



*Nemours Evening
of Promise*

See Social Register, P. 18

Veronica Scott-Fulton,
VP of Operations
and Patient Care
Services, Wolfson
Children's Hospital,
and Dwight Fulton

Back to School

Teddy Fountain proudly sports his "First Day of Preschool" certificate at San Jose Catholic School, after his first library class of the year. "I love my school," said Teddy. "It's my favorite place on the planet!"



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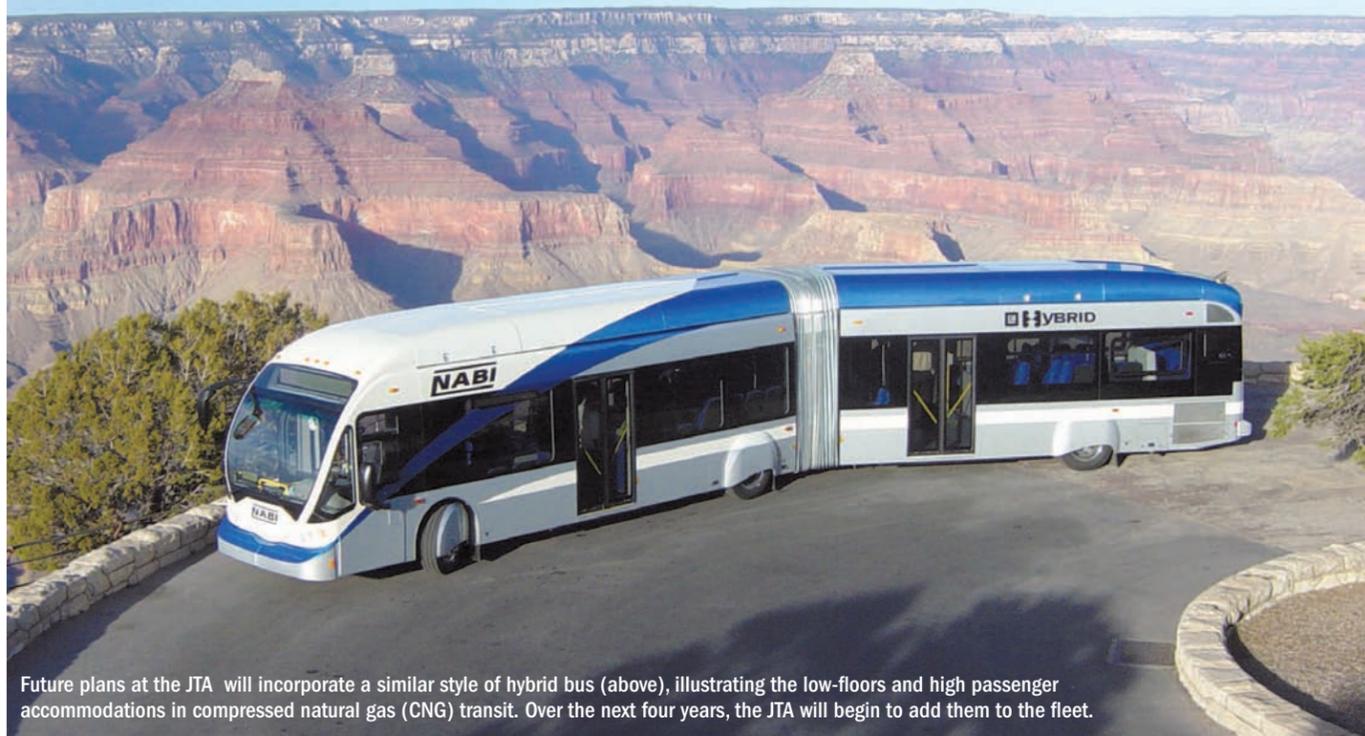
Fiercely Local News

Vol. 7 • Issue 5

Fiercely Loyal Readers

Big changes in store for JTA, riders

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News



Future plans at the JTA will incorporate a similar style of hybrid bus (above), illustrating the low-floors and high passenger accommodations in compressed natural gas (CNG) transit. Over the next four years, the JTA will begin to add them to the fleet.

Change is rough any time, but even more so when one is used to 30 years of the same routine. Or, in this case, the same route.

That's what riders of the Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) are facing as the agency moves closer and closer to its Dec. 1 launch of Route Optimization. Several public hearings over the summer revealed that bus riders, whether regular or infrequent passengers, are fearful of losing their bus stop or even their route.

Public relations manager Leigh Ann Rassler, a relative newcomer to the JTA, has been working double time to help communicate about a variety of changes that CEO Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. has on his agenda after just 18 months on the job.

"Mr. Ford heard the concerns and started asking questions. He was not pleased with average on-time arrivals and implemented OTTO (On-Time Transit Operations) to improve the frequency of the buses," said Rassler. "Route Optimization will look at every single route to make sure we utilize the resources as best as possible. We need to go back to the core; it's mass transit and we need to be able to provide transportation to the masses."

In addition to Route Optimization, the JTA is introducing a mobile and web app, NextBus, which will help riders determine how close their bus is to its stop. Riders of the Riverside/Avondale Weekend Trolley have already experienced something similar on the first weekend of each month since January using a GPS real time trolley tracker developed by software developer Dylan Phillips, an Avondale resident.

Skyway expansion, maybe

Downtown and urban core transit riders may get another Skyway station if the TIGER [Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery] Discretionary Grant for \$15.1 million [57% federal/43% local share] goes through.

See JTA, Continued on P. 6 —

Real estate moving back to pre-downturn norms

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

For this issue, The Resident took a 10-year look back at residential real estate in the Historic Districts during the month of September, comparing active listings, days on market, number sold and median prices against all of Northeast Florida real estate to see how it stacked up then and now, pre- and post-economic downturn.

During this time, from 2004 to 2013, Historic District homes on the market represented a very small part of the real estate picture. Just four to seven percent of home listings in that 10-year period (a low of 4.4 percent in 2006 to a high of 7.0 percent in 2011 and again in 2013) were found to be in Riverside/Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco/San Jose and St. Nicholas. Condominium

units had a higher representation, ranging from 7.2 percent in 2006 to a high of 12.3 percent in both 2011 and 2013, as a percentage of the total northeast Florida real estate market.

According to Sheron Willson, broker/manager of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, condos sales are holding their own this year and may exceed the 32 units sold in 2013. "The condo inventory has a new opportunity with the marketing of The Beacon Riverside," she said.

Homes and condos diametrically opposed

The number of days an active listing remained on the market prior to sale in the Historic District neighborhoods was, over that 10-year period, lower

than or very close to the average overall, particularly after 2008. Residential homes moved more slowly in 2005 and 2006 taking 10 and 30 percent longer, respectively, to sell in the Historic District than other locations. However, homes have sold 25 to 30 percent more quickly in 2012 and 2013 in our neighborhoods, as compared to the suburbs.

"An established neighborhood may not have as many homes 'under water' as those in other parts of town, where neighborhoods with homes built less than 10 years ago have a higher percentage of short sales than historic neighborhoods," said Wade Griffin, Realtor® with Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty. "Fortunately, short sales have almost worked themselves out of the system with modest price increases over the past few years."

See REAL ESTATE, Continued on P. 9 —

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In Memoriam Raymond William Cohen – 1921-2014

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Raymond Cohen led such a dynamic life his family knows that he and his beautiful tenor voice will never be forgotten. The Jacksonville native's presence is deeply missed within the Jewish community, where he was a revered singer for over 60 years, including choir and countless weddings (his gift to the couples). He was substitute cantor for Jacksonville Jewish Center and volunteered to sing at retirement homes. The multi-talented singer/entertainer, gifted painter and lifelong student was a distinguished gentleman; surely the only private in the Army who had his uniform tailored.

Cohen grew up in Riverside, was an athlete boxer at Andrew Jackson High School and graduated at age 17. He won a music scholarship to the University of Florida but finished at Ringling College of Art & Design and at the Pratt Institute in New York. He sang publicly in operas and musical theatre at the Florida Theatre and Theatre Jacksonville and with Klezmania, a family band.

Cohen's experience as an army draftsman with fine and commercial art training led to a prolific career in advertising and promotions with Cohen Brothers Department Stores (no relation). Increasingly prominent corporate positions led to establishment of his own businesses.

Cohen owned the popular Toy Fair in San Marco near the San Marco Theatre from 1953-1960. He briefly worked for the William Cook Advertising Agency before launching Raymond Cohen Advertising, a thriving business for 20 years. Well into his 80s, he worked as an advertising consultant



and wrote the Ask Geezer column for the Florida Times-Union website.

"Dad never thought of himself as old; he and mother lived life young in spirit. He believed in volunteering...everyone thought he worked at the synagogue, he was there helping out so much. We were planning to open a new business, an adult care center and he was fully involved in the plans and designs," daughter Peggy Organes said.

Cohen sang in a clear voice in choir alongside family until the end of his life, said Cantor Jesse Holzer of the Jewish Community Center. Holzer will always remember meals they shared before choir rehearsals, as Cohen discussed his future dreams and hopes for the choir. Cohen knew what truly mattered in life: sharing one's time and heart with others, Holzer said.

Cohen shared 70-1/2 years with wife Dorothy, the shy, pretty girl in the Women's

Army Air Corp he met in Orlando while both were stationed there. The couple's life on Duke Road in Lakewood centered around their children, Jerry, Peggy and Karen, their faith, his career and music. Their hearts expanded to include spouses, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and extended family.

"He'll be remembered as a deeply religious, ethical, loving man. He never stopped singing to our mother, who we're blessed to have still with us. He sang her the love song from the musical Carousel, *If I Loved You*," Organes said. "...and as they got older, she whispered the words to him. They were each other's love of a lifetime."

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Kol Nidre - Friday, October 3
Family Worship 5:30 p.m.
Evening Worship 8:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur - Saturday, October 4
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Land Swap between JEA, DCPS may benefit residents

Better traffic patterns in the works

By Nancy Lee Bethea
Resident Community News

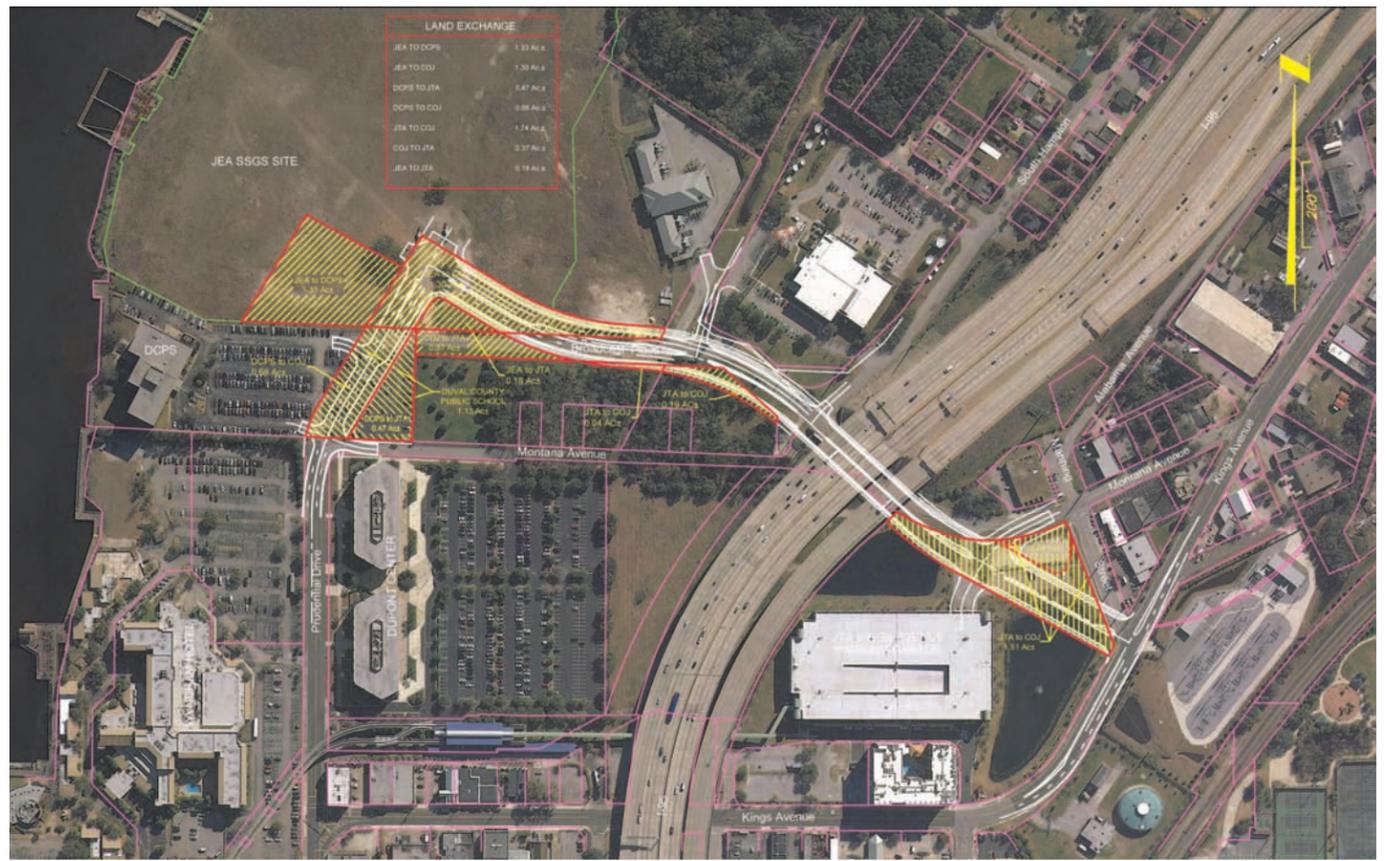
Whether swapping clothes, baseball cards or war stories, humans are inclined to exchange goods and information with each other. On Jacksonville's Southbank, two well-known local entities are swapping land.

The land involved is a 40-acre area east of the offices of Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) and south of the St. John's River. The site is near the former home of the Jacksonville Electric Authority's (JEA) Southside Generating Station, which was designated as a brownfield in July 2001, and decommissioned as a power plant later that year. Brownfields are areas of land once used in commercial or industrial capacities that have potential to be cleaned up and redeveloped, among other things.

In exchange for giving 0.66 acres along Prudential Drive to the City of Jacksonville (COJ) and 0.47 acres to Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), DCPS would receive 1.33 acres of JEA land adjacent to their current parking area at no cost.

JEA, working with other agencies, sees benefit in extending Prudential Drive through DCPS property and potential to replace parking and land area there. "JEA has a pending Request for Proposals issued for purchase of approximately 30 acres of the site," according to Nancy Kilgo, Director of Government Relations at JEA. "The proposal due date [will] likely be posted in September following various agency approvals of a proposed land swap to improve access to the site and the area."

For San Marco residents, the exchange could provide more efficient traffic patterns and improved access along Prudential Drive, Broadcast



Place and Kings Avenue, Kilgo added. At the same time, traffic detours during construction periods could inconvenience local populations.

DCPS Superintendent, Nikolai Vitti, sees benefits to the land swap. "The swap may allow a connecting road between Prudential Drive and JEA's 30-acre riverfront site," Vitti said, "and if JEA approves the swap, 1.33 acres of site would go to DCPS for a replacement parking area."

