

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

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APRIL 2013

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS, FIERCELY LOCAL READERS

Volume 7, Issue 4

RIVERSIDE • ORTEGA • AVONDALE • MURRAY HILL



Celebrating the River

Avondale junior residents Will and John Goodman and Coe Gallagher help clean up Stockton Park as part of the river clean-up and celebration.

Record turnout for annual River Celebration and Cleanup

The 18th annual River Celebration and Cleanup was a success by every measure. There were 50 cleanup sites (up from 30 sites in 2012) over greater Jacksonville. The numbers include 1,183 volunteers (also up from 1,002) who gave 3,442 hours on a Saturday morning, collecting 1,154 bags of trash from the river banks, storm drains and streets, in addition to 158 tires, six mattresses, three shopping carts, two bicycles and two dump trucks full of invasive plant species, among other oddities. People came out in organized groups or on their own to help keep our city and its neighborhoods beautiful. Of note, the four new Riverside/ Avondale check-in sites together tallied 453 volunteers (38 percent) of the total volunteers.

See more photos page 6



Students participate in River Run

North Florida School of Special Education had 14 students with varying intellectual disabilities participate in the Gate River Run on Mar. 9, for the second year. The students, who range in age from 10-21 years, have a mantra of "Never Say Never" inspired by the popular Justin Bieber song of the same name. Director of NFSSE Sally Hazelip and running coaches, Ellen Hiser and Garrett Opper, along with Adaptive PE coach Amber Bixler, encouraged the team to master The Green Monster and cross the finish line together.

Hiser said, "These students trained in rain, heat and cold running countless laps on our school's track to prepare for the run. We could not be more proud of their perseverance and for overcoming the challenges they face with their varying intellectual and physical disabilities."

Cummer holds 34th annual ball

Members and guests swung to the tunes of The Tangee Renee Band on Mar. 16 at the annual live auction and ball at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Chairpersons Suzanne Hinckley and Chris Hieb planned the exciting evening from start to finish, which included the opportunity for Grand Benefactors to adopt a work of art in the Museum's collection for one year.

..... page 22



Kathryn, Avery and Lucy Williams all lent a hand to make the 2013 Cummer Ball one to remember

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In Memoriam *Saints Above*

Editor's Note: The Resident honors those who made a difference in our lives and who now rest as saints above.

Florence Kori Isaac Railsback – 2/1/1925 – 3/17/2013

Long-time Avondale resident and acclaimed interior designer Florence Railsback died on St. Patrick's Day at age 88. Railsback was well known for her talent in interior design and was an active member of the American Society of Interior Design for over 40 years. She was employed in interior decorating by May-Cohens (where she sold the most business in the history of the store in Jacksonville) and Jones Bros. and later opened her own design firm, Florence's Interior Design. Passionate about interior design, Railsback tackled everything from large estate homes to corporate offices to yachts and inns. She also drew the plans for her own beach house.



Railsback attended St. John's Presbyterian Church for 58 years and was a member of the Woman's Club of Jacksonville and Riverside Garden Club. She was featured in the first issue of The Resident News in January 2007 as Resident of the Month, where she shared, "I loved what I did. Do what you love."

She is survived by her son Fred Isaac, Jr., Chancellor of the Diocesan Council, and daughter Janet Blacker, principal and director at Christ Episcopal Church Preschool, as well as four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a brother, Cromwell Kori, and a sister, Sophie K. Farris.

Virginia Wood – Accomplished artist, noted therapist loses battle to Alzheimer's disease

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Virginia "Gini" Ann Wood passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2013. On Mar. 24 a Celebration of Life honored her memory at the Riverside Avenue Christian Church. The celebration featured many of the things she cherished: family, friends, art and music.

The Rev. Kent Dorsey spoke of Gini's gentleness and her eye for beauty. He believed her love for Impressionism enabled her to see beyond the surface, a trait that served her well as a respected psychotherapist who was particularly passionate about working with children. She had returned to formal education later in life, receiving her B.A. and M.A. in psychology from the University of North Florida.

One of Gini's paintings graced the church altar because she was an accomplished artist who had exhibited her work at Art after Dark and in numerous local galleries. Until the last two weeks of her life her friends would visit and paint with her. The altar painting featured a small European home on lush grounds, a reminder that she had loved gardening, traveling, photography as well as spending time with family and friends.

"She was so open and enthusiastic," said Bruce Musser, owner of Hair Peace Salon. "She invited me and a friend to tour her house with its incredible art. She told us the stories of the various pieces and encouraged us to handle the artifacts. It was a day to remember."



photo by Kirk Chamberlain

Gini's husband, Dr. Wayne Wood, OD, provided another glimpse of the multi-faceted woman that had been his wife when he thanked her yoga friends, her piano teacher, and the Hospice workers for the parts they had played in his wife's journey with Alzheimer's.

In addition to her husband Wayne, Gini is survived by her three children, David Browning of Tallahassee, FL; Angela Browning of Neptune Beach; and Robert Browning of Winter Park, FL. She is also survived by

stepchildren Grady and Sarah Webb-Wood and two grandsons, Pierce and Jack Browning of Tallahassee.

Jazz clarinetist Morton Perry closed the celebration of Gini's life with a stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace." As friends and family filed out of the church to the reception at the Woods' home, several individuals commented on Dr. Wood's reading of Mary Oliver's poem that asks each individual, "What are you going to do with your one wild and wonderful life?"

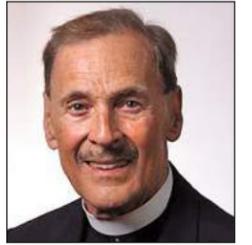
Crowd consensus seemed to be that Gini Wood, who had studied with

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, renowned writer on death and dying, had packed her own wild and wonderful life full of grace, beauty, lifelong learning, kindness, and concern for others. As her son Robert noted, even when she lost the power of speech, she leaned over and picked a flower and handed it to a caregiver she thought she had offended.

The family has requested that donations be made in Gini's name to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida or the Alzheimer's Association.

Former pastor, Hospice founder passes at 73

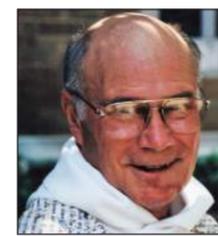
The Rev. Paul Brenner, a pastor and musician who founded Community Hospice of Northeast



Florida in 1979, died Feb. 22 under hospice care at his home in San Francisco. Rev. Brenner, who had cancer, was 73. He served Grace Lutheran Church in Riverside from 1966-1976. He left parish ministry to specialize in hospice ministry, establishing and serving as CEO of Community Hospice, one of the oldest in the United States and the first in Florida to be certified by Medicare. The hospice was funded when Brenner mortgaged his home to buy a restaurant in 5 Points; he received no salary for the first two years of the organization.

Husband of St. Catherine's Rector Suellau dies

The Rev. David I. Suellau, 82, of Orange Park died at home on Jan. 27. He survived by his wife Rev.



Nancy Shebs Suellau, rector of St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, two daughters, a son, three grandchildren and a sister.

Suellau served as a U.S. Marine during the Korean War as an M-46 tank driver. In June of 1965, David was ordained an Episcopal priest, serving as the assistant rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Orlando, FL. From 1968-1975 he served as Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Maitland. In 1975, Rev. Suellau served as Rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in DeLand, FL, retiring in 1994.

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Avondale, charming front porch, det garage



JUST LISTED

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NEW PRICE

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Spacious 2-story Ortega built in 2004, 3553sf,
sep guest house & 2 garages



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Patrons "mad" about Murray Hill Library invited to fundraiser

Fundraising and advocacy can be fun, as friends of the Murray Hill Library will find out at 8 p.m. on Apr. 7 at Blue Fish Restaurant in Avondale. A watch party of the Season 6 premiere of AMC's popular Mad Men series will be hosted by Friends of the Murray Hill Library (FMHL) to raise awareness – along with donations – of the non-binding straw ballot petition currently circulating. The petition will help gauge public interest in allowing Duval County voters to establish an independent tax district for libraries. If passed, the taxes will create a dedicated revenue stream for Jacksonville's public library system.

FMHL vice president of social media John Meeks, Jr., said "I want our guests to be able to make a difference in our community in a meaningful way that fosters literacy and learning for everyone in Duval County. If we can sweeten the pot with a chance to party with Don

Draper and Peggy Olson [referring to characters on Mad Men], we can engage supporters in a novel way that allows them to be entertained and enlightened."

Petitions are currently available at The Growing Tree at 1080 S. Edgewood Ave. for those who are unable to attend the Mad Men party but wish to sign a petition for the non-binding ballot proposal (hours are Tues-Fri 9:30-4:30 and Sat 10-3). Details of the petition may be viewed at SaveJaxLibraries.com.

"This is a multi-faceted movement that needs our support in many ways," said Meeks, who plans to incorporate social networking to bring FMHL greater visibility through Facebook and Twitter. He has created a Twitter account (@FMHLJAX) that he plans to use for immediate communication to supplement the existing Facebook group.

Number Hunter project on stage at One Spark

Lest you think that One Spark projects are only about the arts, here's one that could change the face of math education for inner city children. The Number Hunter, a fun, educational web-based show for preteens, will be front and center at The Landing during One Spark, Apr. 17-21.



Stephanie Glen

According to Stephanie Glen, a mathematician and creative writer, The Number Hunter is a cross between "Bill Nye, the Science Guy" and "The Crocodile Hunter."

"We want to do for math what Bill Nye did for science! Each episode introduces one topic in math and explores it in an original and adventurous way," said Glen. "For exam-

ple, did you know that binary code was invented by an African tribe in Mali – and they still use it today?"

Glen needed funding, though, to develop her One Spark presentation. For that she turned to Kickstarter, an online funding platform for creative projects. The Number Hunter project exceeded its \$2,500 goal by mid-March and Glen's team began filming for the One Spark five-minute, promotional video.

For a preview of the project, visit <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/564889170/the-number-hunter-promo>.



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Can't wait to get Mellow?

Residents may be wondering what's going on with the Mellow Mushroom in Avondale. According to owner John Valentino, they are almost finished with the construction drawings and are hoping to submit them to the city for permits by the middle of April. "We recently presented the interior elevations to a design review board in Atlanta," said Valentino. "I feel good about our plans at this point and look forward to starting construction soon."

Stay tuned for updates on the demolishing of the gas station at the corner of St. Johns Blvd. and Ingleside Avenue and the construction of the area's newest restaurant

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Boyer speaks against another Mobility Fee moratorium

What does it mean for taxpayers?

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

For the hundred or so citizens who deigned to attend the Mar. 11 joint committee meeting of the City Council's Rules, Finance and TEU committees, the two-and-a-half hour session on Mobility Fees didn't get interesting until nearly the end.

That's when District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer spoke. And everyone listened.

Prior to her turn at the microphone, the session heard voices from both sides of the ongoing 2030 Mobility Plan argument: to waive or not to waive. The prior one-year moratorium expired Oct. 11, 2012 on the plan that had been approved in 2009 by City Council to replace the mandated concurrency system.

Subsequently, District 3 Councilman Richard Clark sponsored a proposal (2013-94) that would enact a three-year moratorium on fees paid by developers of residential dwellings (not including apartment buildings).

Developers have been opposed to the 2030 Mobility Plan – at least in its current calculated fee configuration – claiming that the industry hardest hit by the economic recession needs a break. They would welcome another moratorium on paying the fee.

Citizens, community groups and

businesses, however, are worried that without the fee, many of the infrastructural niceties – like sidewalks, bus stops and bicycle lanes – would not be funded, to the detriment of the city's livability.

Those speaking at the meeting in support of Clark's bill included Curtis

Hart, a local builder, as well as Wyman Dugan, representative for Fairfield Residential Development. Some of their points included that the assessed mobility fee often exceeded the cost of the lot; that only 8% of the fee contributed to the infrastructure amenities, and that the calculation just wasn't fair, based on overestimated traffic counts (which are actually decreasing due to high gas prices and job losses, according to Hart).

The mantle on the bill's opposing side was taken up by Doug Skiles, EnVision Engineering + Design. He acknowledged that his was an unusual position for a civil engineer and land use architect, but Skiles has been a proponent for positions and actions that work together to make Jacksonville a people-friendly city.

Bill sponsor Clark stated that a mobility fee, at this time, would choke the momentum of the building industry and create one more financial hurdle to get homes built. "I will choose

the guy on the backhoe or the one slinging a hammer over the guy who wants a bike path," said Clark.

But Councilman-at-large John Crescimbeni expressed concern about a three-year moratorium, "I don't think it's prudent to land-bank parcels for two to five years when there are

over 13,000 lots ready to be developed."

The original goal of the Mobility Plan, according to City Council President Bill Bishop, was to broaden the base by requiring all developers to pay in and to lower the per capita fees. "The goal was to incentivize infill [developing on

previously platted vacant parcels] and dis-incentivize building out [new parcels]."

What does another moratorium mean to area residents? Boyer put it best. "This is a zero-sum game. If we don't charge the fee [to developers], the public will have to pay. Both developers and homeowners are sitting on properties that have suffered losses in investment, but the homeowner doesn't get a break. If the fees are not paid, this will be one of those decisions that will require future generations to pay for it," she said.

Although Boyer, along with District 14 Councilman Jim Love, supported

the earlier moratorium, she indicated that she has not seen the expected results and would have "a real problem shifting the cost of infrastructure needs to everyone else."

Council members in support of the new three-year moratorium, such as at-large member Robin Lumb, felt that the waiver was necessary to move jobs in construction. "No other industry has taken such a hit as construction," he said. "With a mobility fee, what is the rationale for building more?"

Love said, in a separate interview, "If the fee is not paid [by developers], there are two choices. One, take money from general funds for sidewalks and bicycle lanes and then not have it for something else, or two, don't build roads. And that leads to over-utilization of current roads."

At the end of the day the joint committee deferred the vote for the three-year waiver, but two action items were put forward. Bishop offered to convene an ad hoc committee of both council members and community members to come up with a better method of calculating the fees. Crescimbeni would like to work with both sides to negotiate a temporary agreement to the proposed moratorium. The latter item would probably be accomplished soonest.

I think the deferral was a good idea," said Love. "It will give us time to review the plan."

In the meantime, mobility fees are currently in force for any new projects under development.

"This is a zero-sum game. If the fees are not paid... future generations will pay for it."

Lori Boyer

District 5 Councilwoman



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School zone speed limits in Ortega not always obeyed

Councilman Love responds to residents' complaints

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Eight o'clock on a school day morning last month found District 14 Councilman Jim Love surveying the traffic speeding through not one, but two, school zones along Baltic Street.

Love was responding to complaints about drivers that do not observe the twice-a-day school zone speeds for St. Mark's Episcopal Day School and the Ortega Elementary School.

The enforcement times differ by about 15 minutes for the schools. Assistant Head of St. Mark's Karen Lee noted that those times, when

traffic must observe a 15 mph limit, are also when late-comers are breaking the rules. "Drivers coming off McGirts onto Ionic are in a hurry to drop off children in the morning or pick them up at the end of the school day," she said. "Then, the break in

the school zones causes drivers to speed up for a short stretch before hav-

ing to slow down again. Sometimes they don't slow down." Residents on McGirts Blvd. and Ionic Ave. have reported that two animals were killed and one child hit

in the past year when motorists turned off McGirts onto Ionic, using that quiet little street as a shortcut to pick up children at after-school day-care at St. Mark's.

Unobserving children and unwary animals are the most likely to encounter drivers who are, at best, simply preoccupied or, at worst, flagrantly disobedient of the law. While Love observed the morning traffic along Baltic Street, two children on bicycles attempted to cross without pausing to allow Lee, working as the morning crossing guard that day, to stop oncoming traffic. She quickly halted both the cyclists and an oncoming car.

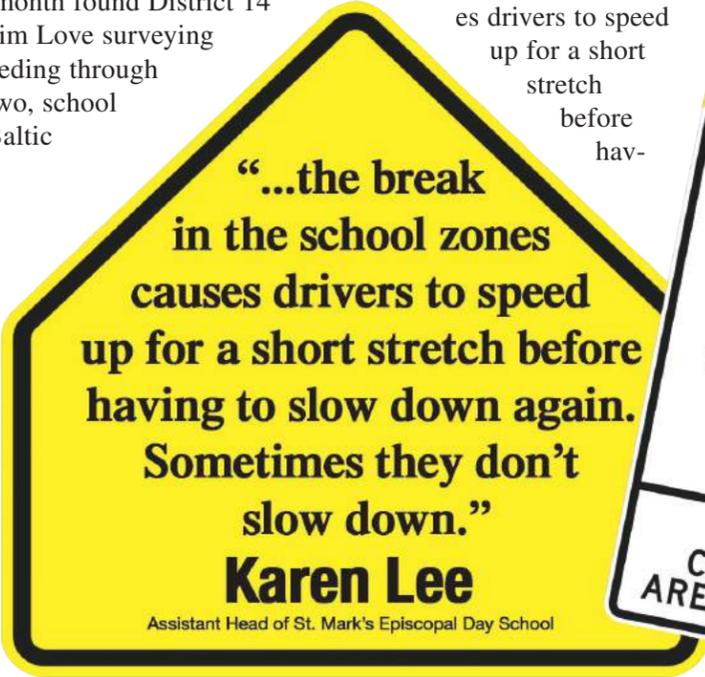
Lee said, "We have already communicated (and will continue to do so) to our families about the importance of being aware of the residen-

tial areas as they approach and depart from our school. This is a message that all schools must handle proactively and with which we take very seriously."

Councilman Love sent his observations to William Joyce, Chief of Engineering and Construction Management for the City of Jacksonville, to see what remedies could be put into place along Baltic and McGirts. One solution Love made is to simply extend the school zone from one end of Baltic at Ionic to the other at Princeton Avenue; drivers would have to observe the 15 mph limit for two-tenths of a mile without a break between the schools. Installing a flashing yellow light to catch the attention of drivers is another possibility as is erecting "Slow, Children" signs, while the last, and most unpopular, would be speed bumps.

"The problem with speed bumps is that no one likes them, especially during the hours when school is not in session, which is the majority of the time," said Love.

The councilman had also proposed a roundabout at McGirts where it meets Corinthian and Manitou avenues, which will help slow down speed limit scofflaws.



Cleaning the River a thing of pride and joy



Mayor Alvin Brown bagged trash at the Northbank Riverwalk cleanup site



Front, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, Mayor Alvin Brown, Chris Buckley of Keep Jacksonville Beautiful and Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper; back: John Shellhorn of Clean It Up, Green It Up, and Jimmy Orth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper



Jay Burnett of Bold Bean Coffee said, "I'm a recreational cigarette butt picker-upper."



The Junior League of Jacksonville picked up trash in the 5 Points Historic District and surrounding streets: Front, Will Waller and Jaden Patel with Shannon Davis, Leslie Navidi and Kathy Waller; rear: Rakesh Patel, April Patterson, Megan Dodd, Malana and Becky Patel, Ginger Longmire and Janice Rice.



Boy Scout Troop 2 has been participating in the River Celebration and Clean-up since the inception of the event, always at the Fishweir Creek location. Taking part in the 2013 event were James Baker, Jared Carter, Mason Doherty, Reid Hampton, Spencer Hule, Karsten Hunger, Reese Kalka, Max Klavon, Corbin Lowe, Oliver Michelson, Sam Michelson, John Monteleone, Trent Newton, Gannon Nolan, James Payne, Gabriel Perry, Andrew Russell, Pete Russell, John Wright Stanly, Jack Swinson, Grant Wallace, Hunter Warner, Ben Watson, and Caleb Watson. Troop leaders included Alan Wilson, Chris Michelson, Brent Klavon, Tom Swinson, Joe Wood, and Todd Brown.

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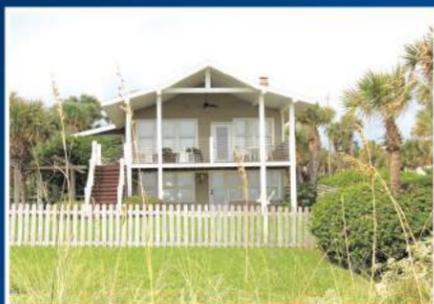
Coldwell Banker

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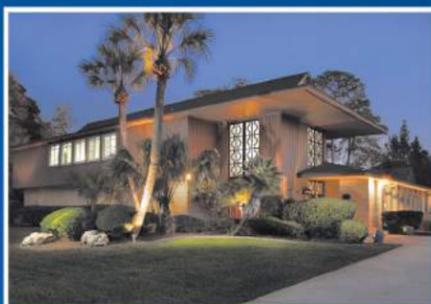
Wade Griffin, Christie Radney, Amy Powell, Seth Kimball, Phillip Thompson, Tripp Newsom, Christy Hilpert and Anne Burpee Rain.



