

Change of Command reaches a Milestone

February 2015

Wisdom from our Junior Residents

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School 2nd graders were studying communities around the globe in early January. *The Resident* was invited to share the perspective of publishing local community newspapers. Students were encouraged to share their thoughts on what they love about their community.

See page 51

As the Florida Yacht Club recognized the accomplishments of the outgoing Commodore and lowers the flag, another flag has been raised to begin tenure at the top of the club's leadership ranks.

See page 27

Immediate Past Commodore Bob Steeg with Commodore J. Palmer Clarkson

Happy Valentine's Day!

My favorite thing about our community

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Riverside · Ortega · Avondale · Murray Hill



Fiercely Local News

Vol. 9 · Issue 2

Fiercely Loyal Readers

Iconic model of landmark sculpture resurrected



Thanks to gentle but persistent badgering by Dr. Dianne Taylor, left, the original plaster cast for Memorial Park's statue Life was discovered tucked away at Jacksonville University. Dr. Wayne Wood, right, took the pieces to Russ Hall, sculptor at Sally Corporation, to see if the small statue could be repaired. See page 11

Edgewood Bakery finances now in receiver's hands

By Greg Walsh
Resident Community News

Tom and Carol Rykalsky, who bought the Edgewood Bakery less than a year ago amid high hopes they would continue its long tradition and retain its many supportive customers, are no longer in financial control of the Murray Hill institution.

A Duval County Circuit Court judge, ruling in a lawsuit brought by Jaguars owner Shad Khan's investment firm, decided in January to appoint a receiver, instead of the Orange Park couple, to oversee the bakery's day-to-day operation.

As of press time last month the bakery remained open and the Rykalskys and their employees were still employed. Their attorney, Jack Webb, said they will seek a civil jury trial later this spring over the bakery ownership.

Carol Rykalsky, in comments prior to a Jan. 30 hearing where the judge was expected to appoint the receiver, said the two sides disagreed on the receiver's responsibilities.

"Hopefully the receiver will see we are doing a good job to lead this company to success and offer the court suggestions to help us succeed," she said. "Hopefully, he will come in and see that decisions Stache has made have only interfered and purposely caused harm to the business, such as withholding ingredients and supplies that we once had an agreement to store at one of their warehouses and freely obtain at will."

see Bakery page 16

Hearing set for proposed Yesterday's replacement

By Greg Walsh
Resident Community News

Avondale residents will get their chance early in February to sound off about proposed plans to replace local favorite Yesterday's Bar with an upscale eatery.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Feb. 5 hearing on the proposal from JPM Avondale Inc. to demolish the long-standing bar that closed last year at Park and Dancy streets and construct a 250-seat restaurant/bar called South Kitchen and Spirits.

Local restaurateur Jason Motley, executive chef Brian Siebenschuh and project architect Jeff Lane are trying to

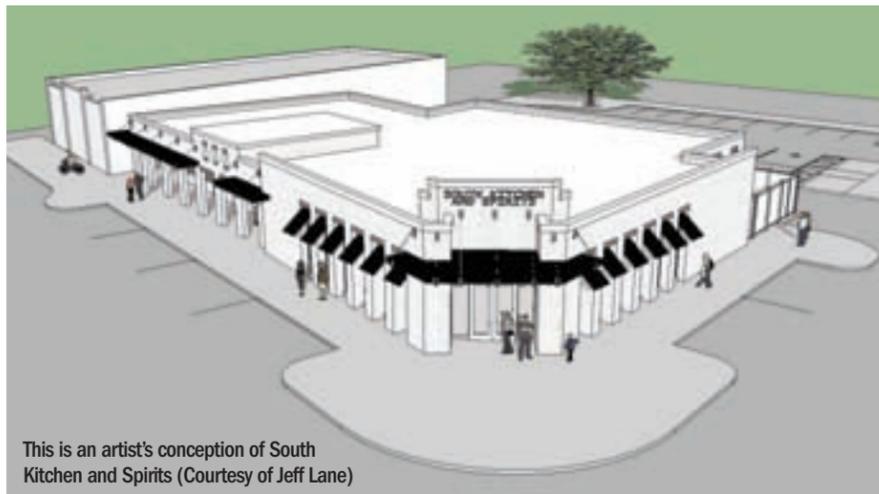
reassure nearby residents that concerns about increased traffic and limited parking will be fully addressed.

"I think in the end it's going to be a real plus for the neighborhood," Lane said.

But Carmen Godwin, executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation, says that's not stopping some residents from questioning whether the replacement is a good fit.

"We know (the project) is going to have an impact on the traffic in the neighborhood," Godwin said. "We are trying to find a balance between residences and the businesses."

see Yesterday's page 16



This is an artist's conception of South Kitchen and Spirits (Courtesy of Jeff Lane)



Depictions of Love

Carly Crump, a senior at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville painted a bold interpretation of love... For more student art, turn to page 46

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Letters to the Editor

The Ugliest Christmas Ever

December 21st loomed darkly in Riverside, and rain threatened to disrupt the annual Luminaria celebration. I was pleased to see it clear up a little after sunset, so I set out to make the rounds in my solar-powered golf cart. Expecting cheerful Christmas decorations and glowing luminarias, I was shocked to see the streets lined with a revolting, non-stop array of giant garbage cans. Colored vomit yellow and elephant gray, these were the ugliest signs of urban blight I have ever witnessed in the neighborhood. Better known as Single Stream Recycling Carts, these brand-new eye-sores were clearly a good idea gone horribly wrong.

I pressed on to Avondale, where I knew there would be eye-popping decorations and streams of on-lookers. I had an extra special objective this year – I had brought along more than a hundred glow sticks, which I planned to hand out to kids as they passed my golf cart in the back of trucks and hay trailers.

I had only gone a few feet when I heard something strike my rear windshield – thunk! Before long, some kind of projectiles were launched right through my open window, sticking to my seat, the floorboard, and even me. They turned out to be marshmallows, some dry, and others wet, gooey and sticky, but none of them suitable for consumption. It seems the latest fad for juvenile delinquents is PVC marshmallow guns, and some idiots figured

they would be a nice addition to the Christmas celebration. Passing cars, pedestrians and other hay-riders were all considered fair game. This vandalism was to be my reward, over and over again for handing out free glow sticks. Often I would get a nice thank-you and Merry Christmas from one child in a trailer, while another aimed his marshmallow gun cross-hairs at my window.

By the time I got home, there were about 100 marshmallows on my seat or floorboard, and even a couple stuck to my jacket and the outside of my golf cart. I had handed out 53 glow sticks before I gave up and headed home, too upset to share any more. What could have possessed all these kids to think it was okay to litter the streets and other cars with their sticky projectiles, and how could their parents possibly turn a blind eye to the practice?

The next morning, I drove through the neighborhood lamenting at the piles of hay, candy, marshmallows and litter the covered the streets that somebody else would have to clean up in the wake of delinquent revelers (young and old.)

As is often the case, a few brain-dead citizens have managed to turn a nice tradition into a farce. I wish that chiding in a newspaper could be expected to make a difference, but



sadly complaints about Luminaria have been around for years, and things continue to get worse. In a culture where vandalism is expected after an unpopular court ruling, a recession, or even a sporting event, it seems likely that few parents would ever insist on good behavior, and even fewer youth would suddenly discover good citizenship during the event.

It's time for RAP to assume responsibility and put an end to this mockery of all that Christmas represents and find another worthwhile fund-raiser. Luminaria is no longer welcome in this neighborhood!

—Frank Ingle

Has Luminaria Night gotten out of control? Is it all "just good fun?" If you have an opinion or ideas you would like to share about Luminaria night, please send it to editor@residentnews.net

Reader responds to reef story

Greg Walsh did a nice job of reporting on the completion of the Coastal Conservation Association Reef in the St. Johns. The Resident has covered this project along the way and the paper has been informative and accurate.

*Thanks, Charles Holt
Charles and George's Car Wash*

Correction/Clarification:

Year-round indoor aquatic center operating, open to public

In response to an article in the January 2015 issue of *The Resident*, a reader shared information about the Cecil Aquatics Center where he enjoys swimming. The story indicated a need for a public aquatics center and the mission of the men featured in the story— to see it through. The story failed to mention that Jacksonville has a center for aquatic sports and *The Resident* has confirmed that such a center does exist and is currently open and operating.

The center is located on the Westside at 13611 Normandy Blvd. directly adjacent to the Jacksonville Equestrian Center. There is a standard 25-meter pool heated to 80 degrees and a children's pool heated to 83 degrees, according to lifeguard Brad Ratzlaff. The center is staffed by Red Cross-certified

lifeguards and is open year-round Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 1- 6 p.m. Each day the pool closes for maintenance from noon-1 p.m.

Memberships are available. Duval County residents: \$120 per month; other county residents, \$180 per month. Per visit fees: Duval County residents, \$1 per visit; outside Duval County, \$1.50 per visit. Aqua-aerobics classes are offered Monday-Thursday, 6:45-7:45 p.m. and summer swim classes are offered for children and adults. A monthly calendar of activities is provided. The website has not been updated according to Ratzlaff, who suggested readers call the center at (904) 573-8994 for information.

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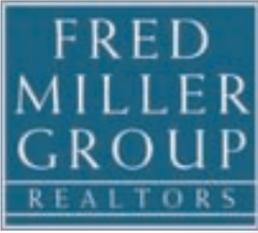
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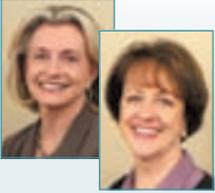
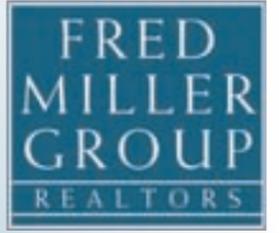
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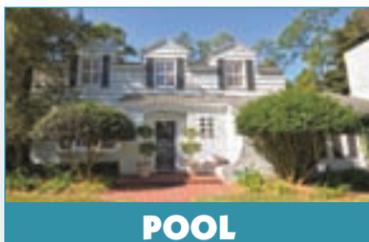


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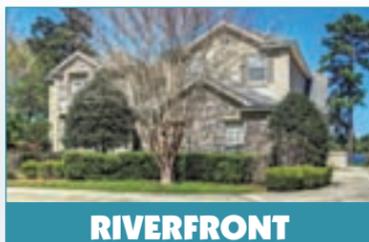
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Another setback will most likely delay library re-opening

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The cliché “If it’s not one thing, it’s another,” seems to be holding true for the repair project at the Willowbranch Library Branch on Park and Cherry streets.

One of the assurances made at the Oct. 16, 2014 community meeting regarding the Willowbranch Library repair project was that any concern about the ongoing work would be addressed – and “ongoing” is what is frustrating to so many.

At that meeting there was optimism that the repairs would be finished in early to mid-January with an estimated re-opening four to six weeks after completion, according to Kathy Lussier, public information officer for the Jacksonville Public Library.

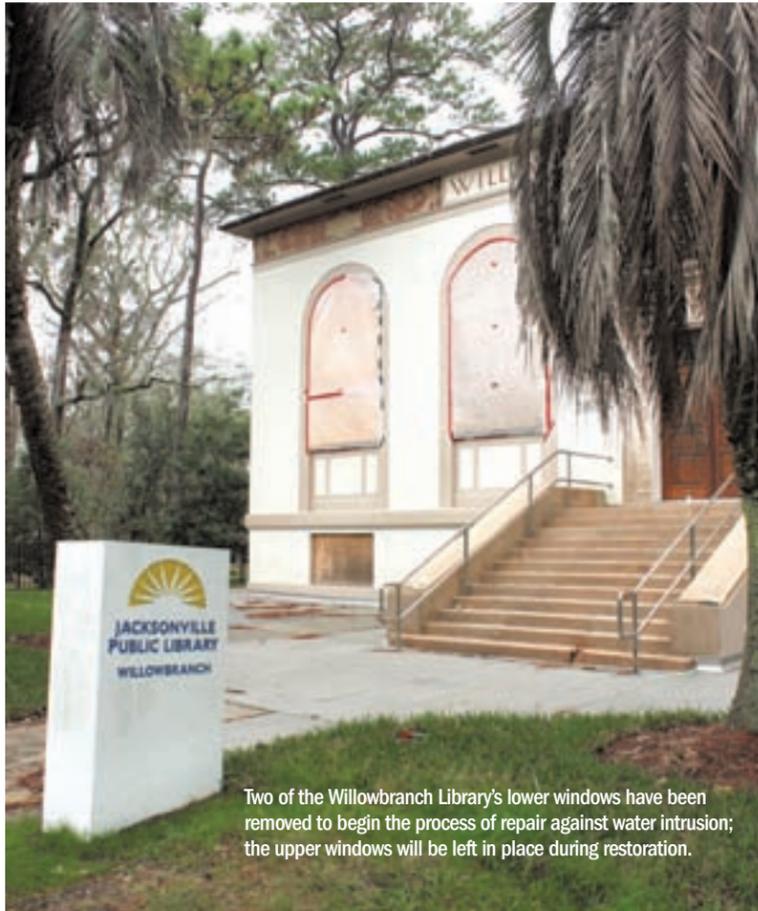
However, an issue recently surfaced that could push the re-opening to late summer – taking the original six-month project to a year or more.

When *The Resident* toured the project site in April 2014, the library was still open to patrons and Lussier was encouraging about a 2014 late summer / early fall re-opening. Following severe flooding in Sept. 2014, service at the Willowbranch Library was suspended until further notice. At the October meeting, it was thought that an early spring 2015 opening was on target.

Now, because of an unexpected discovery, but not surprising considering the period when the building was constructed, it’s looking more like late summer 2015 for a re-opening...approximately 18 months after the project commenced.

Lead paint discovered

On Jan. 5 an update on the Willowbranch Library blog was posted indicating that lead paint was discovered on the windows and would require “special handling and remediation.”



Two of the Willowbranch Library's lower windows have been removed to begin the process of repair against water intrusion; the upper windows will be left in place during restoration.

Most recently, on Jan. 23 William Joyce, Chief of Engineering and Construction Management for the City of Jacksonville Public Works Department, posted a status report noting that “it was determined that multiple quotes must be secured for the abatement of this lead paint to complete the project. Once quotes are obtained and reviewed (2-3 weeks) a change-order will be processed to amend the contract (4-6 weeks). Then the remaining work necessary to restore the windows is expected to take two months and then at least another

month for library staff to restore the library to an operational condition.”

Prior to the discovery of lead paint on both the original large upper windows and on the bars of the smaller lower windows, the project completion date was extended to accommodate extra work required to avoid removing the large upper windows while rectifying the water intrusion problem.

At that community meeting last October, members of Friends of the Willowbranch Library (FOWL) and Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) expressed concerns over the removal of those original windows.

Subsequent meetings the included representatives from Public Works, the Jacksonville Public Library, VRL Architects, KBT Contracting, FOWL and RAP resulted in a plan to address water infiltration and then window restoration without necessitating the removal of the upper windows.