The swap would also give JEA flexibility in the area and provide DCPS with the same number of parking spaces paid for by JEA, Vitti added.

The proposed improvements involve two separate multi-agency agreements. One agreement, between JEA, DCPS and COJ, was approved by the School Board in early July, Kilgo said. A second agreement between JTA, COJ and JEA was considered in late August.

"Changes or concerns raised by the JTA or JEA boards might delay approval or require changes," Kilgo said, "but the framework has been in

discussion and review by each of the agency staffs, [including DCPS and COJ], for several months."

The Jacksonville City Council will have final say over both agreements.

"Future development of the site that is complementary of area development should be beneficial to Downtown development, improve traffic patterns and provide value to the community," Kilgo added.

Call for News

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 to editor@residentnews.net no later than Oct. 10.

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The National Association of Realtors came out with a report recently that said 50% of all Realtors nationwide did not do a single transaction in the first half of 2014. I wondered how this could be because all the hard working Realtors I know are listing and

selling homes. Business is good. I realized that what this actually means is every other Realtor a person meets is a part time agent who has had no closings in 2014. That is daunting. It doesn't reflect well on me nor does it reflect well on my chosen profession. A word of advice? Ask questions when you speak to the floor agent...

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Southbank Riverwalk delays impeded progress

New water taxi service still hampered

By Nancy Lee Bethea
Resident Community News



Crowds through the Southbank Riverwalk in April 1987

The Southbank Riverwalk's strong sense of place attracts spectators awaiting fireworks on the Fourth of July, runners training for races and couples strolling after dinner dates.

Since its construction in the mid-1980s, the Riverwalk has served Jacksonville as a peaceful spot to pause and enjoy the St. John's River.

Demolished in 2013, the Southbank Riverwalk is now undergoing major surgery. The new and improved Riverwalk is scheduled for completion in February 2015. The walkway will feature structural and cosmetic improvements and stretch east from Friendship Fountain to the offices of Duval County Public Schools.

Making Strides

With a price tag of \$17 million, the reconstruction of the Southbank Riverwalk has been costly in time and money. "The original completion date was pushed back a few months while the City was appropriating funds to extend the Riverwalk to the School Board Building property," Debbie Delgado, Public Communications Officer in the Office of Mayor of Alvin Brown, said.

Even with the five-month delay, the project is making progress. "Concrete pile cap installation and new decking installation has begun," Delgado added.

Initially scheduled to be completed in two phases, the Riverwalk project now consists of tearing down the old and putting up the new, Delgado added. For example, the Jacksonville Maritime Museum and Jacksonville History Center once located at the foot of the Main Street Bridge were demolished in late 2013 to prepare for reconstruction.

Plans for the improved Riverwalk include using over 50,000 feet of colored brick pavers to enhance visual appeal. Guardrails along the new section are another feature. New lighting, shade structures, water fountains, benches, pet stations and more will also be added, according to the City of Jacksonville's website.

Continued on P. 5 —

"The walkway will feature structural and cosmetic improvements and stretch east from Friendship Fountain to the offices of Duval County Public Schools."

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A water taxi crosses the river from a Southbank Riverwalk departure point in April 2001

The new Riverwalk will also be compliant with regulations required by Americans With Disabilities Act.

Water Taxis

Another popular feature of the Southbank Riverwalk is the water taxi service. In August, the U.S. Coast Guard deemed two water taxi vessels ready for operation. The City of Jacksonville re-opened the taxi service on Aug. 8 to coincide with the Jacksonville Jaguars first preseason game.

Ron Hilliard, an Ortega resident, is a water taxi operator with Lakeshore Marine, LLC, the new owner of the transportation service. The taxi crosses the St. John's River between The Jacksonville Landing on the Northbank Riverwalk, and Friendship Fountain and the Wyndham Hotel on the Southbank Riverwalk.

Business was decent the week of the first Jaguars game, Hilliard said, but since then, weekdays have been slow.

"Most of our business is on the Southbank [Riverwalk]," Hilliard said.

Water Taxi Service

Standard hours of operation for the water taxis will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, Saturday and holidays. During football games at EverBank Stadium, the water taxi will begin stopping at Metro Park Marina at least three hours before the start of the game and will continue until three

hours after the end of the game. The water taxi will operate along three pick-up and drop-off points; the Northbank Riverwalk behind the Landing, the Southbank Riverwalk near Friendship Fountain and the Southbank Riverwalk near the Wyndham. Metro Marina will be an additional stop for game days.

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"I worked for the previous owners, and without the Southbank, we just don't have the business we used to. If there's a [football] game, it helps cover what we lose during the week," he added.

Hilliard's job gives him a daily view of Riverwalk construction. Most of the pilings are in place, he said, and the concrete is laid on the fixed part of the structure. "They still haven't finished the floating docks," Hilliard added. Without access to the dock at the Wyndham Hotel property, the taxi service is losing

Southbank business.

The water taxi will pick up and drop off at the floating dock near the Wyndham Hotel and at Friendship Fountain during football season, according to Delgado. When the dock will be completed remains to be seen.

In the meantime, Lakeshore Marine is looking for corporate sponsors and advertisers to help offset operation costs.

"We'll be happy when [the Riverwalk] gets done," Hilliard said.

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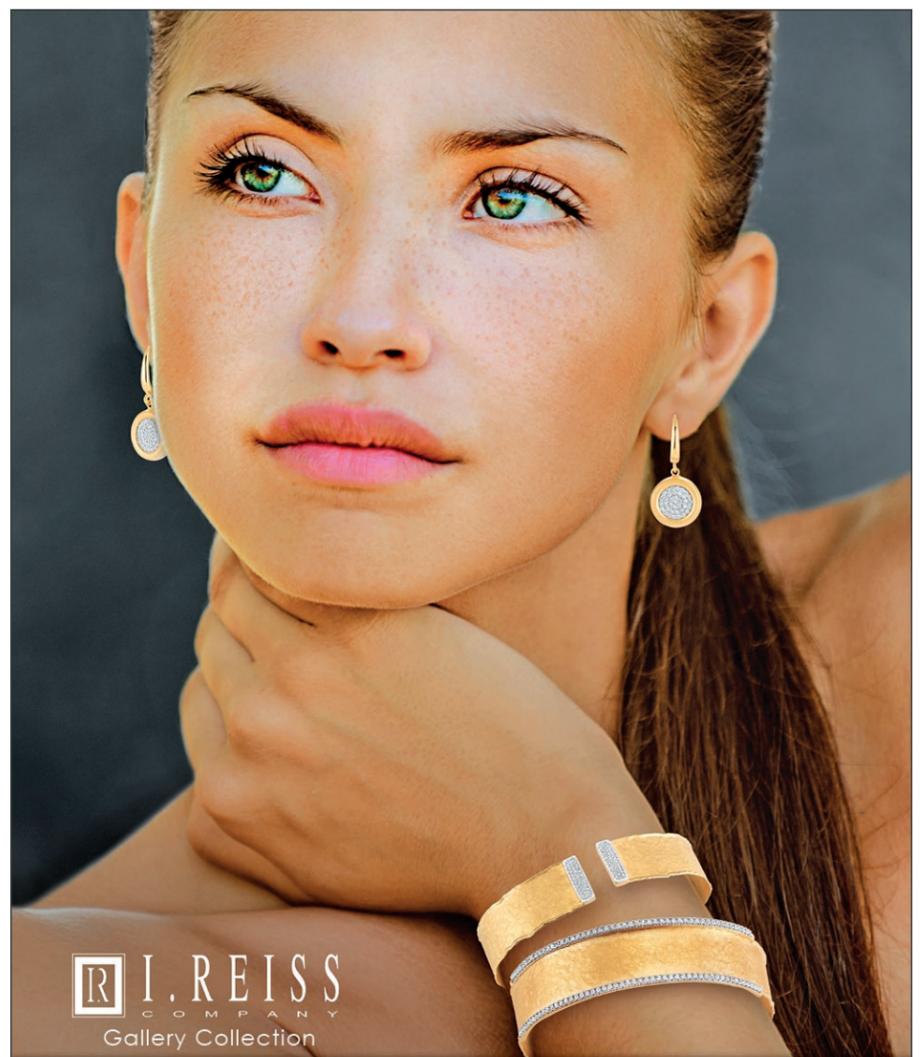
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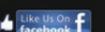


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JTA

Continued from P. 1

“If it’s approved, we’re looking forward to extending the Skyway into Brooklyn, where the new Fresh Market is going in,” said Rassler. “We expect to hear in the next 30 to 60 days. The grants are very competitive but we’re hopeful.”

Rassler did note that the Skyway, now 25 years old, has aged to the point where it’s hard to get parts for the vehicles, casting some doubt on long-term viability. “The future may not be the Skyway as we know it; it may be a hybrid and that’s what we want to look at,” she said. “Where is it the most needed? Where would it have the most ridership and contribute to economic development? We want to look at all the possible spokes off the existing Skyway.”

The JTA recently kicked off a technology study to answer those questions, but it could be up to a year before all the results are known.

Rapid transit downtown

Just last year, shortly after Nat Ford joined the JTA, Southbank residents fought a proposal to put a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lane on Riverplace Blvd. Now, the JTA is looking to break ground this fall on a BRT lane Downtown. Rassler said it will have limited stops, with technology on board that directs traffic signals to “hold to green” to get traffic through much quicker so people can get to their destinations faster.

Speaking of green, the BRT buses will be “green” low-floor buses, running on compressed natural gas. The JTA expects to put 40 such buses into service over a four-year period.

“The future may not be the Skyway as we know it; it may be a hybrid and that’s what we want to look at,” she said.

New JTA offices

Following on the heels of the Route Optimization launch, the JTA is scheduled to move to a building on Atlantic Place in mid-December. The new interim headquarters will include a centralized customer service area on the ground floor, for riders to purchase bus passes or new STAR cards, apply for jobs, ask questions about routes, check for items at Lost and Found.

“We have a five-year lease with an opt-out after four years. When the new Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center is built, we’ll move our interim administrative offices down to that location, which will be built just north of the Convention Center, adjacent to the Skyway,” Rassler said. “That will be the main bus hub and include Greyhound, and hopefully in the future, light commuter rail.”

The administrative offices move will make way on JTA’s operations campus for a CNG fueling and maintenance facility, and the paratransit operations will also move to the operations campus, according to Rassler.



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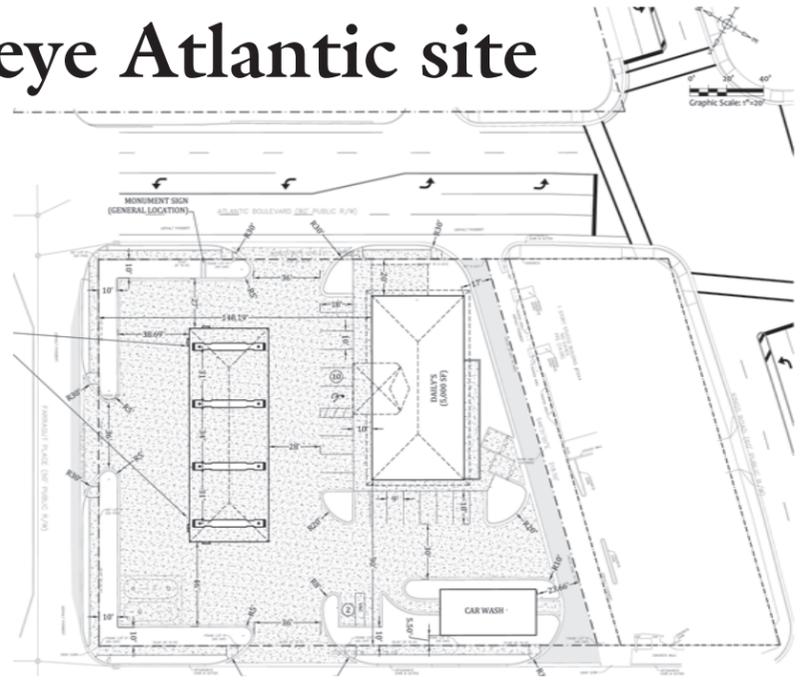
An application (PUD 2014-0543) filed with the City of Jacksonville in early July requests rezoning of property for a future Daily's gas station, convenience store and car wash.

The property, delimited by Atlantic Blvd., Farragut Pl., Olevia St. and an alley behind property on Kings Ave., is owned by Daniel and Cathy Wilensky and Southside Assembly of God, Inc. in District 9, represented by Councilman Warren Jones. Current uses include office buildings, a church with parking lot, a medical office and lot, and single family homes.

The application was first introduced to LUZ on Aug. 12, with a second

reading on Aug. 19 and a referral. First Coast Energy, which owns and operates Daily's, seeks to rezone the property to develop a 5,000 sq. ft. convenience store with fueling stations and freestanding car wash. Access to the station is planned from Atlantic Blvd., Farragut Pl., and Olevia St.; for the store 20 onsite parking spaces are proposed.

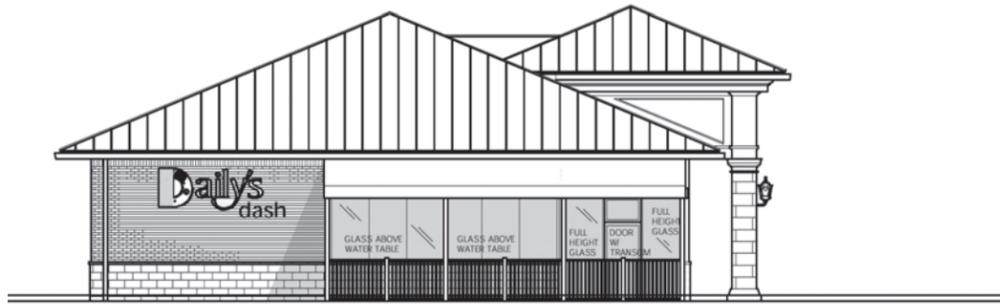
The rezoning application is pending with the City. Significant dates include a Planning Commission hearing on Sept. 4, a public hearing on Sept. 9 and a Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) meeting on Sept. 16.



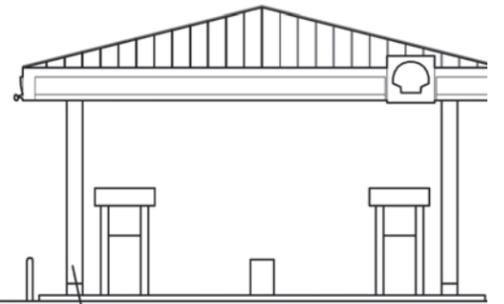
Site plan at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Kings Road.



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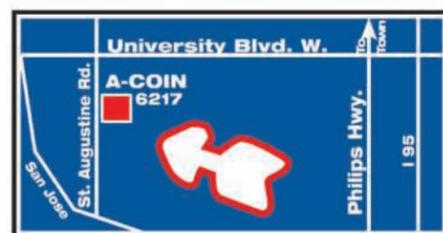
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Legal snipe hunting for illegal signs

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

When it comes to litterbugs, hunting for snipes has a whole new meaning. Contrary to the old practical joke that sends someone on an impossible task, snipe hunts in Jacksonville are the real thing.