\$2,479,000 • 697 BEACH AVE



\$885,000 • 1880 EDGEWOOD AVE S



\$575,000 • 5007 ORTEGA FOREST DR



\$490,000 • 11949 BRANAN FIELD RD



\$365,000 • 4575 REEDBARK LN



\$329,900 • 2279 FALLEN TREE DR E



\$329,000 • 1516 MALLORY ST



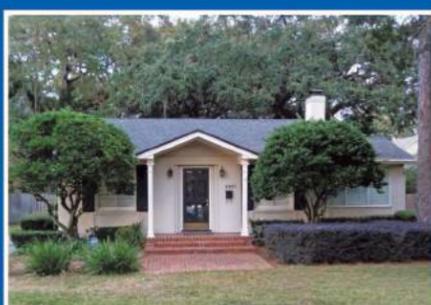
\$325,000 • 3650 PINE ST



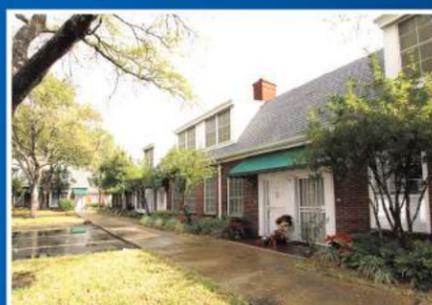
\$284,000 • 1407 AVONDALE AVE



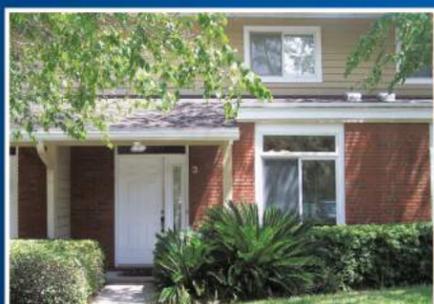
\$281,900 • 3729 PINE ST



\$274,900 • 2917 PRINCETON AVE



\$229,000 • 5303 ORTEGA BLVD 205



\$169,000 • 4521 SUSSEX AVE 3



\$143,000 • 6817 SOUTHPPOINT PKWY 703



\$110,000 • 12123 ANTIBES ST



\$95,400 • 4766 CATES AVE

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Priceless experience helps grow St. Vincent's Fine Arts Festival

One local artist helps to build a team, a foundation

If there's one thing local artist and Jacksonville native Cookie Davis knows how to do, it's how to put on an outdoor art festival. After all, the Murray Hill resident and longtime artist has been participating in art festivals for years, first as an emerging artist and now as a seasoned event organizer and co-chair.

For Cookie Davis, the best part of this year's St. Vincent's Foundation Art Festival 2013 is the opportunity to tell the story behind the story. It's a story of a meeting she had with Ken Stutes of Avondale Artworks. She had just

brought in some work to be featured in his gallery and he asked her thoughts on an idea. Ken was looking for some support while trying to build momentum for a new art festival, a festival in Boone Park. "He rolled out the plans and showed me what he had in mind," she said. "Oh, now this is something I know how to do!" That was three years ago, and one can easily say- the rest is history.



Stutes found a confidante, as Cookie had a passion for the former Riverside Art Festival and she knew how to get things done. Her story dates back to 1981, to a time when young Cookie Davis was working the Riverside Art Festival. Her hard work and diligence caught the attention of Myrtice Craig, then executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation. Craig, realizing her potential tapped her to serve as chairman of the Riverside Art Festival alongside Ed Pratt-Danals. "We were both [she and Pratt-Danals] working artists at the time and he was teaching school, I think, and he was a photographer. It was so much fun and every now and then I look back and think- 'Oh my god, I can't believe we did that'."

Cookie now finds herself in a different place as an artist, aging gracefully and bringing great minds together to help grow the event. With Stutes by her side and many of her favorite friends, she's helped drive the momentum in this third year of planning.

"With regard to this festival, I think it's kind of neat that some of the people that I was working with, in 1981, are doing this festival and have been doing it for the last three years," said Cookie. Her list includes her longtime friends and fellow artists Bill Slade, whom she refers to as a 'glass guy' and his son Jon, Myra Schick, her best friend, neighbor and admired ceramicist, Tim Bullard, a well known, skilled potter and Melissa Russell, a metal and wood sculptor.

"I think the most important thing to me- and I'm really big on this is 'emerging artists'- new artists having opportunities. I try to find opportunities to encourage young people to participate, you can't sell anything if you've got it under your bed or in your closet," she quipped about her desire to help.

One thing is for sure, Cookie is unselfish and wishes to recognize as many participants as possible, realizing the most important element; funding from St. Vincent's HealthCare. Along with Stutes, her co-chair, she has worked long hours with Diane Garcia, president of the Avondale Merchants Association, and other members of the association and participating restaurants. Biscotti's, The Brick, Florida Creamery, Let Them Eat Cake and Mojo BBQ will all be stationed throughout the venue to deliver hot, fresh food to festival goers and artists

alike. Entertainment will be brought in by Daren Ronan of the Ronan School of Music, health screenings will be done on site with the St. Vincent's Mobile Healthcare Unit and cash awards will be given to artists in six categories- best of show and best of category.

A juried art competition will be judged by local artist Suzanne Schuenke, Ph.D and internationally acclaimed artist and art historian Christie Holchek, program manager for Art in Public Places. The St. Vincent's Healthcare Jacksonville Fine Arts Festival 2013 is free and open to the public and will be held April 20 and 21, 2013 in Boone Park in Avondale and is presented by the Avondale Merchants Association.

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The annual Jacksonville Fine Arts Festival, produced by the Avondale Merchants Association, Inc., with generous financial support from St Vincent's Healthcare Foundation, takes place at Boone Park, Saturday, Apr. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. / Sunday, Apr. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Garden Club/Artists Guild team up for art show, gala

Floral designers and artists will compete in a juried show at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, co-sponsored with the Jacksonville Artists Guild in early May. Art in Bloom will open on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. Each exhibit will be displayed in a unique setting ranging from traditional to contemporary. The Garden Club will host Gala in the Garden on May 3, at 5 p.m. For information about the event, contact Robin at (904) 355-4224 or visit www.gardenclubofjacksonville.org.

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Riverside Avenue water project flowing smoothly

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Despite the nearly non-existent turnout by area residents at the JEA's Feb. 28 informational town meeting, construction began on Mar. 13 at Barrs Street and Riverside Avenue. Due to the low attendance, where project officials outnumbered residents two to one, the JEA sent out a second mailing the week before construction began in a continuing effort to keep the community informed.

Once the portion up through Peninsular Place is completed, the contractor will drop back to Avondale Avenue and work towards St. Vincent's Hospital (Kings Street).

According to Gregory Corcoran, JEA Project Outreach Coordinator, "The contractor is currently on schedule and everything is going very well. The contractor is trying to get most of the night work completed first. We hope to be finished with the evening work in the next 30 days."

The JEA has kept the work area to a minimum to reduce impact to the area, especially near the busy intersections near King Street and Riverside Avenue. "We want to make sure we keep traffic congestion around St. Vincent's hospital to a minimum and avoid having two detours on one road," Corcoran explained. "In our experience, commuters become very frustrated with multiple detours in close proximity."

Once the project moves down the Riverside Avenue towards I-95 (working during the day), residents will see multiple crews working to expedite the work. One crew will complete the prep/rehab work while the other installs the new pipe.

"Each block will be different as each has its own challenges from a utility, traffic and customer impact standpoint. We want to make sure we lessen the impact to area residents and businesses as much as possible," said Corcoran. "It is a delicate balancing act."

5K Walk for Epilepsy brings out the dogs



Cindy VanVleck of Murray Hill, and her Great Pyrenees Rosie and Bennie, walked for Canine Epilepsy Resources on Mar. 16.)

Walkers, joggers, kids, dogs and babies in strollers were out in force on Mar. 16 for the annual Epilepsy Foundation® of Florida's 5K Walk. Teams walking in memory of loved ones came from all parts of Florida and Georgia to raise money for awareness and research. The walk, which started in Riverside's Memorial Park and ended at The Landing, raised more than \$24,000 from nearly 40 teams.

7-Eleven to occupy former restaurant space at Barrs and Riverside

At the same time that St. Vincent's Medical Center and nearby residents and businesses are monitoring the progress of the JEA's water and sewer replacement project on Riverside, they are also watching the renovation of the former International Grill for eventual occupancy by 7-Eleven Convenience Stores.

Fernando Acosta-Rua, manager of Prado Walk LLC, said that 7-Eleven will be great for the community. "Their new stores are upscale and more refined, a good fit for that neighborhood," Acosta-Rua stated. "They are not the stores you remember from 20 years ago. We're pleased to have two A-rated tenants (along with LabCorp.) in that building."

The 7-Eleven company has leased the space in the Prado Walk shopping center for five years with four 5-year options to renew and is expected to open the 3,137-square foot store by mid-May.

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<p style="font-weight: bold; color: green; background-color: white; padding: 2px;">\$359,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">4903 Apache Ave.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: green; background-color: white; padding: 2px;">\$249,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2754 Arapahoe Ave.</p>

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DCPS Strategic Plan almost mirrors ONE by ONE Community Agreement

Three out of four priorities directly reflected

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Following the Feb. 21st release of the Duval County School Board's Strategic Plan draft – which almost directly reflects the priorities of the ONE by ONE Community Agreement – the public was invited to attend any of three community meetings to review the Board's plan, provide feedback and ask questions.

Fletcher High School was the first venue, where approximately 100 were in attendance to hear what Duval County School Superintendent Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti had to say about the Strategic Plan. The crowd was a little smaller at the subsequent meeting at Riverside's Lee High School while the final meeting at Andrew Jackson High School counted 230 in attendance.

The numbers look small for such an important issue, but when you consider that less than 200 members of the community came together for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's ONE by ONE Community Agreement Convention in early January, these subsequent meetings indicate that the interest – and the passion – is still there.

Attended by teachers, parents and interested community members, the town hall meetings provided an opportunity for tough questions to be asked. At the Lee High School meeting, parents expressed concerns about classroom discipline and disruptive students, stating that teachers don't feel they have the support of administrators to address the disruption.

"I believe we've gone too far too fast with inclusion," responded Dr.



Dr. Nikolai Vitti and Marsha Oliver

Vitti. "While we are trying to reduce suspensions, we do have to create a progressive discipline plan and a code of conduct, and embrace technology to communicate and document problems. We need to change the culture."

Comments from audience members who identified themselves as a member of the Substance Abuse Coalition, an in-school suspension teacher, a district coordinator for the Farm to School Program, and a district counselor had common ground: identify the root cause of the disruption (that is, whether it stems from health or nutrition issues, substance abuse, lack of self-confidence or parental support, etc.), work with teachers to develop an Individual Education Plan for the child, and use appropriate intervention according to the diagnosis.

"The district will be looking into wellness plans, and develop a menu of options for teachers to use and to suggest to parents [for suspected substance abuse]," Vitti said. "Diagnoses and intervention needs to begin at the kindergarten level in order to address disruption."

Dr. Vitti also noted that district funds have to follow at-risk students, providing extra wrap-around services for those below grade level. While core academic subjects (reading, math, science and writing) are the foundation of learning, he stated that electives in arts, music and athletics



Deirdre Connor and Trey Csar

help to build a child's self-confidence so he or she can then tackle the harder core subjects.

"If I could change one thing in Public Education, it would be to build schools that don't treat students like

widgets in a factory on a conveyer belt," he shared with the audience. "Schools are built for academics and if you [the student] don't get it, you're left behind and pushed aside."

During the three community meetings at which he presented the plan, Vitti stressed a

focus on the first priority: Educate the Whole Child. The Board's Strategic Plan wants to facilitate and align effective wrap-around services for students based on needs, similar to the ONE by ONE Community Agreement which looks for individualized instruction to meet unique needs of each child.

"If I could change one thing... it would be to build schools that don't treat students like widgets."

Dr. Nikolai Vitti

Duval County School Superintendent

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FYC to run double courses in April

The Florida Yacht Club will host two events the weekend of Apr. 13-14. Boaters will compete in the Snipe Tea Party or the Cowford Cup (420s, Radials, Optis). A Friday evening reception and BBQ will be held at Lamb's Yacht Center and on Saturday evening the Yacht Club will host a shrimp dinner.

Sailors are coming from fleets in Massachusetts, Atlanta, Charleston, Savannah, and across Florida for both events. Separate courses will be run for the Optis on one course and the Snipes, 420's and Radials on a second course. Snipe crews are needed, so contact Deb Fewell at debfewell@gmail.com if you're interested in racing.

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Attendance down for third JAX2025 event

But downtown & neighborhoods a lively topic

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Perhaps it was the balmy weeknight that resulted in less than 1,000 people who were there to develop the indicators for measuring the success of the vision in 12 years. Or maybe interest is waning in the months-long process of determining the future of Jacksonville.

But although attendance appeared to be smaller than previous sessions, there were first-time participants at the third JAX2025 Vision event who wanted to make sure their voices were heard.

Participants of all ages from all parts of Jacksonville were asked to select two categories to discuss – and brainstorm answers to – the question: How will we know if we’re getting there?

Lists of existing community indicators were provided to help the tables of eight determine what needs to be measured in order to know where we are in relation to the vision and if we’re moving in the right direction.

Conversation was thoughtful among a group who chose to focus on the Downtown and Neighborhoods Vision. Dawn Emerick, president and CEO of the Health Planning Council, noted key words in the vision

statement to help determine success measurements: livable, walkable, safe, business powerhouse, entrepreneurial spirit, first-class arts, culture, sports and unique shopping.

“Our walkability score is important for the health of the community,” she said. “We also need to increase the number of bike racks to encourage retention of the millennials [those born after 1980]. Biking is a huge attraction for that age group.”

Emerick and her son Dylan, an eighth grade student at LaVilla, live Downtown and feel safe jogging along the Northbank, shopping at Winn-Dixie and bicycling to school. “We need to promote Downtown as a safe place to get around,” said Dylan. “Don’t be afraid of homeless people; they are just minding their own business.”

Paul Astleford, president and CEO of Visit Jacksonville, suggested that safety is a perception issue, especially for visitors to the city. “Word of mouth is our biggest marketing tool. I’ve found that residents aren’t afraid to walk through Hemming Park, but visitors are.”

City neighborhoods were held up as examples of successful turnarounds. Avondale resident and Riverside businessman Richard Skinner (of Richard Skinner & Associates) explained what he thought has made Riverside a success. “Diversity, density and a pleasing scale are key in this neighborhood. Putting in a Publix and building residential living at 1665

Riverside has attracted 20 to 25 restaurants, which has played a key role in the success of the neighborhood.”

Skinner, an architect, felt that Downtown could be revitalized “if we narrow the focus on the river and Hemming Plaza, things will happen.”

San Marco Place residents David and Pat Balanky moved to the condo six years ago after living in Mandarin for many years. They enjoy the proximity to Downtown and feel safe walking in their Southbank neighborhood, but hope that access to the Southbank Riverwalk will be improved soon.

At the end of the 45-minute brainstorm session, the Downtown and Neighborhoods Vision group agreed that success indicators would include measuring the number of Downtown residents, improvement in Downtown retail space, hotel occupancy and activities on the river.

The next JAX2025 meeting will be Saturday, Apr. 27, 9-11 a.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Parking is free and you can register online at www.JAX2025.org to have your voice heard in the future of Jacksonville.

JCCI brings millennials into the conversation

BY ABIGAIL WRIGHT
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Networking as a young adult can be crucial for “making it” in the business world. Long lasting professional relationships require a certain amount of rapport that can sometimes be difficult to establish. Attending events sponsored by up and coming groups, like JCCI Forward, helps facilitate bonds that may otherwise be labored if one is not ambitious enough.

Quite effectively, there were over 100 people eager to shake hands and weave through 927 Events for the JCCI-sponsored pizza party. The kick-off following the Mar. 19 JAX2025 meeting supported the “In Town vs. Downtown” forum by JCCI. The organization with the most young professionals representing their affiliation won tickets to the “Prom” themed party on June 8.

Aiming for the honor were several groups; United Way Atlantic Circle, TransformJAX, The Republican Revolt Group, FDOT, Jax Parks, Dragstravaganza, One Spark and JCCI Forward to name a few. The tickets were won by Rotaract of Florida’s First Coast with 8% of the total attendees. Their vision is to enhance the community through the common bonds of professional development, service and friendship. In second place was United Way Atlantic Circle. Intuition Ale Works donated plenty of libations from the brewery and the party was catered by the in-house chefs from 927 Events.

Ennis Davis, a civic activist, spoke about the power of the people in the surrounding downtown boroughs and how getting involved can make such a difference in the vibrancy of the community. One Spark outreach and engagement director Aschelle Morgan was also on hand to speak on behalf of the foundation in order to inspire existing volunteers to recruit more friends to the crowd funding festival in mid-April.

Michelle Simkulet, volunteer coordinator for JAX2025, explains that the “In Town vs. Downtown” forum will help give a better understanding of the obstacles and challenges that face those citizens trying to improve the core and surrounding neighborhoods. She added, “There is so much interest in downtown and in our neighborhoods but sometimes we forget that downtown is actually multiple neighborhoods connected.”

The conversation topics begin with What is “In Town”? Framing the Issue; Bridging the Past: Neighborhoods New and Old; Getting Around: Mobility and Connectivity; Out and About: Our Parks and The River; Strike Up the Band: Arts, Culture and Entertainment. They will be held on Wednesdays from March 27 through April 24 inside WJCT’s community room. JCCI events are open to the public of all ages.



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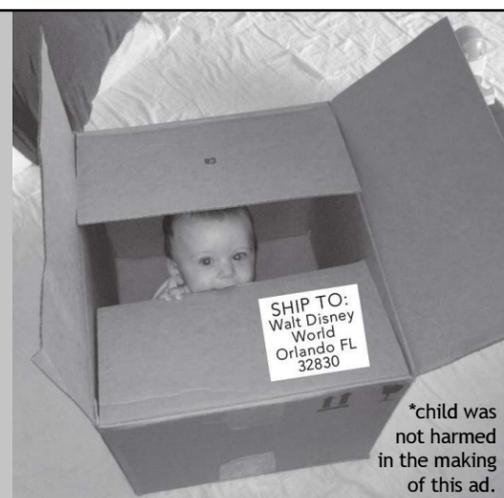


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Honoring family leads to annual philanthropy

Backyard BBQ Championships in 5th year

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Humble beginnings and a lot of hard work describes both the Daniel Foundation and Cole Pepper's Blackjack's BBQ Sauce. Although those beginnings are separated by 120 years, the two organizations have now been intertwined for the past five years.

Jacksonville residents know of Cole Pepper as the voice of the Jaguars. As Sports Director of the Jaguars' flagship station WOKV, Pepper was awarded Florida Associated Press Radio honors 13 times, including five times winning "Best Sportscast of the Year," the most prestigious award given by the Association to radio broadcasters annually. Pepper was also chosen "Best Sportscaster in Jacksonville" by both Jacksonville Magazine and Folio Weekly.

All that came to an end in May 2009 when Pepper's position at WOKV was abruptly eliminated.

Back up, first, to 2003 when Pepper teamed up with Rich Goldfarb, founder of Blackjack's Best BBQ, to create Cole Pepper's Blackjack's BBQ

Sauce. Pepper's sauce went from being a novelty item giveaway to a staple at restaurants and finer meat markets around Jacksonville and in Florida.

Forward, now, to 2008, when the Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship, named for Pepper's late father-in-law (a longtime and influential member of Daniel's Board of Directors), was launched by Pepper and his in-laws. The next year, after the former sportscaster's unceremonious release by WOKV, Pepper created the Jacksonville Backyard BBQ Championships as an annual fundraiser for the scholarship designed to help Daniel kids fund college education.