Meanwhile, work continued on the drainage portion of the project. A retention pond with new drainage system was installed, caulk and stainless steel flashing was installed at the juncture of the building’s walls and the sidewalk, an integrated gutter system and roof line flashing were also installed. The building was also pressure-washed, stucco was repaired and painted and new sod was laid.

The library repair project was originally awarded to VRL Architects with a \$195,700 price tag. Mold remediation required City Council approval for an additional \$150,000, which was granted last fall. Now, although quotes for handling the lead paint on the windows will not be available until the end of this month, it’s probably reasonable to expect that the project total – when all is said and done – could be close to half a million dollars.

To keep up with news about the project, visit <https://willowbranchlibraryupdates.wordpress.com/>.

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Yacht Club undergoing multi-phase renovation

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A multi-phase, multi-million dollar renovation is underway at the Florida Yacht Club in Ortega. The “Big Plan” campaign is funded by donations and began phase I last late year.

The three riverfront tennis courts will be relocated across the street, where the tennis center will be rebuilt and expanded, with a target ribbon-cutting for April, according to Bailey Rowland, director of membership and marketing.

“The consolidation of all the tennis courts into one footprint is appreciated by all of us players and it opens up the opportunity to add a whole new sport, croquet!” said Steve Shewbrooks, membership chair and board member.

Rowland noted that completion is a moving target but FYC hopes to follow up the spring opening of the new tennis courts with two more ribbon-cuttings this year. A new fleet

center and boat storage is scheduled for a summer opening, followed by croquet courts on the riverfront lawn.

“As a Board Member, Membership Chair and tennis player, this campaign

and renovation is very important to me. It demonstrates the strength of our membership,” said Shewbrooks. “By pulling together, we raised over a million dollars through voluntary

donations, thus avoiding the need for any assessment to our members. The renovations enhance the value of our Club, making it more attractive to prospective members, as well as more enjoyable for our current membership.”

Phase II is an expansion of the fitness center, including an exercise room, massage, nursery, daycare and additional exercise equipment, while Phase III is planning a new kitchen, river porch, covered dining area, staff break area, and snack bar.

FYC member Russell Grooms said, “The Big Plan is a terrific enhancement to our club which is already an incredible facility, offering many amenities to the members. The fact that it is being accomplished with

personal donations with no assessment to the membership proves the dedication and love for the FYC by the members.”



Final Brooklyn Station building nearly full

Construction crews are starting to build the fourth and final structure going up at Brooklyn Station.

The 11,000-square-foot structure at Stonewall Street and Riverside Avenue has three of its five tenants, said Patrick McKinley, leasing agent for property owner Regency Centers. They are:

- * Zoe’s Kitchen, which will be relocating to the building “to upgrade their visibility, parking and presence,” McKinley said in a news release.

- * Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops, which he describes as “cutting edge and flat out delicious.”

- * Burrito Gallery, a local concept that will include a rooftop bar and dining area on the roof, indoor/outdoor bar and a fire pit in a large patio seating area.

McKinley said the company is working with several potential businesses to fill out the remainder of the Riverside Avenue property, which has Fresh Market, Corner Bakery and Lucy’s Boutique already open, and Burger Fi and Marilyn Monroe Nail Spa opening soon.

“We are working with a handful of other merchants to lease up the last five spaces in the project,” he said. “We have taken a very strategic approach to the lease up and have been involved in tenant signage, build out and merchandising.”

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Community group forms to care for Boone Park

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A little over 17 years ago a portion of Boone Park – a 10-acre stretch between St. John’s Avenue and Herschel Street – was brought to life with a \$300,000 rejuvenation, spearheaded by Avondale resident Richard Skinner.

Now the nearly 90-year-old “canopy” park is getting another infusion, although of a different type, thanks to Pam Telis and Margaret Tocknell, both also of Avondale.

When Skinner spearheaded the 1997 project, it took material shape through brick-paved entrances, benches, water fountains and a lighted, fenced playground, as well as a figure-eight natural path with antique lamp posts, trash receptacles and doggy stations.

This latest effort focuses on what makes the park such a great place to romp and play, according to Telis. “This is mature wooded forest habitat, from the time it was given by the nephew of Daniel Boone, to be a park in perpetuity under its current cover,” she explained.

Telis said that after she bought her home 14 years ago right across St. John’s Avenue from what she calls “Boone Park South” she noticed the city’s Parks and Recreation Department routinely taking down trees without replacing them. It was evident to her that soon the park would lose the charm of its tree canopy and become a clear cut if nothing was done to mitigate the removal of old trees.

Telis, a hydrologist, approached the city about a year ago with a plan, and



now has organized about 70 members of Friends of Boone Park South to support the park. “I can only take on so much and my hope is that we’ll find folks who will take ownership of the other parcel and do the same,” she said.

Members and nearby residents are invited to come to the park on Feb. 14, 9 a.m. to noon, to plant trees and help with a park cleanup.

“Love Boone Park Day is an effort to help maintain and preserve the park for friends and neighbors to enjoy for years to come,” said Telis. “We know it’s a little tattered here and there.”

Trees will be furnished by Green ReLeaf, a partnership between Greenscape of Jacksonville Inc and JEA.

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) is also assisting in the event. Volunteers are invited to meet at the park’s playground on St. John’s Ave. for sign-in and work assignments.

Greenscape will provide shovels and tools but volunteers should bring their own work gloves, clippers, and wheel barrows (for those nearby). The morning will be spent removing vines and dead limbs, planting several native species of trees where old trees have been removed, and cleaning up trash.

Also, Greenscape will conduct a brief workshop on proper pruning techniques. In the past, Telis noticed that the maintenance contractor was pruning all the blooms off the azalea bushes. “I think we’ll be more active about that,” she said.

Other sponsors of Love Boone Park Day include the City of Jacksonville, the University of Florida IFAS, and the Florida Forest Service.

For additional information check out the Facebook page Friends of Boone Park South or contact Pamela Telis (patelis@bellsouth.net) or Margaret Tocknell (marg.tocknell@comcast.net).



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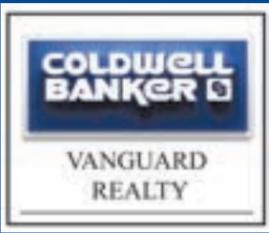
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Reprinted courtesy of Dr. Wayne Wood and the Jacksonville Architectural Historical Society.

Historic District



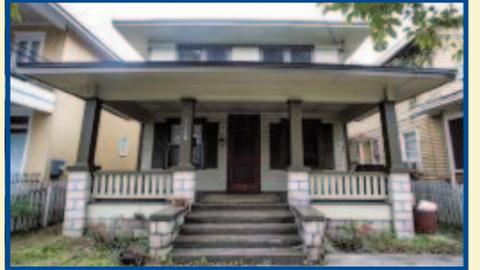
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Sidewalk repairs part of ongoing ADA compliance effort

By Greg Walsh
Resident Community News

Jacksonville residents will be seeing sidewalk repairs for years to come as the city continues its effort to address thousands of deficiencies found during a handicap accessibility survey done eight years ago, according to the person in charge of overseeing the effort.

"This is a long-term project," said Beth Meyer, the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator and disabled services manager.

The work is the result of a 2013 agreement the city signed with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, which found more than 2,000

violations during a 2007 assessment of the city. At one point, city officials estimated it could cost nearly \$40 million to repair all of the violations cited in the DOJ report.

An assessment is now underway to determine the extent of the repairs needed to city buildings, parks, restrooms and other structures. Part of the assessment also involves having city teams visit each of the thousands of intersections and sidewalks to determine whether existing handicap accessibility ramps meet ADA requirements or need repairs.

The findings will be part of a 10-year strategic plan.

"Teams are out in the community measuring curb ramps that need to be addressed first and creating a priority list,"

Meyer said.

Some sidewalk and curb ramp work is now being done with a \$500,000 matching Community Block Grant, which gives the city \$1 million. Sidewalk ramp repairs can cost \$800 to \$1,200 each and be completed quickly. Others may take days if a tree or fire hydrant must be moved, she said.

With a disabled population of 13 percent – a figure higher than the national metropolitan area average – the city is fulfilling a crucial need, said Meyer, who cited the Wounded Warrior Project, Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital and Wolfson Children's Hospital as facilities that draw large numbers of people with mobility challenges.

In addition to the city, the state Department of Transportation is checking its Jacksonville intersections for ADA compliance. The Jacksonville Transit Authority also is reviewing access to all of

its bus stops.

Meyer said the city wants to hear from citizens with concerns about public access of any kind. They can call (904) 630-CITY and tell the operator it concerns accessibility issues and they will be transferred to the Disabled Services Division.

Meyer said the city's response to the DOJ report is getting interest from other U.S. cities and even international ones.

"The Turkish delegation came to Jacksonville to see how we operate the disabled services division," she said. "Milwaukee called, Tampa called. We have cities literally calling us because we have created a best practice and we have received tremendous support."

"We are striving to be a national leader in mobility and pedestrian travel," Meyer concluded.

Visit www.coj.net for more information on ADA compliance.

Top bond rating goes to JTA

The Jacksonville Transit Authority is issuing \$100 million in revenue bonds to be used for citywide improvements to "roadways and major corridor improvements" as well as sidewalks, bus shelters, lighting, bicycle paths and landscaping.

The authority, which received an "AA" rating from Standard & Poor's Rating Service, said the funds for its extensive JTAMobilityWorks project will create hundreds of jobs as well.

Issued with a true interest rate of 3.06 percent, the bonds will be due from 2017 and 2036 and will be repaid through extension of the Local Option Gas Tax.

"Today is an exceptional day for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and the City of Jacksonville," said JTA Chairman Scott McCaleb, of the Jan. 15 bond purchasing agreement signed with JP Morgan.

"As a first time independent bond issuer, the market responded with a strong demand for our bond issuance," said JTA Chief Executive Officer

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. "It is a reflection of the market's high level of confidence and trust in JTA's leadership team and solid financial position."

As part of its Route Optimization Initiative in December, JTA installed 2,800 new bus stop signs. At the same time it removed 1,300 stops and added 100 new ones across the city. A JTA spokesperson was unable to provide the number of new bus stops and their locations in *The Resident's* coverage area.

A review of ridership numbers in December found ridership was up, she said.

"With regard to ridership, our fixed route (big buses) ridership increased 16.9 percent when comparing December 2014 to December 2013," Rassler said. "We also saw an increase in Skyway ridership. On-time performance of the fixed routes improved approximately 4.1 percent when comparing December 2014 to December 2013."



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Automated Single Stream Recycling – love it or hate it

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Despite various news reports in print and on the air...despite communications in the form of mailings to customers and meetings with CPACs, residents in urban core neighborhoods seem to be confused or dismayed by the appearance of large wheeled cans with bright yellow tops late last year.

The 96-gallon carts were put in place for the launch of the City's automated single stream recycling service, which began the week of Jan. 5. Since most carts were delivered prior to the end of the year, some residents reportedly set them out the week of Dec. 29, only to find the new carts sat unemptied after their assigned recycling pick-up day.

Each cart is assigned to a property owner and the handle contains a radio chip with that information. That means that if you purchased a similar can previously from a local home and garden supply retailer, you're out of luck and out of bucks. All residents who receive the new City-supplied cans must use only those carts and nothing else – for recyclable trash.

If non-recyclable items are inadvertently placed in the cans they will be separated at the facility. If trash, as in garbage, is placed in the recycle bins, collection workers will tag those residences, which may receive a call from the Solid Waste Division.

"Compliance officers will contact the resident and educate them on the proper protocol and then monitor the situation for further violations," said Debbie Delgado, City of Jacksonville public communications officer. "If education and subsequent warnings do not bring the resident into compliance, then the last resort would be to issue a citation."

Some property owners who previously purchased large bins and carts staked their ownership by painting the house number on the can, however to do so on the City-supplied carts would be considered vandalism.

According to Jeff Foster of the City's Solid Waste Division, "We have a

manufacturer's warranty on the cans. We don't want to be responsible for damage to a non-issued can. Ours are very sturdy, very robust with a 10-year life span."

"We would prefer the residents not paint their can since the cans have a radio frequency chip embedded in the can that is wedded to the address," he continued. "We can find out if cans are not supposed to be where they are by ID and by the number of cans that they have since a resident has to purchase the second can. If a can is missing from a residence, the resident would be required to file a police report and the City will replace the can."

The initial supply of cans are being paid for through the Enterprise Fund, which draws from a variety of income streams, including residential waste management fees, so there is no charge to the homeowner for the first can. Residential buildings with up to four units received up to four cans; small commercial buildings up to nine, and anything requiring more is handled on a case-by-case basis.

Foster noted that this is one of the first steps in meeting a statewide goal on recycling 75 percent of municipal solid waste by 2020. "If City Council approves next year, we'll start an automated garbage program in 2016," he stated. Foster hopes that the new recycle bins will put the city over the 50 percent mark.

While the recycling pickup schedule is bi-weekly, if the City moves toward automated garbage pickups, that schedule will remain a weekly one. Large carts for garbage will only be purchased and delivered to City of Jacksonville residents if City Council approves the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Capital Improvement Program budget to include the carts. They would be purchased, delivered and ready for use in the same timeframe used for the new bins this year.

"So in the budget for FY15-16 that becomes effective on Oct. 1, 2015, we would place the order in October FY15 with delivery to residents in December FY15 and start of service in January FY16," Foster explained.

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For the safety of our collection crew, **DO NOT USE** the new **RECYCLE** cart until your first regular collection day the week of January 5, 2015.

This is Phase 1 of the city's plan to modernize the method and equipment used to collect residential waste material. Phase 2 of the plan involves new household garbage carts that will look similar to the new **RECYCLE** carts; they will have a gray body and gray lid.



New **RECYCLE** Cart
For use on and after
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For more information, please visit www.coj.net (search keywords: Solid Waste) or call 630-CITY (2489)

Automated Recycling What you need to know

You may only put approved recyclable items in the cans, including paper, plastic #1-7, cans, glass and aseptic packaging. Recycling debris should be dry and free of liquids. If debris falls, it is the homeowner's responsibility to clean up the debris. This will not happen if the lid is properly closed and flat to the top of the cart. Also, position the bins on the pavement with the metal bar facing toward the street so that the mechanical arm on the new trucks can engage and lift the bin. Do not park in front of the bin or place it behind parked cars.

There are two available cart sizes: 96 gallon and 64 gallon. A resident may request the smaller cart, however, the City would like to see residents use the larger cart for at least 60 days. After the 60-day trial period, call 630-CITY (2489) or enter a C.A.R.E. issue using the following description: Core City Only – Recycle Cart Request. Only the first cart swap will be free.

Residents who need more than one recycling cart collected per week may request additional carts for \$65 each by calling 630-CITY or entering a C.A.R.E. issue using the following description: Core City Recycle Cart Request. Only authorized carts will be collected. Recycling overflow may not be placed in any other containers.

If your cart is damaged, call 630-CITY or enter a C.A.R.E. issue using the following description: Core City Recycle Cart Request. In order to determine if a cart needs to be repaired or replaced please explain the damages. Ultimately, the hauler will determine if the cart is to be repaired or replaced. If the cart is damaged due to misuse, there may be a replacement charge.