According to the Ordinance Code on Zero Tolerance on Litter, a snipe sign is illegal and the person(s) posting snipe signs can be fined. The term is defined to include signs that are tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued or otherwise attached to public property, including trees, utility poles and boxes, benches, shelters and fences.

Snipe signs are considered to be abandoned property if they are placed

without prior consent of the property owner and, as such, may be removed by anyone.

Paul Bremer of Riverside is trained and certified by the City's Code Compliance Division to write citations for illegal signs in the city right-of-ways. "I have been one of those sign volunteers concentrating on Riverside for over two years now, have written four whole books of citations and have appeared at special magistrates hearings many times to defend my citations," Bremer said. "Haven't lost one yet!"

Although Bill and Melody Bishop of San Marco are not officially active in the Sign Volunteer program, they do pick up snipe

signs in the right-of-ways weekly which has helped to reduce the number of snipe signs in the neighborhoods.

"The Sign Volunteers program as it is a worthy endeavor; the City citations' division already has much to do with little to do it with, and perhaps if folks were cited they would be discouraged from this approach of getting their business name on the street literally – and litter-ally," said Melody Bishop.

Bremer also noted that the targeted efforts of Code Enforcement Officers and Sign Volunteers have greatly reduced the number of illegal signs in the city. "Some of the worst offenders have gotten the

message that they are wasting their money putting signs out, but more could still be done if the funding was available. Increasing the fines would both deliver a message and pay for enforcement efforts," he said, regarding the proposed bill 2014-0553, which amends Section 741.107 of the Municipal Code.

Currently one offense results in a \$50 fine, but the bill will amend that first violation to a \$150 fine, the second to \$300 and the offenses thereafter at \$500 each. The bill was introduced Aug. 12 by Council members Denise Lee, Jim Love, John Crescimbeni, Bill Gulliford and Warren Jones.

Real Estate

Continued from P. 1

Condos, in comparison, have almost always moved more quickly, except for 2005, when it took more than twice as long to sell, and 2012 when it took 60 percent longer to sell than in other areas. In 2009, condominium units sold in half the length of time in the Historic Districts, 72 days, compared to 125 days in other parts of northeast Florida.

"Homes and condos closest to the urban core are definitely moving more quickly – 2012-2013 was just the precursor," said Jane Slater, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. "Another trend that is evident in today's market is the "right sizing" by the boomer generation. As the boomers age they are seeking smaller homes with less maintenance but do not want to give up their neighborhoods. Whether they are moving to condos or smaller homes, they are on the move."

A premonition

As we all know, 2008 has been often noted as The Year that the economy took its nosedive. Real estate presaged that period

by two years, with home sales, as a portion of active listings in the Historic Districts, plummeted from 23 percent of all listings in 2004 to 9 percent in 2006 until it bottomed in 2010 at five percent sales of homes listed. Both 2012 and 2013 have seen a comeback to 12 and 13 percent, respectively.

"Our neighborhoods in general tend to be more stable and desirable. We've seen steady growth, without surges apparent in more transient areas," said Jon Singleton, Watson Realty. He also noted that "the appetite for commutes waned during the recession and fueled a desire to be closer to work, school, church, etc.," making urban core living more attractive.

Condo sales as a percent of listings in the Historic Districts peaked in 2005 at 22 percent, then sharply fell to three percent the next year before bottoming out at one percent sales of condos listed in 2007 and 2008. Foretelling, perhaps, the overall upturn beginning in 2012 for homes, condos sales saw resurgence in 2011 with 16 percent sales of active listing.

Willson noted that there has been a continued and very consistent increase in closed business each month this year. "We saw excellent market strength the first few months

of the year, but it has been surprising how consistent the growth has been," she said.

Holding value

No comparative would be complete without looking at median sales prices over the 10-year period. While home prices in the Historic District were relatively the same as in other neighborhoods in northeast Florida for the first half of the 2000s, values jumped sharply in 2007 to 22 percent more than other neighborhoods, immediately falling to the same median prices in 2008. The 2010-2011 period saw another resurgence in pricing, followed again by a dip, this time to five percent below median home prices in 2012. Last September, home sales in the Historic Districts averaged 8 percent more in pricing than other areas.

"While Northeast Florida experienced a sharp decline in home sales in 2008, thankfully we have had steadily increasing levels of closed sales each year since 2009, with 2013 making a very strong rebound and nearly 22,000 homes changed hands," said Linda McMorrow, director of Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. "We are seeing a continuation of that trend in 2014

and expect a strong finish to the year."

Condominium prices in our neighborhoods exploded in 2005, jumping from 83 percent of other areas' median prices to a whopping 200 percent, attributed to condominiums in Riverside selling for an average of \$920,000 that year. That median price dropped to less than \$425,000 one year later and then in 2007 there were no condo sales in Riverside at all. Overall, condo sale prices have been more volatile during the 10-year overview period, settling last year at 50 percent more than the median in northeast Florida.

"Condo activity assuredly is more volatile than single family homes. Obtaining a mortgage for a condominium is more challenging than for a single family home, particularly if the condo is one that is non-warrantable," McMorrow said. "Unlike other mortgages, for a mortgage to be approved for a condo, the condo association has to qualify in addition to the individual borrower. The borrower has little to no control over this aspect of the lending process."

Data was supplied by Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR), however, all conclusions drawn from analysis of the raw data are that of The Resident.



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September Calendar

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Wed., Sept. 3 to Sat., Sept. 6, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

The 13th annual gourmet food and wine benefit for St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation, includes a clean-eating showcase, a celebrity chef luncheon, and the premier food and wine gala to wrap up the four-day event. (904) 308-7338, www.deliciousdestinationsjax.com

Strut Your Mutt

Sat., Sept. 6, Registration starts at 8 a.m. run/walk at 9:30 a.m., Riverside Park, 753 Park Street

Contests include Pet Look-A-Like, Best Kisser, Rescue Runway Fashion Show, and more. The event benefits local animal rescue organizations.

5th Annual Financial Fitness 5K/Fun Run

Sat., Sept. 13, 8 a.m., Fletcher Park

Free fun run at 9 a.m. benefits Duval County Public Schools. To register: www.1stplacesports.com

Faith & Mental Health – A Community Conversation

Sat., Sept. 13, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Road, Zeke Bryant Auditorium

A free Faith & Mental Health Conference sponsored by Baptist Health. Faith

leaders, congregations, mental health professionals, advocates and interested community members are invited to discuss promoting, developing and supporting mental health and ministry through faith communities. For more information call Baptist Health Community Health at (904) 202-3013. To register, go to faithmentalhealthconference.eventbrite.com.

Run for the Arts

Sat., Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m., Bold City Brewery, 2670-7 Roselle St.

Support the Riverside Fine Arts Association during a run/walk event that ends with beverages and live music. To register: www.prsracetiming.com

Fries With That Wine

Thurs., Sept. 18, 6-9 p.m., EverBank Field, Terrace Suite

A variety of wines paired with McDonald's favorites to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. (904) 807-4663, www.rmhjjax.org

4th Annual Remission Rocks

Fri., Sept. 19, 6-11 p.m., River City Brewing, 835 Museum Circle

Kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month and celebrate Bosom Buddies' 26th anniversary at the benefit. Ticket includes drink, appetizers; silent auction and live entertainment. (904) 722-3000

Shindig on the Seine

Fri., Sept. 19, 6-9 p.m., The Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.

Annual benefit and 20th anniversary celebration for Sanctuary on 8th Street features casual fare from Biscottis, Bono's Catering and bluegrass entertainment. (904) 356-3588, www.sanctuaryon8th.org

6th Annual Avondale 5K Classic

Sat., Sept. 20, 8 a.m., begins at The Shoppes of Avondale

Guests at the Shindig on the Seine can run off the previous evening's cuisine at the annual 1-mile fun run and 5K to benefit Sanctuary on 8th Street. (904) 387-2060, www.sanctuaryon8th.org

Toast to the Animals

Sat., Sept. 20, 6:30-10:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency Downtown

Sample hundreds of beers and wines with a variety of gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts to benefit the Jacksonville Humane Society. (904) 725-8766, www.jaxhumane.org

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The scenic two-day ride benefits the Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (904) 332-6810, www.bikems.org

Brides Against Breast Cancer

Sun., Sept. 21, 1-6 p.m., Sheraton Jacksonville, 10605 Deerwood Park Blvd.

Charity wedding gown sale and bridal show benefits children and adults impacted by cancer. www.bridesagainstbreastcancer.org

Dragon Boat Festival

Sat., Sept. 27, Opening Ceremony, 8 a.m., racing 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., The Jacksonville Landing

Dragon boat races, multicultural performances, free family day of fun benefits In the Pink, a nonprofit boutique for women with cancer. (904) 372-0029, jeri@jaxinthepink.net

Festival of Flight

Sat., Sept. 27, 2-6 p.m., Memorial Park, 1620 Riverside Ave.

Food, games, live music and more fun to benefit Angels for Allison

FinFest at Sawgrass

Sat., Oct. 4, 6:30-10:30 p.m., Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa, 1000 PGA Tour Blvd.

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ARTery pARTy

Photo by Jennifer Becker



St. Nicholas resident Kevin Arthur creates a portrait of San Marco resident James Stevens at the ARTery pARTy, held on Aug. 7 at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Stevens was one of 300 attendees who enjoyed fine wine, live performances, delicious food, inspiring art work and a terrific auction as they helped raise over \$10,000 to support the transformation of the Armory (located at 851 North Market St.) into The ARTery, a visual and performing arts center. Visit www.arteryjax.com for more information.

Ballot battle lost, but library friends wage on

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Volunteers for Save Jax Libraries are, understandably, disappointed by voters' narrow rejection of the straw ballot to establish an independent library district to fund the Jacksonville Public Library (JPL).

Approval of the ballot would ask citizens to support the city's libraries through a levy on property tax. The JPL's budget has been cut by over 40 percent in the past nine years, prompting groups like Save Jax Libraries and Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library (FJPL) to push for the library district.

"Today's vote was close and shows that nearly 50% of our county supported a strong library system. While we are disappointed that the straw ballot did not pass this first time, we are pleased with this strong showing. We will continue to push for a vibrant library system and support it in any way we can. Libraries are too important to Jacksonville to discontinue the effort now," said Kevin Hyde, Save Jax Libraries campaign chair.

For nearly a year and a half, many volunteers in the grassroots campaign

manned petition booths at venues all over Jacksonville, including branch libraries, events at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, the Riverside Arts Market and the Duval County Courthouse.

Although the straw ballot was defeated by a margin of just two percent (1,165 votes), Save Jax Libraries could still push for the independent library district, asking City Council to authorize a referendum.

Riverside resident and petition collector Paul Bremer commented "Even with the low primary turnout the result shows there is widespread support for giving the libraries independent funding."

The result could be a property tax levy as high as 1 mill (\$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable property value) to fund the libraries. For supporters of public libraries, that's a small price to pay for access to information and communication services and programs, including computer classes and labs, book clubs, as well as language, reading, homework and research resources.



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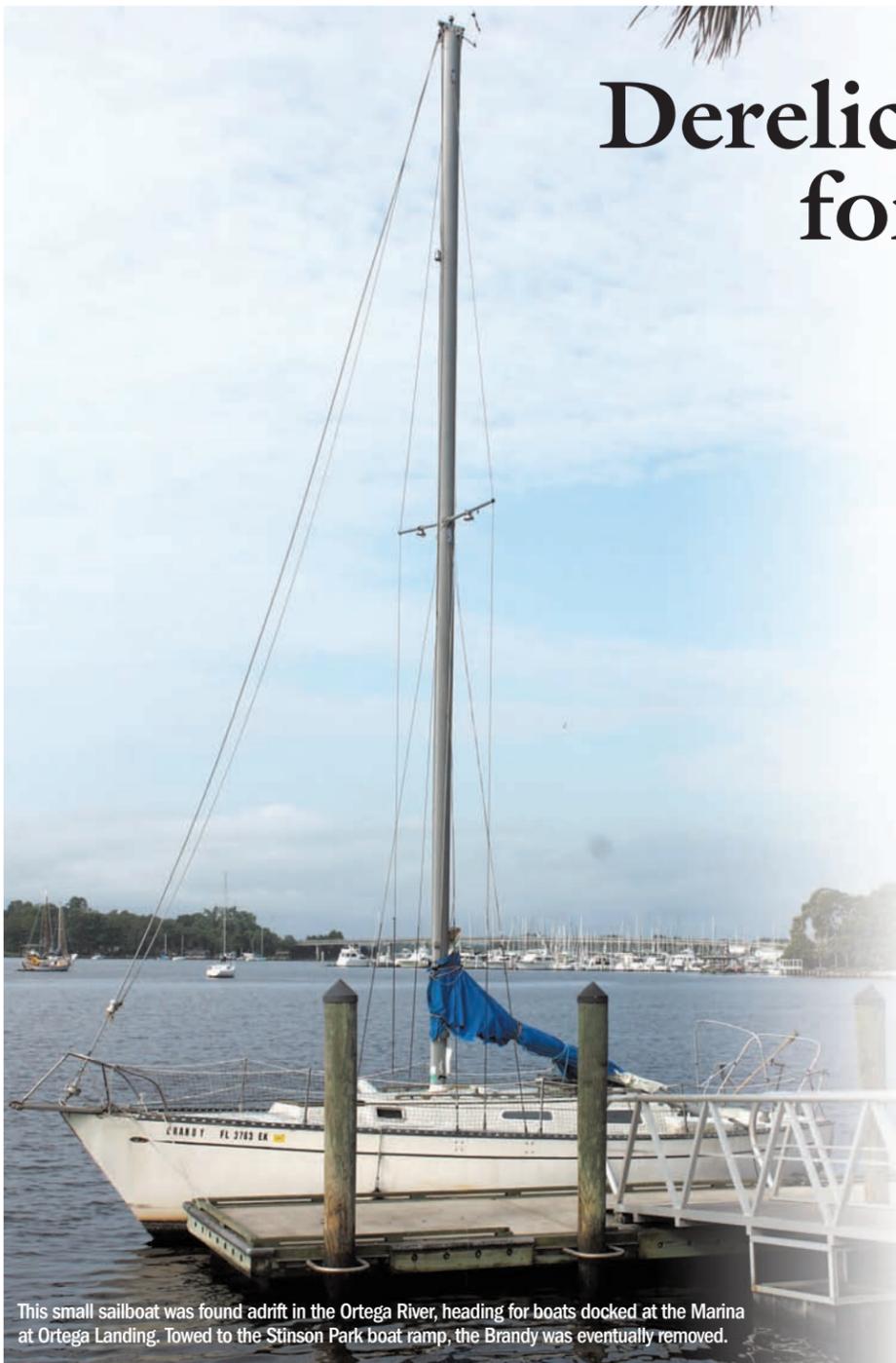
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This small sailboat was found adrift in the Ortega River, heading for boats docked at the Marina at Ortega Landing. Towed to the Stinson Park boat ramp, the Brandy was eventually removed.

