and holding areas allow them to catch and study small fish and other animals.

No stranger to the St. John's, Kirkland is retired from the Duval County School System where he most recently taught marine biology and oceanography at Fletcher High School. A former captain of the Annabelle Lee riverboat, he grew up near the Trout River and once kept a boat in Ortega.

White said the MSRI works with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on dolphin research and is very involved in the St. John's River NOAA PORTS (Physical Oceanographic Real Time Sensors) System that is scheduled to be dedicated later this month. The system has sensors at 19 locations – including JU, Southbank Riverwalk and Acosta Bridge – that will provide meteorologic and oceanographic data.

White expressed appreciation for the generosity of donor families that



helped make the dream of a floating classroom a reality. The more than \$500,000 cost of the boat and dock was funded largely by JU alumnus W.C. Gentry and JU trustees Lawrence Kurzius and Chuck Wodehouse. The pontoon is named the Larkin after Kurzius' daughter who was a marine science graduate from JU.

Likely no one is more familiar with the workings of the Larkin than Brooks Busey, JU's go-to guy for maintenance for the floating classroom. Part owner and manager of the Sadler Point Marine Center tucked up under the Roosevelt Boulevard bridge,

Busey commended White for his vision and JU for providing this terrific resource for the City of Jacksonville.

Busey is a former board member of the St. Johns Riverkeeper where his wife, Jennie, works as education director. "This floating classroom is a neat way to get students out on the river and experience the river," he said. "People are not going to care about the river unless they are exposed to it. This serves that purpose."

"It's almost limitless what we can do," said White. "This is a great boat that exceeded our expectations."

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If you've developed a "bucket list" or have a list of things that you absolutely have to try, taking a barefoot cruise with hired crew on sailing catamaran Now and Zen should be one of them. After all, life is a journey – not a destination, so make the most of this amazing opportunity that has come your way.

It's been said that it's never an easy task to surprise a loved one, especially when it's a life-changing milestone and you're seeking the perfect time and place to celebrate the occasion. Looking to pop the big question? Seeking a great way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, yearning to unplug and get away from it all? All options are on the table with Now and Zen, where mere moments become memories etched in imagery, engrained in the senses.

Once aboard the modern, 42-foot Manta catamaran you feel you could be anywhere in the world. City lights appearing at dusk, wild horses grazing the shoreline, dolphins playing under the bow, a drum circle under a full moon – it's all possible. Now and Zen is a safe and secure world cruiser with a spacious beam (21-ft wide) and a stable foundation from which to call home base.

A Now and Zen charter has quickly become Jacksonville's "go to" for a sunset or moonrise cruise excursion. Expanding to a day trip or a weekend or weeklong vacation for families seeking a refuge from the digital age can be custom designed for the experience of your choice and of a lifetime. You could be sailing along the barrier islands of Georgia, snorkeling over the reefs in the Keys, or grilling out under



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Now and Zen is available as a bareboat rental so it is your private boat when you book the trip to make all of your wildest dreams come true. Book Now and Zen for as little as four hours with hired crew (starting at \$400 week days and \$450 weekends for four people and \$50 per additional person max up to 12). Dinner cruises are available (add \$50 per person) with a three-course gourmet meal chosen from a five-star styled menu. Book an overnight, weekend, or week long sailing vacation for parties of 4-6. The possibilities are endless.

Craft your unforgettable sail on Now and Zen by calling to plan your summer escape or fall excursion by reaching out to Ralph, the manager of Now and Zen, at (904) 803-8843 or by email at Ralph@nowandzencharters.com.



Now and Zen Charters have been rated 5 Stars and are one of the Top Excursions on Trip Advisor for Jacksonville.



Now and Zen will be sailing out of Amelia island for the summer and back on the St John's River in September. Visit www.facebook.com/nowandzencharters to see image galleries and videos. For more information go to NowandZenSailingCharters.com.