If your cart was stolen, there will be \$65 fee to replace the cart or no cost if you have a police report indicating the cart has been stolen. Call 630-CITY or enter a C.A.R.E. issue using the following description: Core City Only – Recycle Cart Request.

If you have a disability, to find out if you qualify for special accommodations, schedule a home visit by calling 630-CITY.

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Hen raising program gets review this year



By Greg Walsh
Resident Community News

Jacksonville residents wanting to keep hens in their backyard but can't because they don't have one of the 300 city permits for a pilot program will find out later this year if the program is expanding.

The Jacksonville City Council plans to review the backyard hens program this summer and determine whether more residents can keep up to five hens on their property.

Aaron Glick, a city planner with the Planning and Development Department that issues the hen permits, said there's been few complaints so far.

"There's the occasional call about a loose hen or rooster but that's about it," Glick said.

Legislation creating the pilot program was introduced in 2013 and co-sponsored by District 4 Councilman Don Redman, who represents the St. Nicholas neighborhood.

Only residents who attended a Duval County Agricultural Extension Office chicken-keeping seminar were eligible to get a permit, which cost \$25. The seminars are not offered at this time, but will be made available should the number of permits increase.

Glick estimates about a dozen eligible residents are on a waiting list.

The city's Municipal Code Compliance Division will evaluate the program, along with input from Animal Care and Protective Services and Planning and Development Department and report to the City Council on the program.

Permits are restricted to single-family homes; apartment dwellers are not eligible

for a permit. Several areas of the city opted out of allowing hen raising. Neighborhoods included in the opt-out in The Resident's readership area are Point La Vista off Old San Jose and Grosvenor Square off San Jose Boulevard, along with North Riverside, which is described as the areas bordered by Beaver Street to the North, Stockton Street to the east, I-10 to the south and McDuff Avenue to the west.

Glick said the permits are "pretty well distributed throughout the city, with some clusters in Riverside, Springfield and Miramar area south of San Marco."

An outspoken supporter of the legislation, Riverside resident Genora Crain-Orth said the pilot program is going well.

"My understanding is that the pilot program has been an overall success," Crain-Orth said. "I am not aware of any complaints around any permit holders, and I'm pretty sure permit holders are happy with the terms outlined under the Ordinance."

One of the permit holders, Crain-Orth says she has "five happy hens in our backyard in Riverside that live in a lovely coop. They've been a great addition to our family! Aside from the obvious benefit of fresh eggs, which we readily share with family, friends and neighbors, we compost their manure for our raised beds and feed them kitchen scraps that might otherwise go into the landfill."

Crain-Orth says she continues to get inquiries from local groups interested in drawing awareness to the advantages of backyard chickens.

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New life for *Life* model

Winged Victory maquette discovered in pieces

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Memorial Park's larger than life statue has several names, among them "Spiritualized Life" and "Winged Victory" but one more that could be added to the list – at least, for a smaller scale model – is Lost and Found.

Rev. Barnum McCarty, rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1971-1995, was a boy when his family bought a portion of C. Adrian Pillar's property from the sculptor's sister after Pillar's death in 1937. According to McCarty, as told to the Memorial Park Association, his parents found an old shed on the property filled with all sorts of things, including a "sketch model" – a 30- to 32-inch plaster cast of the *Life* statue.

The McCartys took it back to Pillar's brother-in-law Charles Briggs, who decided to keep the statue in the family.

Then, 34 years after the bronze statue *Life* was dedicated in 1924, the plaster working model – or maquette – was spied by Dr. Charles and Nadia Mead while house hunting. The Pottsburg Road home they were looking at in 1958 belonged to Briggs, who still had the maquette.

Nadia Mead was publicity chairman for the Jacksonville Art Museum at that time and recognized the statue as the working model for *Life*. After it had been on display in the late 1950s at the Jacksonville Art Museum, the model was misplaced.

Eventually that original cast was located in disrepair at Jacksonville University by Dr. Dianne Dawood Taylor, leadership outreach coordinator and professor at the University of North Florida.

"After being in the books and the research, it was really exciting to find the model," said Taylor. "It was just remarkable that so many of his works were lost and then we found this original model; and the *Life* statute is



In May 1958, Mrs. Carl Durham and Mrs. W.T. Cheshire, Jr., daughters of sculptor Adrian Pillars, and his widow, Mrs. C.H. Stewart, look at what is believed to be the original plaster model of *Life*. Photo courtesy of Wayne Wood.

just so iconic and so important that of all Pillar's works it was most important to find this model."

Taylor's thesis for her master's in fine arts was on Charles Adrian Pillars and, with co-author Dr. Wayne Wood, is writing a book on the statue.

Wood took the broken model to Sally Corporation seeking a sculptor to repair it and make a mold for reproductions. "It appears to be the original model that Pillars took around to the Rotary clubs to sell them on the idea of the statue," said Wood. "It's finely detailed."

Wood and Taylor have custody of the model and are considering plans to offer reproductions to art collectors

to raise funds for preservation-minded organizations such as the Jacksonville Historical Society, the Memorial Park Association or Riverside Avondale Preservation.

Wood noted that a grant to first

fund the repair of the model and then to create a new mold would be appreciated. If you are interested in helping preserve this part of Riverside's history, contact Wayne Wood at www@jaxhistory.com.



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Armada FC set for kickoff, local talent in play

By Seth Williams
Resident Community News

As the Jacksonville Armada FC, Jacksonville's new North American Soccer League team, prepares for action and an opening debut in early February, soccer fans in Jacksonville will be pleasantly surprised to learn of local talent on the squad's roster. At the first media luncheon of 2015, the club made a big announcement after signing three players, two from Jacksonville and the third from Orlando.

A broader message will also resonate with local fans and the youth playing soccer in the community: if you learn to play soccer and love the game, there may just be an opportunity for you to play for the team one day. If your game days have passed, you can be sure to see some local talent that you can get behind and support.

"We are excited to announce the signing of Nurdin, Tommy and Nico," said team owner Mark Frisch. "This is a great day for our club because it signifies the launch of our long-term vision to have much of our roster come from the Jacksonville area and greater Florida."

According to the club's general manager, Dario Sala, a newspaper ad drew his interest as a young man in Argentina. After responding to the call for tryouts, Sala was eventually chosen for the Argentinian first division powerhouse San Lorenzo back in 1995. Sala understands the strength in the long-term strategy of the Armada.

"I believe in the importance of local talent," said general manager Dario Sala. "We want to eventually have a talent pipeline like FC Barcelona where a good portion of our roster is local talent. When you have players who are from your team's region, they will have a stronger sense of pride and play harder for the jersey they are defending."

Nurdin Hrustic, a Wolfson High School graduate and soccer standout during his year at JU, is excited to play in his hometown. "I had to go out of the state, out of the county



Local players signed just prior to the press luncheon are Jacksonville's Tommy Krizanovic, Forward, Orlando's Nico Zaldana, Midfielder and Jacksonville's Nurdin Hrustic, Defender

to pursue my dream of playing professional soccer," he continued, "It's such a big, huge thing for the Armada to put a professional team in Jacksonville, so those kids can dream about playing professionally in their own city."

Nurdin remains in touch with his former coaches from his youth, some of whom span the globe. "There's not going to be a better feeling than playing in front of the hometown - family, friends, people that you grew up with, people that you might not know that knew about you - it's going to be awesome...it's going to be amazing having the opportunity to play [in Jacksonville]."

With soccer making waves in Jacksonville, the Armada brings a unique opportunity to Jacksonville's youth, rising stars and fans alike. "As kids who are 10 years old today want to be pro soccer players, they can look out and see very good leagues in this country to play in, and in many cases, in their community...like here in Jacksonville," said Frisch.

The Armada FC will play its season opener Sat., Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m. at Community First Park at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville. Visit www.armadafc.com for more team stats, player profiles, staff and team information.

DOWNTOWN Update

Hemming Park opens Charlie's Café

Curious and supportive lunchtime diners turned out in good numbers in early January for the opening of the first Hemming Park café.

Named "Charlie's Café" in honor of longtime Jacksonville statesman Charles Edward Bennett, the concept is a joint effort by the Downtown Investment Authority, JAX Chamber and Friends of Hemming Park.

The outdoor 64-seat café has cloth-covered tables and features a rotating

lineup of caterers, restaurants and food trucks serving food until early March, when a permanent food vendor is selected. The Jan. 5 grand opening featured The Fusion food truck and live music.

"The café is only the first phase of amenities to be added to the park; we're looking forward to becoming part of downtown's culinary experience," said Vincent Cavin, Friends of Hemming Park executive director.

SouthEast pegs Ohio firm to run Downtown Marriott

There are more positive signs that redevelopment of the Laura Street "Trio" is moving in the right direction. SouthEast Group, which owns the three iconic downtown Jacksonville buildings, recently announced it selected Winegardner & Hammons Inc. to manage the Courtyard by Marriott Jacksonville Downtown when it is completed.

The Trio will undergo an "adaptive reuse" process to transform them into a 131-room hotel, a rooftop bar and two new restaurants. Construction will start in the first quarter of this year and take about two years, SouthEast said in a news release.

"We have looked at all the options within the hospitality industry and Marriott's appeal to us was very

strong with this type of product," said developer Steve Atkins, principal and managing director of SouthEast Group.

WHI currently manages 24 hotels in the United States and is affiliated with most major hotel brands. "We're pleased to play a key role in Jacksonville's downtown growth," said Mike Conway, WHI president, "and we're proud to be a part of this historic development effort with SouthEast Group."

In 2013, SouthEast bought the Laura Street Trio, which consists of the Florida Life Building, the Bisbee Building and the Florida National Bank, or "Marble Bank" as it is more commonly known. SouthEast also bought the nearby Barnett National Bank Building and has a separate redevelopment plan for it.



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Buckland House renovation held to highest standards

By Greg Walsh
Resident Community News

After unexpected delays getting the required city permits, a mid-February completion date is tentatively set for the major renovations project at Buckland House, home of the Riverside Avondale Preservation group.

The \$160,000 project, funded by two state matching grants, began in June and is on track to replace the Herschel Street home's electrical, plumbing and heating/air condition system, said Carmen Godwin, RAP executive director.

"It's all that non-sexy stuff that nobody sees but is so important," Godwin said.

Renovations to the 101-year-old home include fixing the exterior siding and interior plaster walls, refinishing the hardwood flooring and replacing the interior cabinets. Once completed, the RAP office will serve as a community "front porch" where residents can "stop by and visit with us."

There may be minor delays in finishing the project, Godwin said, that could push the project into early March. However, it can't go much longer than that.

"We have the annual Tour of Homes coming up in April," she said. "If we can get done (in February) then I have all of March and part of April to get ready for the tour."

The project proved to be a learning experience, especially in terms of working through the city's bureaucratic process when it comes to renovating the historic structure that's been RAP's home for about 20 years.

"I have a new appreciation of dealing with the City Building Office," Godwin said. "They wanted us to do things that would have destroyed a historic building. We had to show them that we could meet the (modern building code) standards while preserving the building itself."

Initially, the City Building Office told RAP it had to install an elevator in the two-story, 1,800-square foot home and encase an eye-catching wooden staircase to meet modern fire codes, Godwin said.

"They wanted us to put a wall around the beautiful wooden interior staircase and railing," she said. "We had to show we



Workers install new siding to the Herschel Street structure.

could meet the standards while preserving the building itself."

RAP and its attorney were able to come up with an alternative the city would accept – a handicap-accessible restroom and office on the first floor and installation of a modern fire alarm system.

The project may have been done sooner but there were delays in getting the needed city permits, Godwin said. The experience showed her that many city offices don't communicate with each other and it's up to the applicant to coordinate the project. "I would tell them to get everyone together for a meeting – the fire marshal, the building department. Otherwise, you can get put into this turnstile type of process, where if you get everyone together in one place the process is going to go more smoothly."

Godwin also credits the contractor, Parde Construction of Jacksonville, for keeping the project on track. A lot of contractors subcontract out the work. "(Parde) is doing the craftsman work themselves, doing the restoration of the windows and of the exterior siding," she

Rubin, who maintains his clients have lost "tens of millions of dollars" due to unnecessary delays and challenges from RAP. "I'm certainly kind of amused to hear that they are feeling the same impact that we and other developers have been [dealing with] for years."

Rubin, himself a RAP member, said he strongly believes in the group's overall goals. "I have the utmost respect for RAP for its place in the community," he said. "It has great goals and great intentions. But like every volunteer organization, it has its weakness because it doesn't have control over its volunteers...some are very qualified, some just want anarchy."

Godwin says she understands why the city building codes exist but applying them to historic buildings is not always easy.

"Once you do so much work, the city wants you to get everything up to code," she said. "A lot of buildings in the historic district weren't built in same fashion as those built today. The craftsmanship of the historic buildings actually far exceeds the work done today."

"Today's codes were written for suburban

neighborhoods. You can't really apply those codes for new construction to historic buildings like ours."

Ultimately, she said the project must "meet the standards of the preservation society. We are holding ourselves to the highest standards."



Wood flooring damaged in a fire many years ago was replaced.

said.

The additional work on the Buckland House added about \$15,000 to the project, she said.

The irony of delays on the RAP project wasn't lost on a Jacksonville attorney who has a "love-hate relationship" with the preservation group.

Mark Rubin said he hoped the Buckland House experience would give RAP members a new appreciation of what applicants must go through. "The chickens have come home to roost," said

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News Briefs

Summer network opportunity for college students

Leadership Jacksonville is accepting applications through Feb. 20 for its 2015 Collegiate Leadership Experience (CLE) program.

The summer program allows college students to interact with community leaders, network with professionals and go behind the scenes to explore difficult community issues and community assets. Applicants must be rising sophomores, juniors, seniors or graduate students (preferably between 18 and 28 years old), have been enrolled for at least two semesters and in good standing at their college or university, and have demonstrated leadership skills in college.

The Collegiate Leadership Experience will take place from May 28 through Aug. 1 and will include a "Meet the Class" reception, opening and closing retreats and a series of workshops focusing

on such community issues as social justice, government, education, arts and entertainment, economy, growth and environment.

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

Not quite ready to turn rose beds into rutabaga plots

Although some were hopeful to have a winter planting season now, the Riverside Avondale Community Garden is making slow but sure progress.

Signs were posted on the property at the Willowbranch Rose Garden Park at the corner of Park Street and Azalea Terrace in December for public hearing for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the garden design. The garden committee, led by Avondale resident Susan Fraser, met for the COA late last month with

the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

"In the interim, we will complete our cost estimates and gather our proposals to finalize the design," said Fraser. "Then we have to submit for a landscape review with the City, hopefully by the end of January, to obtain final approval mid-February."

Fraser noted that construction will start on the site once the plans are approved and if all goes according to plan, the site may be completed by late March, early April.

"The City Parks and Recreation Department will construct the accessible parking space and we will use their contractor to get our sidewalk and internal patio/plaza area graded and installed," she explained. "Those contracts have to be let and the work completed."

The community garden team will work out the kinks of management, assignment of spaces, and supplies over the summer, to be ready for the next planting season.