Celebrating its 5th year as a major contributor to the Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship, the Avondale resident said this about what the annual event might have meant to his father-in-law: "Glyn was so dedicated to Daniel. He served on the board for years and served as Chairman of the Board. He truly believed in the great work that Daniel did for kids, and the benefit that Daniel provides to the community at-large.

"He had a profound impact on me and my wife's family and seeing the success stories from the scholarship winners is really a great way for us to remember him. When Glyn died, it left a hole in the family and I think if

you asked everyone in the family, they would tell you that his influence is still being felt, in part, through the scholarship," Pepper concluded.

Founded in 1884 as the Orphanage and Home for the Friendless and now the oldest child-serving agency in Florida, Daniel helps more than 1,000 children, adolescents and families each day with a wide variety of innovative and nationally-recognized programs.

Since the formation of the scholarship, Daniel has awarded over \$33,000 in scholarships, awarded in August each year.

Pepper, now Chief Communications Officer for Four Elements Media, serves on the Board of Trustees of Daniel Foundation, hosts or emcees up to 50 charity events each year and has served on committees for Meals on Wheels and the Humane Society, and is a member of the Professional and Businessmen's Association of Jacksonville.

Kellie Ann Kelleher, Executive Director, Daniel Foundation said, "Cole is an active board member, but he is also active advocate for Daniel's cause. He truly works to improve the odds for kids in the community. Cole is dedicated to giving these children the opportunity to pursue their education. Our gratitude and appreciation for the work that he does is endless."



Jacksonville Backyard BBQ Championships

Saturday, April 27, noon to 5 p.m.

Located at EverBank Field

Tickets: \$16.50 – online at

danielkids.org

\$20 at the door; parking \$10 (free for online and group tickets; for more information email info@jaxbbqchampionships.com)

Sample BBQ from up to 60 teams and cast your vote for the best BBQ in Jacksonville at the 5th annual Jacksonville Backyard BBQ Championships. Enjoy live music, games for the kids and great BBQ for a great cause.

The event is a fundraiser for the Daniel Foundation's Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship, awarded to formerly homeless Daniel kids who are in college. Celebrity judges and certified BBQ judges will rate the entries and crown the Amateur BBQ King of Jacksonville. Professional teams compete for a share of a \$5,000 prize pool.

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It's a dog's life in Riverside

New dog park needs your help

Lovers of dogs large and small will soon have a great green meet-and-greet space to let their dogs run free.

Thanks to a pack of donors and contributors, the Riverside Dog Park could be a reality this year.

After City Council approval and the support of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), one member of the park's philanthropic pack is the Haskell Corporation, whose landscape architect, Eric Lycke, developed the concept plan for the dog park project as an in-kind donation.

Next, Riverside Avondale Preservation and a small group of community members met with Doug Skiles, land use architect and owner of EnVision Engineering + Design,

to re-purpose one-third of FDOT property under the I-95 overpass next to Riverside Park in order to develop the two-acre, off-leash dog park. The plan was unveiled at RAP's annual meeting on Feb. 21.

Finally, District 14 Councilman Jim Love joined the City of Jacksonville to a public-private partnership with RAP and the community, committing to match fundraising efforts with money from District 14 Council Bond Funds. But there's a contingency.

The contingency is this: the City also asked that the community raise an additional five years of funding to

cover the ground maintenance during that time period. That means that \$120,000 is needed to cover the matching funds for construction and the maintenance costs for the first five years and must be raised before

construction can begin. Time is limited; construction is expected to take up to two months once the funding is in place.

You can donate to the Riverside Dog Park and also go to

<http://www.riversideavondale.org/index.php?id=236> to find out how to buy a brick paver to honor your pup. Donation jars are set up at the RAP Booth at Riverside Arts Market and at RAP Headquarters (2623 Herschel Street).

Encourage your company to inquire about Corporate Sponsorship. Companies will receive permanent name recognition at the dog park entrance or on certain features within the park itself. Contact carmen@riversideavondale.org for more regarding corporate sponsorship opportunities.

Key Features of the Riverside Dog Park

- One-and-a-quarter acre large/active-breed area with double-gated entry. The active area will feature decomposed granite ground cover, an eighth of a mile walking path and a shade pavilion.
- Quarter-acre small/passive-breed area featuring significant old-growth tree coverage and bench seating, with double-gated entry.
- Ample on-street parallel parking will be created along with one dedicated handicapped-accessible parking space, adjacent to the existing JEA substation.
- A new sidewalk that will connect Park and College Streets – serving as a neighborhood connector.
- Dog Park will extend north to Annie Lyttle School property line, hopefully renewing interest in the rehabilitation of this historic building.
- The park will serve as a demonstration of low-impact development (LID) that protects the St Johns River, located a quarter-mile to the east of the park. As the park is constructed, an active effort will be made to recycle removed materials, particularly concrete, and to use recycled materials wherever possible. The active area of the park will house a bio-retention pond, featuring natural grasses and plant life that filters any park runoff before it reaches the river. Existing foliage will be preserved to the extent possible and new plants and grasses will be native to the Northeast Florida region. Educational signage will be posted to help inform the public about this aspect of the project.

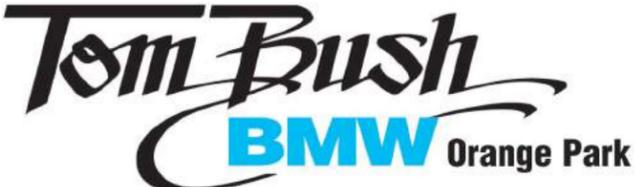


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39th Annual RAP Spring Tour of Homes

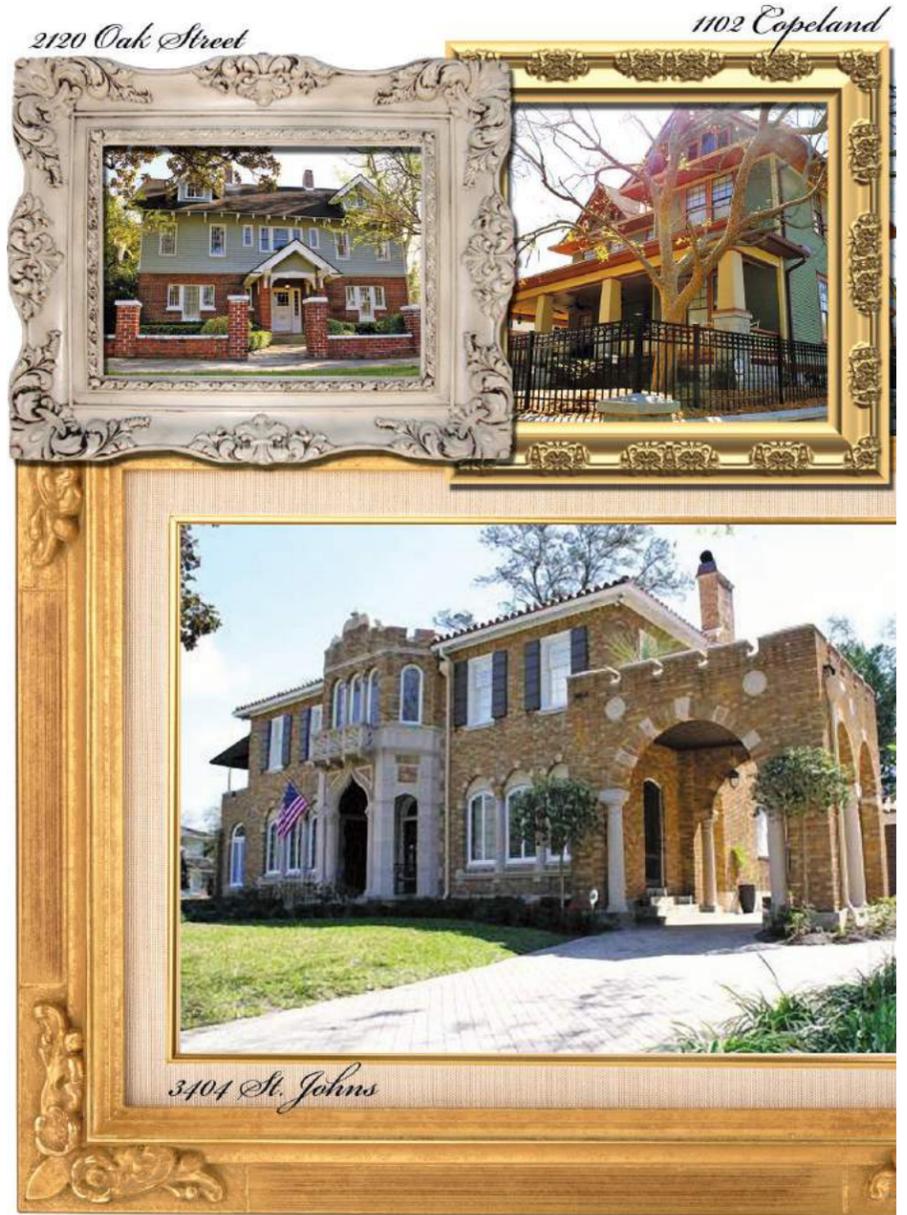
According to Watson Realty Agent Joy Walker and Home Tour Chairperson, this year's tour includes a home that was on the very first RAP Tour of Homes and has not been on the tour since. There's also a home where the owner's mother was a survivor of the Titanic and another one that won the 2012 RAP award for renovation. The tour features a home that was once on the riverfront, then became a tenant house and has won an award from the Jacksonville Historic Society for renovations. For a \$15 tick-

et you'll also see a building that was the very first Mormon Church in the state of Florida, and a home that is the most photographed home in Avondale and that has been fabulously renovated in the past year and a half.

Tickets can be purchased at the Riverside Arts Market, select area retailers and online at <http://2013hometour.eventbrite.com> (they increase to \$20 the day of the tour). The tour runs Saturday, Apr. 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Apr. 28, noon to 5 p.m.

On the Tour are homes and buildings at the following addresses:

- 2239 St. Johns Ave.
- 2323 St. Johns Ave. Garden Tour
- 2120 Oak Street Art House
- 2165 Park Street Craftsmen's House
- 1102 Copeland Street
- 2515 Dellwood Avenue
- 1534 Avondale Avenue
- 3577 Boone Park Avenue
- 3404 St. Johns Avenue
- 3420 St. Johns Avenue
- 3665 Pine Street
- 3633 Richmond Street





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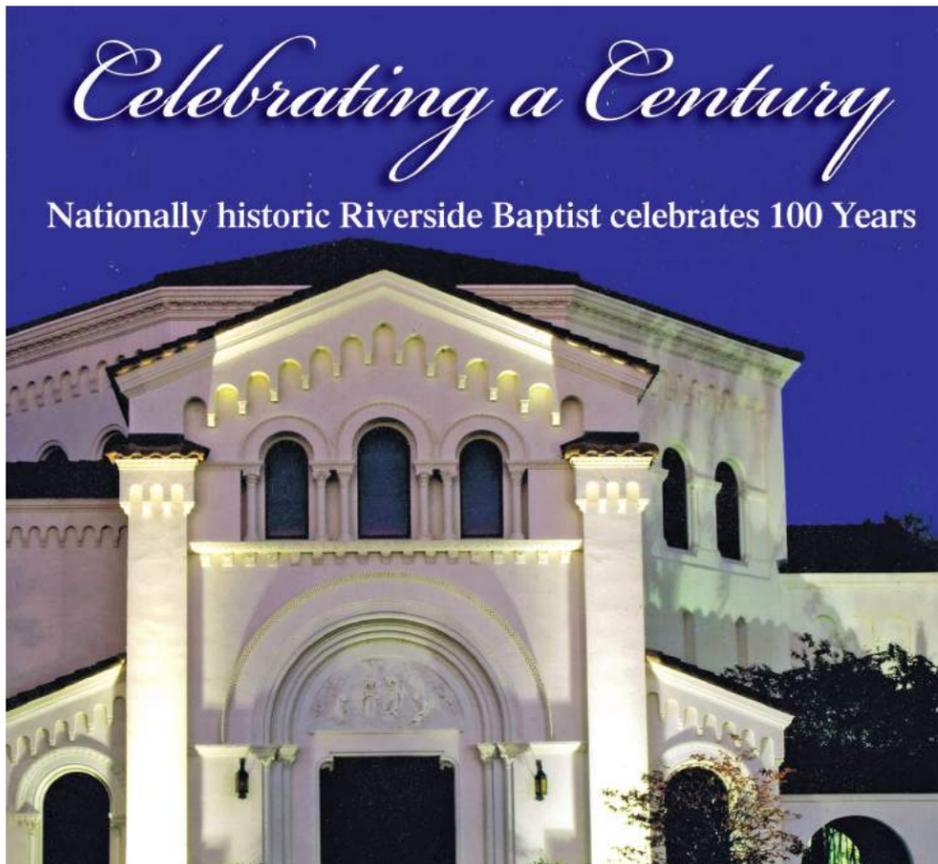
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Courtesy the artist and Paul Kasmin Gallery.



Celebrating a Century

Nationally historic Riverside Baptist celebrates 100 Years

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

From canvas to cathedral. Such is the course of the 100-year history of the Riverside Baptist Church. Five years after that initial tent meeting was held in 1908, the present site on the corner of Park and King Streets was acquired and a frame building erected.

This August marks the 100th year of that first worship service. In the 1920s work began on a new building and the first regular service in the

new Sanctuary was held on Easter Sunday 1926.

According to 50-year-plus member Rufus Dickinson, what used to be a traditional Baptist style of worship started to change when the congregation saw how beautiful the building was. "A significant portion of our identity is bound up in the architecture of the church," said Dickinson, a resident of Old Ortega.

"We're a church where many other faiths and denominations feel comfortable, due to our architecture for one; it's a church where liturgy and congregational involvement is what's called for."

Dickinson explained that they have on average four weddings a month at the church, because they allow ministers of other denominations to perform the weddings. "But we're currently in a place where we either need to grow or go." Average Sunday attendance is about 120 in the 600-seat Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary was designed and built by world-famous American architect Addison Mizner, who had

promised to build a church in honor of his mother. This was his only project ever built in Jacksonville, for which he refused any payment.

"It was a gift to us [from Mizner]," Dickinson noted. "He said that when he visited all the monasteries and cathedrals in Europe, he designed Riverside Baptist Church after the one where he felt closest to God."

Mizner incorporated three major types of architecture – Romanesque, Byzantine and Spanish – in what is now considered Riverside's Historic Cathedral.

In 1973, the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., listed Riverside Baptist Church on the National Register of Historic Places.

The pews and pulpit furniture were made in Jacksonville by Wilkie J. Schell, a member of the church and the building committee for the sanctuary. Another church member and renowned artist, Lee Adams, was

commissioned to paint the Adoration of the Shepherds, which hangs in the north transept.

The organ is one of the largest pipe organs found

in any church within the city of Jacksonville. A combination of two Ernest M. Skinner Organs (1924 Opus 473 and 1925 Opus 533), this instrument has 65 registers, 79 ranks, 4,554 pipes and two consoles which function independently or simultaneously. This distinctive historic instrument forms the centerpiece of the church-sponsored C. Edward Bryan Arts Series. Riverside Baptist Church hosts performances of national and international concert organists.

Worship services are held on Sundays at 11 a.m. at 2650 Park Street. Call (904) 388-7692 for more information.



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Research Director Furqan Haq, Ph.D., MBA, MPH, and the NFDA Research Center is currently inviting people to participate in current investigative studies. "We are seeking individu-

als who are interested in current treatments of psoriasis above and beyond the standard of care. We are developing and creating synergy between clinical practice and clinical research to translate medical discoveries to benefit patients," stated Dr. Haq.

In addition to the new research study on psoriasis, NFDA is also running two separate acne studies and one for rosacea. These clinical trials are designed primarily to test the effects of a new or existing treatment on a disorder or illness and must take place before new treatments are made available to the public through prescription or over-the-counter use.

According to Marketing and Business Development Manager, Christie Knowles, "We are on the leading edge of clinical trials for hair, skin and nails. In the future, we will be adding to our research center by expanding into non-dermatological studies. Our Clinical Research staff is a dedicated team of experienced research profes-

sional; physicians, nurses and clinical research coordinators. Each member of our clinical research staff possesses numerous years of experience in performing clinical studies and recognizing the significance of these trials to our patients."

NFDA clinical trials are carefully monitored under strict regulations. Since 1983, under the direction of founder Dr. Frank Schiavone, the facility has been at the forefront of patient care, treatment and clinical research. As a result, the NFDA Research Center is one of the most respected clinical settings in North Florida, providing treatment that is highly effective for patients of all ages.

The Riverside campus is where clinical trials are run, as well as day-to-day outpatient care for all types of skin conditions, surgeries for skin cancers, and aesthetic and cosmetic services. The practice also has offices on the Southside, at the Beaches, in Orange Park and in St. Augustine.



For skin care services, call North Florida Dermatology Associates at (904) 354-4488 or visit www.nfderm.com.

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If you have had stable, moderate to severe plaque psoriasis for at least six months, and are 18 to 75 years of age, you may qualify to participate in an

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For more information and to see if you might qualify, call the North Florida Clinical Research Center at (904) 353-3662 or visit



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After seven seasons of professional football, Tony Boselli thought he had beaten all of life's toughest challenges—until he needed hip replacement surgery. The Orthopedic Center of Excellence at St. Vincent's HealthCare became his first round pick. His new team led him to victories in both surgery and rehabilitation. The doctors and nurses went above and beyond, providing the medical excellence to help Tony stage a comeback for his active lifestyle. Tony was so pleased with his results, we could swear he was doing a touchdown dance.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Avondale Resident appointed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Smith Hulsey & Busey partner and Avondale resident Cynthia Jackson was appointed by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to be a United States Bankruptcy Judge. She will replace retiring Judge Arthur B. Briskman in the Orlando Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, the second busiest bankruptcy court in the nation.

Until this appointment, Jackson's practice was limited to bankruptcy



and insolvency matters throughout the United States. She represented debtors, creditors, committees and trustees in both commercial and consumer cases, and is an experienced trial lawyer in both bankruptcy and complex commercial matters. "Cyndi's contributions to Florida's legal community are countless and her appointment as a United States Bankruptcy Judge is well deserved," said Stephen D. Busey, chairman of Smith Hulsey & Busey. "Cyndi was a tremendous asset and partner to the firm the past 29 years, and we know she will be an outstanding jurist."

Dinner Bell ringing at Two Doors Down

A new home-cooked, take-home dining concept comes to the in-town neighborhoods courtesy of Two Doors Down Restaurant at 436 Park Street. Dinner Bell, a pre-order, curbside pickup service, gives busy families the opportunity to sit down to a wholesome dinner at their own table without turning on the stove. "This is a growing movement in the food and restaurant industry in large cities," said Jody Love, manager.

Chef Theo Kouremetis prepares a daily menu of traditional family dinner favorites – including Two Doors Down's southern fried chicken – with a contemporary spin and a



touch of gourmet. The rotating menu can be viewed two weeks in advance at Dinnerbelljax.com. Orders can be placed any day via website or phone (904) 598-0065, and picked up Monday through Friday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the date chosen by the customer.

Top producers celebrated in Avondale office

Ten agents from Prudential Network Realty's Avondale office were recently honored as the agency's top producers who achieved \$4 million or more in closed sales in 2012. Those elite Realtors include Linda Benson, Liz Bobeck, Beverley Brooke, Susan Donnell, Shannon McKinnon, Josh Nugent, Elizabeth O'Steen, Jane Slater, Allison Steilberg and Susan Tuohy.



Ale Pie House opens in Avondale

Craving Italian for dinner? The extensive right-priced menu at the new Ale Pie House at 3951 St. Johns Ave. has something for everyone. "We listen to what the customer wants" said owner Al Orhan, along with business partner Mustafa Ekmen.

With your choice of 16 brews on tap, wine, pizzas made-to-order, salads, wraps and traditional Italian dishes, topped off with a slice of one of the luscious multi-layered locally baked cakes, you may not eat for another 24 hours.

Free valet parking for dining in, or call (904) 503-8000 to order for take-out or delivery.



Ortega resident named president of national organization

Patti Levine-Brown, communications professor at Florida State College in Jacksonville and a resident of Ortega, was named president of the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) at the annual NADE conference in Denver, CO.