Derelict boats spell trouble for waterways, owners

Part 1 of Abandoned Vessels

By Doug Milne
Resident Community News

On the back bumper of a weathered conversion van struggling over the Roosevelt Bridge is a lazily-placed, crooked sticker that reads: “B.O.A.T.” Below the acronym are the words “Break Out Another Thousand.” Sure, it’s a bumper sticker. It’s intended to elicit relating laughs and guffaws. The reality of it, however, is often a much deeper issue that draws anything but laughs.

That issue is a maddening one, dangerous and inexcusable. It’s also ever-present.

Rather than break out that next grand, the results are left-behind boats, more often referred to as abandoned, derelict, orphaned or at-risk. When they become eye-sores, too high maintenance, inconvenient or financially-strapping to their owners, too often the result is all of the above to an undeserving many.

“Those people are rats,” one Jacksonville boat owner chided. “That’s their trash. Their laziness makes their problem our problem.”

Propagated perhaps by the fact that they’re not living, breathing things, discarding boats is an unfortunate, yet easy way out to some folks. The problem is neither new nor isolated to Jacksonville’s waterways. Where there’s water, there are the blemishes of alienated boats.

“What happens a lot of times is that people buy boats and just don’t realize what they’re in for, in terms of maintenance and upkeep,” said Brooks Busey, of Sadler Point Marina. “They’ll get out there, start working on it and realize they just can’t keep it up.”

Though there are different stories behind each boat that gets cast away,

the common denominator is typically an unfortunate one. An owner has lost his or her job, moves to another city or falls victim to long-term illness. Many times, an owner never imagined the amount of work, time and money that owning a boat required. Other times, it’s as simple as an owner no longer wants the boat and fails to take the appropriate steps to legally free himself from the vessel.

Another situation often encountered by officers and attorneys are boat owners who sell or give away their vessel without ensuring a proper title transfer. That is an invitation for disaster.

Let’s say “John” wants to rid himself of a boat. His acquaintance “Mark” really wants a boat. The two decide on a nominal fee of \$100. “Mark” and “John” turn a blind eye to the required title transfer. Six years later, “Mark’s” boat is found abandoned, smashing into the Ortega draw bridge during a storm. Three months earlier, “Mark” decided the boat reminded him too much of an ex-wife, so he ditches it. When the water settles, guess who is held accountable for the boat he thought he’d rid himself of years earlier? That’s right. “John” is responsible for the piece of watery garbage. “John,” however, wants nothing to do with it. He has moved on in life with a new career as a park ranger in Ogden, Utah. Sorry, “John.” Pony up, or face a lien against you.

“Titles,” said Howard Sutter, a Jacksonville maritime attorney, “are a real snake pit.”

With that said, finding owners is also

Continued on P. 13 —

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a cumbersome, challenging task. When individuals can be seemingly identified, there's the above-mentioned, finger-pointing quagmire. Other times, older boats either don't have proper identifying numbers or the ones that do contain license numbers that are hard or impossible to make out because of mud, scum and barnacles.

Not only are abandoned boats nuisances and unsightly to look at, but they also pose a significant number of public safety and environmental hazards. The boats can break apart, become submerged and/or block navigation channels. Other potential problems include pollution; the leakage of oil, gas and other hazardous substances.

According to Captain Jim Suber of the Sheriff's Marine Unit, Jacksonville's two biggest problem areas are in and around the Trout and Ortega Rivers. Suber, who spent 32 years with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, said that there are currently two shrimp boats in need of removal on file with the Sheriff's Office. One of which is so deep under water that only its mast is showing. Another abandoned boat recently surfaced in the Ortega River.

For those world-weary souls deepened by the dark, this story could lend itself to an idea for a haunting poem. After all, there exists among some folks out there the notion that – although inanimate – boats, like humans, retain memory. Unfortunately in this case, said theory hasn't created enough clout to deter the issue.

Where karma isn't limited to the circle of mankind, there probably is a dark piece of prose in all of this. But, too, there's a series of sad and tragic tales with these midnight drop-offs.

The bottom line is that casting a boat free is a criminal act. It's wrong on legal grounds, letting alone moral grounds. The illicit dumping of anything is a sad statement across so many levels. Be they motivated by desperation or laziness, never can these actions add up to anything even remotely justifiable. What it does add up to, however, are a lot of head and heartaches.

But chances are, that's not a bumper sticker likely to end up displayed on the back of car.

In next month's issue of *The Resident*, the story continues as we look into what measures can and should be taken in the event of an unwanted boat appearing on your property. It's a process rarely considered anything but smooth sailing.

Key improvements announced for One Spark 2015

One Spark fans will be happy to hear that One Spark 2015 will be a six-day event next year, to be held April 7-12. Several other key improvements for the World Crowdfunding Festival's third year are planned, including a Speaker Summit, which will be held during the first day preceding the evening opening event and kickoff party.

Many of the changes focus on improving the festival experience for creators, and are based on One Spark 2014 creators' feedback via online surveys and a creator forum held in July.

In addition to the extra day on the front end of the event schedule, contributions at One Spark will now be rewards-based, that is, creators will be able to offer rewards to their contributors through their project

profiles on OneSpark.com. One Spark 2015 will also increase the number of creator project categories from five to six, changing the categories to art, education, health & science, music, social good and technology.

Also, One Spark 2015 will offer \$350,000 in guaranteed crowdfunds and cash awards, up from the \$250,000 first offered in 2013. While various awards will be increased, a new award of \$5,000 will be granted to a creator project based in Jacksonville that is judged to have the biggest potential impact on the city.

One Spark will also be providing a native app for voting and contributing for the event, available for Android and iOS devices to improve the voting and app experience for attendees and creators.



Photo by Dustin Wooten

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GO GIVERS

Jackie Simoneaux

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Ask Jackie Simoneaux, 76, about her favorite things and topping the list is quilting and her St. Nicholas home, where she sees the river and EverBank Field from her front porch.

A quilting enthusiast who discusses colors, fabrics and patterns as if they were delicious ingredients for a decadent dessert, Simoneaux and her friends will soon celebrate their 30th anniversary quilting together in the Friendship Quilters Guild.

Simoneaux said that it means a lot to her that they sew and quilt items to donate to hospitals, shelters and crisis centers to comfort men, women and children going through a difficult time. They hold annual quilt raffles and participate in events to raise funds for local charities. Simoneaux is a founding member of the group and newsletter editor.

“When I first started doing the newsletter, we had no computers and my husband wasn’t so sure it was a good

idea...he said, ‘my dear, they don’t sell white-out by the gallon.’ We make an annual quilt that we raffle off at QuiltFest to benefit a different charity each year,” she said. “We are preparing now for QuiltFest 2014, Sept. 24-27 at the Convention Center, an open, judged show where we give demonstrations and wonderful quilts will be displayed.”

She first learned to sew in her high school home economics class and was thankful for it when she was home raising their three small children. She sewed all of their clothing and became interested in quilting in the early Sixties.

“I realized you can only have so many doilies, so I started ordering 10- or 25-cent quilting booklets to make quilts for our home and the children,” she said. “In 1972 when my husband retired from the Navy we bought our home and I joined the local Embroiderers Guild of America to make friends and meet other ladies with similar interests.”

Soon Simoneaux wanted to find out if her do-it-yourself quilts were “any good,” so she entered a few in a quilt show held at White Springs. That adventure started her on a serious quilting path.

“When I got to the quilt show, the quilts were all hung on a clothesline in a barn!” she said. “But the best part was that I met someone from Jacksonville there, who told me about Calico Station Quilt Shop and a quilters group. At that time the group was called the Orange Park Quilters Guild, but the ladies lived all over Jacksonville, so in 1986 it was changed to the Friendship Quilters Guild. It started with 37 women



and now there are about 125, including a wide age range, individuals, couples and family groups.”

Simoneaux enjoys designing and repairing quilts and especially loves antique fabrics. She is hooked on antique quilts from the ‘20s, ‘30s and ‘40s and is most proud of serving as volunteer regional coordinator for a major Florida History Museum quilt documentation project. The project documented hundreds of quilts in Jacksonville, lasted a year and culminated in publication of Florida Quilts in 1992.

Simoneaux and her husband Jules, 83, met while both were in the Navy and have been married 56 years. Jackie and Jules enjoy woodworking (they built their kitchen) and doing household projects and everything else together. Jules has been an emergency room volunteer at Memorial Hospital for five years and enjoys helping the families; Jackie says that is something they’ve always had in common.



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Hello *Getting to Know* Tony Chance

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I was an Army brat so I grew up on Army posts all over the United States. We also lived in Japan for a year and a half and Austria for three years. I went to high school in Fort Knox.

Q. Did you grow up in a Christian family?

A. Yes, my father was always an usher and I always sang in the choir or played for services on both piano and organ. I was a terrible organist.

Q. What led you into a performance career?

A. It started with my parents taking me to see the Glenn Miller story when I was six. I got a trombone for Christmas. I took piano lessons at age nine and found that I got all kinds of positive affirmation when I sang. Until my call to the ministry it was all I ever wanted to do.

Q. Did you remain faithful to the Lord during those years?

A. Absolutely not. I was the worst possible definition of a "cultural Christian" - meaning I believed in the Lord but never let Him rule my life. In today's vernacular, I could talk the talk but did not walk the walk.

Q. What brought you into the ministry?

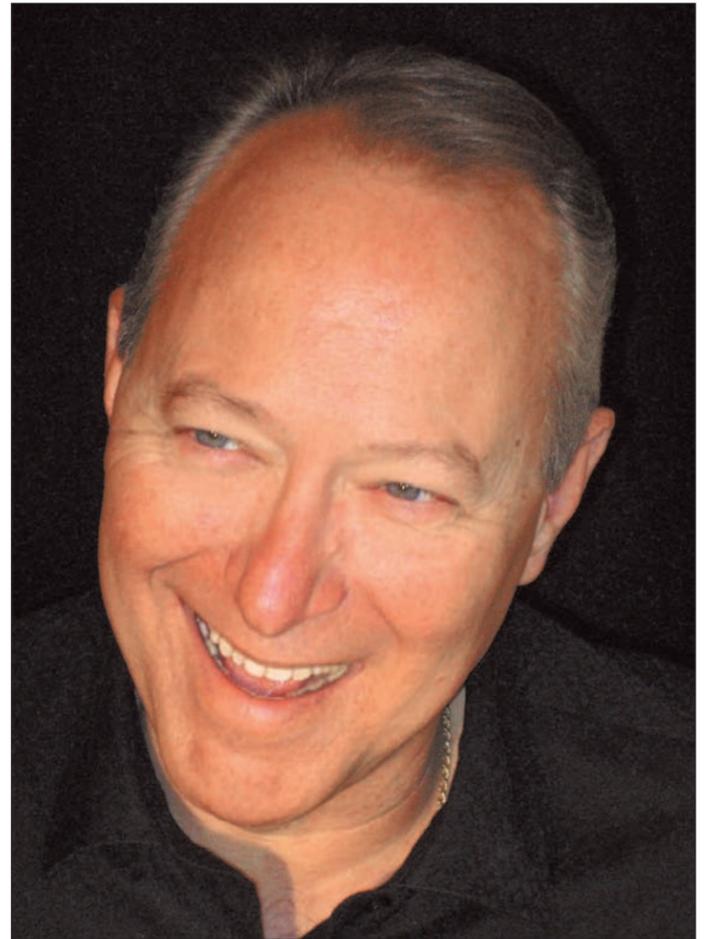
A. After realizing how truly blessed I am I began to seek the Lord with all I had. While I had been a successful singer and pianist, I had never been able to write songs. So when the words and music to a beautiful song about the Lord began to come to me, I knew that God was alive and active in my life. The first time I performed Standing Before the Cross was at all the Easter services at my home church in Fort Lauderdale and that was the beginning of the call to the ministry.

Q. What brought you to Jacksonville and then to San Marco?

A. I served as one of the pastors at my home church for 13 years before being appointed to a church in Orlando where I served for six years. I was then appointed by the Bishop to serve as senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville beginning July 1, 2013. My wife Clare was appointed at that time to be the senior pastor at Avondale United Methodist Church. The home where we live in San Marco is provided for us by my church.

Q. Do you have a favorite eatery or shop in that area?

A. Oh yes! I have breakfast every morning at Metro Diner.



Tony Chance performed all over the world for over 40 years before following God's call into the ministry. When not preaching and serving his congregation, Chance performs worship concerts at churches around the state.

Taverna and Green Erth are also favorites. We really love Jacksonville and that came as a real shock to us. When you live south of Jacksonville, all you really know about the city is that terrible drive on I-95 through the city. You can't look left or right and see anything of

the city since the road is always under construction and you have to keep your eyes focused on the road if you want to live! Consequently, we had no idea what to expect. We have now fallen in love with the city and our churches and hope to retire here someday.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

River Garden staff commended for prestigious award

River Garden Senior Services recently received an unprecedented honor as the only agency in Duval County to ever earn the Florida Governor's Gold Seal Award, while also the only skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility out of 650 nursing homes in Florida to have earned it for a seventh consecutive time.

Marsha Pollock, president River Garden Hebrew Home, and Loyd Lyle, president of the Resident Council, received the award from Polly Weaver, chief of field operations for AHCA, the Agency for Health Care Administration.

"The fact that we're receiving a seventh consecutive Gold Seal Award for excellence in long-term care is a direct reflection of a collective and long-standing commitment to the mission, vision and values of our care community," said Martin Goetz, River Garden CEO. "The research has been clear for a very long time, that the single greatest determinant of sustainable quality in a nursing home



Polly Weaver, Loyd Lyle and Marsha Pollock

is a stable, tenured staff." Goetz noted that over one-fifth of the staff has been with the organization for more than 10 years, and the average tenure of a department head is over 14 years.

The two-year award was created in 2002 by the Florida Legislature to recognize Florida nursing homes that demonstrate excellence in long-term care over a sustained period, promote the stability of the industry and facilitate the physical, social and emotional well-being of nursing home facility residents.

San Jose resident appointed to HRT advisory board

Dr. Kenneth Sekine, MD, FACOG, a board certified obstetrician and gynecologist practicing in northeast Florida since 1981, has been appointed to the SottoPelle® Advisory Board, a newly-named team comprised of outstanding medical and business professionals who offer extensive expertise in their respective fields.

As a board member, Dr. Sekine will assist the SottoPelle medical and management teams to heighten awareness of the safety and efficacy of the pellet modality within the medical community, the insurance industry, and to men and women who are looking for quality, science-based hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Since 2011, Dr. Sekine has treated both men and women using SottoPelle HRT.



AIA recognizes local firms at annual Design and Honor Awards



Two area residents received awards at the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) annual Design and Honor Awards, given to those who have contributed to the advancement of architecture, urban planning, art and craftsmanship.

San Marco resident Teresa Durand Stuebben (left) was awarded the chapter's President's Award and Epping Forest resident Walter Q. Taylor (above) received the Henry John Klutho Award.

San Marco artist chosen to exhibit at Crystal Bridges Museum

Kedgar Volta, San Marco artist and an art director for Brunet-Garcia, is one of 102 artists from around the country selected to exhibit at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, located in Bentonville, Ark. The exhibition, State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now, debuts this month, will include Volta's video work False Belief that the Control Resides in Me.