"The wait will be worth it," Fraser concluded. "The contribution to the community will be fabulous!"

\$3,500, due Mar. 15) and for small arts organizations (for up to \$5,000, due May 15). The grant for individual artists will support those who are pursuing the next step in their artistic development, while the small arts organization grant will help to sustain programming for a year.

Go to <http://www.jaxcf.org/apply> and select the relevant grant program for more details and to apply.

Local audiologists raise awareness for hearing loss

Four Jacksonville audiologists, including two in nearby neighborhoods, are partnering with Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) to offer free amplified phones for people suffering from hearing loss.

The #KeepFloridaConnected Campaign gives Jacksonville residents the opportunity to test a new home phone that amplifies incoming sounds up to 50 decibels at area audiologist's office. Designed specifically for people with hearing loss, residents who qualify for the FTRI program can secure the phone at no cost.

FTRI is making this testing station available at the following Jacksonville audiologist offices: Gilliom Audiology, 205 Art Museum Dr., and Hearing Aids of Jacksonville, 2269 Blanding Blvd., as well as the Mayo Hearing Aid Clinic, and Burns Audiology and Balance in Jacksonville Beach.

For more information on FTRI's Jacksonville services, residents should visit the Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida at 2709 Art Museum Drive in Jacksonville or call (904) 399-8484.

Deadlines for grants

Early childhood and the arts will benefit from grants in 2015 through The Community Foundation, which recently announced deadlines for applications in three categories.

Childcare providers in Duval County may apply for grants up to \$5,000 for curriculum and curriculum support in high quality childcare settings. Funded through the Jacksonville Children's Endowment, the applications are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 26.

The Art Ventures Fund will provide grants for individual artists (for up to

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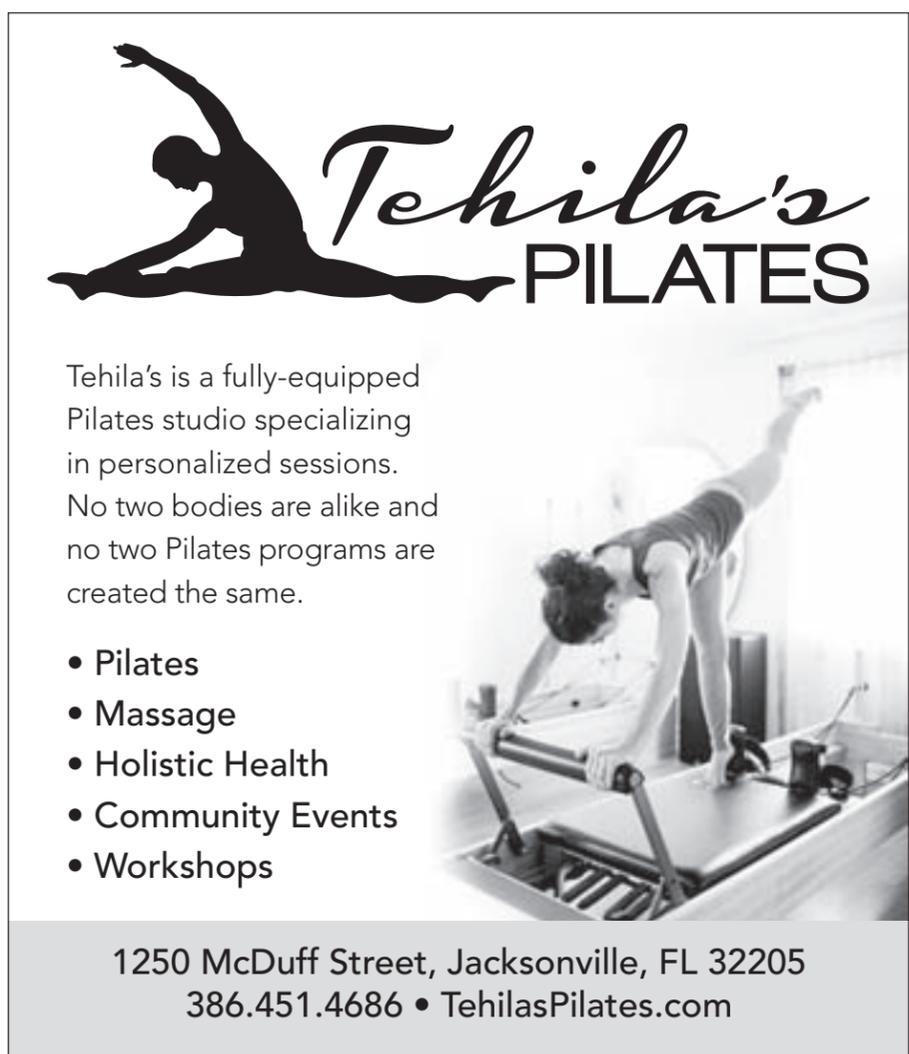


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Gerhard Richter, Untitled, 1986, acrylic on canvas. Collection of Preston H. Haskell. Photograph courtesy of Coogler, J. Eng. © 2015 Gerhard Richter.



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Signal changes on U.S. 17 northbound

Motorists on Roosevelt Boulevard/U.S. 17 were notified last month via electronic message boards that signal changes were pending on Jan. 12. The date moved to Jan. 18, then again to Jan. 25 due to weather and other developments, according to Ron Tittle, public information officer for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Pedestrians and bicyclists across the bridge may have also noticed the markings on the sidewalk between Ortega Forest Drive and Shawnee Street. Those dashed lines pertain to the FDOT resurfacing project on Roosevelt Boulevard, which incorporates changing the traffic signals.

"The markings on the sidewalk for were placed to identify the location of a directional bore if determined that a bore would be necessary," said Tittle. "Under normal directional boring procedures the sidewalk or finished grade (surface) would not be affected. So, based on a revision of the work we don't anticipate pulling up the sidewalk."

The traffic signals changed the week of Jan. 25 from a continuous travel in the right two northbound lanes at Ortega Forest and Long Bow and southbound at the Roosevelt Square Mall entrance to a signal that requires all traffic to stop when the signal changes.



Public Places ordinance may transform traffic signal boxes, vacant or underused business facades as well as the Skyway infrastructure into works of art.

It is considered a first step in making the Urban Façade and Streetscape Program a reality; the second step involves funding, which is currently in the Downtown Investment Authority's proposed budget which is expected to go up for approval in February.

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville will issue a call for art later this year and is now planning an Artist Development series to help artists prepare for the calls, according to Daniel Austin, communications manager.

FDOT to host public meeting on I-10/95 project

A notice has been issued for a Public Information Meeting regarding the Project Development and Environment Study of the I-10/95 Interchange Area in Duval County.

The meeting is scheduled for Feb. 26 at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 1100 Stockton St. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. to view displays and discuss the project with FDOT staff. At 6:30 p.m. public comments will be heard.

The estimated \$128 million project proposal includes lane/ramp widening, lane additions, a new fly-over and a multi-use path.

Contact Jim Knight, P.E., for more information at (904) 360-5646 or (800) 207-8236 ext. 5646 or via email james.knight@dot.state.fl.us. Information about this project is also available online at www.I0and95.com.

Legacy Series to feature leadership lessons

Leadership Jacksonville's the next episode of its award-winning Legacy Series films will feature leadership lessons from previous episodes. This chapter showcases Dr. Frances B. Kinne, Alton W. Yates, the Honorable Frederick H. Schultz, Robert T. Shircliff, Delores Barr Weaver and the Honorable Jake Godbold.

This is the seventh installment in the ongoing video series that is broadcast on public television's WJCT. Full episodes as well as unedited scenes are available for viewing on the Leadership Jacksonville website. To learn more about the project or to donate funds, call Jill Langford Dame at (904) 396-6263. More information about Leadership Jacksonville is available at www.leadershipjax.org.

Library friends to meet in Murray Hill

The Murray Hill Library, 918 Edgewood Ave. South, saw an increase in visitors since the closing of the Willowbranch Library branch for repairs last year, although exactly how many additional patrons isn't known, said Raymond Neal, Murray Hill library branch manager.

"I can tell you that anecdotally, we have seen an increase in usage at the library," Neal said. "More people are checking out our materials and using our computers than they did before."

Neal added, "We're happy to provide library services to those who normally visit Willowbranch. Some of the Willowbranch staff have been working here, so they doubtlessly are happy to see familiar faces in a new environment."

The increased usage is likely to be a topic at the Friends of the Murray Hill Library annual meeting set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the library.

"This meeting is always an interesting event, with the introduction of board members, recap of previous year's activities, and a look at what's planned for the new year," Friends board member and treasurer Judy Klein said.

Klein said library supporters are working hard to offset the "devastating effect" of recent budget cuts that forced several Jacksonville branches to close on Sunday and Monday and cut staff and materials. "We will continue to work hard to support and advocate for a strong library system to promote a higher quality of life throughout our city," Klein said.

Unoccupied structures in urban core available for art

Last month City Council passed Bill 2014-730 which will allow solicitation and management of artistic projects on unoccupied structures in Jacksonville's urban core. This change in the Art in



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Yesterday's

Continued from P. 1

A 1,365-square-foot outdoor seating between it and attached neighbor, the restaurant Orsay, would have seating for 69 people. The same area will include a corn hole tournament area, fire pit and possibly live music, although a final decision on music has not been made, Lane said.

That makes noise a concern for neighbors.

"The residents around there are concerned about the effect the project will have on their quality of life," Godwin said. "Our hope is maybe we can negotiate some things on the front end. That's always the goal."

She compares the new 250-seat restaurant to those built at St. Johns Town Center, not Avondale or Riverside, where similar restaurants are typically 150 seats or less.

However, Lane counters that the restaurant will rarely be completely filled, with most days only the 181 interior seats, including those in a four-sided bar, being used.

Another sticking point is parking. Lane notes the restaurant is only allowed to have 39 spots because it's in the historic district.

"Because we're in a historic district, that district is trying to encourage people to ride bikes, to walk, ride



motorcycles...and because we're in a historic district our parking requirements are cut in half," he said.

They plan to leave a large oak tree at the southeast corner of the parking lot, Lane said.

A resident raising concerns about the size and design of the restaurant is Thad Crowe, a trained city planner. "In the perfect world a restaurant with 100 or so fewer seats would be more of scale to the surrounding neighborhood," said Crowe, who lives on nearby Eloise Street. "After all, the Park and Dancy area does not have the plentitude of public on-street and private lot parking that is in other commercial areas like the Shoppes, [Park and] King Street, 5 Points and Stockton Street."

Crowe, who submitted his concerns in

writing to the historical commission, said he's not opposed to South Kitchen and Spirits. He only wants the city to "follow the rules...to make it better for all parties concerned: owners, neighbors, and the public."

Lane, a veteran of several Riverside/Avondale historic district building debates including Kickbacks, said the JPM Avondale Inc. wants public input.

"This is nothing like Kickbacks," he said.

Lane noted the developers provided RAP with early design proposals and have since addressed concerns about landscaping, designs on windows and knee walls and moved the outdoor seating area to mitigate noise levels into the neighborhood.

Ultimately, however, new construction was the only solution, he said.

"We are taking down a very dilapidated building...there are columns that are so rusted out they don't even come down to the ground," Lane said. "We are taking down an 8,900-square-foot building and replacing it with a 7,000-square-foot building. We are redeveloping the parking lot to meet current standards."

Demolition and construction will take about 10 months. The restaurant could open as early as the first quarter of 2016, Lane said.

Godwin said the key to winning RAP's approval is a willingness to compromise.

"Over the past seven years (of being with RAP), I have learned that nobody gets exactly what they want," she said. "Instead you end up with something in the middle that everybody feels like they can live with."

Bakery

Continued from P. 1

Plaintiff attorney David Wells declined to comment after the ruling.

Khan's Stache Investments, which loaned the Rykalskys \$800,000 which included \$625,000 to buy the bakery from longtime owners Gary and Sandy Polletta in June 2014, sued the Rykalskys and their partners in December of the same year. The lawsuit alleges the couple was operating the bakery, which first opened in 1947, so poorly that it was losing customers and in danger of closing.

Stache Investments alleges Tom Rykalsky understood he was signing a promissory note that gave Stache a 51

percent ownership and a say in daily operations. The lawsuit says Stache sought total control through the courts after repeated attempts to reach Tom Rykalsky to discuss the bakery operations failed, and after the Pollettas' son Gary, a longtime baker, was fired without its consent.

In a countersuit, the Rykalskys claimed they had full ownership and wanted the Stache Investments suit thrown out.

Earlier in January the two sides met with a mediator in Orlando but were unable to reach an agreement to end the dispute. At a Jan. 9 hearing before Judge Daniel, Stache Investments attorneys presented copies of emails between Tom Rykalsky and Jim Zsebok, Stache Investments chief investment officer. In those emails Zsebok explained how

Stache would own a majority of U.S. Culinary & Beverage and the bakery once the deal was completed.

The judge had not entered his Jan. 22 ruling into the court record prior to The Resident's deadline.

Stache Investments and Tom Rykalsky began working together after representatives for the investment company at the inaugural One Spark saw Rykalsky's plans for a healthier muffin and offered financing. Rykalsky later approached Stache Investments with a proposal to buy Edgewood Bakery where he could set up a production line for the muffins.

The Rykalskys got some good news in January when they learned a national website specializing in weddings named Edgewood Bakery one of its regional award

winners for wedding cakes. It was one of 13 businesses in the Jacksonville/Brunswick, Ga., areas receiving a 2015 WeddingWire Couple's Choice Awards presented by Weddingwire.com. The website notes that the awards are based on recent reviews and extensive surveys of customers.

Carol Rykalsky said they plan to carry on business as usual and filling customers' orders.

"We have tried to have discussions, make suggestions, negotiate, mediate, to no avail...they seem unwilling to even try to make this work amicably," she said. "I feel at this point they just want to see us fail and I am deeply saddened by this, as they were the ones who were supposed to be the heroes and help improve the lives of the people of Jacksonville."

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Congregation launches construction phase

Ortega United Methodist breaks ground on Family Life Center

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

The throaty rumble of backhoes and the whine of saws on the corner of Iroquois and Longfellow may sound like your average construction site but it's actually a sleeping giant arising.

When Ortega United Methodist Church Lay Leader Scott Lucas spoke with Rev. Dr. Vance Rains last May he referred to Ortega UMC as a "sleeping giant." Interestingly, Pastor Rains had prayed to be sent to a church "that had a lot of potential...[that] was a sleeping giant."

His prayers were answered. Pastor Rains and Associate Pastor Jason Knott feel "honored and excited to be the harvesters of the work that has gone on before we became pastors six months ago."

At the groundbreaking for the new Family life Center Pastor Knott called for a loud "Whoo whoo" from the crowd. Joyfulness prevailed as Pastor Rains (with golden shovel and hard hat) asked for blessings on the land, the project, the workers. He prayed that "this will be holy work, not just a construction site. The next time everyone stands around in a circle together at this spot we will be inside the new building!"