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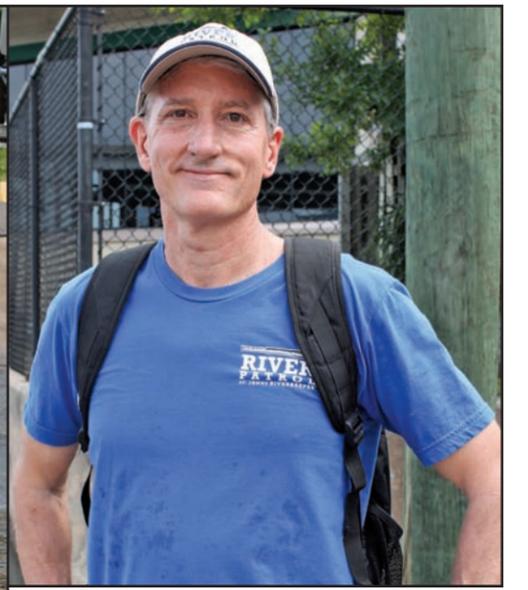
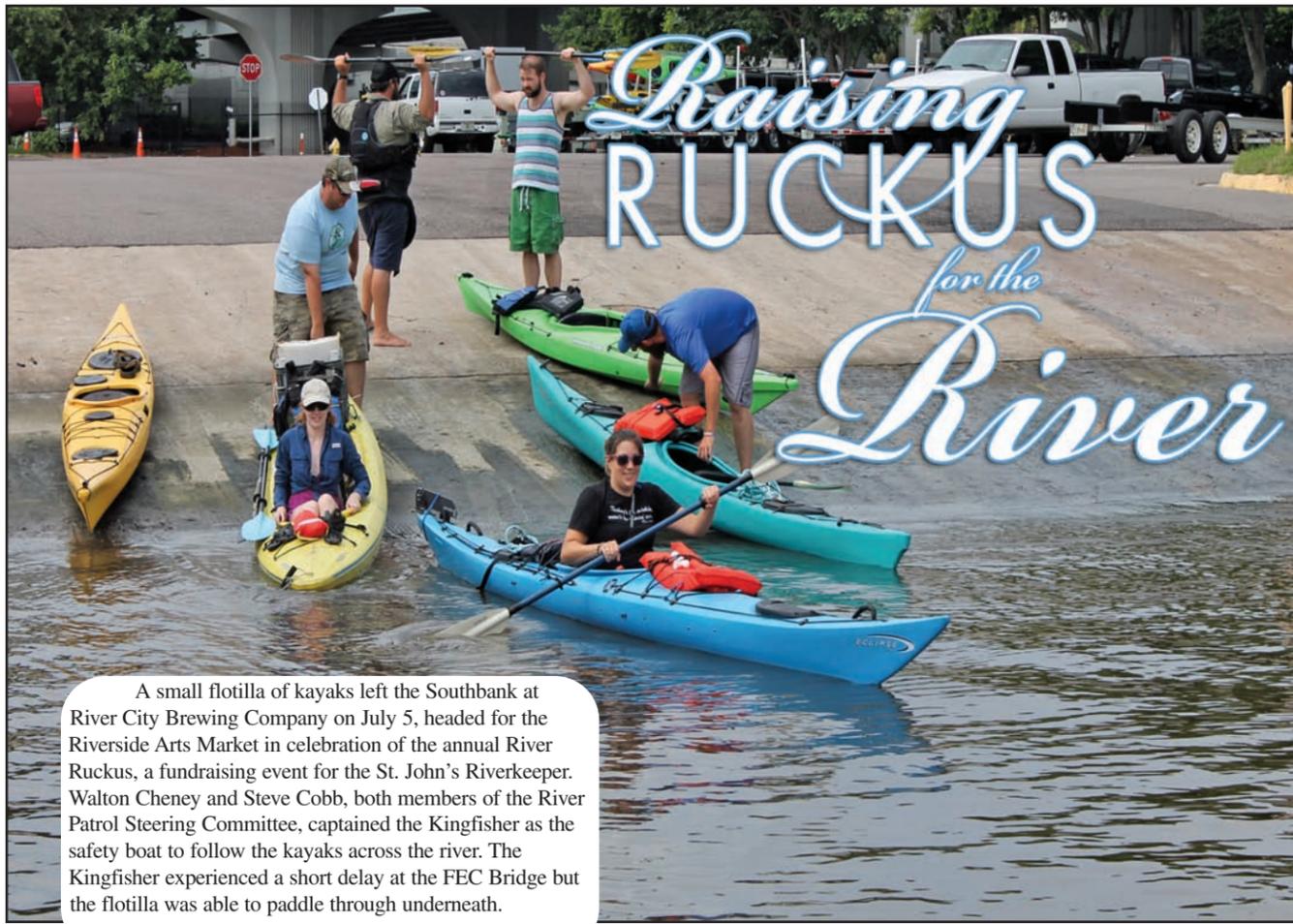
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A volunteer with the St. John's Riverkeeper River Patrol, Steve is one of over 100 people who log two to three hundred hours each month patrolling the St. John's River from Mayport to Julington Creek and Doctor's Lake. The volunteers – the eyes of the river – monitor water quality and habitat conditions, document any problems and report them to appropriate regulatory agencies. A San Marco resident, Steve was a safety observer for the kayak flotilla during the July 5 River Ruckus. A member of the patrol for three years, Steve puts in about 20 hours a month helping to keep the river safe and healthy.

A small flotilla of kayaks left the Southbank at River City Brewing Company on July 5, headed for the Riverside Arts Market in celebration of the annual River Ruckus, a fundraising event for the St. John's Riverkeeper. Walton Cheney and Steve Cobb, both members of the River Patrol Steering Committee, captained the Kingfisher as the safety boat to follow the kayakers across the river. The Kingfisher experienced a short delay at the FEC Bridge but the flotilla was able to paddle through underneath.

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 Tedeshi, 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 ggpfest.com/contest/.

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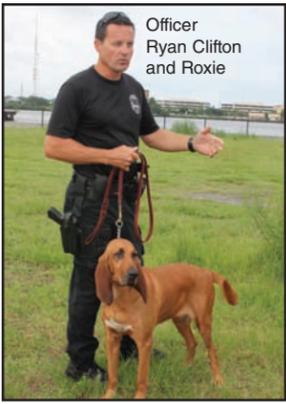
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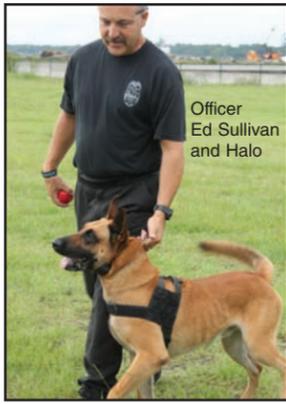
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The game is on for K-9 teams



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 officer 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 counter balance – 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 K-9 dogs are bred in Europe but 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. Officer Sullivan noted there is no one-stop shop. "Bomb dogs do not find narcotics and narcotics dogs do not look for bombs; otherwise the handler wouldn't know what he was dealing with when the dog detects something," he said. "To the dogs it's all a game. Their reward is pleasing, getting their toy, or catching their prey."

Unit Chief Lt. Christian Smith travels to Germany or Holland to carefully choose dogs appropriate for the K-9 purpose. He spends three to four days testing and screening dogs.

"These are not snarling, nasty dogs that people generally associate with police dogs," said Smith, a San Marco resident. "They must have a certain temperament – obedience, intelligence, courage and sociability."

The 20 K-9 officers and 22 dogs on the force train daily; fortunately, the

training sleeve worn in practice has a metal bar as protection from those powerful jaws. When on duty K-9 officers wear a specialized 25-pound vest which is easy to get off but allows for protection – more of a tactical outfit 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" or helps him refocus as needed.

The dog's uniform is a harness. Demonstrations of the bark and hold technique and drug discovery show how frisky and attentive Halo and Officer Wes Bowen's German shepherd Felony are when given an assignment. Both are patrol as well as explosive detecting dogs. 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. Officer Bowen said that he's had outraged civilians ask him how can he just leave his car running when he stops for lunch (wasting gas) or why does he leave his dog inside (with the windows up). He explains patiently that there is a special air conditioner for the dog and a beeper goes off if the car gets above 90 degrees, alerting the officer and activating a fan.

At \$7,000 each and about \$8,000 in training, these canine police officers are deserving of special care but these dogs are not pets. While in service they live outside in large kennels so that "going to work is more appealing.

"They go home with their handlers at the end of their shift and when it's time for retirement around age eight they "live a life of leisure" usually being adopted by their handler (Officer Sullivan adopted five of the six dogs he's had in his 27 years of service). After all, there is a strong bond between the animals and their human 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."

This team is dedicated to its mission – chasing down dangerous felons, locating bombs and drugs, searching for lost children. Perhaps that is why they earned a trifecta of awards – Officer Wes Bowen – 2013 Officer of the Year, Officer Ed Sullivan – 2014 Six Pillars of Character Employee of the Year, and Officer Ryan Clifton – 2014 Corrections Officer of the Year.