"Being selected for the State of the Art show took me by surprise," said Volta. "Back in January, I received a visit in my studio from Don Bacigalupi, president of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and Assistant Curator Chad Alligood. After their visit, there was a long

period of silence. I continued working without even thinking about the show - at least until I got the news, three months later, that I was being considered to be part of it. It is an incredible opportunity and honor to have been selected as a result of such an extensive survey."

Volta, a 2008 émigré from Cuba, has had other works displayed during Hispanic Art Walk, and during Art Basel Miami Beach.



White honored with environmental stewardship award

Dr. Quinton White, San Marco resident and founder and leader of the Marine Science Research Institute, a LEED Gold facility, on the campus of Jacksonville University, was one of seven notable community leaders and organizations honored at the 2014 Environmental Symposium last month. White was given the Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award, in recognition of long term achievements.

"I'm highly honored, said White, who has been with the institute since 1976. "Christi Veleta is a long, dear friend and she was a such great civil servant that I'm honored to receive an award that recognizes her

contributions to Jacksonville."

Dr. White has for decades served as a champion of the environment through his service to the community in numerous ways. He provides major support to the Waterways Commission and was a founding member of the St Johns Riverkeeper organization. Most significantly, he was the visionary, and over the years the environmental research, education and policy generated from the institute has significantly impacted the community.





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Local dentists receive awards

The Florida Dental Association recently awarded Dr. Richard Mullens the FDA Service Award for his service to the Northeast District Dental Association for more than 16 years as treasurer. The San Marco resident received the FDA Special Service Award in 2006, as well as the ADA Recognition for Special Service to the Underserved Award in 2007 for his dedication. Mullens has also served as a delegate to the FDA House of Delegates since 1996.



Mullens



Stevenson

Dr. Richard Stevenson was awarded the Florida Dental Association's Leadership Award. Stevenson serves as the FDA president and as a delegate to the ADA, attends the Board of Dentistry meetings, serves as the FDA representative to the Oral Health Florida Coalition and is an FDA Services board member.

Attorney named a "Best Lawyer" by peers

Thomas Edwards, Jr., a San Marco resident, was named Jacksonville Medical Malpractice Law Plaintiff's Lawyer of the Year for 2015 by Best Lawyers, a peer-review publication. Edwards had received this same honor in 2012, and had also been named Jacksonville Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2009 by ABOTA. He is a past president of the Jacksonville Bar Association, the Florida Justice Association and ABOTA Jacksonville.



Full service party store opens on Square

Local entrepreneurs Patrick and Carmela Hall recently launched Affairs of San Marco, a full service party store, located at 1992 San Marco Blvd. The store offers thousands of quality products, all at discounted prices.

The couple is confident that Affairs of San Marco will be well-received by the community because "...we are devoted to helping our customers celebrate happy and memorable events by providing exceptional customer service and a variety of quality products."

For Carmela, "the light bulb went off and it was perfect timing" for the opening of her own business, having worked in information technology in the corporate environment.

Affairs of San Marco is open Monday through Saturday and Sunday by appointment. Call (904) 551-4601 for hours or visit online and on Facebook.



Children's boutique provides designer fashions

As a fashionista herself, Alison West was seeking great fabrics and other alternative clothing styles for her growing child. After moving through the baby phase, she wasn't pleased with the generic patterns and prints, as well as the lack of quality in fabrics. She was having a hard time finding things she loved locally, as most of it was through online retailers, so she seized on an opportunity.

"As a mom, I said to myself 'I can't be the only one doing this [ordering online];'" West said. As an entrepreneur, she preferred to open a retail location in an area she liked and after seeking a great spot with great spaces and ample parking for mothers, she settled on 1704 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco.

The shop specializes in organic, friendly fabrics and unique patterns that aren't mass produced, and she is pleased to see the investment in her choices has appeal to local shoppers. To learn more, follow the boutique on Facebook and/or Instagram at appleandtreejax or call (904) 398-9300.



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Nemours Evening of Promise

The beautiful moonlit riverfront gardens of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens was host to more than 350 physicians Nemours Foundation board members, business and community leaders and philanthropists for an Evening of Promise on Aug. 15. Proceeds from the spectacular fundraiser will help the Foundation reach its \$1 million goal for The Endowment for Childhood Cancer Research, a joint initiative with Wolfson Children's Hospital, to better serve children with cancer and blood and bone disorders now and in the future.



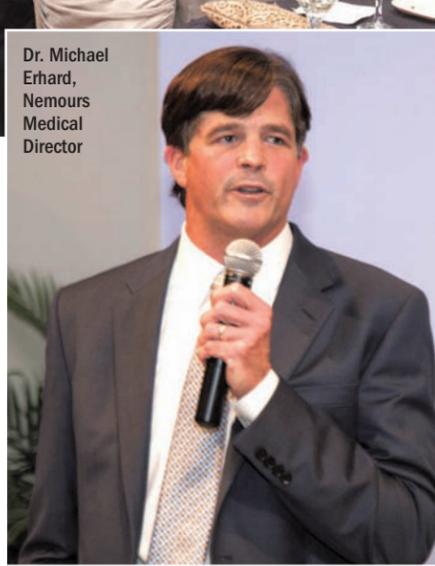
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Learn & Learn 25 years

DLC Nurse & Learn celebrated its 25th anniversary with more than 150 of its closest friends, supporters and staff last month at a luncheon themed "25 Years of Miracles and Hope." The award-winning nonprofit rejoiced in a quarter century of providing therapy, education and compassion to students with disabilities, having helped more than 1,800 children and their families through those years. Founder and executive director Amy Buggle was recognized in April by the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.



Debbie Ocana, Board President Jill Strickland, Debbie Kozloski

A celebration and surprise announcement



Kris Broward Barnes, Marjorie Broward, Tammy Wainwright



Trisha Meili, Jim Schwarz, John Ivalts, Lisé Everly, event host committee

The celebrations came in threes on the evening of Aug. 22 as guests at Deerwood Country Club helped the Women's Center of Jacksonville honor its 19th annual Celebration of Women, as well as the 94th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment (women's suffrage). Then, a special announcement regarding a memorandum of agreement with the City of Jacksonville to take over management of the Sexual Assault Response Center (SARC) was toasted, too.

"We're very glad that everyone has come out tonight to help us celebrate this fantastic organization serving women in Duval, Baker and Nassau counties," said board president Alicia Grant. "I am happy to announce that The Women's Center of Jacksonville has received a memorandum of agreement with the City of Jacksonville and will be taking over the Sexual Assault Response Center on October 1, staffing it and bringing the operations up to national standards with a state-of-the-art program."

SARC is currently city-run as part of the Victim Services Center, and the Women's Center was approached in early spring to consider taking it over and will do so with the cooperation of the State Attorney's Office and the JSO, and the support of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Mayor's Office.

"Dr. Wade Barnes will be volunteering his time as medical director," Grant stated. "This is a major step forward in providing forensic exams for rape survivors."

Alicia Grant, Women's Center of Jacksonville board president, Dr. Wade and Nancy Barnes




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Community comes together at UCOM

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

United Community Outreach Ministry (also known as UCOM) has been serving communities in Jacksonville since 1979. The nonprofit recently celebrated its 35th anniversary and the 125th anniversary of its building, the Old Philips Congregational Church, the first African American church in that area, built in 1889.

Volunteers, supporters and board members gathered on Aug. 2 to celebrate the dual anniversaries and rededicate the building at 3349 St Augustine Rd. which sported a new coat of paint, raised bed gardens, and, thanks to an Eagle Scout project, a new wheelchair ramp. UCOM was able to purchase the building in 2001 with the help of then councilmen Matt Carlucci and Reggie Fullwood.

“There’s a community feeling that we have a responsibility for the Southside to alleviate poverty, and UCOM is the way we can do that with a lot of our other friends,” said Rev. Kyle Reese, pastor of Hendricks Avenue Baptist, which was one of the founders of UCOM. “We have a lot of folks here that have been so active as volunteers; we’ve been active with UCOM for its 35 years.”

When Rev. Terry Lucarelli came to Lakewood Presbyterian Church 10 years ago, one of his parishioners, Martha McCrackin, had worked at UCOM since its inception and kept urging her new pastor to be the president of UCOM’s board of directors. It took seven years, but “It has been a wonderful three years,” said Rev. Lucarelli. “We hired Heather Mauney in October 2012 to be executive director and it’s been a joy working with her. It’s amazing what she’s been able to do.”

“There’s a lot going on in this little building and we’re very grateful for all of our supporters who make it possible,” said Heather Mauney, executive director. “We’ve seen a tremendous increase in the need recently. In July alone, we served 1,305 people, which is two and a half times what we served last July.”

UCOM provided over 820 lunches during the first eight weeks of summer vacation, and although they had expected to serve about 500 lunches for the entire summer, Mauney believes they will serve 1,000 or more by the end of the summer.



Front row: Penny Jenkins (founding volunteer and donor), Board members Susan Speicher, Mildred Daniel and Cynthia Shank, Executive Director Heather Mauney. Second row: Nancy Callison (former Executive Director), Dan Burns (Board member), U.S. Congressional candidate Paula Moser-Bartlett, Marty Succi (Meals on Wheels coordinator), Matt Carlucci (former City Councilman), Rev. Kyle Reese (Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church) and Board president Rev. Terry Lucarelli (Lakewood Presbyterian Church)

Good haircut gives first-day confidence

By Lara Patangan
Resident Community News

Kimberly Clarke does not usually open her San Marco salon on Sundays, but this was no ordinary Sunday. It was the day before the first day of school, and as she has for the past five years, Clarke invited the community’s kindergarten through twelfth graders into the salon for a free haircut.

“Every child deserves to look their best on the first day of school,” said Clarke, salon owner. “Making a difference in the community is important to all of us at Kimberly Clarke Salon. Cuts for Confidence is our way of giving back.”

Clarke said patrons received more than a free haircut; each was properly styled and many of the girls had special braids or flowers in their hair.

“When you look good, you feel good and when you feel good your inner beauty shines,” said Clarke.



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Renovating yesterday's character for today's lifestyles

By Lara Patangan
Resident Community News

Whether changing the footprint or remaining true to the limitations of the original structure, owners of old homes face similar challenges in modernizing for comfort and safety while staying true to what attracted them in the first place. Three residents share their stories of what they did to love their homes.



Ossi Home

Ossi Home – Keeping the bones

While Patrick Ossi has lived in his minimal traditional home for almost 12 years, he has known it all his life. His

grandparents, A.R. Ossi and Raina N. Ossi, were the San Marco home's second owners and Ossi recalls fond memories of family gatherings from his childhood. He now shares the house with his own three children, Jacob, Rachel and Ryan.

The 1938 ranch is located on Colonial

Manor Lake, affectionately referred to by neighborhood residents as, simply, the Duck Pond. Before renovations, Ossi's home was a four-bedroom, two full and two half-bath house. However, Ossi expanded the original footprint, adding a master suite and enlarging the kitchen and family room. He also replaced all of the home's mechanics – plumbing, electrical and new roof. The whole process took 18 months to complete, and because of the extensive work done they did not move in until renovations were finished.

Ossi kept the original hard wood floors, but found the plaster walls had to be replaced because it was too difficult to find anyone who did that kind of work anymore. Keeping the original bones of the home, but adding on to meet the needs of today's lifestyle, the home is being enjoyed by a new generation of the same family.

closet and spread upstairs charring the top of a bedroom's ceiling. Instead, she and her husband Paul were captivated by the airy and bright interior and the architectural details like built-in niches, elliptical arches, and the oval-shaped entry and stairwell.

But perhaps what made the elegant residence seem like the perfect home for their three daughters was that the last owners had raised their own three girls there. Recalling fond memories of growing up in the home, Fazio said the previous owner's daughters, now grown, were happy to know their beloved home would be enjoyed by a new generation of sisters.

That was 10 years ago and the family is enjoying making their own memories in the San Marco home which remains unchanged from its original floor plan. Fazio said they liked the home's layout as it was, and other than adding an elliptical arch designed to match the others in the house in order to open the dining room to the kitchen, they kept as much original to the home as possible.

After purchasing the property, the Fazio's replaced the ceilings and walls that were damaged by the fire which is believed to have originated with faulty wiring.

Fazio Home – New generation of sisters

When Cecy Fazio first saw the 1940 Mediterranean Revival she now calls home, she looked past the haze of fire damage that had started in a downstairs

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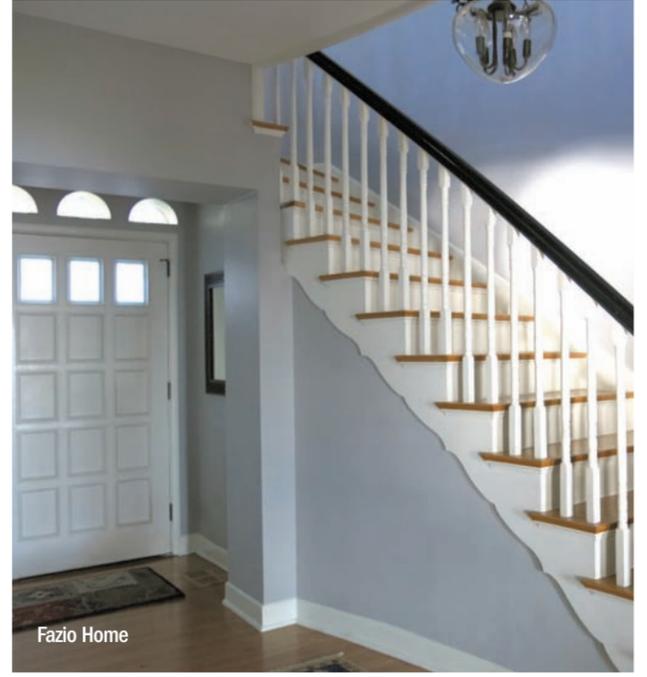
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Fazio Home



Fazio Home

Thankfully, the house was vacant when the fire occurred, and the new owners went to work to re-plumb and re-wire the home, which meant some walls and ceilings had to be replaced.

They also redid the home's kitchen and master bath using elements such as subway tile in the kitchen and mosaic penny tile in the bath in keeping with the time-period of the home. The home had half-round molding and while they kept as much of it as possible, they had custom millwork done to match what had to be replaced. One of the things Fazio loves most about the home was the unique green glass tile in the downstairs bathroom – still in its flawless original condition.

The home had '40s-era wallpaper in the dining room when they bought it and Fazio said you could see the trends of each decade as layers of mustard, forest green and pink paint were peeled layer by layer from the baseboards that ran throughout the house.

As the home's third owners, it took a year to complete the renovations and a new generation of laughter can be heard from the three sisters who are lucky enough to call it home.

Bedoya Home – The sound of giggles

Michelle Bedoya didn't always love her 1940 Craftsman style home in St. Nicholas. When she and her husband Ricky first bought it eight years ago, it had what Bedoya called a choppy floor plan and a Pepto-Bismol pink bathroom.

She said she would purposefully keep the door closed so she did not have to look at the nauseating color.

But two years after moving in, ceilings were raised, bathrooms were gutted and best of all, in the apple of

Bedoya's home-renovating eye, was a beautiful new kitchen.