As the chimes played in the background, Scott Lucas thanked "the saints who came before us – the early Methodists who came to Ortega over 100 years ago and had meetings in a tent, then a house then built a church. I hope that the children at the groundbreaking today will look back and say, 'I was a part of that.'"

Mark O'Steen and Lucas have been working on the project for three and a half



Mark O'Steen, Mike Crabtree of Crabtree Construction, Scott Lucas, Mary Virginia Terry, Associate Pastor Jason Knott and Pastor Vance Rains

years (actually 30 years according to Lucas). O'Steen went from visionary to fundraiser to chair of the building committee. He said, "I am just so excited! There is nothing in the area like it. We will have an outreach for the entire community. It is a miracle in faith. When you think we started in a down economy it is phenomenal!"

Major donors Mary Virginia Terry, Jack and Mary Jane Uible and Wally Patzke, in memory of his wife Mary, and many individual contributors from the church family, countless fundraising projects including bake sales and the sale of handmade bracelets by young Charlie Kurtz went into the fundraising. Mrs. Terry remarked, "I've been a member of this church for a long time and I just love it. This is an exciting day."

Alan and Elizabeth Perry feel that their son Ryan who died in a tragic accident two years ago would be proud of the donations in his name. "He loved this church. It's a way for us to give back and we couldn't think of anything he would like more," said Perry. "The Family Life Center will go hand-in-hand with the children's ministries."

Ryan's Run, an annual 5K held at the church in memory of Ryan Perry, raises money for the new center. Perry mentioned that Matt Worsham was the one who came up with the idea of the fundraiser. "He is a wonderful young man – he coordinated the nuts and bolts of the event and did a fantastic job!"

Mike Crabtree of Crabtree Construction Company and Erik Kasper of Kasper

Architecture have worked closely on the project. Kasper explained that "it is helpful to have the construction company involved from the beginning."

They are looking at a finishing date of early Fall 2015 for the 9,225 square foot gym equipped with basketball court, kitchen and locker rooms.

Craig and Martha Roberts commented, "Our society has lost community relationships. People don't even know their neighbors. If a young person comes here and plays basketball then comes to church it helps us connect to the community."

Bob Morales agreed, "It is an exciting way to serve the community." Margie Fox remarked, "Seeing growth in the church is something we've all been looking forward to."

Excitement and faithfulness are the key phrases for this new venture of Ortega UMC. Pastor Vance reiterated, "Here is God's servant – Ortega United Methodist Church. We are called in a spirit of faithfulness to hospitality, to a renewed covenant."

Worsham noted that the new Family Life Center at OUMC will be a win-win for the church and the local community.

"The church's commitment to families and children is well-known as an integral piece of OUMC; the outreach and programs that will be available in the new Family Life Center will display OUMC's devotion to the community, and strengthen the bond between the two," he said. "The 'joyful noise' made by those who attended the groundbreaking solidifies the excitement and anticipation of OUMC further extending its reach into the community."

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2749 LYDIA ST

4/2/1-1,850 sqft. SOLD by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett. Great newer construction home on a double lot in Avondale within walking distance to all the great things King St has to offer. Awesome open floor plan with hardwood floors in all the living areas.



3655 HERSCHEL ST - \$195,000

2/1-1,672 sqft. 1936 Avondale bungalow with a flare of European 'Old World' charm. Front brick walkway leads to brick patio & front door. Entry hall opens to a large living room with beamed vaulted ceiling, wood paneling & fireplace.



2970 ST. JOHNS AVE 6E - \$285,000

3/2-1,602 sqft. Amazing views of St. Johns River on your own corner balcony. Spacious bedrooms, updated bathroom, open kitchen to dining/living area. Your quiet hideaway yet near all that is 'happening' in Avondale.



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4266 LONGFELLOW ST

3/2-1,602 sqft. SOLD by Melissa Keyes and Bronwen Krause. Beautifully renovated home in the desirable riverfront neighborhood of Ortega. Step through the canopy of impressive Oaks and into this lovely home with 'oh so Zen' Bamboo floors.



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2970 ST JOHNS AVE 1-G

3/2-2,271 sqft. SOLD by Marcia Simmons and Melissa Lewis. Rarely available and highly coveted direct riverfront corner unit at Beau Rivage. Gorgeous river views from every room. BHHS sells 6X more condos in the neighborhood than our nearest competitor, come talk to us today!



4860 ORTEGA BLVD - \$600,000

4/4/1-3,604 sqft. Gorgeous, Classic Ortega Boulevard home with driveway on Robert Gordon for easy access for walking and biking in the neighborhood. This home has amazing living space including a family room with a stone fireplace and large walls of picture windows.



2668 DELLWOOD - \$192,000

3/2-1,311 sqft. Charming 1929 Riverside brick bungalow offering 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths, detached 1 car garage and welcoming front porch. This home is move-in ready with 2011 remodeled eat-in kitchen featuring pretty granite countertops.



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2525 COLLEGE 1120

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3515 VALENCIA RD

2/1-1,066 sqft. SOLD by Claire Franson and CeCe Cummings. This amazing home nestled in the heart of historic Avondale is a must see! Surrounded by beautiful oak trees and situated on a quiet street, this home has so much to offer.



4727 CARLISLE RD - \$310,000

4/3-2,266 sqft. Neat as a new pin and ready to move in! 1/4 acre lot, located in the desirable neighborhood of Ortega Forest, this home is just down from sought after Stockton Elementary. Split floor plan with two master bedrooms, family room, separate dining area, eat in kitchen.



4568 ORTEGA BLVD - \$1.3MM

5/4-5,947 sqft. This exquisite home, tucked between the Ortega and St. Johns rivers, exemplifies the elegance and charm that the Ortega area is noted for. The moment you step in to the gorgeous foyer you will know you have found a one of a kind home.



SOLD

2951 REMINGTON ST

2/2-1,270 sqft. SOLD by Shannon McKinnon and Nelson Higgins. Incredible Silcox/Rocland restoration! Exterior with new architectural roof and siding is historically correct and RAP registered. Large corner lot shows off this gem originally built in 1926.



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4324 IRVINGTON AVE - \$200,000

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St. Mark's rector bids farewell

Last fall the Rev. Jon Coffey announced his retirement after 37 years in the ministry, of which more than eight years were served as rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Rev. Coffey embarked on a six-week sabbatical at the end of the last year and will officially step down Feb. 17, on his 65th birthday.

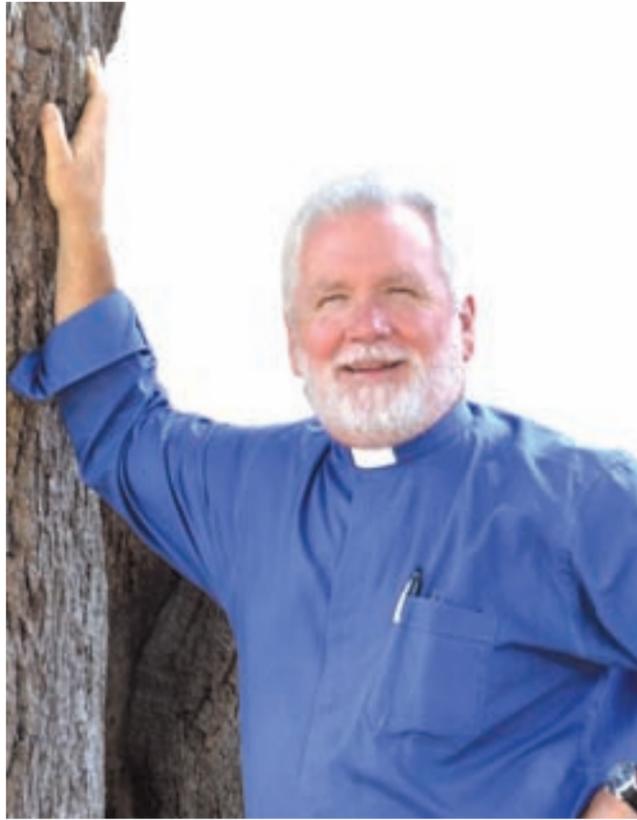
During his tenure, the parish created a Council of Compassion that enabled it to minister to one another and to those in the community during the dark days of foreclosure, bankruptcy and financial fracture; successfully completed the "We Are One" Capital Campaign; undertook the creation of a Strategic Plan with a 10-year horizon, and celebrated 90 years of ministry in the Village of Ortega.

"The participation of St. Mark's in the St. Johns Riverkeeper, ICARE, Habijax,

Sulzbacher and so many other ministries in Jacksonville has been a source of admiration for me," stated Rev. Coffey in an open letter to his congregation. "I say farewell to each and all of you with deep gratitude and with love in my heart."

Parishioner Margaret Cavin has been involved with many ministries at St. Mark's and said that she will miss Father Jon's support of the children's ministry. "Jon is so good with the children. We will miss his Story Stick time with the children during the service."

Cavin also note that Father Jon was forward-thinking about the needs of the parish and establishing a strategic plan for the parish. "It's a good plan to know where we were going for the next 10 years and it's in place," she said. "We will think of Jon every time we work the strategic plan."



Annual Camilla Garden dedication held



A plaque honoring Herman Carver was dedicated by the Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville in its Camilla Garden at Riverside Park.

Members of the late Herman Carver's family, including his wife Margie (seated), gather around a memorial plaque placed in the Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville Camilla Garden at Riverside Park in January. During a dedication ceremony, the club honored Carver and John Coward - two members who passed away in the past year - with the plaques.

The club was formed in 1945 and began the Camilla Garden in the northeast corner of the park in 1968. There are currently 56 plants in the garden and the 61-member club plans to add 10 Camilla bushes per year over the next five years, said club president Donn Elliott. The club meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave. Call Elliott at (904) 635-7318 or email him at sweetwoodfarm@hotmail.com.



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Ximenez-Fatio House Museum to launch archaeological dig

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum will launch an archaeological dig at the historic property beginning Feb. 3 through the end of April. According to Julie Vaill Gatlin, executive director of the House Museum, the location at 20 Aviles Street is one of the most excavated sites in the oldest area of downtown St. Augustine.

The project is expected to produce artifacts that date back to the original town plan of 1572 and Florida's Territorial and Early Statehood periods from 1821 until 1861.

The archeological team will be supervised by Carl D. Halbrit, the City of St. Augustine's key archeologist along with his team, and Sarah E. Miller, M.A., RPA, Northeast Region Director of the Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN) and the non-profit's volunteers, and local students.

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Florida bought the Ximenez-Fatio House from the Fatio heirs to use as their state house museum. Considered as one of St. Augustine's best-preserved Spanish colonial dwellings, the museum depicts the boarding house lifestyle of Florida's Territorial/Early Statehood Period. It is one of the first museums in America to interpret 19th century women's history.

According to Ortega resident Winfield Duss, the archaeological dig will be the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum's signature event in St. Augustine's 450th anniversary. "Located on one of the first platted streets in St. Augustine, our excavation right along Aviles Street should contain some



of the oldest artifacts from that original settlement, along with finds representing other stages in the city's development," she said. "It will be both a discovery and an educational event for the museum, the Dames and the City."

The Dames will host out-of-town Dames who visit the dig, offer educational opportunities to the public and hold private events.

"The Dames will have organized special

days for Dames to come and participate in the dig and even a kid's day for Dames' children and grandchildren to learn about archaeology," noted Duss, a member and current president of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Florida (NSCDA-FL).

"I am looking forward to working with St. Augustine's 450th commemoration team to bring the public to this wonderful opportunity to learn about archaeology

and St. Augustine's history," concluded Duss. "Visiting the dig will be free of charge and I hope people who come will also take this chance to tour our museum, where every room has a story."

The project will be open to the public and is free of charge for viewing on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information, contact Julia Vaill Gatlin at (904) 829-3575 or email info@ximenezfatiohouse.org.

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2218 Park Street

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1418 Donald Street

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4401 Ortega Farms Circle

Waterfront Estate on 2.64 acres & 154 feet on Ortega River. Priced for quick sale. Split bedrooms afford maximum privacy - 3/2 down plus 2 level master suite. 5BR/3BA/2 half BA & 5,140 sq. ft. \$795,000



2132 College Street

3BR/2BA two story brick home within walking distance of 5 Points. Open front porch, screened in back porch. Enclosed sleeping porch upstairs. 2,320 sq. ft. Large attic and small basement. \$269,900



2579 Oak Street

1,720 sq. ft. Riverside all-brick office with attention to detail and quality of 1920's construction. 3 large offices upstairs, large dining room used as owner's office. \$242,000



3925 Jean Street

3BR/1BA home with new hardwood floors in living & family rooms, berber carpet in bedrooms, updated bath w/walk in shower. 1-car garage, neighbor walk way to Boone Park. Approx. 1,329 sq. ft. \$257,500



2939 Algonquin Avenue

This 3BR/2BA in Old Ortega features a living room, dining room and kitchen, CHA, carpet, screened front porch, large screened back porch, washer/dryer hookup, backyard with storage/workshop, and off-street parking. 1,240 sq. ft. \$212,000



3572 Valencia Road

Charming 3BR/2BA bungalow in the heart of Avondale. Remodeled throughout. All rooms have 9' ceilings and crown molding and 9" base. Master suite added in 2012. 1,715 sq. ft. \$350,000



3914 Herschel Street

This home has been converted to a duplex but easily returned to a single family home. 2 rental units plus large workshop/garage. Rental units are furnished and 2 of 4 are currently leased. 4BR/4BA and 1,135 sq. ft. \$199,000



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Rigdon joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Terri Rigdon joined the Avondale/Ortega office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.

Rigdon provides full-service real estate expertise to customers with firsthand knowledge of neighborhoods and detailed statistics. With more than 20 years' experience in the real estate industry and nine years' experience in Jacksonville, Rigdon's combined experience in real estate sales and finance provides an added advantage for buyers and sellers.



Peterbrooke Chocolatier factory moving from San Marco

Peterbrooke Chocolatier is taking its production facility now in San Marco across the St. John's River to a long-suffering neighborhood in need of economic investment.

The move coming in March to Mixon Town just west of Brooklyn and Riverside is intended to start a revitalization of the once industry-heavy area, said Andy Stenson, vice president of marketing and communications for Jacksonville-based Hickory Foods, Peterbrooke Chocolatier's parent company.

"We want to help create a new local and regional tourist destination for the city of Jacksonville," Stenson said.

The chocolate factory - now in a 9,800-square-foot building a 1458 San Marco Blvd. - is moving into a 28,000-square-foot facility that previously housed the Jones-Chambliss Meat Packing Plant on Copeland Street just off Edison Avenue.

Stenson said the plan is to have the new factory along with a connected retail store and community meeting room open this spring and a formal grand opening in the summer. Also planned at the former bacon slicing plant in Mixon Town will be the new Peterbrooke Bake Studio, which will specialize in a variety of pastries and other baked goods that are created on site.

"The Bake Studio will create exquisite cakes and pastries for large and small events," he said. "You will be able to create custom baked creations for your events."

Stenson said the company is working with Visit Jacksonville and Visit Florida to help promote the new location "with tourists and the conventions and meetings that are occurring in the North Florida market."