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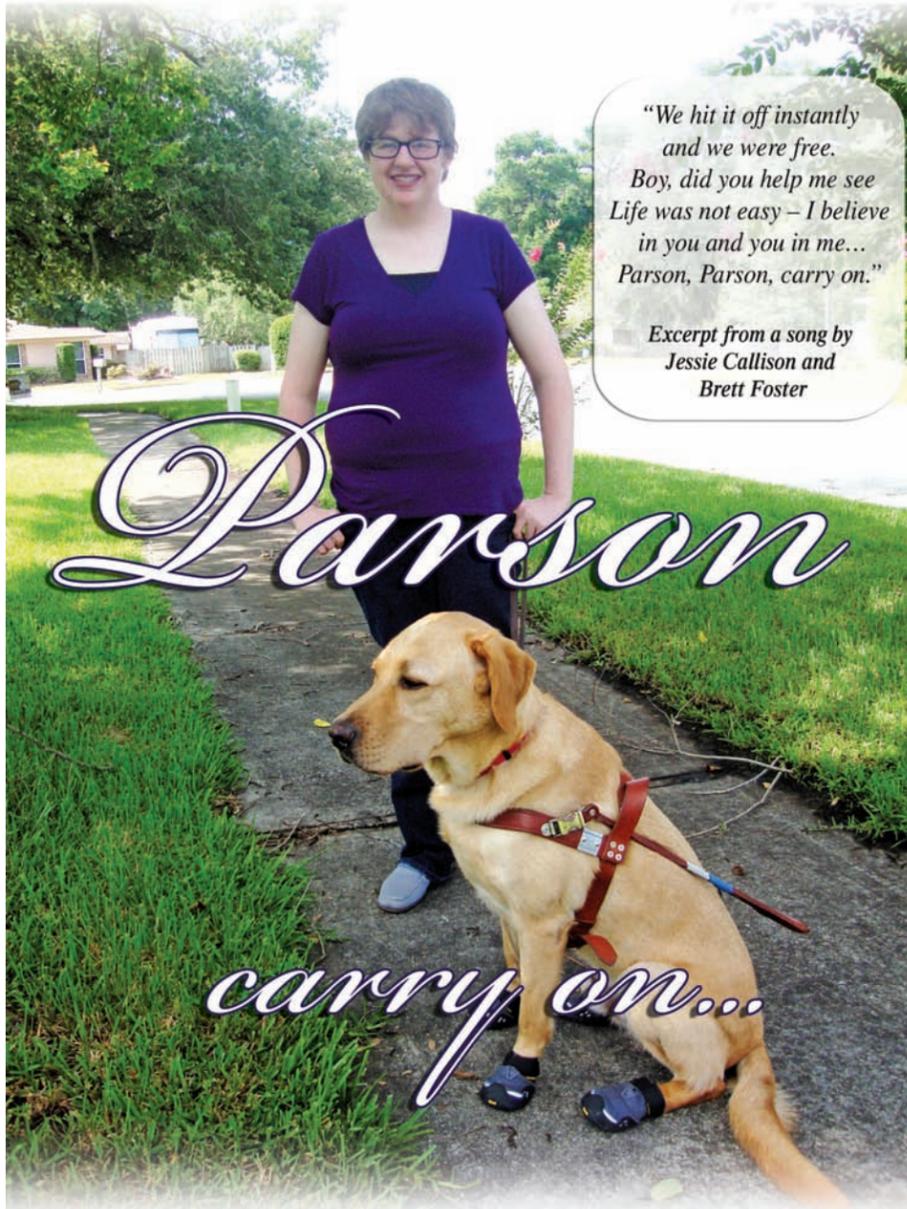
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"We hit it off instantly and we were free. Boy, did you help me see Life was not easy – I believe in you and you in me... Parson, Parson, carry on."

Excerpt from a song by Jessie Callison and Brett Foster

Parson

carry on...

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Nancy and Preston Callison first became aware that something was amiss with daughter Jessie's eyesight at a restaurant. The waiter carefully and quietly slid their plates into place. Everyone was talking and eating as Jessie sat staring straight ahead questioning why she didn't get any dinner. A lack of peripheral vision kept her from seeing that her meal was on the table in front of her. Diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a progressive disease which causes severe vision impairment and blindness at age 14 was a

stunning event for both Jessie and her family.

Preston said, "When we told her the diagnosis and the lack of a cure Jessie stopped talking for two days. Then she walks into the room and says, "When can I get a guide dog?"

This cheerful, forward-looking attitude defines this family. Jessie got her guide dog but not until nine months ago at the age of 26.

As her vision began deteriorating the family investigated possibilities for assistance, and while there are many wonderful training schools, Nancy explains that they chose Guiding Eyes for the Blind in New York because the

school also works with those with developmental or intellectual delays, including having a one-on-one trainer.

Jessie was assigned yellow Lab Parson. She said, "Our bond is really good."

The students and their dogs work from 6 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m. for three weeks. After their 2013 graduation both Jessie, Parson and the trainer flew back to Jacksonville for home training and to introduce Jessie's guide dog to family dog Maddie who, the Callisons explained, tolerates Parson "like an annoying little brother."

When not working, Parson plays and romps like any other dog, sleeping in his crate next to Jessie at night while Maddie sleeps on a mat on the other side. Nancy said, "He is a very well-trained, adorable dog."

So adorable that it's difficult for people to keep their hands off of him. Preston laughed as he said, "When we are coming people usually give a wide berth – it's like the parting of the Red Sea."

Jessie has learned to say "Please do not pet him. He is working." The Callisons see Parson as an ambassador and use him as an opportunity to educate people and raise awareness of disabilities relating that folks are curious but very gracious.

Besides training the dog the entire family had to be trained. The elder Callisons do not give Parson any commands. Jessie is totally in charge of her dog – from daily grooming and play time, reinforcing behaviors and putting on his harness and protective booties when they go out. Florida asphalt is brutally hot and can damage the dog's pads. Wrestling 68-pound Parson into his booties is a job for

petite Jessie. She explains he does not like them and does a hilarious high stepping dance once they are on. But, as soon as he goes outside he is all business and ready to lead.

The family has to change their thinking to work mode also – no touching, looking him in the eye or other distractions. His focus is on Jessie's verbal commands. Amazingly, he has an intuitive understanding of when a given command may be dangerous and will disobey when he senses that.