Bedoya said her original kitchen had maroon tile for the back splash. She hated it so much she bought some white tile paint to cover it until the renovations could be done.

As the home's fifth owner, Bedoya said they made the renovations in order to be comfortable and truly enjoy the house.

The renovations were extensive, knocking down a support wall and putting in an additional beam to replace it. This allowed the space between the kitchen and dining room to open. They also refinished the home's original wood floors, added travertine tile, granite counters and maple cabinetry and replaced the home's plumbing and electrical.

The Bedoyas had all the work done at the same time and moved out of the house for three months while it was completed.

Bedoya said it was important to them to keep the traditional feel of the home, but to modernize it so it is practical for themselves and their two daughters.

Now, the kitchen, which opens into the over-sized backyard, is her favorite place in the house. The cream cabinets and the antique black island in the center are soothing compared to the maroon tile that was once there. Best of all, Bedoya said she can hear her kids giggle in the other room while she is cooking dinner – a sound she missed prior to the renovation.

Bedoya said now she loves her home – and the only pink she sees comes from her sweet girls.



Bedoya Kitchen



Bedoya Family



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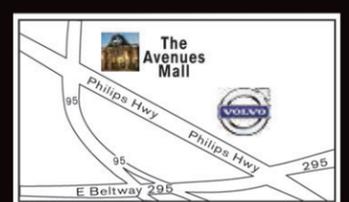
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Bike MS – It’s a ride, not a race

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The North Florida Chapter of the MS Society is gearing up for the Bike MS: PGA Tour Cycle to the Shore Ride later this month and want residents to know – it’s not a race.

Every mile rode and every dollar raised through this event benefits the North Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and its mission to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of those in Jacksonville affected by MS.

Jonathan “JZ” Zahler, San Marco resident, is a five-time Bike MS rider and the team captain for Team Maree, which has a \$17,000 goal. He shares his thoughts about the upcoming event.



Maree Maddux, center, is flanked by son Michael (on her right) and team captain Jonathan Zahler (on her left).



Maree Maddux with Popeye, a Boston Terrier who has ridden in six consecutive Bike MS rides as a registered rider, and this year’s ride will be his seventh. Popeye lives with Chris Staggers of Riverside.

About Bike MS

Voted “Best Ride in the Southeast” in 2013 by “Best of Competitor,” here’s what’s new this year:

- Bike MS: PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore will be held Sept. 20-21 with a new route and start/finish location at TPC Sawgrass
- There are eight route options ranging from 36 to 166 miles. Anyone, whether they are a beginner or an expert rider, can choose the route that suits their fitness level.
- The route takes riders along scenic back roads and the beautiful Florida coastline from TPC Sawgrass to Daytona Beach.
- Bike MS: PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore is fully supported with SAG vehicles, bike mechanics and rest stops. After the ride, registered cyclists are invited to celebrate and enjoy great food and festivities at the Finish Line Celebration in Daytona Beach.
- Participating riders will raise awareness and funds to help create a world free of MS, a chronic, often disabling disease that affects the central nervous system.

Q. Why are you participating? Is there MS in the family or do you have friends who have it?

A. It is a great event incorporating cycling, an activity I embrace for a great cause that hits home for me based on my good friends, the Maddux family, and specifically Maree’s decades-long battle with MS. Her son, Michael, is my good friend and long-time Bike MS team mate. Maree was diagnosed with MS in 1973.

Q. How many MS rides or other charity rides have you ridden in?

A. I have ridden a few other charity events, however this one draws me back each year. For the past four years I have been honored to receive the incredible support of my ride sponsors to help me raise funds on behalf of the North Florida Chapter of the National MS Society. I am proud to be one of the 2013 Top Phenom 50 Fundraisers last year amongst over 2000 participants, having raised \$3,539 through these very generous sponsorships. This year, I am proud to serve as team captain for the newly formed Team Maree. We have an incredible group of dedicated team members, both on and off the bike.



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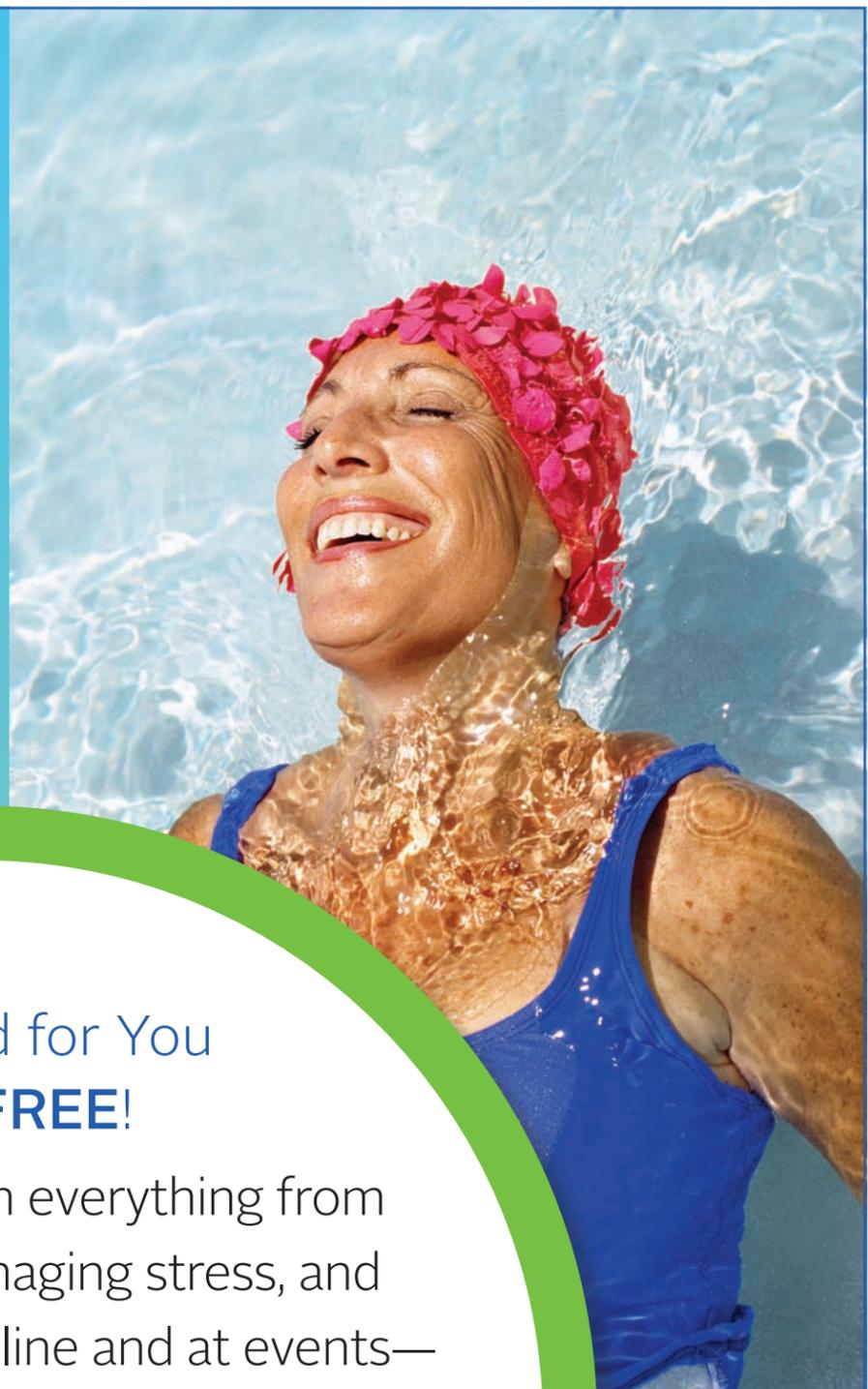
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The Way we Were

Frieda and Leonard Saraga

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Frieda Saraga of San Marco was born in Gary, Indiana and came to Jacksonville at age seven. Her parents, Rose and Max Hochman, and grandparents, Sophie and Nathan Hochman, opened a grocery store on the west side in the Woodstock area. While attending Annie Morris Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and Robert E. Lee High School, Frieda and her brother Ralph grew up working in Hochman's Grocery after school and on weekends. "Those were the days when you were expected to work in the family business," recalled Frieda, "and that tradition continued when my husband and I were raising our children."

It is a tradition that runs deep on both sides of their family. When Leonard Saraga met Frieda Hochman met, he was 17 and working after school and weekends at his parents' store, Gateway Army-Navy Surplus downtown on Bay Street.

"Leonard's family had recently moved here from New York and he didn't know a lot of people, so his mother and my mother decided it would be a good idea if he met a girl in the Jewish community," said Frieda. The matchmaking worked. Two years later, on December 24, 1950, the couple married. "We were married at the home of family friends. I was just in a suit – not a wedding gown. We never had a silver or china list. We just had great parents who were there for us in many ways with love and caring – thank God, at the time, my parents had the grocery store, so we didn't starve."



When Frieda looks back at those days, she remembers "I was 17 and he was 19 when we married, and we thought we knew everything." Thirteen months after their wedding, Paula, the first of their five children, was born. Their sons, Rubin and Scott, came next, and then twin daughters, Sharon and Marie.

Leonard attended the University of Florida briefly but came home to help his mother when his father became ill, and began working for his in-laws, whose original grocery store had by then become Hochman's Western Wear and General Clothing Store on North Edgewood Avenue, serving the large farming population in the Woodstock area. Leonard and Frieda attended Jones Business College and worked at Hochman's during the early years of their marriage, and in 1959, they opened Plaza Western Wear at the original Phillips Mall on Phillips Highway, later changing the name to Saraga's Western Wear.

As the children were growing up, all of them worked in the store with their parents. "On Christmas and Easter breaks from school, they only wished my husband was a lawyer so they could spend the holidays like other kids," joked Frieda, "but looking back, they learned a lot about dealing with people by working in the business and it has helped them as they faced challenges in life."

Thirty years ago, when the Villages of San Jose were first built, the Saraga family moved into their present home. They are active members of the Jacksonville Jewish Center and the Temple, Congregation



Ahavath Chesed, both on San Jose Blvd.

Eventually, Saraga's clothing stores expanded to three locations. "Our hope was that someday we'd retire and our sons would take over, but it wasn't to be," said Frieda. In 1988, Saraga's went out of business.

“ Those were the days when you were expected to work in the family business,” recalled Frieda, “and that tradition continued when my husband and I were raising our children.”

The family business had put all five of their children through college and served them well, but now the Saragas were in their mid-50s and out of work. After trying several ventures, Leonard Saraga went with Target and, at 82, he continues to work as a cashier. "Leonard comes from the old school that if you're not bringing in money, you're not accomplishing anything," said Frieda, adding that after

their stores closed, her son Scott suggested that she begin doing HIV testing and counseling. "As the mother of three gay children, I had the compassion for that type of work," Frieda said, noting that for the past five years she has spent her weekends working for the Department of Health at the Duval County Jail.

An advocate for gay rights and a long-time community educator with Planned Parenthood, in 1991 Frieda Saraga co-founded with Judy Higgison a weekly HIV/AIDS Support Group called Positive Attitudes of Jacksonville, Inc. and in 1992, the Saragas founded the Jacksonville Chapter of PFLAG (a national organization that provides support, education and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their friends and families). In 1996, PFLAG established an annual college scholarship program for deserving youth in the LGBTQ community.

In 2013, Frieda Saraga was a deserving recipient of the OneJax Award. "Anything I've done in the community was because of my son Scott," said Frieda. "His constant encouragement and his belief that I could do it was the catalyst."

Sadly, Scott Saraga lost his battle with an eating disorder and passed away at age 55 in April of this year. As is the Jewish tradition, the Saraga family sat Shiva for seven days in their San Marco home, covering the mirrors and allowing others to bring food and do the daily chores. "No parent is meant to bury their child," said Frieda. "Leonard and I will never recover completely, but we have also never felt such an outpouring of love from friends and family." Marveling, especially, at the comfort given to one another by her children, Frieda noted that "being gay or not was never a question with my kids. It was simply 'this is my brother, this is my sister.'"

Wife of 63 years, mother of five, grandmother of three (Rubin's daughter Ashley, and sons Zachary and Jake), business woman and active community volunteer, Frieda Saraga spends her days reaching out to help others.

"We've walked the road and survived," she said. "Leonard and I thought we knew everything at ages 19 and 17. We know more now. Life is a great adventure."



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Singing for one's supper, or – for charity, rewarding

By Lara Patangan
Resident Community News

There is singing in the shower, singing in the rain and if you are brave enough you may even sing karaoke. But for St Nicholas resident Rich McGauley, who sings with two well-respected choral groups in town, singing is a favorite pastime.

“McGauley has found harmony in his favorite hobby by singing throughout the years for the likes of the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and serving as lead cantor at Assumption Catholic Church, where he is a parishioner.”

McGauley sings with both the Don Thompson Chorale and the River City Men's Chorus and can remember singing with his father when he was a kid in a barbershop quartet.

“My father had the most beautiful baritone singing voice. Singing was his life,” explained McGauley, who said his dad also sang in military shows during World War II.

Following in his footsteps, McGauley has found harmony in his favorite hobby by singing throughout the years for the likes of the Jacksonville Symphony



Chorus and serving as lead cantor at Assumption Catholic Church, where he is a parishioner.

But currently the bass vocalist is getting ready to start a new season at the Don Thompson Chorale, a volunteer community chorus based out of Riverside Presbyterian Church. It formed in 1995, after a Florida Junior College Chorale Reunion was held and the group decided that if their former choir director, Don Thompson, was willing to lead them, they would organize a chorale group and name it after him.

According to Sandra Howard, one of the original founders of the group, the

volunteer chorus now has 50 members and performs two to four concerts during the fall and spring. She said the group tries to choose things listeners will enjoy including very traditional old-school chorus, and also some Broadway songs too.

“It’s nice to do a variety of pieces in a concert,” explained Howard. “You want to lead people into something they enjoy.”

The group takes summers off, but not McGauley.

That is when he becomes active in the River City Men's Chorus, finding it a good way to keep his voice in-tune during his break from the Don Thompson Chorale.

The River City Men's Chorus, based out of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, is a volunteer men's chorus that shares a passion for not only choral music but also a desire for helping those less fortunate through the financial support they receive from their audience.

In the four seasons since their inception, they have donated more than

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\$25,000 to local charities.

While that is certainly worth singing praise for, McGauley also has only good things to say about his melodic hobby that started in childhood.

“I am a ham at heart. I don't mind being up there singing,” said McGauley. “I am not good at talking, but singing it doesn't bother me in the least.”