"With widespread, sweeping changes taking place in developmental education across the country, NADE is very concerned that a large



population of students might be denied access to educational opportunity," Levine-Brown said. "This population is over-represented by minorities and the economically disadvantaged."

Developmental education is directed at students entering college who are not prepared to read, write and do math at college level. NADE, founded in 1976, is the largest organization of professional developmental educators in the country and advocates for under-prepared college students.

A.C. Skinner Family honored by UNF dedication

The University of North Florida dedicated Buildings 3 and 4 last month in honor of Arthur Chester Skinner Jr., Charles Brightman Skinner and Mary Virginia Skinner Jones, Jacksonville landowners and developers.

Building 3 will be renamed Skinner-Jones Hall South and Building 4 will become Skinner-Jones Hall North. The two buildings are scheduled to undergo renovations in the near future and house labs, classes and offices for various academic departments on campus.

The University wouldn't exist today in its present location if it weren't for the generosity of the A. C. Skinner family's donation and sale of approximately 500 acres for part of the UNF campus.

"The A. C. Skinner family's generosity and commitment to the University of North Florida will forever benefit our community and its students for generations to come," said UNF President John Delaney. "They had a vision and a desire to make Jacksonville and Northeast Florida a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Strategic donations of land were offered in 1968 to the selection committee charged with



University of North Florida President John Delaney watches as Mary Virginia Skinner and UNF Board of Trustee Myron Pincomb unveil a plaque honoring Arthur Chester Skinner Jr., Charles Brightman Skinner and Mary Virginia Skinner Jones, Jacksonville landowners and developers, for their contribution to the University; Below: Skinner building – photos by Jennifer Grissom



locating Florida's newest university and on which UNF now resides. In 1992, the family donated an additional 288 acres adjacent to the campus, providing the University land for continued growth.

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Jill Langford Dame named Leadership Jacksonville executive director

Avondale resident Jill Langford Dame has been named executive director for Leadership Jacksonville, an organization that develops youth and adult leaders in Northeast Florida. Dame is the interim executive director of Jacksonville Children's Commission and has served as a nonprofit and leadership consultant since 2005.



"I am excited to join Leadership Jacksonville and look forward to working with Jacksonville's brightest and most talented individuals to develop current and future leaders in our community," said Dame. She will take over the executive director position in May, succeeding Isabelle Owen Spence who announced her retirement in September.

"Jill is a graduate of the adult program, former member of our board of directors and brings more than 25 years of nonprofit experience and community involvement to

Leadership Jacksonville," said Justin Terry, executive vice president at Harden and president of the Leadership Jacksonville Board of Directors. "Her experience, coupled with her passion for leadership development in our community, makes her the ideal candidate to carry out Leadership Jacksonville's mission and goals."

Dame is a long-time Jacksonville resident who has held volunteer leadership positions for numerous Northeast Florida organizations including Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI), PACE Center for Girls, Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, Inc., Junior League of Jacksonville and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. Recognized as a Girl Scouts of Gateway Council Women of Distinction Honoree in 2013, she received the Leadership Jacksonville Distinguished Leadership Award in 2003.

Avondale's Lauren Little named Veteran Owned Small Business Person of Year



Lauren Little, owner of Edible Arrangements at 365 Saint Johns Ave. in The Shoppes of Avondale, has been named the Veteran Owned Small Business Person of the Year. Little is one of eight North

Florida businesses to be recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Florida Office.

The former Marine, based in Raleigh, NC from 1982-1990, said the award was a surprise. "My husband James (a former Navy Lieutenant) and I want other veterans to see that there are opportunities and other career paths after the military," said Little. She started the business in 2007 and in two years was facing an economic downturn

and rising gas prices, but persevered and opened another shop in Mandarin while others in the franchise were closing.

Four of the honored businesses are from Jacksonville, including Little, and four are from Orlando. Locally, Brian Barquilla, owner of Advantage Business Magazine, was named the Small Business Media Advocate of the Year; Eloy Bazaldua, president of RM Myers Company, Inc., was named the Minority Owned Small Business Person of the Year, and Jaxsmallbizhelp.org was named the Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Jacksonville's 2013 Small Business Week Award Winners will be recognized at the 21st Annual Small Business Week & Lender Awards Celebration on Apr. 30 at the University of North Florida's University Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. State winners for these categories are expected to be announced on April 15, 2013.

Murray Hill singer/songwriter to raise awareness for March of Dimes

Acoustic singer/songwriter Garrett Harbison, known as Garrett on Acoustic, will be performing at 8 a.m. at the 2013 March for Babies Walk held by March of Dimes on Saturday, Apr. 27 at Everbank Field.

"My personal experience has been what's driven me to get involved," said Harbison. This past year, Garrett's son was born nine weeks early at just 3 lbs. 9 oz. "There were no early signs or answers as to why Cooper was born so early" explained Harbison.

Harbison's goal is to use music as a medium to help raise awareness and funding for research regarding premature births. "My wife and I understand that we were very fortunate, but not all families are as lucky. If I can use my music as a vehicle that could potentially contribute to saving the life of a future premature baby, you better believe I want to help" said Harbison.

Along with the walk, which starts at 9 a.m., Garrett is also centering his One Spark project on raising money for research surrounding premature births. "I will be going into the studio to record a song that I wrote specifically regarding the emotion of the experience. It's my intent to put this song up for sale and donate all proceeds towards research for premature births."

If you wish to contribute to Garrett's March of Dimes team go to



Singer/Songwriter Garrett Harbison with his son Cooper

<http://www.marchforbabies.org/team/mini-cooperman>. Follow Garrett on Acoustic and his One Spark project at garrettonacoustic.com, [facebook.com/garrettonacoustic](https://www.facebook.com/garrettonacoustic), or twitter.com/GonAcoustic.

Jax lawyers boast legal expert status for 30 years

Fifteen local lawyers are among the 221 Florida Bar members who earned legal board certification in civil trial or tax law in 1983 and who have remained certified for 30 years.

In Florida, only board certified lawyers may use the terms "specialist," "expert" or "B.C.S." for Board Certified Specialist when referring to their legal credentials.

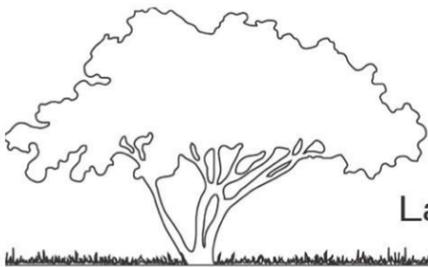
The following Jacksonville lawyers this year are celebrating 30 years of Florida Bar board

certification in civil trial or tax law.

Civil Trial: Charles Wayne Alford, The Honorable Tyrie William Boyer, Thomas R. Brown, William C. Gentry, John Wayne Hogan, Charles C. Howell III, Rutledge Richardson Liles, James Curtis Rinaman Jr., Robert F. Spohrer, James T. Terrell, Dianne Jay Weaver, Edward Alfred White; Tax Law: Thomas M. Donahoo, Michael N. Schneider, Frederick R. Short Jr.

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A lineup for spring presented at Garden Month fashion show

It was an afternoon full of fashion design, accessories and new spring lineups as the Terry Gallery became a fashion-filled interior during Garden Month festivities. Krista Eberle Boutiques displayed the looks of spring by Nicole Miller while local "boy made good" fashion designer Timo Weiland showed off his talent. Weiland, who has made his ascent in the fashion world from roots in Jacksonville, has blossomed from his Deerwood roots, finally working his way to New York City as a bonified designer.

The afternoon luncheon and fashion show featured models dressed from head to toe, first in Timo's looks for



Local San Marco boutique owner Krista Eberle of Krista Eberle Boutiques and fashion designer Timo Weiland



Robin Albanese, chair of the fashion show, with Garden Month Chair Patty Nimnicht

spring, followed by the beautiful designs of Nicole Miller. Both collections were highlighted with accessories by Crowned Phoenix Jewelry and Bags to footwear by Emly Benham, hair by Dirty Blonde Salon and makeup by The Chanel Department at Dillard's. Rudy York Designs garnered thanks for lending a hand in the design aesthetic of the day.

The event drew ladies throughout the city in support of the Cummer. The events also helps to recognize the efforts and hard work of Council President Susanna Hinckley, Garden Month Chair Patty Nimnicht, Event Chair Robin Albanese and the Board of Trustees who have all played a role in the success of the month-long calendar of events.



Design by Timo Weiland



Catering Director Matt Blinkhorn of Ashley St. Catering, Chef Steven Gaynor of Biscottis and Jamey Evoniuk of The Chef's Garden and the Tree Cup Cafe



Jennifer Corrente of The Chef's Garden and Tree Cup Café and Karin Tucker of Biscottis



Christopher Ball, Steve Rosenbloom and Hal Catlin



Carol Kaplan, Willis and Chris Ball

Farm-to-table dinner debuts at the Cummer

It was a collaborative effort between chefs, patrons, local farmers and a team of culinary professionals that made the first farm-to-table event a success during Garden Month at the museum. Guests mingled in the gardens where they were treated to crafted cocktails by the Grape & Grain Exchange of San Marco and passed hors d'oeuvres.

The party eventually made its way indoors for the dinner presentation where the chefs left the guests in eager anticipation of amazingly descriptive dishes that would tantalize the senses. The intersection of farm fresh ingredients and fine wine pairings, compliments of The Grotto, made the evening one to remember – and one to revisit.




Please join us as we host the launch of Genie James' new book *"The Fountain of Truth: How to Outsmart Hype, False Hope and Heredity to Recalibrate Your Age"*.

Genie James, M.M.Sc., is CEO of Dr. Randolph's Ageless and Wellness Medical Center and owner of The Natural Medicine Pharmacy. She is the author of *Making Managed Care Work and Winning in the Women's Healthcare Marketplace* and co-author of *From Hormone Hell to Hormone Well, From Belly Fat to Belly Flat* and *In the Mood Again*.

Friday, April 19, 2013
5 – 8 pm
Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

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1460 Avondale Ave
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SOLD

1560 Lancaster Ter 802
 2/2-1,615sqft. Convenient to shops, restaurants, downtown and hospitals. Unbelievable Panoramic downtown views from this riverfront condo. This unit comes with 2 garage parking spaces.



UNDER CONTRACT

4177 Churchwell Rd - \$285,000
 3/2/1-2,030 sqft. This is a must see to appreciate! Beautifully updated with gorgeous hardwood floors and and new kitchen that will bring out your inner Chef!

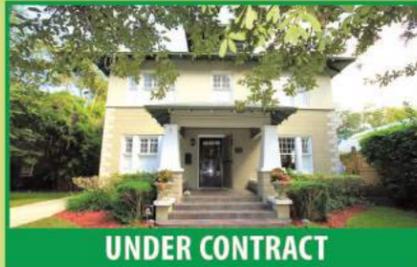


SOLD

4539 Country Club Rd
 3/2/1-2,136 sqft. Beautiful, painted brick home in the heart of Ortega, one of the great neighborhoods of Jacksonville. This lovely traditional home features a charming living room with fireplace.



3863 Oak St - \$389,000
 4/3-2,461 sqft. The Best of Southern Charm is the only way to describe this 1898 home nestled away in historic Avondale. Featured in Jacksonville magazine (2000) Home of the Year.

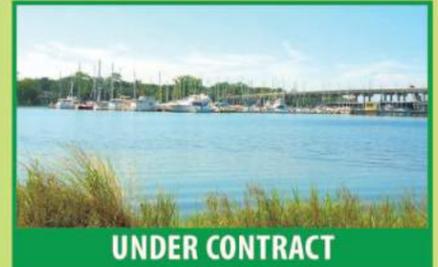


UNDER CONTRACT

1405 Challen Ave - \$564,000
 4/2/1-2,700 sqft. Awesome in Avondale! Main house has been beautifully renovated. Large eat-in kitchen open to family room with granite countertops and glass tile back splash.

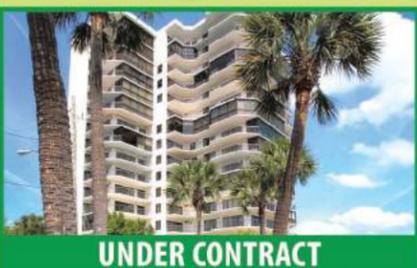


4242 Ortega Blvd 20 - \$150,000
 2/2-1,625 sqft. Great condo right in the heart of Ortega. Very spacious, large rooms, sunroom with lots of windows and great light. Walking distance to parks, school and shopping.



UNDER CONTRACT

4300 Lakeside Dr 9 - \$250,000
 3/2-1,940 sqft. Incredible Ortega River views from the living/ dining room, river room, kitchen and master bedroom of this second floor unit at Ortega Bay Condominiums in Jacksonville.



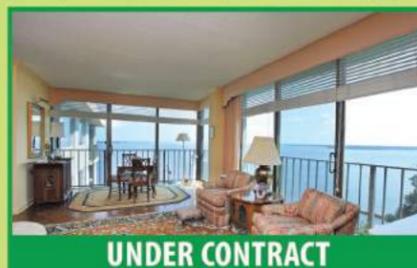
UNDER CONTRACT

505 Lancaster St 7C - \$395,000
 3/2 Spectacular river & downtown skyline views. This fully updated unit went under contract before it hit the market!



SOLD

3026 Oak St
 3/2-2,110 sqft. Amazing opportunity to own a beautiful, historic home near shopping, dining and parks. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is full of charm and character and is ready for new owners to make it their own.

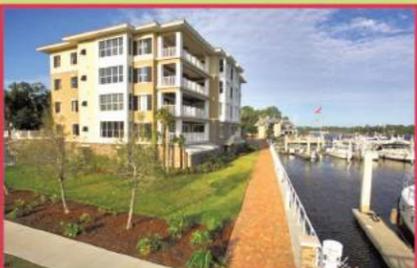


UNDER CONTRACT

2970 Saint Johns 12E - \$250,000
 3/2-1,822 sqft. This penthouse E unit is larger than most with an expanded living room that affords the most amazing Southern views of the St Johns River.



3680 Richmond St - \$1,850,000
 Vacant Lot - What better place for your dream home? Stunning lot over an acre (100'x460') on the mighty St. Johns River in the heart of Historic Avondale, fully bulk headed, with mature trees.



4238 Lakeside Dr 102 - \$540,000
 3/3 - 2,640 sqft. LAST UNIT AVAIL:ABLE!!!! Where the Ortega and St. Johns Rivers meet sits one of the most unique condominium developments in all of Northeast Florida. Unit 102 lives like a house and feels like you are on a luxury yacht moored in the marina.



UNDER CONTRACT

1661 Riverside Ave 201 - \$325,000
 3/2-1,523 sqft. The best of urban living at your door step. Only 3 units with this floor plan in the entire development. 3/2 overlooking Memorial Park, the St. Johns River and the cobblestones of May Street.



2522 Dellwood Ave - \$225,000
 2/2 - 1,290sqft. Located in the thriving area of Stockton Street close to the John Gorrie in Riverside, this 2/2 bungalow has gleaming hardwoods, an updated kitchen and baths plus a garage apartment and workshop. Walk to shops and restaurants of 5 Points, Stockton and Park and King.



1326 Belvedere Ave - \$250,000
 3/1-1,400 sqft. Beautifully renovated bungalow on a lovely street in the heart of Avondale. This home is move in ready. 3 year old roof, new HVAC, gourmet kitchen, solid wood cherry cabinets, granite tops, all stainless appliances.



UNDER CONTRACT

4334 Baltic St - \$385,000
 4/2/1-2,349 sqft. This lovely historic home, built in 1919 is full of charm and detail. Beautiful, landscaped double lot plus a 2 car garage and 2 car carport.



1515 Seminole Rd - \$300,000
 3/2/1-1,871 sqft. Relax on your front porch under majestic oaks and watch the world go by. Charming 3 bed/2.5 bath extensively renovated on great corner lot. Convenient to all Riverside/Avondale shopping areas.



3255 Oak St - \$895,000
 4/3/2-5,107 sqft. Wow! Built in 1924, this gorgeous Mediterranean welcomes you home from the minute you step through the front door into the grand entry. Beautifully renovated, this home offers everything!



UNDER CONTRACT

4906 King Richard Rd - \$280,000
 4/2/1-2,093 sqft. Great floor plan with formal living, formal dining and a wonderful large family room with bar, large laundry, eat-in kitchen, covered patio, large fenced yard.

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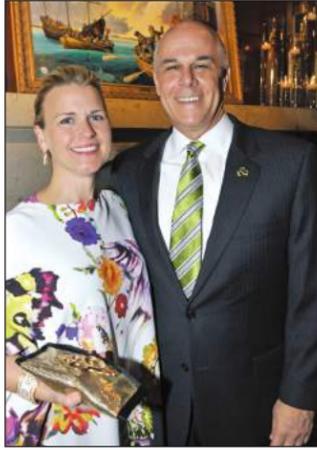
Social REGISTER

WOMEN'S BOARD KICKS OFF 2013 ART & ANTIQUE SHOW

The Women's Board and Wells Fargo helped to get the party started right, as the plans for the season began to unfold. The Haramis' residence played host to a group of patrons poised to make 'Impressions of India' a hit for fundraising efforts, raising the bar and some much needed awareness for the goals of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

PATRONS GO BIG FOR ARTS, SUPPORT CAP

There were high hopes for the Cathedral Arts Project's largest annual fundraiser, as art and education advocates tried to outperform a fundraising goal of \$450,000, topping 2012 numbers. Arts and education advocates were recognized for their exceptional efforts, helping over 1,800 students enrolled in Cathedral Arts Project afterschool and summer classes this school year alone. Through these enrichment programs, the quality of life for these young people in Northeast Florida is enhanced, allowing them to succeed in all areas of their lives. The event was held March 15 at the Deerwood Country Club.



Heather and Patcick Geraghty

VIP CELEBRATES 30TH ANNUAL BBQ & WESTERN

Vision is Priceless celebrated a milestone BBQ and Western event March 16. Thanks to the generous support of Miller Electric Company and W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, two of Jacksonville's most recognized companies, the event drew double barreled support. St. Augustine Rod & Gun Club played host to over 500 guests from all over Northeast Florida, who joined the organization to raise funds and have a finger-lickin' good time.



Ellaymah Bowles with Eloise and Bill Gay

Dep Meuller with Madison and Robin Shelly



Tiffany and Micah Heavener

Honorees Diane and Steve Halverson with Aida Ribiero and Fabio Mechetti - photo by Laurence Green



Ronnie Roberts, Ed Witt Jr., Ed Witt Sr., Al Kinard Sr., Al Kinard Jr.

Jane and Claude Slater



CUMMER BALL THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SOCIAL SEASON

Eric and Branita Mann with Telecia and Morris Applewhite



The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens hosted its annual black tie gala March 16. The event was a hit, as Co-Chairs Suzanne Hinckley and Chris Hieb planned the eventful evening from start to finish. The celebration of natural Florida and themed art from Jim Draper and Allison Watson set the tone with original, large format works highlighting native fauna, flowers and landscapes. The evening included the opportunity for Grand Benefactors to adopt a work of art in the Museum's collection for one year during the live auction.



Michael and Laura Magevney with John and Gina Donahoo



Co-Chairs Chris Hieb and Suzanne Hinckley

FOOD AND PHILANTHROPY AT CELEBRITY CHEFS LUNCHEON

Recognizable Jacksonville celebrities from television, nonprofit leadership positions and other successful businesses came together at the Salvation Army's 27th annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction on Mar. 14. The event, held



Jerry Ferguson, Ann Trotter and Joann Purdie

annually at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, will help to fund the Salvation Army Senior Center, Adult Rehabilitation Center, Child Development Center and the Towers Memorial Social Services Center.



Jane Lanier of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation and Rita Joost



(back row) John Layton, Verna Schoonmaker, Bob Wise with (front) Vi Bumpers, Joan Tate, Ellen Clark and Gayle Beursken

PAL ROASTS WALLY LEE

The 4th Annual Police Athletic League Sheriff's Roast draws a crowd to the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville riverfront hotel to roast some of the more prolific characters in Jacksonville. This year was no exception as Ron Autrey, Gregory Smith, Rick Cox, Bruce Barcelo, Sandy Bartow and James Rinaman, Jr. raised a glass and wreaked some havoc on the past president of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. The event was held March 7 with Emcee Cole Pepper of the Jaguars Radio Network.