An incident at the St. John's Town Center showed how that willful disobedience kept Jessie from being struck by a car.

One of Jessie's challenges is to totally trust her dog and not her limited vision. Jessie said, about

having Parson, "I'm more confident. I don't run into things as much. I can walk faster." Nancy explained, "Parson is so well trained he stops at curbs until Jessie gives him the command to move forward; he indicates changes in elevation in sidewalks or alerts her to obstacles. He does get anxious when Jessie has a doctor's appointment and he has to wait for her. We've had to get used to traveling with a dog; that adds an extra layer of complexity."

Jessie said cheerfully, "I am more independent now." She and Parson ride the Connexions bus to have lunch with friends and go to church; by law Parson can go anywhere that Jessie goes.

This positive young woman writes songs, takes guitar lessons, and assists at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church music camp. She is looking for a job and looks forward to the time that she can once again live independently. When life gives you lemons... smile and say, "When do I get a dog?"





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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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Curt and Becky Hamilton adopted Harley from Jacksonville's Animal Care and Protective Services in late 2010. "I was volunteering at the shelter when I first met Harley (then "Sparky"). He had been surrendered during a cruelty investigation. Neighbors called ACPS to complain about an emaciated dog chained next to a garage with no shelter and open wounds on his back. When I first saw him he was scared and skinny," said Becky. "My husband loves Dobermans, so I encouraged him to come down and meet him. It was love at first sight. We signed up to foster Harley while his wounds were healing and in the process decided to make him part of the family, which includes two other cats (Emerson who I found on the side of the on-ramp to I-95 one rainy morning and Stella whom we adopted from ACPS last year) and two dogs (Roxie Mae and Max). Rescuing is far more rewarding than purchasing a pet. Somehow they know that you saved them. The unconditional love they give is immeasurable."



Who 'rescued' who?

Adopted dogs show endless gratitude...



Sam and Faith Price, with their 11-year-old beagle, Oscar, who doesn't pass up on opportunity to christen a bush, according to his owner. The re-homed dog goes everywhere with the Prices, of San Marco.



Helen Ferrell was asked to care for an 8-year-old poodle, for just two weeks, when its former owner was dying in hospice care. It's coming on three years now that Ferrell has had the 12-year-old dog. "She came with the name Fifi and a rhinestone collar, and I thought, 'oh my goodness, I can't have a dog named Fifi with a rhinestone collar,'" said Ferrell. "So I came up with Phoebe, because it sounds similar, and got her a red collar. She was very, very

well trained." Ferrell said that she wasn't an animal person and especially didn't care for poodles, but Phoebe has grown on the 86-year-old San Marco resident. "She has met a need in my life. That feeling of somebody that you're special too, I missed so much. Now I think that if something happened to her, I just couldn't live without Phoebe."

Lucy is a shelter dog twice removed. As a puppy, she was adopted in 2008 from the city animal shelter when it was called Animal Care & Control and located on West 1st Street. She ended up back at the shelter in September of 2013 because her owner, an elderly man, could no longer care for Lucy. "When I first met Lucy, she was in one of the holding wings in the shelter. Lucy was scared and stayed to the back of her kennel when approached. As with many dogs that are surrendered by their



owners, Lucy was scared and depressed," said Jill Mero. "She could not be moved to the adoption wings because she needed some time to come out of her shell. I decided I would take her home to foster her to see if I could make her more adoptable." Mero, of St. Nicholas, ended up adopting Lucy, as is the case with many foster parents. "She has since come out of her shell, and has found her forever home. I know she is one happy dog; however, I am sure she sometimes misses her former owner."



"I would have never guessed that a friendship, a random silent auction purchase and a love for dogs would change my world the way that it did!" said Jen Holdman of San Marco. "Two years ago I attended a fundraising event for G.R.E.A.T. Rescue in an attempt to support a friend who was on their Board of Directors. I never thought twice about a golden retriever or being a foster parent. We already had two adorable Shih Tzus and believed our little family unit was complete."

But Jen and her husband Josh became open to the idea of sharing their home to a dog that needed care, and recently got a call that a senior golden retriever was surrendered and needed a good home to recover from some health issues. "We fell in love with him the moment we saw him," said Holdman. "He was such a good, docile 'old man.'"

CJ became fast friends with the Shih Tzus and take walks together through San Marco Square. "We can't imagine our household without this beautiful golden man...he makes our hearts smile and brings so much joy!"

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Dogs at Work

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Adopted from a shelter when he was just five months old, Shiloh found a welcome home with jewelers Aaron and Jennifer Ramoutar. "We bring Shiloh to work every day at our jewelry store in Lakewood, Elements Jewelry studio," said Jennifer. "Most people love to see him and it is a great ice breaker but he is very large so every once in a while his size just unnerves some people." The Ramoutars don't know what the 8-year-old mixed breed is made of, so it provides a guessing game for folks who see Shiloh. "He loves to sit at the front window and watch people walk and drive by and usually alerts us that someone is here before they have the chance to ring the doorbell. We love having him here with us every day; it makes the day better."



Early Piety's shop cat adopted him. Kitty, as she is called, was part of a nearby group of cats but couldn't stand to be around them, according to Piety. "She just showed up at the shop one day, and comes and goes as she pleases," he said. One well-meaning customer offered to take Kitty home with her but "she brought it back a month later; said Kitty kept beating up on her cats." The 5-year-old feline likes to take naps in open file drawers and lounges around on the counter, greeting customers – or not – as the case may be with a cat.

Dewey runs the show at Beale Marine & Casualty, according to owner John Beale. "Everybody knows him as the greeter," said Beale. "He's got the best employee attendance record in the agency." Dewey hasn't missed a day of work since Beale got the 8-year-old Labradoodle as a puppy. "If he brings you his toy, you know you've passed his inspection." Dewey loves boating and gets highly irritated if he hears the engines crank up and he's not on the boat. Morning regulars at the San Marco Starbucks know Dewey, too. "He's undeniable," said Beale. "He'll win you over."



It's all in a day's work for Nicholas, the nearly 4-year-old golden retriever who serves as shop greeter and delivery inspector at The Write Touch in San Marco Square. Caroline Hawthorne said that St. Nick's fan base comes by so frequently to visit that she posts a "Nick Is In" sign in the shop window. His bed, his box of toys and his bucket for the treats that delivery people bring him are all the big guy needs for a comfortable day at the office.