"We are very excited to have this new facility serve a variety of purposes, from production of some of our signature items, to a new destination for local schools and groups to visit," he said, "and to provide a great facility for tourist to visit and experience a company that was started here in Jacksonville over 31 years ago."

Peterbrooke Chocolatier was started by Jacksonville resident Phyllis Lockwood Geiger, who later sold it. However, the company wants to keep that local connection despite its rapid expansion of stores across the nation, Stenson said.

"This (local) expansion will help to enhance the existing activities found in Jacksonville and provide a fun, informative experience that you can see and taste."

During the move from San Marco, Peterbrook Chocolatier's retail store there will remain open, he said.

Orangetheory's fitness program is effective



Classes are filling up fast at the new Orangetheory Fitness, which uses bright orange promotions to draw attention to its effective weight-loss and strengthening programs.

Located in the Roosevelt Square Mall, Orangetheory's skilled instructors lead participants in using a variety of equipment including treadmills, rowing machines, SBT Suspension Training and free weights. Participants in the Weight Loss Challenge attend four 60-minute Orangetheory Fitness sessions per week. The goal is to show the greatest improvement over six weeks, measured by percentage of weight loss. Participation is limited.

Daily classes start as early as 5:15 a.m. and go until 9 p.m. at the facility, 4495 Roosevelt Blvd. Suite 318. Call (904) 328-6905 or visit Orangetheoryfitness.com for more details.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Hookah lounge opens in Avondale

Element Hookah Lounge owners Will Howard and Ron Crandall are trying something different with their Avondale location.

"We are neo-modern," Howard said of the lounge at 1512 King St. "The other (Jacksonville) lounges have booths. Here you can sit on the couches, relax and watch TV. We have some people who come in and just kick their shoes off."

A \$10 fee covers the rental of the hookah pipe, related attachments and unlimited amounts of the 50 different flavored tobaccos called shisha. The lounge also offers all-you-can-drink draft beers for \$10, live music Thursday through Saturday and free Wi-Fi.

The lounge is open 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday and until 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Visit Element Hookah Lounge on Facebook or call (904) 802-7114 for details.



Will Howard, left, and Ron Crandall

Haskell supports MOCA with \$5 million endowment

(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Grissom and the University of North Florida)



UNF President John Delaney, Marcelle Polednik, Preston Haskell

Jacksonville philanthropist Preston Haskell is putting money where his heart is - into supporting art. The Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville announced last month that Haskell, an Ortega resident, is giving the museum a \$5 million endowment, which museum supporters describe as an inspiring vote of confidence.

Haskell said his gift is meant to help launch a new phase in the life of MOCA Jacksonville by inspiring similar philanthropy to build the museum's endowment and sustain future programming.

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to support this institution, for which I have such admiration and affection, in the creation of a meaningful endowment fund. Such a fund will complement and nourish the Museum's collections, exhibitions, and educational programs, all which have grown so successfully under Marcelle Polednik's

superb leadership of the past four years. I hope that others will join me in this initiative, which is so important to MOCA Jacksonville's continued growth and financial security," Haskell said.

Museum officials said Haskell's gift is one of the single largest gifts from an individual contributor to a cultural organization in the history of Jacksonville. The gift has no restrictions, said Polednik, director and chief curator of the museum on Laura Street.

"We are honored and inspired by Mr. Haskell's commitment to MOCA Jacksonville's vision," Polednik said, "and to sustaining its indelible impact as a center of artistic and educational excellence. This gift is both a significant measure of confidence in MOCA's organizational capacity and maturity as well as a catalyst for the future growth of the museum's strides toward lasting sustainability."

Pickert named campaign chair for Yates YMCA

Alan Pickert, St. Nicholas resident and an attorney with Terrell Hogan was selected to be the Chair of the YMCA Yates Gift Giving Campaign for 2015.

"I am honored and humbled by their selection of me to follow a long line of distinguished past Chairs," said Pickert. "The YMCA is a wonderful nonprofit organization that touches so many lives on the First Coast through their numerous programs that help individuals on every aspect of the age spectrum from toddlers to the elderly."

Pickert is also a past president of the Jacksonville Bar Association and immediate past president of HEAL (Healing Every Autistic Life).





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Coffee, tea, vegan items sold at Southern Roots Filling Station

Southern Roots Filling Station on King Street is all about keeping alive the Southern tradition of enjoying good food and drink in a relaxed setting.

Featuring what owners and Riverside residents J.P. and Mariah Salvat describe as “artisan coffee and loose leaf tea” drinks, the Southern Roots Filling Station encourages customers sit on its community bench to sip their drink and eat tasty vegan sandwiches.

“We like to support local businesses and we feature all local crafters,” Mariah Salvat said. “We consider ourselves a meeting place. All our food is organic.”

The store at 1275 King St. also sells bulk grains, herbs, oils and liquid soaps. Store hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Call (904) 513-4726 or visit www.southernrootsjax.com for details.



Store owners J.P. and Mariah Salvat

Avondale resident receives Jake Godbold award

Jimmy Orth, executive director of the St. John's Riverkeeper, was honored last month by Keep Jacksonville Beautiful at its 32nd anniversary celebration. The event, held at City Hall on Jan. 15, recognizes individuals in the community who make an effort to help keep the city beautiful.

“This award is particularly gratifying, since it was presented by some of my colleagues, the folks down in the trenches working to beautify our community and protect our environment,” said Orth, a Riverside resident, about receiving the 2014 Jake Godbold Award for his conservation and beautification advocacy.

The event also recognized Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commissioner Sarah Nan, also of Avondale, as the “Spark Plug” recipient for her dedication on the board, as well as the thousands of volunteers who picked up over 141,000 pounds of trash in 2014.



Biscottis fire restoration project wins award

Mike and Marguerite Mumford, owners of Paul Davis Restoration of North Florida, received the Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA) 2014 First Coast Remodelers award for a commercial remodeling project over \$250,000 – restoration and remodeling work on a January 2014 restaurant fire damage project.

The winning project featured extensive restoration, repair, reconstruction and remodeling at Biscottis, 3556 St. Johns Ave. In 1993, Karin Tucker and Barbara Bredehoeft opened the restaurant as a 37-seat coffee house. It now seats 100 in a turn-of-the-century brick and wood interior building.

The total property damage of the fire was valued at close to \$500,000. According to Project Manager Ned Beatty, the most unusual constraint involved was the amount of time required to complete the project due to the restaurant's business needs. Biscottis was formally opened 12 days after the initial start of work.

After Biscottis reopened, additional finishing work



was required for the building to be restored to its original condition. For the next two months, crews worked at night with some power and use of generators after the restaurant employees left at 11 p.m. until 8 a.m. when the chefs started their work to prepare for the day.

Clinic treats hearing, balance ailments

Dr. NaTalla S. McCoy has opened The McCoy Institute of Hearing and Balance, a clinic that strives to provide the best hearing care in North Florida.

“With our state-of-the-art equipment and caring staff you can rest assured that your hearing and balance needs are in the best hands,” said McCoy, a Jacksonville native.

McCoy, who has a doctorate in audiology from Nova Southeastern University, has worked with both pediatric and adult populations. Her clinic also focuses on treatment and care of active duty military and veterans.

The clinic at 4301 Roosevelt Ave. offers both in-clinic and mobile unit services. Call (904) 318-3763 or visit www.mccoyinstitute.org for details.



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Or visit our website at www.greenscapeofjacksonville.com

The Flowering Tree Sale and Root Ball are annual events sponsored by Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc., a local non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich Jacksonville by planting, promoting and protecting trees.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

C.A.S.K. offers 'general store' items

5 Points visitors looking to purchase beer, tobacco, incense, potato chips, guitar strings or even clothing items now have a new store to visit.

C.A.S.K., which the owners describe as "a real hip version of the front part of a Cracker Barrel (restaurant)," is open noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 1049 Park St.

The store - featuring several wooden beer casks with merchandise on top them - also offers a wide variety of canned and bottled beers that are sold at Rain Dogs, also owned by C.A.S.K. owners Ian Ranne and Christina Wagner.

"We get a lot of older couples in here that might not go to Rain Dogs. The guys will look at the beer and wine and the girls will head to the clothes," Ranne said. "We also get a lot of people who have been at Rain Dogs and want to take some beer home with them."

Call (904) 379-4969 for more details.



Ortega residents chosen for philanthropic initiative class



Seated: Ted Rueger, Lauren Rueger, Josh Bryan, Annie Bryan, Susannah Williams, Buck Williams; standing: Melanie Setzer, Ted Stein, Ronnie King, Imani Hope, Alexis Kane, Pat Kilbane, Benham Bishop, Michael Miller, Darryl Willie

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida selected 15 emerging philanthropists as members of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class of 2015, including Ortega residents Josh and Annie Bryan, as well as Benham Bishop, Imani Hope, Alexis Kane, Ronnie King, Patrick Kilbane, Michael Miller, Lauren Rueger, Ted Rueger, Melanie Setzer, Martin (Ted) Stein, James (Buck) Williams, Susannah Williams and Darryl Willie.

The class will embark on a six-month

education process, including opportunities to experience hands-on grant making. Along the way, members will learn about critical issues and abundant opportunities in the community.

The Community Foundation has been nurturing potential philanthropists for more than 20 years. In 2013, in recognition of the philanthropic leadership provided to the community by J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, the initiative was renamed the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative.

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ImpactJax new board members

ImpactJAX, the young professionals organization of the JAX Chamber, named Chris Warren, of Avondale, as Public Policy Chair, and Ciara Walton, of Riverside, as Community Outreach Chair. The Leadership Team is comprised of volunteers who work at JAX Chamber member companies. Warren works for Operation New Hope and Walton for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

Also, Kemal Gasper, SunTrust Bank, will lead ImpactJAX as Chair in 2015. Andrew Kisz, Deutsche Bank, has been named Chair-elect.

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New association officers, award for Memorial Park

It was nearly a year ago when David Sacks, RLA of Avondale Estates, GA submitted his work on the Master Plan for Memorial Park to the Florida Chapter of the Association of Landscape Architecture for an award in Historic Preservation. The document received the Honor Award of Meritorious recognition in the Historic Landscape category. Wayne Wood accepted the award in Tampa on behalf of Memorial Park Association and presented it to the board at its annual meeting in January.

New executive officers were installed at the MPA board meeting and include Agnes E. Danciger, President; Barbara H. Arnold, Executive Vice President; Holly Keris, Secretary; Emmett C. Bearden, Treasurer, and Patricia Houlihan and Robin Patton, Vice Presidents at Large.



Past and Present Board Members – Front: Patricia M. Houlihan, Barbara H. Arnold, H. Warner Webb, M.D., Agnes E. Danciger, Holly Keris, Joan A. Van Vleck, Janet H. Blackstone, JoAnn F. Meyer, Elizabeth G. McRae, Susan D. Ober, Timothy Tyler; back: F. Terry Hallihan, Elizabeth K. Ball, John H. Ingram, Jr., Emily R. Lisska, Karen McCombs, Emmett C. Bearden, Robin H. Patton, Matthew Cochran, Paula Skitsko

Hair Cuttery opens on Riverside Ave.



Front: Crystal Crawford (Salon Leader), Miranda McCance, Chiquita Hogan and Carissa Mathews; back: Chi Rivers, Amanda Durrence (assistant salon leader), Marissa Winslow, Terrell James, Paige Kaniosky, Lynn Miller, Debbie Fox and Allyson Nechtaval (district leader).

Riverside residents looking for quality hair styling, cuts and trims can now go to the Hair Cuttery in Brooklyn Station.

The salon provides customers not only with expert styling but also a wide range of hair products, including shampoos, conditioners, styling gels, brushes/combs and hair coloring products. The Virginia-based company also supports local and national charitable causes.

“As our salons in Florida continue

to thrive, we are excited to open our 25th salon in Jacksonville,” said Dennis Ratner, founder and CEO of Hair Cuttery. “Jacksonville is a wonderful community and we are thrilled to continue to provide jobs and services to people in this area.”

Located at 150 Riverside Ave., the salon is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.haircuttery.com for details.

On The Spot Jax gets permanent location

On The Spot Jax, a premier mobile auto detailing service, now has a permanent home in the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Owner Marquise Pittman, who has run the mobile detailing since 2009, is now operating a two-bay detailing operation at 800 Edison Ave. The U.S. Navy veteran says customer service is what puts his business over competitors.

“It’s because of our great service and great prices,” said Pittman, who stresses his Christian values. “We have a great customer rating on Google.”

An express wash, including outside wash and interior sweeping and wipe down, is \$20 for compact cars and \$35 for full-size ones. The new detailing location will have a lobby area with convenient seating, free Wi-Fi and a TV.

Pittman’s detailing crews also do black rim and headlight restoration work.

Go online to www.onthespotjax.com for information and to set up an appointment.



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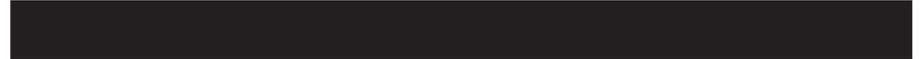
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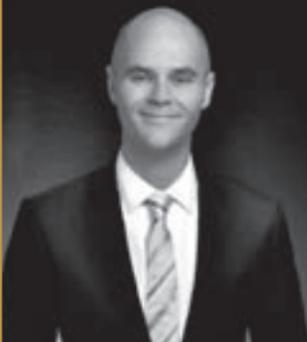
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4616 Nottingham Rd.
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3769 Glencove Ave.
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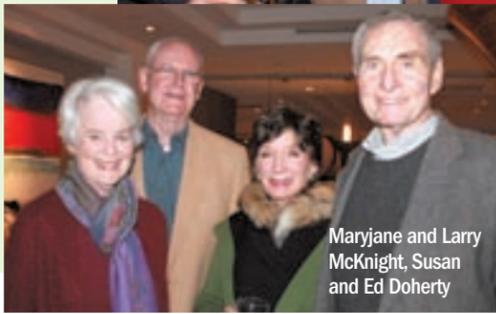
Healthcare in Haiti was the focus on a rainy evening last month, but weather didn't keep the party-goers and patrons from coming out in force to raise funds for the CRUDEM Foundation's Prosthetic Lab in Haiti. According to event organizer Carol Fipp, the silent auction, carnival games, and Haitian arts and crafts raised approximately \$86,000 for the lab, which creates prostheses for Haitians who lost limbs in the 2010 earthquake. Proceeds will also benefit other medical programs at Hôpital Sacré-Coeur, the largest private hospital and a major employer in northern Haiti. "100% of all donations to CRUDEM go directly to the hospital in Milot," said Fipp. "We have a generous donor who is covering the majority of CRUDEM's administrative and fundraising costs, so every single donated penny goes to Haiti."



Michael and Linda Fisher



Joy Lamb, Dr. John Lovejoy, Charlie and Katy Towers



Maryjane and Larry McKnight, Susan and Ed Doherty

Garden Club hosts "Who dun it?" mystery dinner

The stormy evening just added to the mystery taking place at the Garden Club of Jacksonville on Jan. 23. Till Death Do Us Part was the theme of the Garden Club's mystery night fundraiser where nearly 150 guests had the time of their life at a wedding reception until one was – gasp! – murdered! After careful but hilarious sleuthing, the culprit was found and dessert was served; probably, justice as well.