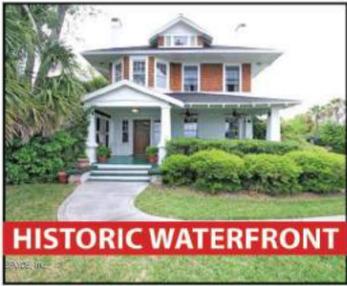
Jim Rinaman, Jr. with Sheriff John Rutherford and Ron Autrey



Emcee Cole Pepper with Kimberly Waterhouse



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UNDER CONTRACT

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VACANT LAND

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4657 Yacht Club Rd.
\$350,000



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\$349,900



1044 Cherry St.
\$275,000



4300 Lakeside Dr.
\$250,000



1610 Landon Ave.
\$249,900



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136 East 7th St.
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NEW CONSTRUCTION

1656 North Market St.
\$234,000



NEW CONSTRUCTION

124 East 7th St.
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1339 Challen Ave.
\$225,000



1235 Challen Ave.
\$209,000



1479 Pine Grove Ave.
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Maxine has been a sales associate with Watson Realty for 28+ years. The majority of that time, Maxine has been the Top Producer for the Avondale/Ortega office.

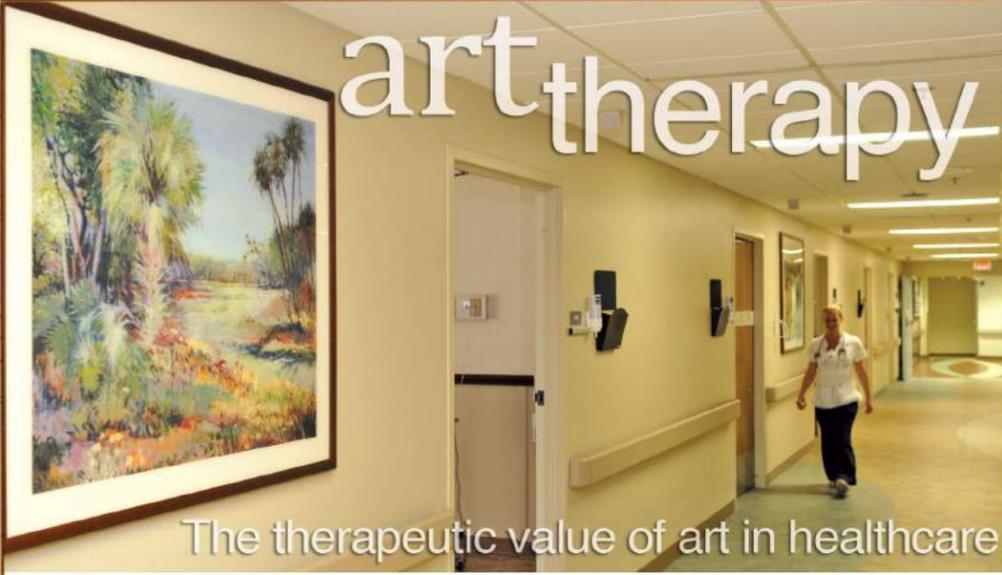
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BUSINESS PROFILE

Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery



The therapeutic value of art in healthcare



As more studies emerge about the healing effects of art, more hospitals, medical centers and doctors' offices are getting on the bandwagon.

Recognizing the importance of art in healthcare is local artist Nancy Schultz, The Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery, and St. Vincent's Medical Center. Together they've made an impact in the health and well-being of the medical community - from patients to visitors and to staff.

Schultz donated a very large installation of her Southern Magnolia printed on steel last month to The Mary Virginia Terry Cancer Center at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside. A prolific, well respected artist, Schultz's positive images of nature

seemed, well, a natural when it came to adding art to the healing process at St. Vincent's.

"I was thrilled when my good friend, Mary Virginia Terry, told me she would like at least one of my flower paintings in her beautiful new Terry Cancer Center at St. Vincent's," said Schultz. "I went over there with photographs and I chose three that were possibilities. Then Jack Slaughter and I went back with the three original paintings. Later Jack met with the committee and they decided they would like to have all three. Of course, I was honored."

Represented by The Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery for 18 years, Schultz's 4-foot by 5-foot image was printed on steel, giving a

traditional painting a contemporary look.

The large piece and two smaller works of art, Autumn Bearded Iris and Magnolia Blue, were installed by Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery at The Mary Terry Cancer Center. Adding artwork that comforts and reduces stress provides relief from dealing with frightening disease with often uncertain outcomes.

The Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery has also managed the selection and installation of Ellen Diamond's artwork at the Heekin Orthopedic Unit. Diamonds' paintings of North Florida landscapes provide a familiar and beautiful image during patients' recovery. St. Vin-

cent's Southside selected serene and peaceful photographs of nature to hang in the patient rooms in the Surgical Oncology Unit. The Mayo Center of Jacksonville, Baptist South Medical Center and Flagler Hospital, among others, have art projects managed by The Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery.

"Our overriding goal is to tie art into the healthcare provider's mission and objectives," says Jack Slaughter, owner of The Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery. "We want our healthcare clients to view art as an investment in their patient, visitor and staff's well-being."

Nancy Schultz and Ellen Diamond are represented by The Framing Establishment - Fairfax Gallery, at 4216 Herschel Street. Call (904) 384-7724 for more information or visit <http://www.fairfaxgalleryjacksonville.com/>



ST. VINCENT'S
HEALTHCARE

Jacksonville
Fine Arts Festival 2013

120 LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL ARTISTS

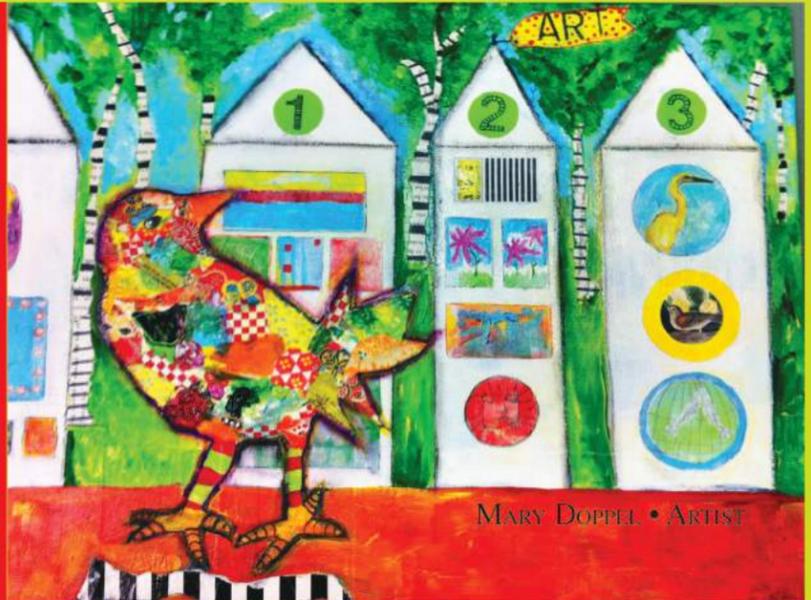
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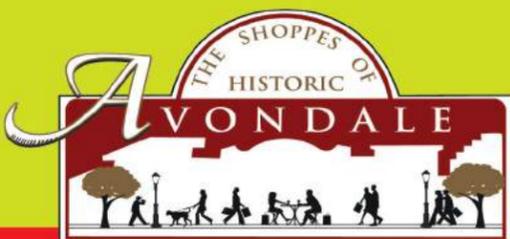
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MARY DOPPEL • ARTIST

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Jacksonville, Florida
St. Johns Avenue & Van Wert Street

Saturday ♦ April 20, 2013
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday ♦ April 21, 2013
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Gardening for the Academic Edge

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Want a nutritious way to help your child learn or retain concepts in math, science and language arts? According to the *Gardening for Grades* handbook used in the Master Gardener teacher training

Robert Freeman with Ryn and Cole Register



workshops, gardening at school can influence students' environmental attitudes, nutritional attitudes, self-esteem, test scores, school attitudes, social concerns and behaviors. Gardening at home can have many of the same positive outcomes.

And to paraphrase a famous saying, gardening is not rocket science.

Whatever the age of the gardener, a few basic elements are essential: sun, water, space and time. Most fruit and veggies need six to eight hours of sunlight typically between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. One warning: because the sun's position changes with the seasons – an astronomical fact worth a little summertime discussion – an area that is full sun in one season might not be full sun in another.

Finding the home garden's position can lead to good conversations concerning the science of seasons, earth's rotation, morning rays vs. evening. For the older student there might be some additional conversation about photosynthesis, pollination and nutrient requirements.

After sunlight, water is the second basic requirement. Since many environmental experts are becoming increasingly concerned about Florida's supply of potable water, deciding on a garden's water source is a good opportunity to mention the stewardship of this valuable resource.

Drip irrigation saves water. Rain barrels collect and save water also. They are available from Duval Extension workshops, St. John's Riverkeeper and garden centers. Older students sometimes enjoy making their own barrels and instructions abound on the Internet. For very young gardeners, right-sized watering cans, seed tapes and small coiled hoses are useful.

Size matters. Squarefoot gardening, created by civil engineer Mel Bartholomew, is the easiest way to garden because the technique specifies which plants go where and when to put them in. In addition, if there is more than one gardener, squares can be assigned to individuals to keep the peace. There is no digging in the ground in SFG as all gardening is in a small raised bed. The book *Squarefoot Gardening* is available at Amazon or at Chamblins Book Mine, a

local used book store. There are numerous YouTube videos on the subject, some of them featuring Mel himself.

Small raised beds with purchased organic soil and compost are almost instantly productive. If an in-ground plot is chosen, the soil needs to be tilled and amended at least 30 days before planting to discourage mole crickets and wire worms.



Olivia and Abigail Lapinski

In North Florida spring is an easier time to garden than summer because of heat and humidity. An excellent planting guide for all seasons is available on the Internet at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. Hard copies can be had by calling the Extension Education Center at (904) 255-7450 and requesting a Florida Vegetable Guide.

Of course, the key to using the garden to advance or maintain academic skills is to involve the young gardener at all stages of the garden: choosing the site, measuring the area, researching correct plants, creating planting plans and, finally, planting and maintaining the garden. For older students, a garden journal is also helpful to remember when and where seeds were sown and to capture both crop successes and failures. For technophiles, garden blogs can be created to share the adventure with others.

When the temperature soars or the spring rains slosh and the young gardeners leave the field, there are a number of books that have both a garden theme and a good story. For elementary students: *Sunflower House*, *the Tiny Seed*, *I Will Never Not EVER Eat a Tomato*, *The Ugly Vegetable*, and *Anna's Garden Story*. For middle and high school students: *A Land Remembered*, *The Yearling*, *Mules and Men*, *Dust Tracks in the Road*.

Finally, for a garden experience with little or no effort, Linda Cunningham's April Herb Faire is a way to acquire herbs that can be planted and enjoyed instantly. Because herbs are a true sensory delight, an herb garden appeals to all ages. To add a language arts component, author Lesley Tierra's *A Kid's Herb Book* introduces elementary students to herbal potions, remedies, salves and syrups.

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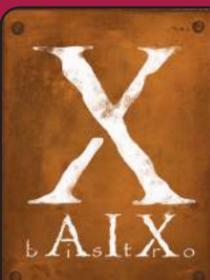
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Gardening within Communities: *Intermingled Roots*

BY SARAH CLARKE STUART
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The community garden movement that is sweeping the country is alive and well here in Jacksonville. The popularity of group gardens, especially urban ones, has been on the upswing for some time now and for good reason: knowing how to grow your own food is an indispensable skill (especially as grocery prices skyrocket), and doing it with others is fun.

It strengthens ties among neighbors and friends, and teaches kids positive habits that will last a lifetime

A Neighborhood School is Growing

My six-year old son is benefitting from this trend right here in the heart of the Riverside-Avondale community. At his school, West Riverside Elementary, volunteer mom Diana Martin, along with teachers and staff, maintain an organic vegetable garden. Now that spring is here they are busy. Last year Martin started the project because she wanted “children to be knowledgeable about where their food comes from by growing and sampling food they had cared for.”

The garden includes six raised beds, all built by volunteer moms and dads. The students work in the garden as well, while learning all about plant life. Recently the kindergarteners propagated lettuce seeds from last year’s plants, and the second graders created their own compost.

Soon it will be ready to enrich the garden soil.

Last year’s WRES crop yielded cabbage, onions, squash, tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, stevia and parsley. It was not an easy task, as Martin will tell

anyone. She was grateful for the volunteers who came on board, and surprised to find the spirit of volunteerism in gardener-neighbors who were not even affiliated with the school.

Avondale residents Leslie and Connie Gandy, who lives within walking distance of the neighborhood school, has been donating her time and expertise to the project.

Martin was so impressed by the Gandys’ home landscape that one day she dropped a note in her mailbox asking if she wanted to lend a hand; without hesitation Connie Gandy called the next day to volunteer. This spontaneous partnership really shows how willing neighbors can be to help each other improve their communities.

However, individual volunteers are not the only helping hands in this project. Among the school’s corporate donors have been Philips Garden Store, Architectural Design Associates and Pro-Build Lumber. But new, ongoing support is always needed. To become a sponsor or get involved as a volunteer, contact Diana Martin at (904) 553-6323 or West Riverside Elementary at (904) 381-3900.

Bringing Students Together

At the downtown campus of Florida State College at Jacksonville we’ve been working on our own community connections through planting. We are following the lead of the gardening organizations established at other campuses, including Kent Campus in Avondale.

Our goal is to bundle good health, new friendships and life-long learning into one small urban garden. Faculty members and students are joining

forces to grow their own veggies.

Best of all they are getting to know each other and making connections within the student body. FSCJ Student and Urban Garden member Mark Thomassen says that he joined “to learn more about gardening and to get more involved in my school.”



Urban gardeners at FSCJ

Workshops, Clubs and Community Opportunities

If you’ve ever wanted to join a gardening community, now is the ideal time. There are urban gardens and veggie plots popping up everywhere in the historic neighborhoods of Jacksonville, including the much-anticipated Riverside-Avondale community plots. There are also several organizations that support continued education in plant care such as the Duval County Extension Office, the Florida Native Plant Society and Jacksonville’s Permaculture Network. The permaculture group in particular is very active in the urban core.

Riverside resident Alexander Ojeda founded the group, which is also a Meetup group, because he wanted to unite those who are interested in “learning how interacting with our land is not only sustainable, but also regenerative and resilient.”

Permaculture principles encourage minimal maintenance of gardens and very little human intervention. “We don’t water, fertilize, weed, nor do we eliminate insects in any way. We improve the soil and the plants by nurturing a thriving community of living creatures,” said Ojeda. “A naturally managed balance of insects, microbial life, transient wildlife and wild opportunistic pioneer plants (weeds) are all a part of making our gardens grow better every year.”

The Permaculture Network hosts many events in the area and welcomes those who are interested in creating permaculture spaces and edible lawns.

For an up-to-date schedule see their calendar on Meetup.com by searching for Jacksonville’s Permaculture Network and on Facebook by looking for Permaculture Jax. Questions about the group can be directed to Alexander Ojeda at alex@alexanderandblack.com.

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BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In 2012 Ron Littlepage, environmental gadfly and Op-Ed writer for the Florida Times Union, received an important letter. Chris Buckley, chair of the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission, wrote, "It is my pleasure to inform you that the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission has selected you as the recipient of our Annual Jake Godbold Award. This award is given to those individuals whom we deem to have a positive impact on making or keeping Jacksonville a beautiful place to live.

"Through your articles, you bring the natural beauty of Jacksonville to all your readers, encourage the community to preserve these natural habitats and urge everyone to keep litter in its rightful

Outspoken columnist receives Godbold Award



Ron Littlepage receives Godbold Award, presented by KJB commission; councilman Love helps to present the award

place." Littlepage received the award on February 7, 2013.

The KJB commission is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful which is the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization.

The KJB commission is comprised of representatives from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors appointed by the mayor of Jacksonville. Created in 1983 by Mayor Jake Godbold, KJB supports community beautifi-

cation, enhances community pride and improves the quality of life in Jacksonville

"Through your articles, you bring the natural beauty of Jacksonville to all your readers..."

Chris Buckley

Chair of the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission

through the provision of outreach and educational activities and programming.

The Godbold Award was created by the Commission in 2009 to honor former Mayor Jake Godbold who was

known for saying, "A clean city makes for a more economically-viable city." In 2010, he was the recipient of the first Godbold Award which is designed to honor individuals who put forth the effort to make Jacksonville a cleaner, greener place.

Ron Littlepage was honored for his St. Johns River advocacy. Calling the river the city's soul and bemoaning the fact that it had, at one point, been the city's sewer, Littlepage has been an outspoken advocate of improved river care. His Op-Eds have investigated increased nutrient loads, algae bloom, proposed pipelines, and Water Management District practices. He has spoken in favor of St. Johns River license plates, supported the Riverkeeper and highlighted river-friendly landscaping practices.

Littlepage revels in solutions to environmental problems. He delighted in the creation of Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Institute. "It will provide a central location for researchers to study the river and the impacts on its health. Such research and focus are critical because the river is under assault from pollution, from plans to dredge the channel deeper to meet the port's need and from the management district's plans to use the river for water supplies."

An avid outdoorsman, Littlepage has kayaked or hiked through many of the public parks in Duval County. By writing adventure articles emphasizing the wild beauty he encounters on his excursions, he has encouraged others to explore Duval County's natural delights.

Anna Dooley, Director of Greenscape, commented on Littlepage's award by saying, "Ron was selected because of his enduring efforts to raise awareness on the benefits of better environmental stewardship. He is a great advocate of the planet and particularly of our portion."

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This year's Spring Home Tour includes 12 locations. Numerous special events are being held in conjunction with the Spring Home Tour, including a brand new Craftsman Showcase featuring nine local groups that have mastery skills for working with historic homes. Other features include an Art House and Garden on the tour. Entertainment includes a free Home Tour Bike Ride hosted by City Cycle, an Antique Car exhibition presented by the Antique Automobile Club of America, Live music, restaurant specials, and discounted access to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

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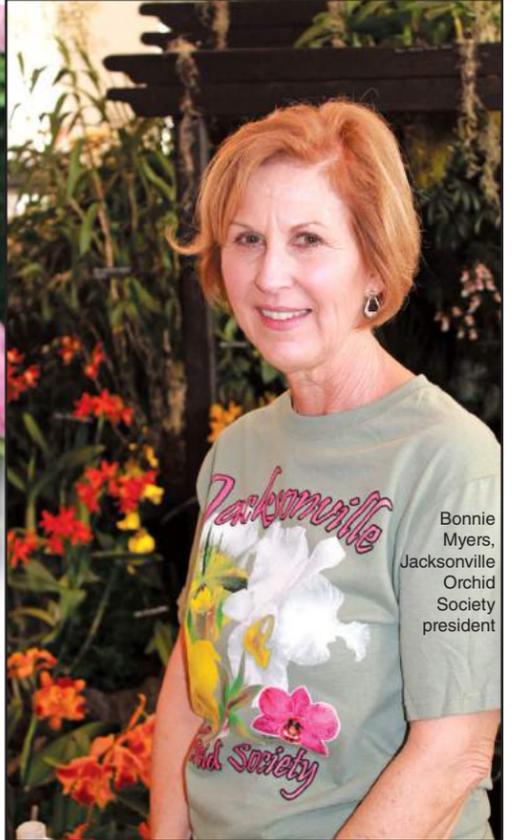
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Bonnie Myers, Jacksonville Orchid Society president

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Beautiful orchids from JOS grace the annual show and sale, win many awards

Orchids in the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of species (the number ranges between nearly 22,000 and just over 26,000 species cataloged) were in full bloom at the annual Jacksonville Orchid Society's annual show and sale at the Garden Club of Jacksonville last month. Eleven

orchid sellers set up shop in the perimeter of the ballroom doing a brisk trade in plant sales while visitors enjoyed the 10-exhibit display in the center of the room.

According to show chairperson Harry McElroy of Mandarin, there were 15 accredited judges from the American Orchid Society as well as



Andrea Bailey and Mia Horstmann enjoy the show

50 or so ribbon judges from the Jacksonville Orchid Society keeping busy Friday night and Saturday. The Avondale Orchid Club won many ribbons in the amateur division and club member Eric Cavin, an immediate past president of the JOS, is currently in the process of becoming accredited as an orchid judge for the American Orchid Society.