Cavalier King Charles spaniel Daisy started going to work two years ago when Cameron Naugle took over management of Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services. "Daisy is shy around people she does not know, but our customers just seem to relax when they see her," said Katherine Naugle. "She makes them feel better just being there. I was meeting with a family one time and she just busted right into the room and demanded to be petted. The family got tickled at her."

Rock Star splits his duties at Miriam's Jewelry on San Marco Square, serving as both customer greeter and security. "He's good around kids," said store manager Joshua. The 90-lb. German shepherd has come to work in the shop since Miriam Alexander bought him from a breeder in Russia two years ago.

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Seniors Dogs

Wise beyond their years...

Goldie makes rounds at River Garden, starting her working day with daily clients in the Adult Day Care Program. The golden retriever accompanies owner Lisa Poremba, who is also the facility's director of life enrichment. Elizabeth, a regular client, said "Goldie just loves the cookies I bring her." Resident Cecile Hawkins is next on Goldie's rounds. "I look forward to her surprising me in the morning," said Hawkins, who lives around the corner from Roz Melker. "She makes my day and I love feeding her a little bag of nosh when she stops in." Melker said. First floor rounds complete, Goldie heads up to the second floor where she is the center of attention in the Memory Care Unit. Many of River Garden's residents, visiting family members and staff have become Goldie's extended family. "Naturally, Goldie thoroughly enjoys the extra pats, belly rubs and, of course, we can't forget the cookies!" said Poremba.



Ask a Vet

Q. I have a little house dog that only goes outside to be walked and play. With the amount of mosquitoes outside, do I need to have him on heartworm preventative?

A. According to Sandy Golding, Director of Development, St. Francis Animal Hospital, "The answer is absolutely 'Yes'." In Florida, you need to keep your dog on heartworm preventative at all times. Unfortunately, heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes and Florida's year-round warm climate makes this a high-risk area for dogs to be infected with heartworms. Your dog may not go outside for very long, but he could still be bitten by a mosquito in the short amount of time he is outside. Furthermore, mosquitoes can get into your home and can bite your dog while he is inside. Once a dog is infected with heartworms, treatment is a long process that is very difficult on the dog and extremely expensive. Treatment can take up to three months, during which time your dog's activity must be restricted to prevent complications or death. Additionally, the heartworm treatment medication used to kill the heartworms can make your dog feel very bad."

Taylor Manor residents a soft touch for puppy dog eyes



Jimmy Baughman holds pet therapy dog Vinnie, a poodle-Papillion mix

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When Vinnie walks in the door, he's wiggling and wagging in anticipation of being placed in a resident's lap for some love and affection. The four-year-old poodle-Papillion mix is a star at the Taylor Manor Assisted Living Facility and his fan club waits for his bi-weekly visits.

The Pet-A-Pup Program, under the facility's longtime collaborative with the K-9 Obedience Club pet therapy training program, was initiated in 2003 by Kathleen Wilkes-Pierce, Activity Director/Volunteer Coordinator.

"I currently have over 10 pet therapy teams coming here on a weekly basis, much to the utter delight of our

residents," said Wilkes-Pierce. "The day is bright and beautiful for our residents when the pet therapy team walks in our front doors each morning or afternoon."

Pet-A-Pup and similar programs at assisted living and senior living facilities across the country know the value of taking dogs for regular visits to seniors who can't have a pet of their own. Even residents who have not had pets since childhood look forward to their time with lap dogs such as Vinnie, or larger breeds such as golden retrievers, standard poodles or even Afghan hounds.

"Sometimes the residents are apprehensive about the larger dogs, but once those golden retrievers put their heads on the laps and look at them with those large eyes, the residents just melt," said Wilkes-Pierce.

The owners, like Vinnie's Mary Hamm, become friends with the residents.

"We visit every two weeks. Depending on the resident, I usually spend five to ten, sometimes 15 minutes if we get into a good conversation," said Hamm. "The way that people react to him makes me smile. They want to keep Vinnie in their rooms."

But Vinnie has a job to do and he knows it.

"Vinnie knows his routine. When he gets here, he says hello to whoever is in the lobby, and then he's ready to go on his rounds," Hamm explained. "He knows which room to go to and stops at the door."



Vinnie loves Marty Reynolds and gives her kisses

Former San Marco residents Jimmy Baughman, Marty Reynolds and Jeannette Mayo make a point to be in the Taylor Manor lobby or a common area when they know that Vinnie is coming.

"It means a lot. It makes my day," Reynolds said as Vinnie gave her a doggy kiss. "He's a sweet as can be; I love him very much. I think he does like me okay."

Taylor Manor Assisted Living Facility on Chester Avenue is also where the K-9 Obedience Pet Therapy Class goes for its initial training in an assisted living facility.

"A trainer would bring each class to Taylor for an evening to determine if the dogs are too hyper," said Wilkes-Pierce. "Then all the residents come to the dogs' graduation ceremony; they all get diplomas and some owners

even bring mortarboards for their dogs."

Wilkes-Pierce continued, "All of the dogs that come here love their service. It's therapy, but it also kindles a true friendship. When residents pass away, sometimes it takes the dogs several months to get over it."

The dog owners also benefit from the service. "The residents will start talking to me about the

"All of the dogs that come here love their service. It's therapy, but it also kindles a true friendship."
KATHLEEN WILKES-PIERCE

I just love that," said Hamm, who knew Vinnie was cut out for pet therapy from the moment she saw how people responded to him. "Some of the residents don't even talk much but when the dog comes around they just come alive. From the day I got him, I knew he was really special."

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The Way We Were

ARNOLD CORR

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“Hi, I’m Arnold. Will you marry me?” With those words to a young red-headed girl with green eyes, Arnold Corr changed his life. “Her name was Sue Brennan and it took me about two hours to get an answer from her, but she said yes,” recalled the 88-year-old San Marco resident who lost his beloved Sue two years ago after 65 years of marriage.

Arnold and Sue had never laid eyes on one another until that fateful day when he walked into a room, saw her sitting on a chair, and asked her to marry him. It was 1942. She was 16 years old. At 17, Arnold had just enlisted in the Navy and was set to be deployed the next day. Before they parted, Arnold made a serious vow to Sue: “If you’re with anybody when I come back, I will not kill him, but he’ll wish he were dead.”

Sue waited for Arnold to return from the South Pacific, where the Navy had him classified as a baker, but he was actually doing underwater demolition. “They still have me classified as a baker and I’ve talked to them about it and asked them to change the classification, but they won’t do it,” Arnold said. “The truth is the truth, though. There were few records of what we did

in the South Pacific. We were the first Navy Seals and we went where we were assigned.”