Members of the Mystery Night cast



Ann Trotter, Betsy Miller, Dee and Patt Patton, Pat and Mark Bramlett



Marsha and David Ingram, Bill Finch, Sarah Sallas-Herring, Robert and Marika Frame



Bobi McGinnis, publicity chair, and Robin Lewis, Garden Club office manager



Suzanne and Roger Nilsson



Patsy and Jack Gaillard

Best-selling author speaks at JALA celebration

Bryan Stevenson, New York Times bestselling Author, founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, delivered the keynote address at the 16th Annual Robert J. Beckham Equal Justice Awards Celebration on Jan. 21. Stevenson has written and spoken extensively on the racial disparities within the juvenile and adult justice system.



Ray Driver, Bryan Gowdy, Susannah Collins, Kris Robinson

At the event Jacksonville Area Legal Aid presented local attorney and community volunteer Bob Spohrer with the 2014 Equal Justice Award for his dedication to advancing JALA's mission of providing social and economic justice for the poor and marginalized – through volunteer pro bono service, philanthropy, and an unwavering dedication to fairness and equality.

Florida Yacht Club installs 2015th Commodore

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, a 4 o'clock cannon blast signified the official commencement of the Change of Command ceremonies at the Florida Yacht Club, Jan. 18. The Flag Officers and the Board of Governors gathered at the water's edge, observers watched as the slate of officers accepted their flags and pledged to serve their club. Outgoing Commodore Bob Steeg spoke about the challenges of the past year, one that included the club pulling together during the shift in general managers, funding the Big Plan and launching a capital campaign fund. With the latest projects underway and ongoing, Incoming Commodore J. Palmer Clarkson remarked that he'll have some 'big boots' to fill, rather than shoes – a compliment to the tireless work of the outgoing Steeg. He said there are two words he'd like to describe his work in the coming year, 'serve' and 'your'. "I serve you and it's your club," he said, just prior to the cannon blast signaling the closing of the ceremony.



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Tim and Roslyn Volpe with Russell and Joanie Newton



Jennie Hugo with Neily Braren

A gathering of appreciation, arts education

Amber Amerson of LaVilla School of the Arts, Jackie Cornelius, principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, philanthropist Gary McCalla and Jeff Dunn, president of the Douglas Anderson Foundation



Architect Tom Sherry, philanthropist Betsy Lovett and Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton, founder of the Detroit School of the Arts



Philanthropist David Stein, Ashley Smith, Juarez District 3 School Board Member, Abel Harding, chair Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and Tony Allegretti, executive director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville



Pamela Jordan, president of the Idyllwild Arts Foundation and Ted Farraday of Interlachen School of the Arts

A series of gatherings took place mid-January at private home engagements of like-minded arts education patrons who embraced visiting educators from the Art Schools Network. Jackie Cornelius, a former president of the group and current principal at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, invited members to take a tour of the school on their visit to the city. The group helps to deliver advice on programming and helps local leaders gain perspective from other successful art schools across the country.

During these visits that mingle donors and cultural leaders with the board, they share experiences and expertise in such areas as planning, facilities, finance and fundraising challenges, admissions and recruitment goals, teacher training, arts integration, community and parent relations, career development and stories of successful programming for students. By opening up their private homes to these leaders in education, conversations blossom into ideas and continued appreciation for funds. Support from patrons is emphasized by the educators who shared success stories and outstanding programs created through donations and endowments alike.

Under the leadership of Cornelius, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts models excellence in its mission to serve students who seek a future in a formal art careers. In Jacksonville, the visitors shared unique perspectives to help grow student success rates, as secondary schools, higher education and excellence in learning are all goals of the organization's collective efforts.

Keeping the fun in marriage

By Diann Catlin

Have you noticed that sometimes life needs a little added spark? My husband and I have, and so every year I challenge myself to bring more fun into my marriage, my teaching and everything else I touch. It takes creativity and sometimes a mindset change, but the results are fantastic.

This fall when we were to celebrate our 42nd wedding anniversary, I realized that while he had been a Baltimore Orioles fan for nearly 60 years, he had never seen a live game. If he had a "bucket list," seeing the Orioles play at Camden Yards would be at the top.

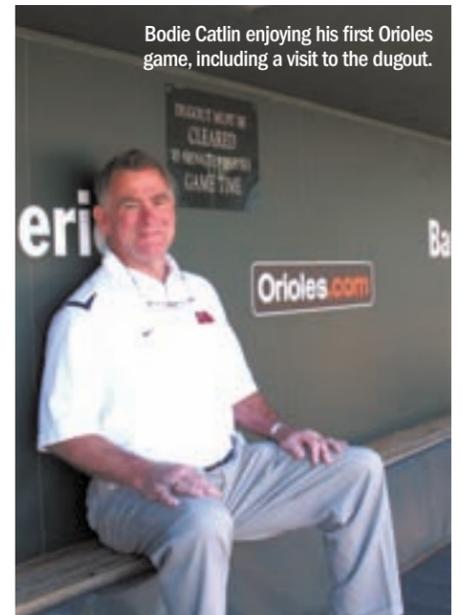
But because it was my anniversary too, the way to get there should be my part of the fun. So I booked a roomette on Amtrak, purchased two great seats behind third base at Camden Yards and secured a fabulous room overlooking Camden.

Why the train you might ask? I'd remembered my childhood trips with my parents to New York City on the train. We would leave Jacksonville in the late afternoon, settle in to our sleeper suite and feel pampered the whole way up. In those days the room was actually two big rooms put together for our family of three, and dinner in the plush dining car was almost as elegant as dining at the River Club, with its thick white table cloths, heavy silver hollowware and small silver tea pots.

My mother would always take her dessert, hot apple pie, back to the room for her midnight snack. Miraculously when we returned to our sleeper car, the well-dressed attendant had transformed it by pulling down the



Diann and Bodie Catlin



Bodie Catlin enjoying his first Orioles game, including a visit to the dugout.

bunks and making them ready for the best sleep I could ever imagine, and could never forget! Each bunk had a view of the towns we passed, and each had a little fan and reading light creating a marvelous private cocoon as you were rocked gently to sleep.

That train memory sparked my plan for my spouse's anniversary gift. Please believe that I was still imagining the trains of the 1960s. But the Amtrak of today is not quite what I remembered. The good news is some very thoughtful traveler had videoed their own experience in the sleeping "roomettes" so I was able to grasp ahead of time how very tiny the rooms had become. At bedtime the seats fold into the bottom bunk and the top bunk pulls down from the sky. Walking/maneuvering space

“ For three days we bathed in everything baseball. We toured the grounds, heard lectures on the Orioles and even the history of the Yard’s female architect and her brilliant vision for baseball fans everywhere. We bought my husband souvenirs, looked everywhere for former player and entrepreneur Boog Powell, and laughed the entire time. ”

now becomes about 14 square inches max. But this was part of the fun!

We had the time of our lives laughing over the gymnastics we had to perform to walk around each other and crawl into our bunks. But, oh the rocking-sleeping part was as marvelous as I'd remembered.

Dinner on the train was delicious; perfectly cooked chicken, fish or steak served on white paper-topped booths. Travelers dine with others, and everyone we met was so relieved not to have to travel by plane.

An early breakfast of omelets and chicken sausages finished just in time for us to make our arrival into Baltimore, which is a classic train station worth seeing. Our checked baggage took five minutes to collect and we were off to the

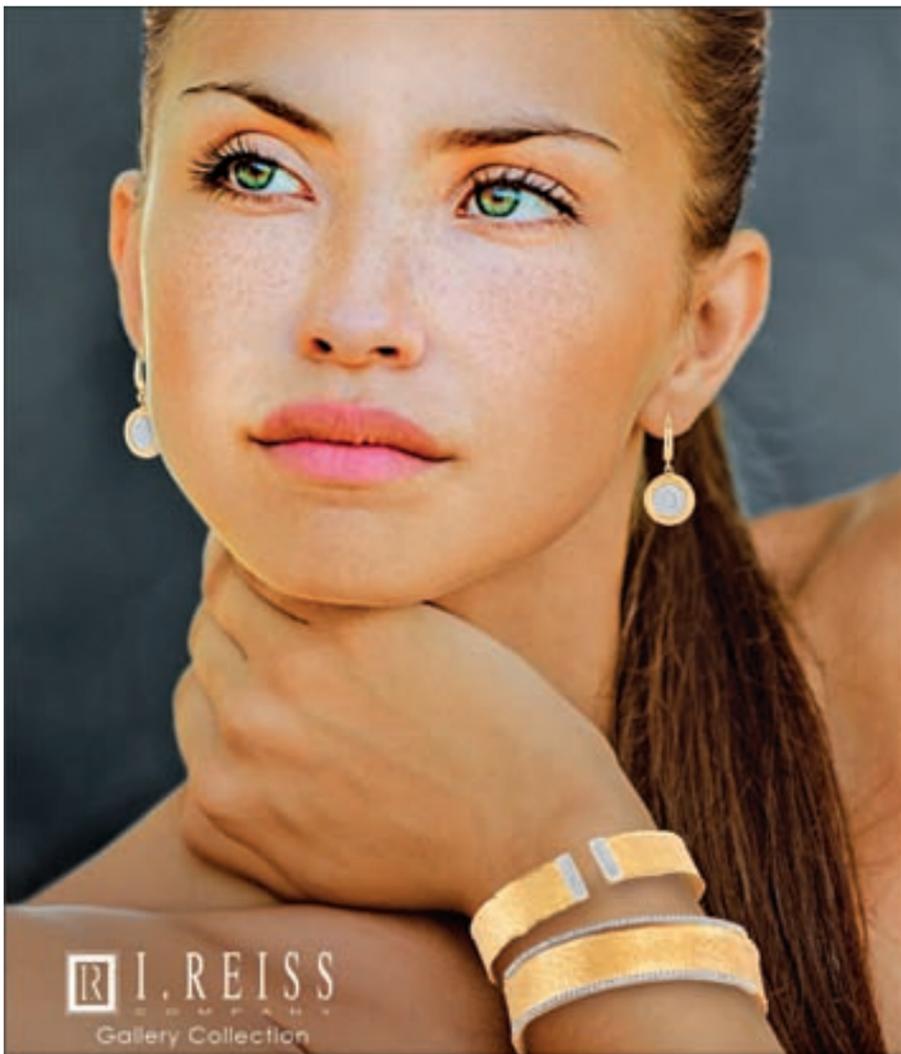
adventure of getting to know Baltimore up close and personal. Baltimore has been compared to Jacksonville because the former has revitalized their Harbor and Convention Center to make it a beautiful and engaging destination.

For three days we bathed in everything baseball. We toured the grounds, heard lectures on the Orioles and even the history of the Yard's female architect and her brilliant vision for baseball fans everywhere. We bought my husband souvenirs, looked everywhere for former player and entrepreneur Boog Powell, and laughed the entire time. Seeing the incredible bronze statues of baseball players whose numbers had been retired and the beautiful brick façade was perfect for his gift. When my husband got to sit in the dugout, his smile said it all.

Shops, ships, restaurants and museums dot the waterfront whose river-walk is made of brick to last forever. Joggers are everywhere, and it seemed that everyone was smiling enjoying the sharing of the very open expanse.

In the Harbor, midsized and large pleasure yachts enjoyed dockage in their calm protected spaces. Ships, boats and even a submarine are docked giving tourists plenty to do.

When we rolled back into Jacksonville, our luggage – now a bit heavier with baseball memorabilia – was unloaded off the train in five minutes. Twenty steps into the station and 20 more to our car in the small Amtrak parking lot found us happy travelers. We both looked at the departing Amtrak like a new best friend and wondered what the next trip might entail. We put our luggage in the back, climbed into the car and said simultaneously, "Now THAT was fun!"



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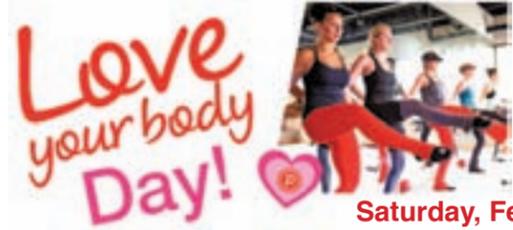


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THE RESIDENT'S TOP 10 *Reasons why we love our community*

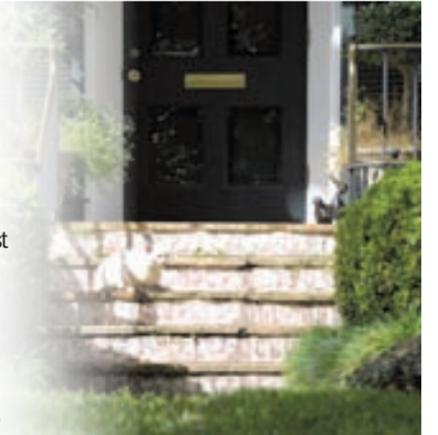
Do you love where you live? Chances are you had a choice to live where you want to live and you chose to settle on the Westside, along the banks of the St. Johns River. From Ortega through the forest to Avondale and on to Riverside, these areas all exhibit outstanding qualities that we have come to know and love.

We hope that by sharing this list of the Top 10 Reasons Why We Love Where We Live, it will inspire spontaneous park hopping, bike riding, local shopping,

dining and an overall embrace of the best things that we have in common. The list is always good to remember, it's what brings us together and helps us to see that the community in which we live is full of investors, collaborators and outstanding amenities that make us unique. Isn't it nice to love where you live? After all, we are fortunate to have choices.



1. OUR RESIDENTS. Yes, you, our neighbors, our readers, our business associates and advertisers are the most important reason why we love it here. We never cease to be amazed at the willingness of so many to dedicate their time to ensure that our neighborhoods are the best places to work, live and raise families. You love our community and it shows.

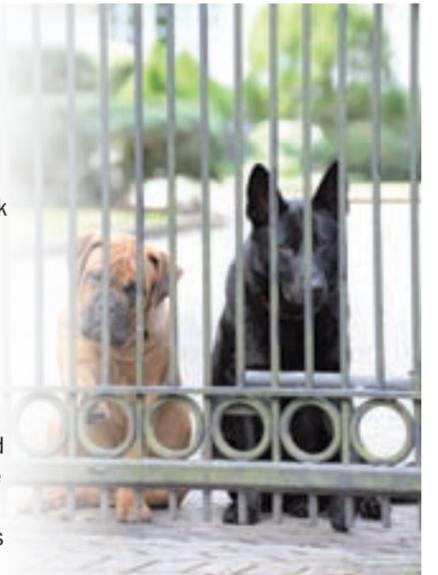


2. RICH HISTORY. Although Riverside made its debut after the Civil War, it wasn't until after the Great Fire of 1901 that both Riverside and Avondale grew into what is known as Florida's most architecturally diverse neighborhoods. Just down the road the Ortega Company had completed a wooden bridge across the Ortega River, connecting to Avondale back in 1908, just prior to the building boom in the 20's that grew the area from a plantation to platted properties from Ortega on through to Venetia.