The JOS' president, Bonnie Myers, raises over 300 orchids on

the lanai at her and husband Tom's home in Southside. A JOS member since 2006, Myers noted "This is a wonderful hobby; you meet a lot of great people. One of the best things I ever did was joining this society."

Venetia resident Mia Horstmann couldn't resist making the annual trip to the orchid show with her daughter, Andrea Bailey of Avondale. "We do this every year," said Bailey. "And can't leave without buying something."

Blooms Galore & More, April 6 at Garden Club

The Garden Club of Jacksonville's 8th annual Blooms Galore & More plant sale and artisan festival will take place on Saturday, Apr. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1005 Riverside Avenue.

Visitors may purchase, at exceptional prices, plants locally grown by Garden Club members and already acclimated to local weather. A forum of Florida Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer gardening questions.

The annual event includes professional plant nurseries and artisans selling unique hand-crafted items including outdoor garden art, women's clothing, jewelry, botanical products, fragrant candles, gourd art and more. A children's activity area is new this year, and a light lunch will be for sale as well. The event is free and open to the public.

Cummer's Olmsted Garden to open to public April 11

Members of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens can look forward to the opening of the Olmsted Garden on Thursday, Apr. 11. The parking lot across Riverside Avenue will have been completed and opened to the public as of Mar. 29.

In addition, the Museum has new hours as of Apr. 1: Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; Monday, closed; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., with free admittance starting at 4 p.m. sponsored by Florida Blue; Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weaver First Saturdays will continue, sponsored by J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, allowing the public to visit the Museum for free on the first Saturday of the month. Entrance fees are \$10 for adults, \$6 for seniors, military and students, while members and children five and under are free, as are college students with ID (Tuesday through Friday only).

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Allergy season worse than ever

OTC and homeopathic remedies may help

BY CAREN BURMEISTER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

There's a crust of yellow green powder on your windshield. The person behind you in the grocery line is sneezing and wiping bleary eyes. You're on the phone and notice an unusual wheezing.

It's allergy season and all those moss covered oaks, stately pines and verdant green yards that we're so fond of have become the enemy.

"There seems to be much more of a problem with allergies this year," said Gary Roberts, a pharmacist and owner of Roberts' Southbank Pharmacy in San Marco.

Dr. Jesse McRae, an allergist on Blanding Boulevard, agrees. The earlier-than-usual warm weather, plus wind and rain has really aggravated allergies, he said.

"People are sicker than usual this year," said McRae. "It affects many people's quality of life. It can interfere with your learning, work performance and your sleep."

Jacksonville's pine pollen appeared in January, followed by oak pollination. Before you know it, grass will start pollinating, Roberts said. He's seeing more people come to his pharmacy for help, even some who tell him they've never had allergies before.

But it's the oak trees that are causing the most suffering at this time of year,

McRae said. Oaks shed considerable amounts of pollen that commonly trigger symptoms.

McRae said his asthma patients are also experiencing worse symptoms due to molds like alternaria that are permeating in the air now, especially on dry, windy days.

What can we do for the runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes?

The good news is that over the counter medications cause less drowsiness than they used to. Antihistamines like Claritin and Allegra are extremely helpful and generally don't cause drowsiness, Roberts said. They also come in a liquid form that's helpful for children.

Benadryl can cause drowsiness, Roberts said, so he doesn't recommend it unless you're having an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

Nasal sprays also work well, but don't use them for more than three or four days, Roberts said. Otherwise, you may have a "rebound" reaction, which can happen when your nose becomes less responsive to the medication's effects.

Drink lots of fluids when you're taking antihistamine, Roberts said, because they a drying effect and the inflamed tissues in your nose are more vulnerable to bacteria and infection.

Maybe you prefer to use a gentler, more natural approach to treat your symptoms.

Some people find relief from nutritional and herbal products such as Allergy ReLeaf System from Herbs Etc., Aller-Max by Country Life, and

Aller-Ease by Buried Treasure, said James Robison, president of Grassroots Natural Market in 5 Points.

"These are the top formulas that our customers come back to season after season," Robison said.

Grassroots Natural Market doesn't have medical doctors on staff and can't diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent diseases, Robison said.

"But we have many options of traditional and alternative remedies which many customers tell us have solved their issues," he said.

Robison also suggests using HEPA filters in home ventilation systems and vacuum cleaners, using green cleaning supplies, and proper laundering of bed linens to minimize the compounding of dust mites, pollens, pet dander and other allergens.

If your allergies are severe you may want to talk to your doctor about getting a series of shots that work like a vaccine and help desensitize you to your allergy triggers, McRae said. The shots gradually expose the body to the allergen, eventually blocking your reaction to it.

There may be some good news on the horizon for people with severe allergies that means no more needles. Someday, once the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves it, the allergy vaccine will be administered sublingually, under the tongue.

The FDA has yet to approve the treatment, which is already available throughout Europe and Asia. It not known how long the FDA review process will take.

"We're hoping that soon it will become routine practice," McRae said.

A Sigh of Relief: Putting Your Cold to Bed

Catching some Z's when you're stuffy can be tricky, but taking a decongestant may actually keep you awake. Here are five quick tips that may help you breathe better when you're sick:

Hot shower

Relaxing with a hot shower before bed not only soothes achy muscles, but the steam also may help clear and soothe the sinuses.

Hot drink

A hot liquid like herbal tea helps decongest and soothe the nose and throat. If you like a hot toddy, limit yourself to just one to help avoid counterproductive effects like dehydration and inflammation.

Hot pack

Applying a hot pack around your sinuses may also help relieve congestion. Make your own by heating a damp cloth in the microwave for 30 seconds.

Head(board) up

Propping your head up on pillows isn't advised because it can make your neck bend unnaturally, making breathing more difficult. Instead, try elevating the head of your bed using large books or planks.

Humidifier

Moist air from a humidifier can ease congestion and soothe nose and throat irritation through the night; just be sure to sanitize your machine between uses.

Did you know the

common cold is caused by a virus?

For this reason, antibiotics are not recommended for treatment. Instead, focus on getting good quality sleep, drink lots of water and use over-the-counter medications to relieve headache pain, suppress a cough, and get rid of congestion. After seven to ten days, the cold should have run its course and you should be feeling mostly back to normal. If your symptoms persist, if you have a lingering cough accompanied by a fever or pain, or if you have sinus pain and continue to experience thick yellow or green mucus, then you should seek care from a healthcare professional. With 13 locations in the Jacksonville area, CareSpot is conveniently located close to home or work. Visit CareSpot.com to check wait times, find a location, save a spot in line, or book an appointment

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- The older your shower head is, the more water it will use. Changing to a new shower head reduces that gallons per minute from 8 to as low as 2. The newer models have been designed so the low-flow models deliver as good a shower as the higher flow shower heads.
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The Way we Were

Tommy Madison

BY VICTORIA REGISTER-FREEMAN
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Standing in his glass enclosed river room high above the St. Johns, Tommy Madison looks like a captain on the bow of his ship. His Beau Rivage view encompasses the skyscrapers of Downtown and sweeps south to the Naval Air Station. His personal geography is spread out below him.

"I was born in 1931 and grew up behind the Avondale shopping Center at 3557 Pine Street," he reminisces. "My parents built the house in 1925 and lived in it until they passed away in 1977 and 1991 respectively.

"Next door to our house was the original farm house for the area. To accommodate the shopping center an alley ran from Talbot to Shadowlawn and at some point the farm house was actually divided into two pieces and moved apart. One part of the house which faced St. Johns was made into two apartments and the other which faced Pine Street was kept single family.

"Of course there was no air conditioning in our house. My brother Bill and I would sometimes sleep on the sun porch and at other times it would be so hot that we would put our pillows in the bedroom windows. After WWII window air conditioners appeared to make things cooler. For heat there was

the coal fired furnace which was later converted to fuel oil.

"The Depression influenced everyone's life. People shared food and friendship. Nobody had any extra money for toys, so creativity was really important. Down at the grocery store most of the produce came in wooden crates and these could be converted into go carts that could zoom down the hills in our neighborhood. Because the carts had no really functional brakes, we were lucky there were almost no cars on the streets. Gas was rationed.

"To show how serious the rationing was, in 1942 a car was hit and flipped over at the end of my street. After one of my neighbors made certain the driver of the car was O.K., he noticed that gas was dripping out of her car's tank. He ran home and got a can to save the gas for his own car. Fuel was a precious commodity.

"When we weren't building carts, we spent lots of time playing at White Sands which was a place at the end of Talbot where the sand had been pumped in before the Florida Boom. Everyone gathered there. Mothers would take us as little guys with buckets and shovels. Later on we would play pickup football there and sometimes fish or shrimp there, too.

"Also on Talbot between Pine and Hedrick there was a concrete road with expansion joints that were patched with tar. When it got really hot, the tar would ooze into a slick at the bottom of the hill especially at the curb. This made a great place to ride our bikes and slide sideways at the bottom to stop if we put out our left foot. It was especially slick after a light rain when covered

with leaves. Mike Kelly was a new kid and we didn't tell him about the left foot braking part. He zoomed down the hill and went into a big slide and then crashed. We left the scene. He wasn't hurt, which was a good thing, and he didn't try to hurt any of us which he could have done because he was about three inches taller than any of us.

"The entire neighborhood was open for all of us. No one locked the doors. At the foot of Ingleside and Richmond Street there was a place that was perfect for neighborhood kids. Mrs. Hubbard had a tennis court there that she kept up for us. Sometimes she would bring out pitchers of ice water if it was hot. Down on the river, the McIlvanes who had grown children and several boats actually let us sail the 12-foot one. My love of sailing stems from that experience. Outside the neighborhood, there were trips to Fernandina with Jack Hines where we drove autos on the beach.

"Moving through Fishweir, Gorrie, and Lee, I raised my spending money to buy a bike in a variety of ways. I sold gladiolas which Mr. Triplett brought from his farm. I mowed lawns with a push mower and worked in the produce department at the A&P grocery store on Herschel. Later on, I ran errands at Bisbee Baldwin Insurance

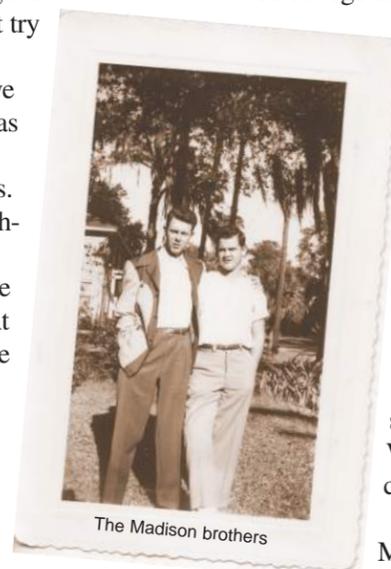
and worked as a machinist helper at the Merrill Stephens Shipyards, a physically demanding job that had me crawling deep into the bilge of a variety of vessels carrying boxes of tools but provided college cash.

"After college at Washington and Lee, I graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School, served three years in the Navy and married Julie Russell in 1955. Actually, Julie was one of the little girls I shot chinaberries at from my bamboo blowgun so many years ago. We have two sons, Marshall and Baker. We also have five grandchildren.

"In 1957, I joined Florida Machine Foundry Company and had a fascinating career.

Our family lived seven years in Venetia, 33 years in Ortega and in 1997 Julie and I moved to the Beau Rivage which is within one half mile from my old homestead. Indeed, reflecting on my Avondale upbringing during the Depression and WWII, I realize it taught me the value of money, community and hard work. It is good to be back."

Indeed, one leaves the presence of Tommy Madison feeling that his future harbors voyages of learning still to come. And because he is a vivid storyteller, one can stand on his river porch and imagine him as young man sailing a sailboat made of grocery carton wood far out on the bright blue St. Johns.



The Madison brothers



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More than 50 gather to celebrate women's service to the military

BY STEVE HOLLAND
VFW DISTRICT 6

As long as this nation has had a military, women have been playing an important role in it.

From Molly Pitcher taking the place of her wounded husband working cannon at the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth, to the Civil War, and to World War II, Korea and Vietnam, women have served. Today they are again in harm's way in far off places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than 50 people gathered at VFW Post 1689 on Mar. 9 to observe and celebrate women's military service in prayer, video and talks. Among the guests were four World War II women veterans.

"I would like for people to take away an appreciation of women's service to the military since the inception of this nation," said Karen Nigara, VFW District 6 commander, who hosted the event for the public. "Now more than ever we have women

serving in positions of great danger in harm's way. They sacrifice both while they are in the service and when they come back to take care of their families."

Nigara said women in the military



Left to right, Amber Putnam, Florida VFW Surgeon; Pauline Webb, WWII Army Veteran; Virginia Jones, WWII Navy; Florida VFW Commander Wayne Carrigan; Army Sgt. Maj. Sally Bailey, stationed at Camp Blanding; Martha Burt, WWII Army, and Karen Nigara, VFW District 6 Commander

are getting better and more important jobs.

"For the first time there are more women in general officer positions than ever before," she said. "We have gotten to the point where we have four-star generals – one in the Air

Force and one in the Army. That parallels, really, society at large as we have more women CEOs than ever before."

VFW State Commander Wayne Carrigan said the recognition of women in the military is overdue. He said working with women and bringing them into the organization is a major priority.

"It's long overdue," Carrigan said. "As women get more involved in the VFW and its leadership, our organization can only get stronger. It's moving in the right direction."

According to a House of Representatives Resolution (H.Res 868) women in the military made significant contributions:

- 34,000 women served in World War I; 400,000 in World War II; 130,000 in the Korean War, more than 7,000 in the Vietnam War and 41,000 women served in the first Gulf War;
- 185,000 women were deployed in

support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other missions since 2001;

- 350 service women have given their lives for the nation in combat zones since World War I, and more than 85 have been held as prisoners of war.

"Patriotism; that is what gets you up every morning," said Army Sgt. Maj. Sally Bailey, stationed at Camp Blanding and a speaker at the conference. She said patriotism is a prime motivator to serving in the all-volunteer army. "That is what keeps you going every day. You don't have to be there. It is an honor to serve."

Bailey said jobs in the military have become more important and meaningful over the years. She said women have always risked their lives for their country.

"Women have been in the front-lines for a long time because those lines are undefined," said Bailey, whose truck convoys were hit twice in Iraq by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). She said she was sent there in 2007. "We have been doing great work for many, many years."

Murray Hill Senior Volunteers Honored



Front: Ruthie Goshen, Betty Jean Davis, Artha Brownlee; back: Voncille Hallback, Dee Hagins, Mirease Clark, Mary Irvin, Lois Jordan

Eight women from the Murray Hill area were just a few of the 190 senior citizens honored at the 6th annual Seniors on a Mission luncheon at Lakewood United Methodist Church in early March. The annual event is given for those volunteers who went on at least three mission trips and had served for at least a year. The nearly 200 men and women represented almost 50% of the senior volunteers who last year gave over \$270,000 in service value to the community.

Seniors on a Mission, founded by Joanne Hickox in 2005, serves the Jacksonville area by sending teams of seniors to nonprofit organizations

where, for example, they repair and sort clothing for the Clothing Warehouse, create teaching kits at the Teachers Supply Depot, assemble balloons for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night event, address envelopes for The Salvation Army, and more. Since 2005, hundreds of seniors 70+ years old, have donated over \$1.4 million in service hours, impacting nearly 2 million lives. Volunteers are assigned to one of nine team locations; in Murray Hill, the Florida Christian Center on Edgewood Avenue serves as a team base and in Ortega, seniors sign in at Ortega United Methodist Church on Roosevelt Boulevard.

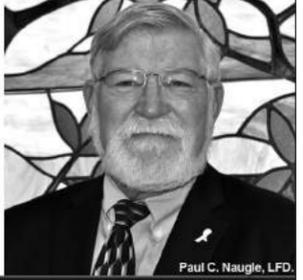


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Local SPORTS

Lanahan follows in grandfather's swim strokes

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Brian Lanahan, 37, wanted to do more than follow in his grandfather's footsteps. He wanted to follow in his swim strokes.

A runner in college, and participant in a triathlon and two Iron Man races, the former Avondale resident had a medical scare with his vision that "rang my bell and caused me to think about things I'd like to do, like swimming the English Channel," said Lanahan. "So I've been training full time for open water swimming since spring 2010 to swim the Channel this August."

The primary motivation for the historic Ortega swim last month was for his 86-year-old aunt, Barbara

JumpingFish sponsors swim for history

"Ty" Thebaut, also of Avondale. "I wanted to do a swim she could relate to; I swam past where I was born, past Greenwood Avenue where I grew up."



The 1917 competition trophy won by Lanahan's grandfather

Lanahan's grandfather, Charles Thebaut (pronounced Teebow), was 22 years old when he swam from where the Main St. Bridge is now 4.5 miles to Ortega pier. Thebaut's daughter Barbara remembers hearing about it growing up, as she recalled to the JumpingFish team after her



Jim Alabiso and Brian Lanahan; photo by Candice Davis

nephew's historic swim to Ortega Bridge on Mar. 10.

Thebaut entered the annual Catholic Club swimming competition in 1917 and won first place. He owned and operated the All-Weather Tire Company, which was the third Goodyear Tire dealership to be opened in Florida, for 60-plus years at the corner of Herschel and San Juan.

As part of his training for the English Channel swim, Lanahan, an Assistant Professor of Citizenship Education at the College of Charleston, SC, joined JumpingFish for a St. Johns River swim in December 2012.

The Mar. 10 historic swim was planned for over a month and Lanahan, along with Jim Alabiso of JumpingFish, launched at 10:15 a.m. Their route took them from the Main

Street Bridge under the Acosta, Railroad and Fuller Warren bridges to the Ortega Bridge at Stinson Park. After 3.5 miles Brian took the lead as he swam toward the Ortega Bridge, finishing in 1 hour 36 minutes. Jim finished 5 minutes behind at 1:41.

The swimmers were joined by Jesse Hanson, a videographer at UNF who is working on a documentary of the St. Johns River, and by the dedicated kayak and safety crew, Roger Linville, Maggie Linville, Alicia Smith, Amy Pohlman and Candice Davis.

Their GPS position was available the online community via Twitter, Facebook and the JumpingFish GPS website during the entire event.



UNF Junior Jesse Hanson sets up his video camera for a documentary on JumpingFish director Jim Alabiso

The Resident News caught up with Jim Alabiso, well known advocate promoting our local waterways through athletics, as he was preparing to participate in a documentary by University of North Florida student Jesse Hanson.

Chatting about Lanahan's historic swim, Alabiso noted that their launch was almost at the last possible moment before the tide reversed. "We shot out of the gate at probably 6.5 miles per hour, a max velocity due to the current," Jim said. "That's probably 4 miles per hour faster than a swimming pace."

Alabiso, a Riverside resident and environmental software engineer, established JumpingFish in 2010 as a swim coaching business, and in 2011 launched the first Up The River swim across the St. Johns River. He was the only swimmer that year, but was joined the second year by Eric DePetris and Diego De Los Rios for a 12-mile swim.

This year, the third annual river event currently has five men and five women registered for the Saturday, Sep. 7 expedition swim. Advertised as "Up the River - Down Town", the 10 kilometer community swim and paddle will start from the St. Johns

Riverkeeper at Jacksonville University and terminate at Riverside Arts Market at the Fuller Warren Bridge.

There's much that area residents can do to promote Alabiso's "trickle-up environmentalism" to help the waterways. "The community can participate in the water with us on kayaks, paddleboats, in boats and canoes, watch the event from the Main Street Bridge, follow us on Twitter, become a member of the St. Johns Riverkeeper or join the river patrol," said Alabiso.

To register or volunteer, or for more information, visit www.jumpingfish.net.