Arnold finished the war in Okinawa. He received many letters from Sue while at war, and one of them held a photograph of her posing in a two-piece bathing suit. “I saw that picture and I knew there was no way anyone could kill me,” said Arnold. “I was

going home to that beautiful redhead!”

They were married on June 26, 1947 and lived happily ever after as far as Arnold is concerned. “My redhead was my life,” he recalled, eyes misting over as he spoke of his late wife. “She could sing and dance and write and draw and cook

– she was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother – everyone loved my Sue – everyone!”

Arnold and Sue Corr moved to Jacksonville about 20 years ago at the urging of their daughter, Marcia Luettchau, a Guidance Counselor at Dupont Middle School, after long and productive lives in Boston, New Jersey and New York. They moved into Baptist Towers in San Marco several years ago and for five of those years, Sue was completely bedridden and Arnold was her loving caregiver. When she passed away, Sue was survived by her daughters Marcia Luettchau of Jacksonville and Laura Latshaw of Philadelphia, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and, of course, her grieving husband Arnold, who carries six photos of Sue in his wallet and takes them out to gaze at them daily.

A longtime member of Congregation Ahavath Chesed on San Jose Blvd., Arnold has turned to God for help in filling his life now that his beautiful redhead has departed. “Our holy book, the Torah, tells us that Jewish people are supposed to help all people, and that’s what I’ve always done, but now I’m doing even more of it,” he said. Arnold volunteers five days a week for at least four hours a day. On Mondays and Fridays, he works at the Humane Society. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, he’s at River Garden Nursing Home, and on Wednesday, he works at Ronald McDonald House. On May 6, the Humane Society celebrated Arnold’s 88th birthday with a party and a cake, and featured him in a special printed bulletin with photographs of him surrounded by the ladies in the thrift store.

Printed matter and photographs mean a great deal to Arnold, as is immediately evident upon entering his studio apartment at Baptist Towers. Every wall and surface is covered with memorabilia, some of it quite impressive. There is a letter from President Harry Truman congratulating Arnold for his service to his country, there is a colorful anniversary poster board celebrating 65 years of wedded bliss, there is a photograph of his granddaughter, Attorney and Navy Captain Alison Latshaw, a photograph of Arnold hold-



ing his great-grandson, Scotty Latshaw, and a Certificate of Appreciation, with a photo of Dorothy Townsend and Arnold Corr, thanking him for participating in Black History Month at Baptist Towers. One of his most treasured mementos is a framed composition of a congressional award presentation when he was honored by Congressman Ander Crenshaw for his service in World War II. Posing proudly next to that treasure, Arnold wears several symbols of love and service to mankind, including his WWII Veteran’s Cap, his Jewish Chai (Life) symbol, his 50-year-old Masonic ring, and his Humane Society T-shirt. Grinning, Arnold straightened his shoulders and flexed his muscles.

“I still work out with weights and run three miles every day,” he noted. “An old guy has to keep in shape and I learned in Okinawa the difference between the martial arts they teach in our military (defensive) and the real thing (offensive).” Old guy, indeed, Arnold Corr is a true American hero who renews his strength physically by working out and spiritually by praying each Friday evening at Congregation Ahavath Chesed. “I want to help people because that’s what the Torah says we should do, and because of my redhead,” he concluded. “She was a gift from God and now I thank Him for her by helping others.”



Although they both grew up in Rocksbury, Mass. (a suburb of Boston),

mother and grandmother – everyone loved my Sue – everyone!”

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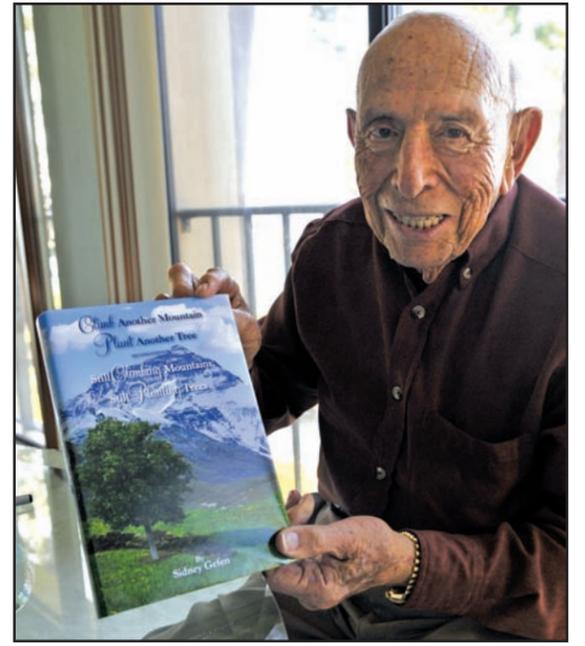
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Businessman shares autobiography

Still Climbing Mountains, Still Planting Trees (the second edition of Sid Gefen's autobiography) is available for residents interested in learning about Jacksonville going back to the World War II era. Author Gefen has made the PDF available as a download at *The Resident's* website. Go to <http://residentnews.net/?p=30059> for a free download.



Flashbacks

The Browards had a dog that roamed the neighborhood and was called the Mayor of San Marco. When the dog died the family placed an obituary notice in the paper. Shown, Robert Broward as a small boy back in the 1930s.

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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Docent program at Cummer a gift 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.”

The docents come from all over Jacksonville. Summers lives in Orange Park.

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 Betsy Towers of Avondale, who is the Provisional Docent Coordinator. “People have to look at it like a job.”

According to San Marco residents David and Pat Balanky, the docent program has opened up a whole new world for them. “We’ve come to see and appreciate this great gift to the community,” said Pat.

“The classes are wonderful for the new docents and they brought us up to a comfortable level pretty quickly,” noted David, a retired criminologist. The couple has been volunteering as docents for eight years next month and was motivated to join the program while in California back in

2004. “In the beginning we were real nervous about whether we were able to carry this off,” added Pat.

“I grew up in Southern California and we went to my 50th high school reunion in 2004,” Pat shared.

“Someone there said ‘You’re the sec-



ond couple from Jacksonville here.’ So I reconnected with Sam and Ann Fuller, who had joined the program as a way of getting to know the community. On their encouragement we went to one class and got hooked.”

One of David’s favorite paintings is Norman Rockwell’s *Waiting to Visit*. “It was offered first to Mayo but because the doctor portrayed in the painting was smoking a cigarette they turned it down,” Pat said. “The Cummer graciously accepted it.”