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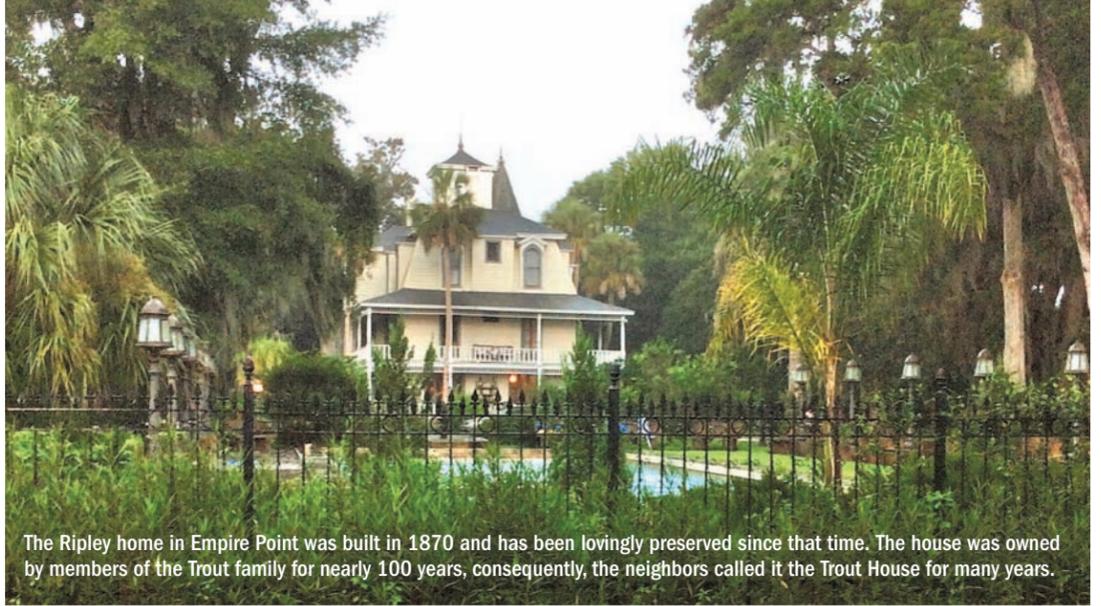
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HOMES of the CENTURY, yet homes for ALL TIME

By Robin Robinson
Resident Community News

The owners of historic homes tend to be special people who have a close bond with their homes, largely due to the effort and care they put into them. Their projects of renovation, staying true to the historic property and modernizing for today's living, are all labors of love. They take pride in the quality workmanship put into the construction decades before and strive to care for and complement its features in renovation. In doing so they pay tribute to the builders and homeowners who lived in these homes in the past. Interestingly enough, most of them retain ownership of the homes for a long period of time, so the owners the homes have had is limited in number. Each of the homes referred to here were among the first, if not the first, in their respective neighborhoods.

Ripley Home, Empire Point



The Ripley home in Empire Point was built in 1870 and has been lovingly preserved since that time. The house was owned by members of the Trout family for nearly 100 years, consequently, the neighbors called it the Trout House for many years.

Diantha York-Ripley and her husband Joe Ripley live in one of the absolute gems of Jacksonville where they have resided for over 30 years. Located in the Empire Point subdivision, the home was built in 1870 by Thomas Basnet, a noted astronomer from England. He named the towering ornate mansion and its accompanying estate "Marabanong," the Maori word for paradise. Once he and his second wife passed away the home was sold to a cousin, Grace (Mrs. George W.) Trout. Thus, the home remained in the family for over 100 years until it was sold in 1983 to the Ripleys.

Joe Ripley is a native of Jacksonville so he became very excited when the home came on the market. Diantha wasn't so easily convinced. The first time they toured the home she said, "No way." By their third visit she began to see the possibilities and gave the go-ahead for the purchase. She hasn't looked back.

As York-Ripley welcomed me into her home, she murmured the phrase "It's a lifelong project" and went on to explain some of the projects they have dealt with over the years. Fortunately, the wood floors did not need to be refinished, but one of their first projects was to remove the paint from the moulding around the windows to recapture their original wood beauty. Even today, the original windows are a constant maintenance

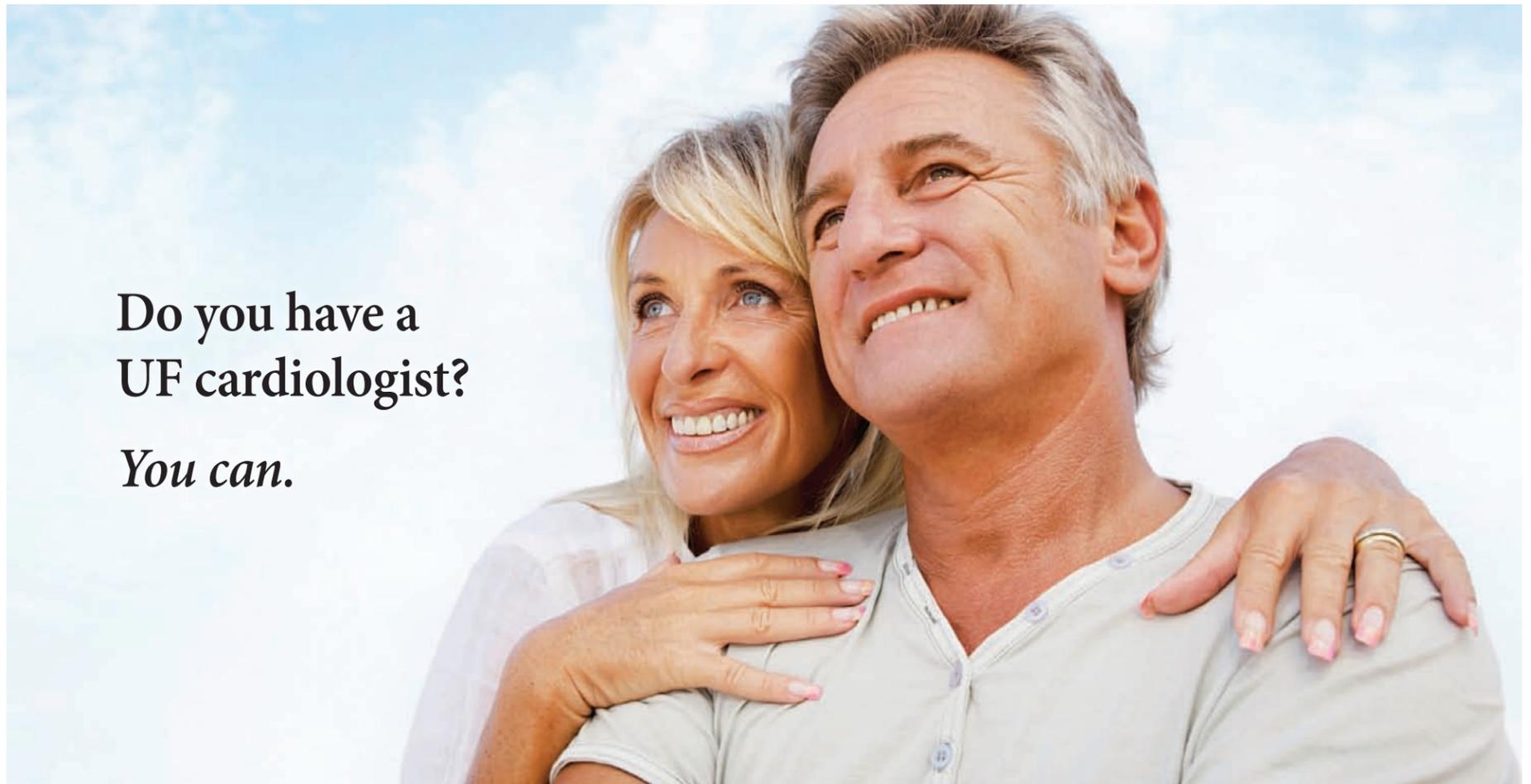
item, especially since there are 121 of them in the house.

The Ripleys agreed to put the house on a home tour one year and just before the tour date they discovered that one of the posts on the first floor veranda was rotted out. Upon closer inspection they realized that all the posts and spindles needed to be replaced on their expansive porch. They had the project completed the day of the tour with only three hours to spare before the first guests were to arrive at the house. Such is the way with historic home repairs – you must expect the unexpected.

The swimming pool at the home was Jacksonville's first, built in 1922. As could be expected in a pool of this age, it leaked and it was a large undertaking to repair it. Today it shimmers in the sunlight with brilliant blue waters. The pool has concrete benches on each side and is decorated with over 20 Venetian lanterns. The Ripleys realized that the lanterns were corroded and found that they could not be repaired. This problem called for an ironworker in China to produce replica lanterns for them so they could retain the original look of the pool area.

History reveals itself in a pond in the back of the house which was made from ballast stones unloaded by ships years ago on their return from Europe to the Jacksonville port. The Ripleys worked with it to suit their needs

Continued on P. 30 —



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HOMES

Continued from P. 29

and made it into a koi pond containing their gorgeous collection of koi fish.

York-Ripley is a well-known artist so their home is filled with her art and the lovely antiques the Ripleys have collected over the years. York-Ripley has her studio on the third floor in an aerie fit for an artist. Large curved windows facing the river give her the perfect natural light in which to paint. The Ripleys both enjoy gardening and have plenty of room to nurture their plants on the property. Historic though it may be, they have turned it into a home which reflects their personalities, talents and interests making it a very relaxed and livable space for them.



Diantha York-Ripley's studio is located on the third floor of the 6,000 square foot house in an area with windows overlooking the St. Johns River.



Diantha's artwork can be seen on the walls of the three stories of staircases which lead one on a path of discovery throughout the home.

Andrews Home, Lake Marco



The Andrews' home on River Road was one of the first four houses to be built on the street in 1927.

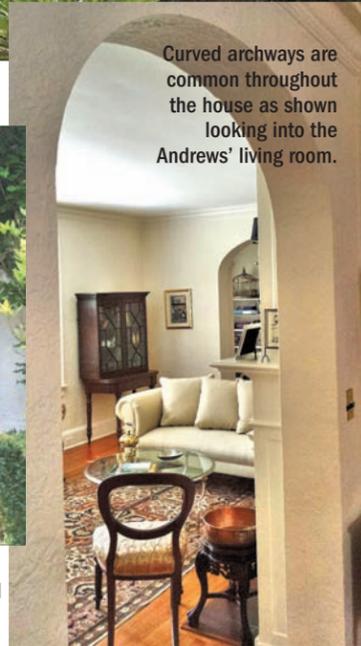
With the completion of the St. John's Bridge (Acosta Bridge) in 1921, modern day residential development took off in San Marco. Pat Andrews lives in one of the first four homes built in 1927 on Rialto Road (now River Road) in the San Marco subdivision. The home, located on the shores of Lake Marco, was purchased from Mag and Murray Black in 1983. She feels a strong bond with the home as she is personally acquainted with three of only four previous owners of the home.

The four-bedroom home was enlarged with a large open room across the back of the house by the previous owners, but the original house itself was not disturbed. Wonderful architectural features abound in the house with arched entryways, rounded doors, original brass hardware and beautiful wood floors. The plaster in the home was crafted by the same man who did the plasterwork in the DuPont mansion in Epping Forest. The tile in one of the bathrooms also matches that of Epping Forest, confirming that they were built in the same time period likely with same craftsmen. The house has a very comfortable feeling of home to it.

The kitchen and bathrooms have been updated for modern day living which is typically needed in these treasured older homes. An unusual historical item in the dining room is a "butler button" on the floor which was once used to call the maid from her quarters. Of course, it is no longer



Care has been taken to preserve the front entrance and door to the Andrews' home.

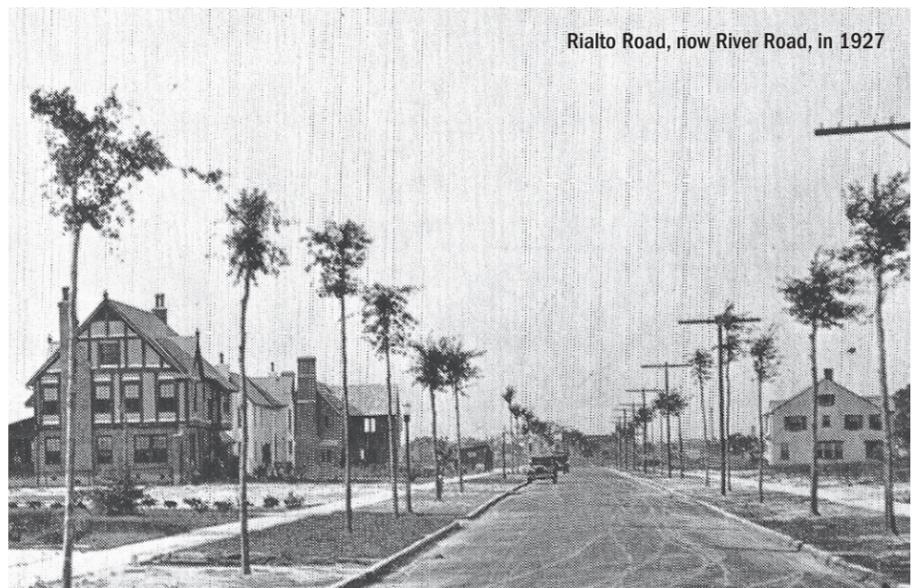


Curved archways are common throughout the house as shown looking into the Andrews' living room.

used, but it has been left in place as a part of the original home.

With the bedrooms being somewhat small by today's standards, a master bedroom was added to the home above the garage in 1991. Tom Trout (once the owner of the Ripley's "Marabanong" house mentioned above) was the builder for the project and did a masterful job of blending the new construction with the old. Andrews recently installed a select heart pine floor in the room. She takes her work seriously and before proceeding with any project she does her homework by researching and studying the possible alternatives. In her search for just the right wood for her floor she located a company in Micanopy, Florida, which specializes in antique river-recovered pine. She and her husband made a personal visit to the Goodwin Heart Pine Company to consult with the company which uses divers and equipment to retrieve logs from Florida rivers to provide 200- to 500-year-old wood for hardwood flooring which is harder and prettier than wood harvested today. The floor of the master bedroom, which was milled to her specification, is a testament to that fact.

At the time the home was purchased there were plans on the dining room table where she lived for a home to be built in Marsh Landing. Plans changed when the historical neighborhood idea came up and San Marco was discovered. Once she toured the home her mind was made up even against the advice of her loving mother. Andrews loves her home on the water and loves living in San Marco. She says, "San Marco provides every quality feature that a neighborhood should have. Good neighbors, friendliness, and the city center to which we can walk, all combine to complete the picture." Home it has been for over 30 years and home it will remain.



Rialto Road, now River Road, in 1927

The Janie Boyd Real Estate Team



(From left to right) Trey Martin, Judy Jones Davis, Tinnon Froehlich, Cheryl Laucks, Janie Boyd, Jamie Spicer, Moody Baker, Betty Thomas, Charlie Boyd, Linda Strickland.

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Norton Home, San Jose Park



The Norton home at 1222 River Oaks Road was one of the first homes built in the subdivision. The Mediterranean theme was quite popular and many homes in San Marco have adopted the style.



The Norton living room shows the curved windows and doors which appear throughout the home.



The pecky cypress ceiling in the Norton living room is a treasured piece of architecture which was originally a part of the DuPont Mansion in Epping Forest.

Shaw Home, Granada



Located at 3911 Cordova Avenue Tom and Suzanne Shaw's historic 1928 home was the second house built in Granada.

The Shaws' beautiful courtyard offers a serene setting in which the family can relax.



The Shaw family gathers in front of the stone fireplace in the living room.