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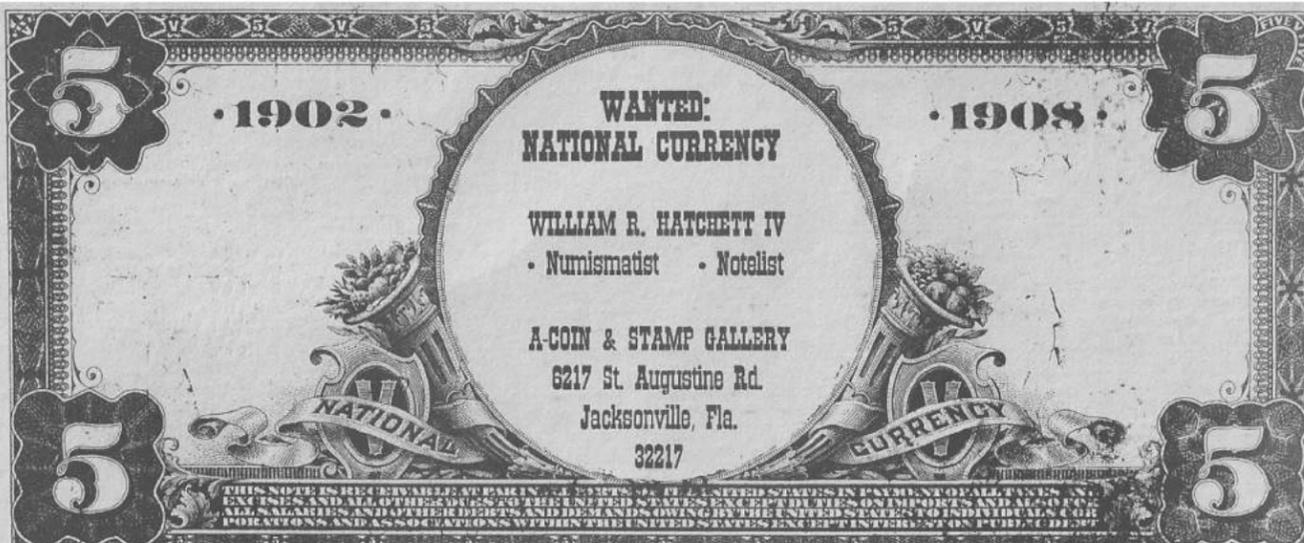
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Freedman's Bank Building, Constructed in 1870, this building housed the Freedman's Bank 1870-1871, the First National Bank of Florida 1874 to 1876, and the National Bank of Jacksonville 1877 to 1890. The building was destroyed in the fire of 1891.

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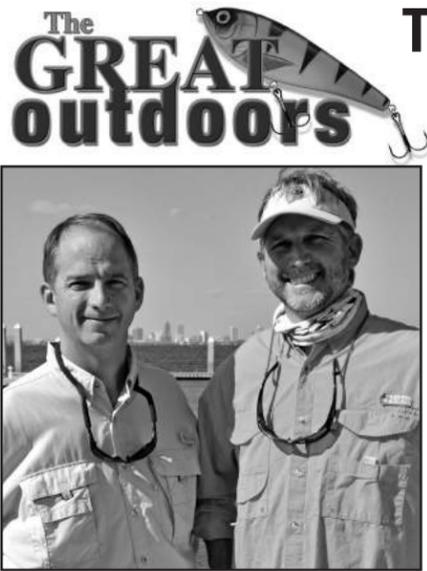


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BY NATHAN & TED MILLER

Tripletail: fun to target and great to eat

Last month we wrote about the beginning of spring, and that this time of year marks the season of migrating cobia. But spring also brings good numbers of a different species of fish to our coastal waters, a species that is far less targeted (or recognized) by anglers.

This species is one that I never had heard of growing up, and only began to target within the past couple of years.

The fish I am referring to is the tripletail. You may be saying to yourself, "a what"? I know I did.

My brothers and I grew up fishing these waters with our father, and we never had targeted, caught, eaten or seen a tripletail before...that I can remember.

But recently (over the past year or two), after reading and hearing more about tripletail, we have begun to pay a little more attention.

Tripletail seem to show up when the water temperature reaches the right temperature for cobia, around 68 to 70 degrees.

This fish is not going to thrill you with acrobatics like an angry tarpon, or dazzle you with line screaming off a reel like a 60 lb. wahoo. But it will get your heart rate going when you see one, as you realize you are about to pitch your bait to the best tasting fish (many would agree) that swim in the ocean.

Tripletail are not very large. In fact, the legal limit size is 15 inches from nose to tail (two per person per day). But they are fantastic to eat, and targeting them can be a lot of fun.

They like to ambush their prey by lying motionless next to floating debris. They wait for their meal to swim or drift by before attacking.

In years past, we would run the ocean trying to get to our destination as quickly and pain-

lessly as possible. But now we take notice to any buoy, channel marker, plastic bag or McDonald's wrapper we see.

We will slow down and approach these objects and often times will see a fish lying on its side directly adjacent to the debris. In many cases the fish is much larger than the floating object. But they will wait there motionless for unsuspecting bait to swim up and take shelter. This is the meal they have been waiting for.

They can also be seen taking shelter within the debris, almost in an attempt to blend in or hide. This seems to be more common in deeper water.

I look back at the times I have been fishing and seen tripletail, but was unclear as to what I was seeing.

My first recollection was fishing in Costa Rica five years ago. We were trolling for sailfish and dolphin when we passed by a white plastic close hamper drifting. The top or opening was facing sideways, and there were three or four fish taking shelter inside. I was unsure what type of fish they were, but we quickly realized what they were hiding from. As we maneuvered our baits to within several yards of the hamper, a large bull dolphin (mahi or durado) hit and the fight was on. Tripletail are so good to eat that had I known what they were, I may have asked the captain to stop so that we could have targeted them instead of the pelagic fish we were after.

Another encounter with the tripletail was a crossing to the Bahamas several years ago. The seas were flat calm out of Ft. Lauderdale. We were careful crossing the Gulf Stream as you can run across large objects like telephone poles, trees, shipping containers and other large objects. I spotted a wooden pallet and quickly turned and slowed down. I was hoping to find a durado or sailfish swimming around it. All I saw were 10 of the strangest looking fish I had ever seen taking shelter underneath. They were large fish (8 to 10 pounds each) with what looked to be three tails. I quickly grabbed a large artificial lure (mirror lure) to see if I could entice one of these to eat. No luck. So we sped up and motored on, not knowing what opportunity I had just left behind.

To my knowledge, tripletail are not very interested in artificial lures. The limited success we have had with them has been with very light tackle, 20 lb. fluorocarbon leader and the smallest bucktail jig you can find (1/8 oz. or less) with a small piece of shrimp.

When you think you see one, motor up slowly until you can confirm one is there. If there is, keep a safe distance back to avoid spooking them. Pitch your small bait past, and slowly retrieve. Once you retrieve your bait adjacent to

the fish, stop reeling and let your bait sit or fall slightly. The fish will pick up the scent (shrimp works great) and will slowly follow. Once it consumes, the fight is on.

Tripletail have extremely sharp gill plates that can slice fingers so it is best to net or use gloves when landing and handling these fish.

If you are pursuing a tripletail and you spook them, simply back off, wait and watch. They don't swim off fast and will usually come back to the floating debris after a few minutes, giving you another shot.

Tripletail have become more popular to target. Last year a group of us went bottom fishing in the Gulf of Mexico off the panhandle of Florida. We ventured offshore 20-plus miles to pursue snapper and grouper. With the west-to-east current and a northeast wind that day, the seas were extremely rough.

After a long day of very windy and wet conditions, we made it back to the dock. While cleaning our catch, we befriended a guy who fished earlier. He and his wife were fishing from their bay boat, not suitable for rough offshore conditions. They had targeted tripletail earlier that day, and ran along the beach stopping by every crab buoy and marker they found. By the early afternoon, they had a cooler full of large tripletail, and had not been beat up in the process. I could tell by their enthusiasm and their story that was one happy couple who had enjoyed a great day on the water filling a limit of fantastic eating fish.

If the water temperature is right, tripletail can be targeted along the coast in shallower and more protected waters, making this type of fishing a lot of fun for the entire family. And a flats boat or even flat bottom boat on calm days can be very effective.

So if you are out there this month targeting cobia, remember to take a light rod and reel with a small jig and dead shrimp along with you. And pay attention to those crab pots and other floating debris.

If you see a strange looking fish that appears to have armor like that of an armadillo and three tails, get excited. Take a deep breath, make a great cast, be patient, and find a great recipe. You have just caught the best tasting fish in the sea.

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Braised Tripletail Puttanesca

(Adapted from a Fine Cooking snapper recipe)

- 4 5-oz. skinless tripletail fillets (about 3/4 inch)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 medium cloves garlic, minced (about 1 Tbs.)
- 2 14-1/2-oz. cans petite-diced tomatoes
- 2 anchovy fillets, minced
- 3 Tbs. coarsely chopped fresh basil leaves

- 1/2 cup pitted Kalamata olives, halved lengthwise (about 3 oz.)
- 1 Tbs. capers, rinsed
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 Tbs. coarsely chopped fresh mint
- 2 tsp. red-wine vinegar

Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 325°F. Season the tripletail all over with salt and pepper. Let sit at room temperature while you prepare the sauce.

Heat 2 Tbs. of the olive oil in a 12-inch ovenproof skillet over medium low heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until softened but not golden, about 1 minute. Add the tomatoes and their juice, anchovies, olives, 2 Tbs. of the basil, capers, and pepper flakes to the pan. Bring the sauce to a brisk simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until the tomatoes are tender and the juices have reduced to a saucy consistency, about 8 minutes.

Nestle the tripletail fillets into the sauce, spooning some on top to keep the fish moist. Drizzle with the remaining 1 Tbs. olive oil. Tightly cover the pan with a lid or aluminum foil and braise in the oven until the fish is almost cooked through, 10 to 15 minutes, depending on thickness.

With a slotted spatula, transfer the tripletail to 4 shallow serving bowls. If the sauce seems too thin, simmer over medium-high heat until thickened to your liking. Stir the remaining 1 Tbs. basil and the mint and vinegar into the sauce and spoon it over the fish. Enjoy!



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BUSINESS PROFILE

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"We're one of the only stores that sells high quality fresh fish on this side of town," said business partner Shane Tanner, as he deftly sliced a salmon and slid out a huge, pink filet. "That's as fresh as it gets right there."

Swimming Yesterday Seafood offers fresh fish, a clean, friendly environment and a wide selection of choices. The store carries several unusual finds, like 50-pound bushels of Gulf Coast oysters; a sweet, flaky snapper caught locally called B-liners; and golden tilefish reeled in off Cape Canaveral, which can be as sweet as crab or lobster.

Go there once and you're hooked. One couple that recently came in the store snatched up a tilefish before someone else got it.

"They appreciate that because Publix doesn't carry it," Tanner said.

The store also has clams from Cedar Key, cobia, and locally caught mahi and flounder.

"We get all our shrimp dockside," said Tanner's business partner, Paul Riley, referring to their local shrimper docked up in

Fernandina Beach.

Customers keep coming back to Swimming Yesterday Seafood and referring their friends. David Thomas, one of the store's regulars, appreciates the hospitality and freshness of their fish. He said the store is so clean you almost wouldn't know it's a seafood place.

"It's just a wonderful atmosphere," Thomas said. "And they really know how to filet a fish."

Like Thomas said, the store is a stickler for cleanliness. All seafood is prepared in a safe, sanitary environment that exceeds the state health department's standards.

Tanner and Riley opened the business over three years ago. They moved the store to its new location at 1080-9 Edgewood Avenue S. roughly two months ago.

They both grew up fishing, crabbing and

scalloping along the Gulf Coast near their hometown of Pensacola and reconnected while taking business courses at the University of North Florida. That's when they decided to open a business that would let them share their passion for delicious, fresh fish.

The partners enjoy talking with customers about their seafood and its taste, texture and the best ways to cook it. For example, the tilefish—a firm, clean water fish with white, flaky meat—is terrific on the grille, they said.

Did you know you can tell if a whole fish is fresh by looking at its eyes? The eyes should be clear, not cloudy.

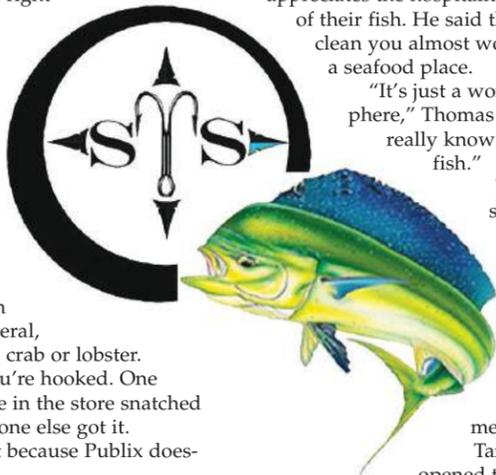
"That's how you can tell something is right off the boat," said Tanner, who fishes as much as possible for pleasure and to keep informed about what's out there.

And talk about making it convenient for customers. Just because seafood is seasonal doesn't mean you have to drive to the store to see what just came in. Just visit Swimming Yesterday Seafood's website and click on the weekly menu that's updated daily. Or, take a peek at their Facebook page, or sign up for their email blast, which goes out once or twice

a week.

"We call that freshness in real time," Tanner said. "Our customers seem to like it and we get a really good response. They'll email us and say, 'save me three dozen of those clams'."

"Having Florida fresh fish and those technical aspects that keep our customers informed are what make us somewhat unique," Tanner said.



Swimming Yesterday Seafood Co. is located at 1080-9 Edgewood Ave. in Murray Hill, just north of the Compass Bank. Orders may be placed at (904) 387-3474 or by email at swimmingyesterdayseafood@yahoo.com.

To find out what fish is available, visit their website at www.swimmingyesterdayseafood.com or their Facebook page. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, closed on Monday.

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GO GIVERS

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Elizabeth Paul, 33, of Murray Hill found the perfect way to volunteer by going online to investigate meet-up.com. The Internet site is a network of local groups where individuals can connect with others who share similar interests. They form offline clubs that plan regular meetings or activities. Paul joined a volunteering group that organizes and posts volunteer opportunities.

"I've been in the group four months and have attended three group volunteer events. There is no pressure, you simply join in whatever activity your schedule permits. It is perfect for people who work or have little free time. An organizer selects a particular charity and you decide what and how much time you can give according to your interests," she said.

Paul said that the groups are an easy way to become involved in a volunteer activity without committing to a rigid schedule. They also bring like-minded individuals together to meet and form friendships, while helping others and the community. The organizer and group members plan social events and holiday parties for participants.

Activities of the volunteering group have included sorting food for distribution by Second Harvest Food Bank, organizing donated clothing

for distribution by Dignity You Wear and an upcoming beautification project for Wolfson High School where volunteers will build benches for the school campus.

"I am a big believer in donating time. It is just as valuable as monetary donations and just as needed. Most people my age in their early thirties are busy pursuing careers and working long hours; they don't tend to volunteer much. I want to encourage that age group of young professionals to find a volunteer activity that could fit into their schedule," she said.

Paul has also found a way to use her artistic interest in belly dancing, to donate back to the community. She studies and performs with a local belly dance troupe, Troupe Tarab. The group volunteers to perform for community events including Art Walk, Riverside Arts Market, Christmas in Avondale, for senior citizens in area nursing homes and patients in rehabilitation facilities.

"Our instructor is Julianne Battaglia, who teaches dance through Ed White High School's Continuing Education Program," she said. "We also entertain for the Cancer Relays for Life and other cancer awareness events."



Elizabeth Paul

orating more as time goes on. It's a little bare right now."

Paul believes that her interest in volunteering may have come from watching her own family. She describes her family as always caring and very aware of the needs of others.

"I believe that people pick up more from what we do than from what we say, so in giving back to the community I want to be the person who works to make changes instead of asking others to do that," she said. "I'm afraid there is a real mentality out there of every man for himself, but I believe that the world can change for the better one person and one activity at a time. The truth is, if I could, I would join the Peace Corps right now."

Paul, who completed her degree from the University of North Florida in 2002 in Fine Arts/Photography, is a 1997 Ed White High School graduate. She has worked as a graphic designer for Mitchell Proffitt Company for 10 years.

Along with her career and working as a community volunteer, Paul enjoys travel around the U.S. and Europe. She plans to add more countries to the list she has already visited. Paul is interested in healthy eating and would like to improve and expand her cooking. She can be seen regularly walking her Murray Hill neighborhood.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

THE JOHN GORRIE

a condominium

Jennille Torres shows off her wedding dress in the restored courtyard.



Jennille, along with her bridesmaids and man-of-honor, pose in front of the former junior high school.

MARRIED COUPLE CROSSES THRESHOLD AND CALLS THE JOHN GORRIE A CONDOMINIUM HOME

It was love at first sight – not only between Jacksonville natives Aries and Jennille Torres – but between them and The John Gorrie a condominium, Jacksonville's premier condo community. One look and the newlyweds were ready to cross the threshold and call the former junior high school home.

"We were looking forward to finding a place we could call our own, a place that would be representative of both our personalities," said Jennille. "We weren't in the market for your typical cookie-cutter home. We wanted our home to have an urban flavor with cultural charm, but to be homey at the same time, and The John Gorrie exceeds all our expectations."

Conveniently located within walking distance to local shops and restaurants in

Riverside Avondale, Aries and Jennille, along with their puppy, enjoy short walks to morning cups of coffee or late night desserts.

"Walking along the river and streets that are canopied with large oak trees is absolutely breathtaking. After a busy day, coming home to the John Gorrie gives true meaning to the term, home sweet home," said Jennille.

The interior of the building was a huge selling point for this young and vibrant couple.

"We love that so many of the architectural elements of the old school were incorporated into the design of the condos," Jennille went onto say. "I had my wedding photos taken in the building. The high ceilings and expansive windows that adorn each room provided the perfect setting."

The couple's residence features views of the

courtyard, which they utilized as a backdrop for additional wedding photos.

"The original courtyard was restored and was the perfect place for my girlfriends and me to take some fun pictures," Jennille said laughing as she remembered the day. "We had a vintage-themed wedding so it was absolutely perfect."

The John Gorrie a condominium also boasts modern conveniences and residents enjoy contemporary amenities including a custom-designed fitness center, elevators, private gated parking and a resident reading room with Wi-Fi internet access.

"Choosing the John Gorrie to be our home was one of the best decisions we could have made," said Jennille. "Just like our relationship, it's the perfect mix of a little history and a



The John Gorrie boasts modern upgrades such as GE appliances and CaesarStone countertops in the kitchen.

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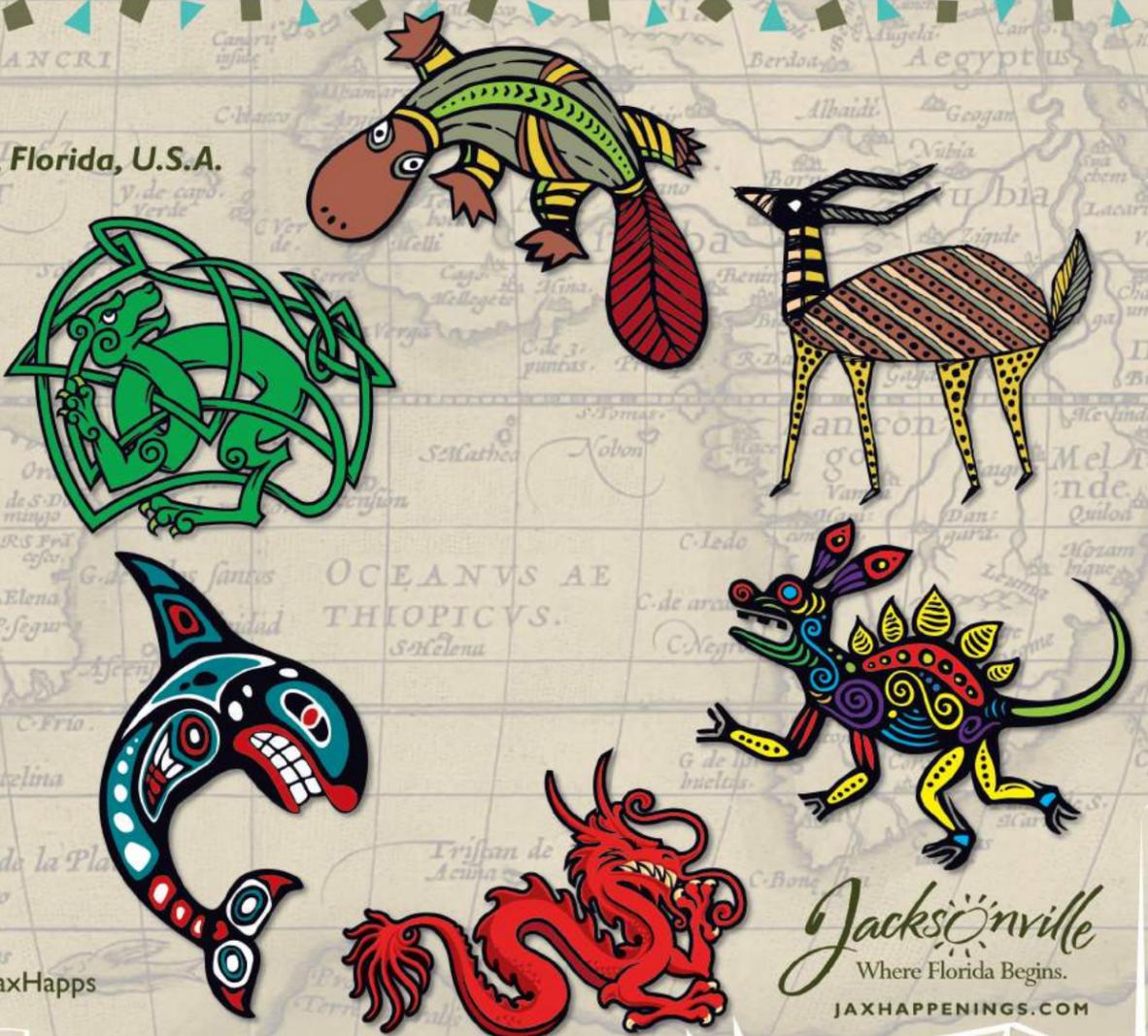
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City's Animal Shelter envy of the state



Abigail Waltz, who lives in Riverside, came to the Animal Control & Protective Services Center for some help in fostering a 5-week old Border Collie mix

fied to bring home a long-haired grey cat. "I miss having a big, furry, fluff ball," Swyers said.