Although the Balankys joined the Docent Corps together, they usually work separate tours on the same days. “We tour every Tuesday during the school year as well as the Free Tuesdays Highlights Tour once a month,” said Pat. “We get energized being over there.”

David agreed. “It’s a neat experience for me to be doing it. If the children get half as much out of the tour as I do, then they’re really lucky.”

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. “People have to look at it like a job.”

“It’s been a great asset in our lives and has created so much more knowledge; it’s been a great gift to

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 joining the Junior Docent Corps (middle and high school), contact Karl Boecklen at (904) 899-6005.



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Conductor directs parents in summer chamber music concert

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Sunday evening, July 13 free chamber music concert at All Saints Episcopal Church on Hendricks Avenue, the latest in a stellar Summer Concert Series, was a musical joy. The packed sanctuary was treated to 21-year-old conductor/harpsichordist Victor Huls Minke conducting 11 local musicians in a varied classical program. His proud parents, San Marco resident Max Huls, violinist, and Linda Minke, cellist, both Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra (JSO) musicians, were part of the ensemble.

"It was an incredible experience to play with these fine musicians, a mix of JSO, other local professionals and graduate level students. This was my first time producing such a concert and conducting with baton and from the harpsichord, with the goal of creating the perfect flow of music," Victor said. The rising University of Michigan Senior studies cello and conducting and will serve as assistant conductor of the Ann Arbor Camerata this fall. The former Douglas Anderson student and Walnut Hill School of the Arts graduate just returned from teaching at an international El Sistema music seminar in Venezuela.

The program began with the genius of J.S. Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor, with soloist Carolyn Snyder Menke on flute. Then the Italian harpsichord was showcased in the more



modern Trifles Suite by Gordon Jacob, with Menke on flute, Huls, violin, Minke, cello and Victor on harpsichord. Next was the haunting Indian Themes in a Tone Poem by Charles T. Griffes. The finale was the sublime Concerto Grosso in D Major, Op. 6, No. 4 by Arcangelo Corelli, with Huls and Piotr Szewczyk, violinists and Marcy Brenner, concertino. Other musicians were Ilana Kimel, Dayna Osan of Avondale and Joseph Henderson, violinists, Angelo Goderre and Brett Batchelor, violas and Jason Lindsay of Avondale on double bass.

There was a surprise performance by Marcy Brenner who also shared historical background about her rare French-style, seven-stringed bass viola da gamba with movable frets and intricate carved wooden inlay. She played an untitled work by Karl Friedrich Abel and the tune, Tickell, Tickell by Captain Tobias Hume who was a mercenary-pirate when he was not composing or playing his viola da gamba.

The Italian harpsichord made by Paulo Maurice was loaned by Henson Markham, who, with Dr. Michael Mastronicola, All Saints Music Ministry Director, coordinated use of the church sanctuary with its superb acoustics.

"The musicians were superb, really 'on' for this concert and Victor is such a talented young man. The pieces were so clear and beautiful, All Saints has the perfect acoustics for these concerts," Markham said.

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Getting to know you...



Q: As new Head of Upper School, what are your biggest goals for The Episcopal School of Jacksonville?

A: My initial aim is to add to and cultivate further the school culture, which is one of a wholesome and affable community that aspires to serve students during a time of significant transformation in ways that touch upon the intellect and the spirit. The school has historically possessed a rich academic climate, and I hope to work alongside other faculty and administrators to best serve student's needs, particularly with regard to sustaining academic excellence. At the same time, the ongoing focus to sustain a healthy environment for students is very important to me.

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

A: I like to believe empathy, creativity, team-building, diligence and perseverance are some of my assets. I want every constituency to know that I am service minded and eager to work collaboratively. Good

listening is essential to that goal. Episcopal is a community, and the most important skill will be synthesizing the various talents of others already extant in this community toward achieving shared goals.

Q: Do you have pets?

A: We have a three-year-old dog of mixed breed that we rescued from a shelter. He is really my son's dog, and my son wanted to rescue this animal as he really seemed to need special attention. He is a central member of our family now. We are lucky to have landed in an area that is very, very dog friendly.

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

A: We lived here before about 20 years ago. My son was born in Jacksonville. We love the culture and climate of Northeast Florida, and the winters in the North are no dream, particularly this past winter, which was long and cold. I'd rather contend with summer heat than winter cold. I suspect I'm not alone in that.

New preschool director at San Jose Catholic

Gail Baker, founding director of Child's Play Preschool at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, has joined San Jose Catholic School as director of the Early Learning pre-school program. In addition to Baker's 15 years at Child's Play, she was a pre-kindergarten teacher for 19 years.

"My life is devoted to making a difference in education," said Baker. "I enjoy helping children



develop a love for learning. Even the youngest child can be taught to become an active and enthusiastic learner through age-appropriate developmental play, in a loving and Christian environment."

The Early Learning program is expanding and will offer a two-year-old pre-K class. Families will be able to choose a two-day, three-day or five-day program, any of which provide for a smooth transition to kindergarten.

Bolles, tennis director partner with JTCC

The Bolles School recently announced a partnership with Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC), under the continued leadership of Director of Tennis Brian Gottfried.

After spending 13 years playing on the ATP Tour, Gottfried joined Bolles over a year ago and is now partnering with one of the elite groups in tennis. Founded in College Park, Maryland in 1999, JTCC is committed to providing world-class tennis programming alongside quality education and character development.

"Partnering with JTCC allows Bolles Tennis to continue its growth into a comprehensive training program with the goal of helping students achieve athletic and aca-

demie success, while developing strong character and leadership skills," Gottfried said.

JTCC uses tennis as a vehicle to develop champions with the highest standards of fair play on and off the court, providing a pathway from their introduction to the game to top-tier collegiate and professional competition. JTCC participants have won more than 50 national and international junior championships and continue to excel at the intercollegiate and professional level. In 2013, 38 students earned Top 50 rankings in various age groups including six players who were ranked in the Top 50 in all four junior age groups. In total, JTCC players have earned Top 50 rankings 80 times.



Bishop Kenny hosts hands-on creative camp

Area middle school age campers spent a week at Bishop Kenny CampUs in a challenging, hands-on creative camp opportunity. During the week campers participated in activities including Wacky Wild Science, Musical Extravaganza, A Taste of Art, Multi-Media, and Kids Cuisine.