Granada subdivision was another Florida Land Boom development in Southside. Tom and Suzanne Shaw own a home on Cordova Avenue which was the second to be built in the neighborhood in 1928. The vision for Granada was to be in the style of Coral Gables in south Florida with its Mediterranean influence. One of the unusual features of the development is curbs colored pink to mimic pink coral. Unfortunately, following the land bust the subdivision stood vacant during the 1930s until the Depression came to an end. Today it is a fully developed neighborhood with quiet streets and lovely homes and gardens.

The Shaws lived near the neighborhood when their first child was born so they frequently took walks through Granada strolling their baby. They quickly decided that this particular house was their favorite one and even went so far as to say that one day they would live in it. Several years later the house went on the market and did not sell. The sellers had to lower the price and that's when the Shaws stepped up to purchase the home. It was not a hard decision to make. Suzanne says that the first time they walked into the inside of the house she, her mother and her mother-in-law "felt like the house wrapped its arms around us."

The Shaw family has lived in their home for 16 years and admits that owning and

maintaining their historic home has been challenging. When they purchased the home it was in disrepair and the most immediate project was to repair the roof. Kitchen modernization and bathroom upgrades were also on the agenda early on.

Another project they worked hard on was redoing the courtyard by installing a more attractive fountain feature and adding landscaping. It has been transformed into a luscious green oasis with water bubbling from the tiled fountain. Stripping the paint off the beautiful pecky cypress found in the home was another big project that they tackled in his study and on the covered front porch.

Because the house was built before air conditioning was available, it was designed to provide great ventilation by the use of lots of windows on all sides. The windows are all original, but care must be taken to keep the wood frames in good repair. Initially all the outside doors had screen doors and once they were removed they realized that they had actually been providing a certain degree of protection from the weather for the glass doors. With historic homes one has to be aware that any changes made could have unforeseen results. And, by the way, in addition to the windows there are also 27 doors in this 2,500 square foot house.

San Jose Park subdivision was platted in the heat of the Florida Land Boom on land which today is known as River Oaks subdivision in San Marco. The San Jose Park developers decided that only Mediterranean-style homes would be built west of Hendricks Avenue in the subdivision, but they managed to build only a few before the land boom bubble burst. One of those first homes is located at 1222 River Oaks Road and owned by Tom and Catherine Norton.

The Nortons purchased the home in 2001 after the previous owner, Debbie Barnes, did a major renovation of the house. They are only the third owners of the home, but they are the first owners to actually live in it. It was originally built as a rental house which accounts for the previous owners not living there.

Tom Norton describes the home as the perfect marriage between old and new. The previous owner increased the square footage of the house during her renovation by adding a large family room and master bedroom in the back of the house. Today they seamlessly blend together. The kitchen was completely renovated and bathrooms were added. The windows in the home are original and in order to protect them the Nortons had them reglazed. Every two years the windows are inspected and repaired as necessary. The original fireplace mantel is quite unique. Constructed of wood it had been painted but now stands stripped, appearing distressed in the best sense of the word. The living room ceiling has a breath-taking pecky cypress adornment which came from the DuPont mansion in Epping Forest.

Finding this dream home was indeed

serendipitous for them. In 2001 Norton was being transferred to St. Augustine and because they had completely renovated an historic home in Tulsa, they gravitated towards finding another one. Not finding what they were looking for in St. Augustine Norton was ready to turn down the job and stay in Oklahoma. His wife didn't give up quite so easily and, although they knew nothing about Jacksonville, she looked up historic area homes for sale on the Internet. Her first hit was the River Oaks Road house and she convinced him to take the drive up to Jacksonville to check it out. There were only two homes for sale in San Marco at the time; one a multimillion dollar mansion and the other the one she discovered on the Internet. The minute they walked into their Mediterranean gem they knew it was "just right" for them.

They felt very fortunate to find a move-in ready historic home, but projects continue and he is able to tackle most that need doing. He added some built-ins in the home, but did it in such a way that they can one day be removed and not damage the original structure. Norton also notes that there are qualified craftsmen working in the neighborhood who are accustomed to the special care that needs to be taken with historic homes. The neighbors share referrals with one another and manage to keep them busy.

Norton feels that River Oaks is a very special neighborhood. River Oaks Road has five short finger streets connecting off it and the people living on them all know each other. Norton says, "This is a very special place much like the way neighborhoods used to be. The neighbors all know each other and watch out for one another."

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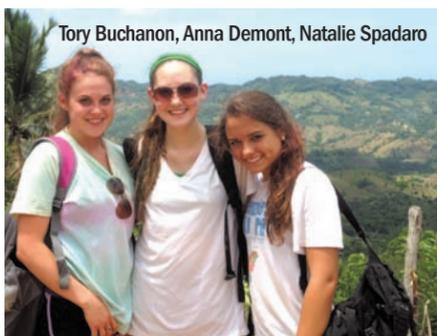
Bolles young women serve in the D.R.

San Jose resident Natalie Spadaro and Avondale residents Tory Buchanon and Anna Demont, all students at the Bolles School, spent 10 days this summer in the Dominican Republic volunteering in rural and urban communities working on sustainable projects. Two of the projects were reforestation and construction of new school buildings.

Most days were spent building the "bottle school" in Caraballo, Dominican Republic. The basic system of construction they employed was to apply cement over chicken wire over used plastic bottles.

"We worked with very poor communities and kids who did not have access to food every day or even shoes. We worked on bottle schools, which are buildings and the walls are built with chicken wire and empty plastic bottles put between the wire and we cement the top," said Spadaro.

The group also spent time with local children at a Haitian resettlement village, La Grua, doing arts and crafts, playing sports and games, and teaching basic conversational English. When they first arrived the group again began to pick up some of the seemingly endless trash strewn across the



fields and riverbanks of the village. "We went to a village where the people were dependent on tourists and visitors; they live off the cash they receive from selling their yarn bracelets or just braiding hair. It's obviously extremely different than a developed country," Spadaro related.

"Once I came back to America I realized how lucky we are and how unnecessary most of the things we have are. It was a big change coming from the Dominican, with no air conditioning, then stepping into the Miami airport, which is now a huge mall with just more junk," she concluded. "I'm more appreciative of everything I have in my life and I want to do more to help poor countries."

Magnolia Ball 2014 Debutantes



Photo by Laura Evans Photography

The Debutante Coterie of Jacksonville at the 2014 Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club in June. Front: Ivey Bruce Gordon, Stephanie Marie Ira, Ashley Elizabeth Pilcher, Annemarie Evans Hale; back: Jane Ann Howerton, Emily Anne Prendergast, Elizabeth Stapleton Pilcher, Elizabeth Brooks Daw, Madeleine Eve Barker

Silcott Named Head Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Coach

Brian Silcott was named Head Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Coach by Brad Johnson, president and Head of The Bolles School. Coach Silcott brings extensive experience as a player and coach at all levels of lacrosse. After beginning his college career at Cornell, Coach Silcott moved to Nazareth College where he was a First Team All-American, national Mid-Fielder of the Year and National Champion. He then played professional lacrosse.

The approximately 130 Bolles athletes already involved in lacrosse will have complete freedom to choose other sports, clubs or tournaments outside the School spring varsity season.

"We are thrilled to be joining an

established program, including a boarding facility, that has unlimited potential for our student-athletes," Silcott said. "We will continue to develop lacrosse players and future leaders by maintaining the School's primary emphasis on academics." He and his wife, Karen, a former varsity lacrosse player at Syracuse, are in the process of relocating to Jacksonville.



Episcopal introduces new teaching method



David Gehler, Cathy Kanaday and Marta Pauly with teachers from Phillips Exeter

The new 2014-2015 school year at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville will be a pilot year for a new teaching method for many of the faculty.

Three teachers from Phillips Exeter Academy came to Episcopal to train nearly half of the faculty in the Harkness Method of teaching during two two-day sessions this summer.

The Harness Method, named after a philanthropist who was an average and struggling student that later inherited a fortune founded on the forerunner of Standard Oil, places students around a table instead of in rows, and places the teacher right alongside them instead of in the front. The class learns the way a team on the field or on the court plays, looking to each other as

much as the coach to be successful. Harkness tables and chairs will be installed in four classrooms on campus and the method will be used exclusively by Natalie Herford, Marta Pauly, Cathy Kanaday, Bert Harrell, Greg Summers and David Gehler, with many teachers using the method periodically in their classes this fall.

This way of approaching the classroom does not dramatically change the way students are evaluated and assessed, nor does it change the amount of homework expected in each class. It will, though, generate enthusiasm and motivation, and students will more likely feel their homework is meaningful, according to Gehler, professional development coordinator.

Reaching out on the first day of school

Students at San Jose episcopal Day School started the school year in service on Aug. 13.

Sixth graders learned about Church Without Walls, a local ministry created by Mother Beth Tjoflat - an SJEDS alumnae - that

reaches across social boundaries to those who are most often are overlooked, forgotten or rejected. They painted river rocks with messages of hope and love to be distributed during outdoor worship.



Fifth graders at San Jose episcopal Day School learned about D.R.A.W. (Disaster Relief At Work) during a Skype session with Greg Martin, and created handwritten messages of hope and support for people who are dealing with disasters across the country.



Abner Davis visited with fourth graders to tell the amazing story of the Clara White Mission. They will make placemats to be used during a meal service at Clara's at the Cathedral, which helps fund services for local homeless men, women and children.

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Former Landon student author of new iBook chosen by DCPS

Pete Carney, a former Landon Middle School student, is co-author of Interactive Listening, an iBook and textbook chosen by Duval County Public School officials for a new music education curriculum.



Pete Carney, co-author of Interactive Listening, innovative music education iBook and textbook

have imagined that I would create a music app that the Duval County school system would use in 20 years," said Carney, whose parents, Peter and Denise Carney, live in San Jose.

Interactive Listening, which has earned rave reviews from music educators nationwide, was named by Apple Inc. as the #1 Editor's Choice in all categories of textbooks and was the first music education method to ever be featured on Apple's iTunes website. Duval County Public Schools recently purchased 2,000 textbooks for students and 100 iBooks for teachers as part of this new initiative.

Created for digital-savvy students, Interactive Listening features Hollywood-style graphics, an orchestra of interactive 3-D instruments, and entertaining computer

games. Developed by Carney and Brian Felix, Interactive Listening remixes music with technology in a compelling new way, abandoning the traditional textbook approach. Carney and Felix, music educators and jazz musicians, sought to bring music history alive for students with interactive content that spans 35,000 years of music.

"We wanted to create enjoyable content that engages students by using a diverse spectrum of sounds, from prehistoric cavemen to Beethoven to Coldplay," said Carney. "We give music education the movie-star treatment, by including music videos, 3-D imagery and computer games that make it fun for students to learn music history."



Bowl 'n Brunch

Jewish Family & Community Services hosted a family Brunch-N-Bowl on Aug. 3 to bring families together for a day of fun, fundraising for and education about Jewish Family & Community Service's impact on Jacksonville. Event chairs were Lauren and Michael Setzer and Melanie and Ben Setzer.



Steven Samera, Jim Tamol, Faryn Bouse, Alina Mar, Chelsea Samera, Jennifer Barrett Tamol and Avery Samera in front.



Andrea, Christy, Jeff and Ben Rosen



Seated, Tyler and Naomi Curl, Zachary and George Setzer; standing, Jeff and Christy Rosen, Michael, Jeremy and Lauren Setzer, Melanie and Ben Setzer, Faylin Shilts, daughter Jordyn and son Zachary



Lauren and Melanie Setzer, event chairs



Rachel and JoJo Weinstein



Ben Marsh, Sarah Fraden, Steve Levine



Rachel and Tess Chewning, Matthew and Rachel Lufano, Amber Barnes, Diana Johnson

Anonymous buyer makes Wolfson Children very happy



Desiree Bailey and her father, Mike Molyneaux, deliver more than 1,200 toys for the Wolfson Children's Hospital Christmas in July Toy Drive, thanks to an anonymous donor who bought the entire Melissa and Doug inventory from Bailey, owner of the San Marco Bookstore.

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Bishop Kenny students start school with new resources, renovations

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Twelve hundred Bishop Kenny High School students returned to school last month to the \$1.6 million building and renovation project which had impacted much of the school's 55-acre campus over the summer vacation.

Father Michael Houle, president of the school shared, "We are so pleased with this summer's projects – most especially because of the diverse nature of the improvements and additions that have been made. We've impacted the academic and technology programs, the arts, our stadium facilities, and even the lobby area where visitors to campus are welcomed."

The Demetree Learning Commons, located on the site of the original school library is a redesigned learning and technology headquarters for students. Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando explained, "This state-of-the-art facility supports the development of the 21st century skill set that we are committed to imparting to all of our students. It is the perfect complement to our 1:1 iPad initiative, now in its second year." Although all students use iPads, the technology center provides PC workstations for students who prefer a full keyboard and larger screen or need to print a document, according to media specialist Kate Moody.

A surplus classroom located in close proximity to the art studio has been transformed into a permanent art gallery, with movable walls. This new facility provides an opportunity for student art to be displayed throughout the year and underscores BK's commitment to supporting students who are interested in the arts. Orlando added, "The gallery and the Carla Harris Performing Arts Center, which opened in 2011, offer wonderful opportunities for our students to be exposed to the arts."

William Johnston Stadium, home to the Bishop Kenny Crusaders, has also undergone a substantial makeover that will have a positive impact on every athlete and spectator that uses the stadium for many generations to come. A press box nearly three times the size of the previous one, complete with all of the wiring necessary to facilitate live radio broadcasts and the live streaming of Crusader action on the field, has been added to the stadium. All new men's and women's restroom facilities, designed to accommodate even BK's largest events, have been completed,



along with a new concession facility.

Well-lit and beautifully landscaped patio spaces complete the picture of the newly renovated riverfront sports complex. Bishop Felipe Estévez blessed and dedicated the new stadium facilities at the Crusader season opener on Aug. 29 against Bartram Trail High School.



Technology coordinator Tim Yocum assists student Javier Sowers with an iPad problem at the Genius Bar in the new Demetree Learning Commons.



The Learning Commons includes space to relax and read or do quiet work, and has a multi-media room for training sessions, plus worktables designed to promote collaborative work.

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Flashbacks

A look back at Golden Rule days

By Robin Robinson
Resident Community News

“School Days,” an old American popular song written in 1907 by Will Cobb and Gus Edwards, takes many residents down memory lane as they watched children heading back

to school last month. The best known part of the song is the first half of its chorus: School days, school days, Dear old Golden Rule days, Reading and ‘riting and ‘rithmetic...



Alfred I. duPont Middle School was formerly duPont Senior High School which was a great school from which many Southsiders graduated. Shown here is a class picture taken in 1951.

Hendricks Avenue Elementary School has been an integral component of the Southside community for many years. Third grade classmates are shown here in a 1945 picture.



Bolles Military Academy was founded as an all-boys school in 1933 in a former hotel situated on San Jose Boulevard on the banks of the St. John's River. Pictured here is a cadet class from the 1940s. The school dropped its military status in 1961 and began admitting girls in 1971.



Landon Senior High School was built in 1927. Pictured here are girls in the Landon senior class of 1948.

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