A small, white, long-haired pooch convinced Judy Parker to take him to her home off Beaver Street by wiggling his tail in a little "hello" motion when she spoke to him.

If animal lovers had tails, those tails would be wagging, too.

Unique collaborations between Jacksonville's Animal Control and Protective Services and dozens of community animal placement groups are saving thousands of animals' lives and helping the city gain recognition as a model of pet adoption success.

"We're the envy of the state and maybe even the nation," said Scott Trebatoski, chief of Jacksonville's Animal Control and Protective Services.

In February, the animal control agency was recognized as the Outstanding Agency of 2013 by the Florida Animal Control Association.

Trebatoski attributes much of his agency's success to 100 or more pet placement partners, such as the Jacksonville Humane Society, Friends of Jacksonville Animals, First Coast

would have been possible."

The relationships are critical because animal shelters have limited space and resources and the community groups are passionate about saving animals and improving their quality of life.

"They [animal control] finally recognize that we're a big part of it," said Sherri Andette, a Northside resident who volunteered at the March 2 adoption event at the city's main animal shelter. Andette is the past president of Friends of Jacksonville Animals, which offers temporary foster homes, shelter enrichment and medical treatment and supplies for animals.

Of course, the city's animal control agency has also made other changes, too, like using social media to promote adoptions, cross-training its 44-person staff, adding a new building and streamlining the application process.

Every week, workers at the Jacksonville Humane Society, a no-kill adoption facility on Beaches Boulevard, meet with Animal Care and Protective Services staff and bring many abandoned and orphaned animals back to its facility.

In 2007, the city's Animal Control and Protective Services transferred out 425 animals, Trebatoski said. By 2012 that number had grown to 6,500.

The collaborations mean the city's animal control agency and community partners avoid duplication of services and focus on what they do best, whether it's public education, spaying and neutering, or providing rescue and foster homes.

In March, ACPS launched a new partnership with the non-profit Homeless Pet Clubs, which works with local schools, businesses and civic clubs to encourage animal adoption. Getting youth involved in the effort to end needless euthanasia will



Turbo, a long-haired mixed breed dog, brought a smile to Judy Parker, who has lived without a pet for some time and was happy to take him home with her

nudge adults to make a difference, Trebatoski said.

Also in March, the Jacksonville Humane Society raised \$100,000 from the Mutt March and festival at the Jacksonville Landing.

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown said the partnerships and funding opportunities that helped cinch the statewide award are "great for taxpayers and for our quality of life."

But new animals are coming in as fast, or faster, than they're going out. A week before the city received the award, Brown visited the Forest Street shelter to make a public plea for more adoptions as kennels

overflowed with adoptable dogs.

Roughly 600 animals arrive at the shelters each month during the slow season, Trebatoski said. But that number typically doubles to about 1,200 in April and quadruples to roughly 2,400 in June.

Presently, the agency is working to preserve space and resources by developing a program that

would help foster parents adopt the pets straight from their home. Trebatoski said he hopes to launch that program in about a month.

Adoption rates up, but many homeless animals need families

BY CAREN BURMEISTER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Tails are wagging at Jacksonville's main animal shelter at 2020 Forest Street as cats and dogs are freed from their cages and enter the arms of their new owners.

"Doesn't she look beautiful," said Northside resident Sandra Jenkins about the female mix-breed dog she adopted at the March 2 adoption event at the city's main animal shelter.

"She let me kiss her and pet her," Jenkins said. "She's skittish right now, but she'll warm up to her mamma."

Westside resident Debbie Swyers broke out in a smile when she quali-

Hannah Lombar adopted 3-year-old mixed breed Breezy



alive. So far this year, the adoption and transfer rate is about 80 percent.

"You've basically seen the equation flip upside down," Trebatoski said. "It's amazing. I never thought it

No More Homeless Pets and many others.

"This has had a tremendous impact on placement rates and a reduction on euthanasia," he said.

In 2007, only 17.4 percent of animals left the shelter alive, Trebatoski said. In 2012, 64 percent of animals got out

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A bucket of kindness extended to treed cat



Rachel Sandlin of Ortega can't say enough good things about Hamilton Tree Service. If Cookie could talk, she would be just as grateful.

For two days and freezing nights, Sandlin's cat was stuck in a tree after being chased by another cat. Coaxing and calling until 1 a.m. didn't work. None of the neighborhood ladders were tall enough to reach the three-stories-high cat.

Enter passer-by Robert Harris, who first tried shooting food up to her with a bow and broom, but that didn't bring Cookie any closer. The morning of Day Three, Harris asked his neighbor John Hamilton, of Hamilton Tree

Service, to lend a hand...and a bucket truck.

"I will forever be grateful to all of my neighbors and all who passed by to help for their concern and caring of Cookie's dilemma, but especially to John Hamilton for ultimately rescuing Cookie," said Sandlin, a kindergarten teacher at Fishweir Elementary School. "It has restored my faith in the kindness of others. I'm happy to report that Cookie is fed and warm and sleeping comfortably, never to be let out of the house again!"

Unfortunately, Cookie did not recover from her adventure unscathed; she suffered a broken tail.



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Students at Bishop Snyder simulate texting and driving

Nate Morales, a junior at Bishop John Snyder High School, sits behind the wheel of the Arrive Alive simulator car in a demonstration that gave students a chance to drive the car while texting (simulated drive, of course!). A very powerful movie about the consequences of texting and driving was shown also, made possible by the generous funding of Ortega residents Drs. George and Mary Schmieder, of Park Avenue Dermatology.



Little Leaguers win Shotty Drew Sportsmanship Award

Wells Madison, 3rd grade student at St. Matthew's Catholic School and resident of Ortega, was recently awarded the Shotty Drew Sportsmanship Award at Navy-Ortega-Lakeshore Little League. Along with co-recipient Emma Morgan (student at James Weldon Johnson Elementary School and resident of Ortega Farms), the Little Leaguers won the award for character, courage and loyalty.



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Ortega Museum Magnet 11th in nation

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Although not quite a “Night at the Museum”, walking the halls at Ortega Elementary School during one of the museum magnet’s three annual exhibitions is an inspiring experience. As each class exhibit is described by its docents, visitors can’t help but be amazed by the depth of knowledge and creativity on display.

“This is a scale-model display comparing all the planets to the sun,” said 3rd grade student Josiah Smith. “If you combine all the planets together, it’s still not as big as the sun.” Josiah, along with classmate



Kindergartener Bree Waddle created a shoe store and a toy store for the Community Center exhibit

Trystan Hall, served as docents for their class exhibit A Planet in Motion, constructed following a class visit to the planetarium at the Museum of Science and History.

Each class takes a learning expedition to a local museum, which serves as a resource for the class’s own museum-quality display. “Everything they do is expected to be of museum quality,” said Jill Cross, curriculum integration specialist at what is the country’s



Hannah Geiger with class Animal Lifecycle exhibit

11th museum magnet elementary school. “The students take great pride in their work and go out of their way to refrain from accidentally damaging someone else’s work.”

Ortega Elementary School is finishing the last year in a three-year cycle made possible by a \$1.3 million grant awarded in 2010 specifically for a museum studies program. The school is currently waiting to hear if the program can be extended for another year.

In the meantime, the school is getting ready to celebrate its 90th anniversary in the Ortega community, where

some former students still live and send their own children to the neighborhood school. “About one third of the 415 students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are from the neighborhood,” said Cross. “The museum grant allowed us to diversify; without the magnet program, the school would be under capacity.”

That would be sad news for the more than 100 children on the waiting list and for students like 1st grader Hannah Geiger, who spoke eloquently about the help her class received from students at the University of North Florida’s Arts Integration program. “We got help from UNF students to help us make our clay animals,” as she proudly showed off her four-part gorilla tableau in the Animal Lifecycle display.

Each class takes a monthly learning expedition to a local museum, where they are often taken “behind the scenes” to see where older exhibits are archived or new ones are being staged for future display. Many of the class

exhibits are a result of several museum influences, like the Marine Science display created by the 5th grade class.

Destinee Bouldin’s favorite museum is The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. “Paintings of water and plants helped me make some of the plant life for our exhibit,” she said, while classmate Tyriq Doss is a big fan of the MOSH.

A trip to the Jacksonville Zoo and the reading of The Great Kapok Tree were the inspiration for the 2nd grade class Rain Forest exhibit, which sported several papier-mâché animals, including an ocelot and an anaconda. “The anaconda is as long as a school bus,” explained Lennox Cross. “It can eat a deer, a cheetah and a rabbit and lives in a swamp.”

Sophia Mauro took great delight in describing the smell which emanates

Lennox Cross with classmates Sophia Mauro and Emma Kilpatrick in the Rain Forest



from a Venus Fly Trap and why a Bird of Paradise plant got its name, while classmate Emma Kilpatrick walked visitors through an explanation of poisonous dart frogs and the live spider that made a web in a construction paper bromeliad.

Every part of each class museum display is done by the students, including the labeling of all the “specimens” which are variously created out of clay, papier-mâché, construction paper, plastic bottle, cotton, feathers and more, with some help from the UNF art students.

By the 4th grade, the students are ready to take out-of-town learning expeditions to places like the Kennedy Space Center, Colonial Williamsburg, the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona Beach and, hopefully, The Smithsonian. The integrated museum-style learning approach provides a different way of looking at things, according to

A Planet in Motion was the theme for Josiah Smith's and Trystan Hall's 3rd grade class



Destinee Bouldin and Tyriq Doss with the Marine Science exhibit



Cross. “They learn how many different jobs there are in museums, from public relations to museum maintenance.”

Plans for the upcoming 90th anniversary will include an auction of some of the students’ exhibits, while others are kept in display cases for the enjoyment of parents, visitors and future museum magnet students.



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Jr. Residents

Local students win first in state gymnastics championship

Four members of the North Florida Boys Gymnastics Club (for ages 7-11) recently placed first in the state as a team in the Men's USA Gymnastics Level 5 Florida State Championship on Mar. 15. The team won a total of 27 medals in a variety of events.

Three of the boys attend local schools: Nick Bullard (8), Isaiah Alspaugh (9) at Fishweir Elementary School and William Fleck (8), Stockton Elementary School, who is also the Individual All-Around Level 5 Florida State Champion. Dimitri Decious (9-1/2) attends Timberlin Creek Elementary. Coach Ian Bullard attended Fishweir as a boy and is a former gymnastics stand-out himself.

The boys will be competing at the Region 8 USA Gymnastics Level 5 Championship Apr. 5-7, in Dalton, GA.



Left to right, Isaiah Alspaugh, Nick Bullard, Will Fleck, Dimitri Decious and Coach Ian Bullard in the back



Snyder team meets basketball pro Laettner

Former professional basketball player, coach and entrepreneur Christian Laettner, here with Bishop Snyder High School's Cardinals basketball players, is running his Christian Laettner Basketball Academy in the Demetree Gym at Bishop Snyder High School, in conjunction with 1-9 Sports who also uses the fields for other sports. Back: Ryan McCormick, Andrew Neswacheney, Christian Laettner, Michael Undersander; front: David Bennett, Andy Steve, Daniel Crouch, and Henry Lynch, of Ortega.

Kids choose giving over getting

Mentoring literacy leads to blessings

St. Mark's Episcopal School fifth graders Ben Magevney and Ben Wachholz share more than just first names. They have birthdays in February just two days apart. So this year, to celebrate turning 11, the boys held a birthday party together. But instead of opening presents for themselves, they asked their guests to bring a book for a kindergarten age child.

The boys have been participating in a service learning project of mentoring literacy and writing skills with kindergarten students at Ortega Elementary.

"This relationship with Ortega Elementary is a gift to all involved," says Beville Anderson, St. Mark's Director of Christian Education and Guidance. "It gives our students the opportunity to mentor younger children, and build relationships outside of our school community, and it is a blessing to the children at Ortega to have older children affirming them and spending one on one time

with them."

The goal is not only to encourage the reading skills of the kindergartners, but also to improve the fifth grader's writing skills. St.

Mark's students write journal entries after each visit and will use the journals to create a personalized story written and illustrated specifically for their Ortega partner.

At a visit in March, the boys carted 60 books down the street to present to their kindergarten partners. "Wow, what a thoughtful idea coming from a fifth grader," said Stephanie Shepara, principal of Ortega Elementary. "Kind of ironic since our character trait of this month is charity!"

Because of the generosity of the boys and their party guests, all fifth graders were able to present a book to their kindergarten partner, and the children at Ortega were delighted to receive a

book they could call their own and take home.

The boys held a basketball themed "BeNBA" party for their friends on St. Mark's new basketball courts.



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Above: Kate Fackler, seated center, and guests at her birthday party on River Cleanup Day
 Below: Jennie Busey shows birthday girl Kate Fackler how to glue to the back of the storm drain placard

Cleanup trumps the cake

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School student Kate Fackler decided to celebrate her 12th birthday on Mar. 16 by inviting 14 classmates to participate in River Cleanup Day. After spending part of the morning cleaning up Stockton Park in Ortega, the sixth graders met up with Jennie Busey, education director of the St. Johns Riverkeeper, for a quick lesson on placard placement on local storm drains. "She really wanted to give back to the community," said proud dad Mark Fackler. "They will ride their bikes around the area putting "rain water only" cards on storm drains."



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Bolles student ranked number one in Florida swimming

Bolles School sixth grade student and Ortega resident Katherine Baker is the Florida Age Group Champion for the 11-12 Girls in the 100-yard Breaststroke at a meet held last month in Sarasota, with a time of 1:09.85. Katherine also won second place for her 100-yard Individual Medley with a time of 1:05.55 and placed third in her 50-yard Breaststroke with a time of 32.44.

Katherine will compete in the National Age Group Swim Classic in Clearwater this April at the FLAGS meet, formerly known as Junior Olympics. Katherine's time of 1:09.85 currently places her as the number one ranked 11-12 year old girl for the 100-yard Breaststroke for Florida Swimming.



Photo courtesy of ProSwim Visuals

In River Or Ocean honors son's memory



It was a beautiful sunny day on what would have been Clay Roberts' 24th birthday on Mar. 16 River Cleanup & Celebration Day. Parents Gary and Terry Roberts, founders in their son's memory of In River or Ocean, were out with the cleanup crew at the Arlington Boat Ramp site. "It was neat to honor Clay's memory that way," said Terry. "He loved being on the water." The Roberts bought bottled water and snacks for the 30 volunteers who filled 60 bags of trash from Exchange Island.

The 6th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament will be held Saturday, Jun. 15 at Beach Marine. To sign up, visit FishWithClay.com or InRiverOrOcean.org or email Board@inriverocean.org for details.

Junior Girl Scouts earn business owner badge at Cowford Traders



Twelve Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 889 recently peppered shop owner Deb Fewell of Cowford Traders in The Shoppes of Avondale with questions to earn their Business Owner badge. The girls, primarily from Stockton Elementary School, learned a little bit about the history of the store, including its earlier functions as a bowling alley, grocery store and

antiques store. When they asked Fewell if she bought all her items from one source, they were amazed to hear that at least 500 companies were represented in the shop. Troop leader Kelly Nowak reminded them that being a retailer also includes Customer Insights, another one of the badges that Girl Scouts can earn.

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Ask... Dr. West

Q. What made you choose to go into dentistry?

A. From my childhood, I always wanted to work with people in a way that promoted their health and well-being. Prior to choosing dental school, I volunteered in numerous healthcare fields and dentistry proved fascinating and a perfect fit for my outlook and lifestyle. Dentistry offers a great work and life balance, allowing me to be a wife to my husband, Grant, and a mother to our 2-year-old daughter, Charlotte.

Q. Are you just a cosmetic dentist or do you also perform general dentistry?

A. Our practice has a dual focus in both general and cosmetic dentistry. We service the entire family, from great-grandparents all the way down to their grandchildren. General dentistry includes routine dental maintenance such as cleanings, fillings, and crowns. Beyond general dentistry, we are pleased to offer cosmetic services including teeth whitening, Invisalign, or a complete makeover with porcelain veneers.

Q. What do you love most about your office?

A. Throughout my education and training, I found a need in the dental field to create a practice that welcomed patients and achieved a comfortable, stress-free atmosphere. Let's face it, a trip to the dentist strikes fear and anxiety in most people. We are working to change that perception.

In creating a patient-focused environment, we offer painless injections, noise cancelling headphones, chair massagers, and television for extended procedures. Our entire staff aims to make sure your entire experience is as pleasurable as it can be—from the moment our front desk assistant greets you as you enter the office to when we complete your procedure.

Do you have a question for Dr. West?
Email your question to WestDentistry@bellsouth.net.



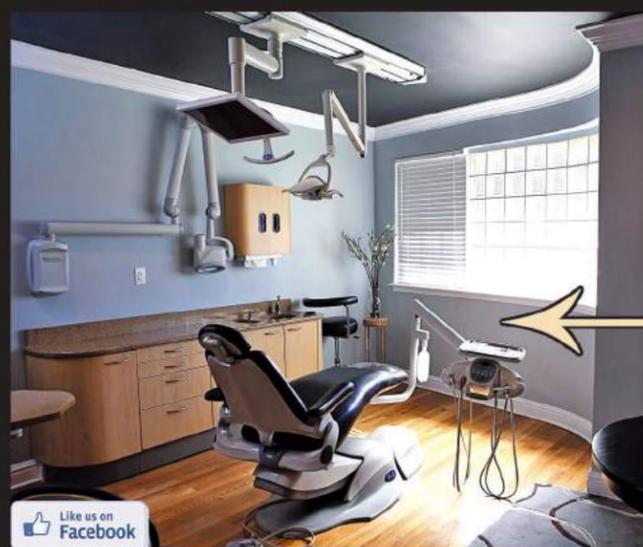
Dr. Jacqueline West, DMD

Q. What is your goal as a dentist?

A. My goal in dentistry is to save as many teeth as we can and to ensure our patients love their smile. I want to work with patients of all ages, teaching both young and old the importance of dental health.

Q. What are you most excited about in your field?

A. I find the research and advancements related to TMJ treatment fascinating. Patients come to the office daily, suffering from migraines, headaches, ringing in the ears, and neck pain. Most people don't realize that worn teeth with old restorations and teeth in need of repair can cause pain in your head and neck. We can relieve this pain with several options such as new porcelain crowns, teeth realignment, or sometimes even a simple tooth adjustment. As part of my continuing education, I attend the Las Vegas Institute. In my most recent course just last month, I performed a full mouth rehabilitation on a patient who suffered migraine pain for 30 years. After addressing and remedying the patient's old worn teeth, the patient is now pain free.



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