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Jr. Residents Local teens perform in, work on musical FAME

Three students from San Marco – Asha Printup, Jacob Sims and Cheyenne Shrader – and three from San Jose – Keeley Doski, Katie Montana and Allyson Harvey – had the opportunity of a lifetime this summer. They participated in the 9th Annual High School Summer Musical Theatre Experience, a program where local students work with theatre professionals to put on FAME – The Musical, here in Jacksonville at the Wilson Center.

The Resident had a few questions for the students about their experience.

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

Doski (will be a junior at Duval Charter High School): Working with professional directors and technicians is the best opportunity, I believe, a young high school actor can have. After all that the crew has taught and done for me this summer, I feel like I could've just been on Broadway. It means the world to me to be working with professionals, especially knowing that they chose me to be in their five-star show.

Montana (a Bishop Kenny sophomore this fall): Training with professional directors and technicians has been absolutely wonderful! Getting to learn from professionals is a rare opportunity that I am so glad to have.

Printup (a junior this fall at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts): It's an amazing experience! I learn new things each day. Working with them makes me feel like a stronger singer, actor, and dancer from all the things that I've learned.

Sims (a sophomore at DA): Training with these professional directors/technicians has showed a glimpse of what I might be like when I'm older. I have learned so much from them and have taken away new and fresh ideas that will help carry me through this profession.

Shrader (just graduated from DA): It's an absolutely incredible experience to have. It is what made me realize that this isn't just something I want to do for fun, but as a serious profession and for the rest of my life.



Harvey (will be a sophomore at Stanton College Prep School): Training with professional technicians, for me, means I get to learn and get questions answered about a career field I wish to pursue.

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

Doski: I believe I do, in some ways. Ever since I was very little, I've always wanted to be an actor. Whether there is a live audience, camera crew, or otherwise. So in many ways I would be like Serena. Just wanting to feel the rush of everyone knowing I'm here, that I'm important too. And ultimately live forever.

Montana: Yes! I can relate to this musical very well. In the show, all the students are extremely passionate about the performing arts, as am I.

Printup: Definitely, I am a high school student that attends a

performing arts school. The musical reminds me a lot of my everyday life.

Sims: Since I go to an arts school, I would say that I pretty much live the musical Fame. All the overdone stereotypes in Fame are all true for every type of arts group.

Shrader: I just graduated from an arts-centered high school, so there are definitely a lot of things I can relate to within the play. Especially when the students in the play talk about the feeling of finally being done with high school and moving into their future.

Harvey: I'm a high school student and attend a school where the arts are a big part of the school and student body.

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

Doski: I do, eventually, plan on pursuing a theatre career. But only after I have finished college.

Montana: Definitely. Acting has been a huge part of my life for years, and I would love to pursue a career in the field.

Printup: Absolutely, performing makes me life so much better and I would love to pursue a career in the performing arts.

Sims: It's never too early to decide anything, I would love to make a career out of this craft; it's my dream to be on Broadway or become a well-known director.

Shrader: Yes, I will be attending University of Central Florida in the fall for Stage Management and plan to be a stage manager as a full time career after I finish school.

Harvey: I plan pursue a career in theater or anything involving the performing arts.

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

Doski: My favorite song/dance from FAME is "Junior Festival" because I get to dance the Flamenco.

Montana: "Hard Work" is my favorite number in the musical because of the excitement and fun of the song.

Printup: "Think of Meryl Streep" is my favorite song in the show because it really focuses on getting in touch with your emotions.

Sims: My favorite song in this show is without a doubt, "Bring On Tomorrow," because it shows this deep connection between Carmen and Schlomo that is created through music.

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YMCA to help school arts programs

To help supplement arts programs at local schools, the YMCA of Florida's First Coast will collect art supplies in August. The drive – I Heart Art – encourages community members to drop off new, packaged art supplies at any First Coast YMCA, Community First Credit Unions, and First Coast Honda Dealers. Community First Credit Union will also be accepting monetary donations for I Heart Art at any of its locations.

The Y is asking for crayons, markers, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, construction paper, glue and more to help support arts enrichment activities in local Y programs and schools. As a thank you for a donation, the joining fee will be waived for anyone who becomes a Y member during the drive, which runs Aug. 2-25.

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San Marco Girl Scout develops YouTube series about museum artifacts

San Marco resident Regan Foote has a vision to help people understand the importance of museums and what they offer. One video at a time, Foote is teaching others about the treasures within museums.

In her trailer, Foote informs viewers that "I love museums and I want to spread the love for museums to all you guys because they are just a fantastic way to learn."

A member of Girl Scout Troop 531 and a rising junior at Stanton College Preparatory School, Foote is currently working on her Gold Award project, a YouTube channel with videos promoting museum awareness. The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn, and is composed of a long lasting and meaningful project that betters the community and the world.

Foote has long had an interest in education and museums, and addresses both topics in her project. Her videos provide educational content about various museum

artifacts and exhibits, including segments on Rubik's Cube, Dorothy's Ruby Slippers, and The Megalodon, among others.

This project is also expanding YouTube's educational content in general, which has become a helpful and enriching tool for both teachers and students. Foote hopes to create interesting and intriguing content that will entertain younger viewers. She understands that many students may not enjoy conventional teaching methods, which is why she has taken on this project and created a solution to this issue. As of June, her videos have been viewed over 2,000 times.

The reach of Foote's project is greatly improved when people "like" her videos and "subscribe" to her channel, youtube.com/quickcurator. The more people that watch and share her videos, the greater the impact she makes on the community.



Lemonade for a Cause



Dana Germaine holding Ansley, 3, Abby and Ellie Germaine (ages 8 and 10), and their best friend, Caroline Posgay, 11, selling lemonade to raise money for the Shangalia orphanage in Nairobi and for Heshima, a special project to save women and girls in Kenya. The Germaine family traveled to Africa on a mission trip to the orphanage last month.

Summer campers loving the learning

Summer started off with a bang at San Jose Episcopal Day School, with students and friends returning to campus for a wide variety of specialty camps. Sporty types enjoyed outdoor activities such as flag football, Team Playball, volleyball and archery. Art, Camp Yummy and an American Girl Doll book club were popular choices among creative campers, while the youngest campers participated in age-appropriate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities. For the mad scientists, LEGO robotics, video game design and chemical engineering were cool ways to spend hot days. Campers also enjoyed field trips to Sally Corporation, JAXEX at Craig Airport and Peterbrooke Chocolatier, as well as visits from Jacksonville Fire and Rescue and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.



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