3. ENDLESS PARKS. Jacksonville has over 400 parks and community centers under its responsibility and over 10 percent are located within our own historic neighborhoods. Ranging from athletic centers and community centers to specialty parks and preservation parks, we can enjoy the great outdoors in a variety of ways. Memorial Park, Boone's Park and Riverside Park all offer space for community activities on a large scale, while the smaller green spaces delight visitors with amenities ranging from peaceful park benches to playgrounds. Others, such as Yacht Basin Park, offer up creative surprises, such as a mosaic tiled gazebo. You'll even find an outstanding clay court tennis facility in Boone's Park in Avondale, a truly unique asset.



4. RETAIL THERAPY. From edgy boutiques in 5 Points to antique stores in the Park and King retail corridor, to the old favorites and newcomers in the Shoppes of Avondale, there is no need to seek the big box. The area boutiques and shops have just about anything and everything necessary for the local resident to remain satisfied and close to home. Our local small businesses cater to their customers, taking time to get to know locals, as relationships have been forged for generations, and generations to come. The businesses that occupy our areas are often times run by locals - the experience matters to their bottom line!



5. FOOD, OH, THE FOOD. There are nearly 100 places to find food and beverages sure to please your palate if you live in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill. Many of these bars and restaurants cater to differing cuisine, from hookahs and hummus, to sushi and steaks, delectable seafood from the local purveyors served with a twist, you'll find just about anything your heart desires. In this local market, there's also an awakening and abundance of gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian items on almost every menu, becoming a hallmark of our area and its dining establishments.



6. ART, DESIGN & CULTURE. How cool is it to have a renowned art museum within walking distance? Add the fact that its gardens are on the National Register of Historic Places and you'll have no excuse not to regularly visit the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. If it's music you want, the Riverside Fine Arts Association offers diverse concert series of world-class music paired with fine art, and the 125-year-old Friday Musicale works to nurture young musicians through recitals, competitions, scholarships and classes. Don't forget about the numerous independent studios, including CoRK Arts District, which help give our community its eclectic, creative flavor while nurturing the music, art and design talent that runs in the veins of area residents. And if film is your favorite medium, the Sun-Ray Cinema is a crowd-pleaser for independent films and continues to show many films off the beaten cinema path.



7. THE RIVER. The St. Johns River is, of course, our greatest asset, along which many homes, businesses, museums and other entities are lucky to reside. There are also many smaller creeks and tributaries that provide pleasure for kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, fishing and enjoying the wildlife. We love that the Rising Tides, a group of community-minded advocates, regularly come out to clean our waterways.

8. HEALTH CARE. We are fortunate to have several major medical centers in Jacksonville and best of all, one campus resides along the river in the Riverside Avondale area - St. Vincent's Medical Center. The health care facility has the largest cardiovascular program in Northeast Florida, the Spine & Brain Institute and the Mary Virginia Terry Cancer Center. We love that St. Vincent's is also a true community partner, providing mobile health care outreach ministry to many who are underinsured or not insured at all.



9. SPIRITUAL HEALTH. There's no doubt that the faith community has a presence here. Many of our houses of worship are grand old structures, built in the 1920s. In addition to their impressive architecture, the ministries and community outreach is amazing. No matter where your passion is for volunteer work, you can find a church that offers the opportunity to serve others as it salves your soul.



10. ECONOMIC GROWTH. Although it may be the last item on our Top 10 list, economic growth is most certainly not the least when it comes to what we love about our community. Despite the setback in the recent economic downturn, it was proven that homes in the historic districts fared better than in other parts of the city, even in the state. While we've seen a few businesses close in the past decade, others have celebrated significant anniversaries and many more new businesses have opened thus keeping our community alive and thriving. With the growth in the Brooklyn area, a new riverfront home for the YMCA and continued occupancy in our retail corridors- the future looks bright. It shouldn't come as a surprised that your neighborhood is the catalyst for this growth - our area is desirable and highly sought after!

For the love of Annie

Enormous persistence for enormous task

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

For the love of historical preservation, a small but dedicated group of people from all over Jacksonville meet nearly every Saturday, rain or shine, to haul trash from an abandoned school in Riverside.

Using limited tools and gloved hands, the Annie Lytle Preservation Group (ALPG) are painstakingly removing decades of rotted wood, broken plaster and shattered windows as well as the detritus left behind by squatters and vandals.

The end game, according to group founder Tim Kinnear, is to get the building in shape for a prospective buyer.

“We’re hoping to get it cleaned up to a point where an investor can look at it and say ‘Now I see what’s here and it’s worth putting money into it,’” said Kinnear.

There is no guarantee that this story will have a happy ending. Although ever the optimist, Kinnear knows that in the long run what could be a decade of sweat equity may not save Public School Number Four.

It’s truly a labor of love, with equal parts labor and love despite the enormity of the task.

Annie’s Back Story

Public School No. 4, also known as Riverside Park School, was established in 1891 to serve elementary age children in Riverside, but the existing structure known as Annie Lytle Elementary wasn’t built until 1917 through a million dollar bond floated to build a dozen brick school houses in Jacksonville.

The school was renamed in 1950 to honor Annie Lytle Housh, a teacher, then principal, who lived nearby. “Annie Lytle’s family lived so close she watched them build the school, knowing she was going to be a teacher here,” said volunteer Patsy Bryant.

The school, built by Florida Engineering and Construction Company, was completed in 1918 and its 16 classrooms served students for 42 years.



Volunteers wage an ongoing battle with vegetation growing on the walls.



Tim Kinnear (standing, far right) and his hardy band of volunteers.

After closing as a public school in 1960, it was a Duval County School Board administration and storage building, then was sold in 1975 to briefly house Central Christian School.

Sometime after that in the early 1980s, Foundation Holding bought the building and property and considered converting it into apartments for seniors but ultimately gave up the building for \$86,000 in back taxes, while retaining most of the property around it. Tarpon IV LLC bought the building in 2010 for the cost of the tax deed but has no immediate plans for it.

“For a few years I was refused to work on the property because of liability. I negotiated a hold harmless with Tarpon Holdings to continue to clean it up,” said Kinnear. “Every volunteer has to sign a hold harmless waiver.”

The Core Group

Although Kinnear has been working on the clean-up since 2008, it’s only been in the last

three years that he’s had a lot of help, especially with the interior of the building. Prior to this, a small group focused on cleaning up the exterior, removing dead trees and shrubs and pulling vegetation off the walls.

“We have a devoted group of about eight to 15 volunteers who attend almost every work day,” said Bryant, who became interested in the project because she loves old buildings. Coincidentally, Bryant’s uncle attended the school in 1938 and Kinnear’s mother was a student there in the 1940s.

“We want to gut it to the bare walls, to the brick. The plaster is falling off and we scrape off what we can; we don’t have any tools or equipment to work with,” Kinnear explained. “Ironically, part of what we’re doing is to protect the ‘bad guys’ who come in [and vandalize it].”

Kinnear, a former print technician who lives in the East Arlington area, said that people are intrigued by the place and they wander in all the time. “Part of our team secures the fences and

repairs them. We are constantly securing the place,” he said. “People all the time want to photograph it. We can’t allow that or conduct tours because we’re under a hold harmless waiver.”

repairs them. We are constantly securing the place,” he said. “People all the time want to photograph it. We can’t allow that or conduct tours because we’re under a hold harmless waiver.”

All of this work is done with shovels, wheelbarrows, a Sawzall® or two, and the paint to cover the graffiti is purchased by the volunteers. Kinnear cannot accept donations because ALPG is not a registered

nonprofit...yet.

“We pay for everything. We can’t accept money until we become a 501(c)(3) but we have applied for nonprofit status,” Kinnear stated. “We could use [financial] help to rent a small front-end loader to scoop up stuff. The floor would sustain it.”

What happens at the end of the clean-up effort and no one expresses any interest?

“I don’t know what to say to that. You take chances all through your life. We have to take a chance,” Kinnear said. “If nobody doesn’t anything it will *definitely* get torn down. It’s not getting better without help.”

In addition to funds, the hardy band of volunteers can use more help. To volunteer, contact annielittlepreservationgroup@yahoo.com.

“In a couple of years it will hit the century mark and I’m hopeful that it will be here still,” Kinnear concluded. “It will be a shame that a century building like this would get torn down now.”



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Lauren Hopkins, CFRE Director of Major Gifts at YMCA of Florida's First Coast listens intently as Richard Taylor, Principal at Richard Taylor and Associates, LLC, lends helpful advice on the subject of Capital Campaigns.



Maggie Hightower, CFRE, Corporate Partnerships Manager at Nemours Children's Clinic, speaks to members Courtney Buchman (center) of the MS Society and Sandra Simmons-Duggan of Jewish Family and Community Services about the importance of corporate partners and what they expect in a changing climate of giving.

In some lines of work, professionalism means everything.

In the nonprofit sector it can be equally as important, if not more important, due to the professionalism required to relate to business leaders and philanthropists. In other words, those who write the checks should be approached with respect, dignity and consideration. When properly equipped, it may mean the future of an organization as one experience and one donor has the ability to change lives.

With this in mind, the Association of Fundraising Professionals First Coast Chapter hosted Schmooza-Palooza – what the organization refers to as “speed dating and training” with fund development professionals.

Despite a tone of sarcasm in the name, there was a serious climate in the meeting room

at the River Club on Jan. 21. Lessons being taught by veteran fundraising, development and training professionals may prove to be a part of the success of the nonprofit sector in Jacksonville and the greater Northeast Florida region.

Fortunately, in Northeast Florida, this active chapter helps to nurture the habits, behaviors and conduct of its members in order to properly approach donors. The many lessons taught by the trainers help to teach the less experienced nonprofit staffers the importance of their relationships and how their level of class, respect and a set of clearly defined ‘dos and don’ts’ will determine outcomes. Not only does the local chapter believe in a strict code of ethics and conduct, they continue to insure the future of the sector that fills the void between public funds and private equity.

25-year reunion for Lady Crusaders



Bishop Kenny 1990 State Championship Girls' Basketball Team Reunion. Front: Dana Kloski Ashby, Denise Belyea Williams, Amy Kaelin Dow, Tasha Garrison Fullwood, Angie Farah Bateh. Back: Kara Citrano Leonard, Alisha Allman Ambry, Todd Orlando, Lori Werner Miller, Kelly Halter Englert, Amy Wilkerson Smith. Not Pictured: Kate Duffy Stemle, Casey Malone Johnston, Nicole Bunke

Bishop Kenny Girls' Basketball Coach Todd Orlando celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Lady Crusaders' 1990 State Championship on Jan. 17. The 1990 victory was the first State Championship in team history and the Lady Crusaders went on to win two more consecutive state championships making their record of dominance a three-peat!

All but three members of the team were able to attend the celebration held during half time of the Lady Crusaders game vs. University Christian at the school's John Baldwin Athletic Center. Many of the former teammates in attendance traveled to Jacksonville for the celebration, most notably, team All-American Angie Farah Bateh '93 who scored over 1,000 points in her four years on the team.

Team member and reunion coordinator Kara Citrano Leonard, Class of '90, an executive at Johnson & Johnson in Jacksonville remarked, “The 1990 season was a wonderful time for me personally and for all of the members of the team. Coach Orlando taught us so much more than how to play basketball, he taught us valuable lessons that we still use every day.”

In addition to his coaching duties since 1988, Orlando is in his 13th year as principal of Bishop Kenny, a Catholic, college-prep school of 1210 students. The 6'9" Orlando, who played college and professional basketball himself, came out of retirement to coach the team. “I am really enjoying working with the girls this season, it's a great opportunity to return to my roots,” Orlando said.

Lincoln Day Reception, Dinner and Auction

Fri., Feb. 20, 6 p.m., Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel, 225 East Coastline Dr.

The Republican Party of Duval County hosts the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, featuring Senator Ted Cruz (R) Texas as keynote speaker, and Congressman Ron DeSantis as Master of Ceremonies. For tickets and tables call (904) 396-4233 or visit www.DuvalGOP.com

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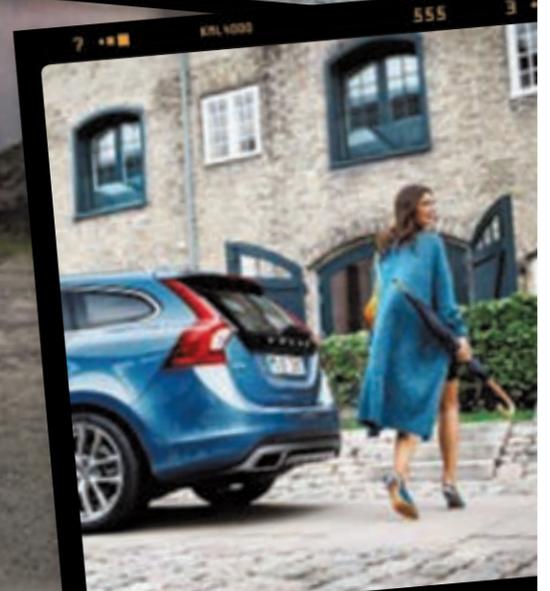
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Golf groups hold banquet

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association and North Florida Chapter Northern Section PGA recently held their annual awards banquet at Timuquana Country Club.

Highlighting the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Deane Beman Award to the award's namesake. Beman is credited with introducing The Players Championship concept and Tournament Players Club network, including TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, while serving as PGA commissioner from 1974-94.

Among the local award winners was Timuquana Country Club's Fred Seely, who was named Amateur of the Year by the North Section PGA.



Deane Beman receives the inaugural Deane Beman award presented by North Florida Chapter PGA President Greg Lecker.



Fred Seely, left, receives the Amateur of the Year Award from North Florida Chapter PGA President Greg Lecker.

Ortega resident Joe Louis Barrow, CEO of The First Tee of North Florida, with Avondale residents John Sapora, vice president, legal services and Boots Farley, executive director.



Community collaborates to bring hoops to Sanctuary



Front: Cal Cal, Calvin, Josh, Kendarius, Herschel, Cerry, Cameron; back: Vicky Watkins, Jim Riley, Sara Brackin, Rick Cartledge, Dr. James D. Baker, David Barksdale and Jon Knight

It was a Christmas gift better late than never. Last month two brand-new in-ground basketball goals were installed at Sanctuary on 8th Street, thanks to RPC Basketball and other community volunteers.

"RPC Basketball has had a team from Sanctuary for the past five or six years," said Sara Brackin, director of RPC Basketball. "The kids practice outside at the Sanctuary and are all over the city. I never really noticed the goals and saw holes in the backboard. Basketball is such a great way they can be integrated into the community and to start with this disadvantage, practicing on less than quality goals, didn't gel with me."

Brackin asked coaches in the league if they would consider donating some money to purchase some new adjustable goals.

"We raised even more money than I expected so we were able to purchase two in-ground goals. This will be a better longer term solution," she said. "I'm really impressed with the community."

Jon Knight, of C.F. Knight, installed the

two goals at no charge. Dick's Sporting Goods donated basketballs and gift cards.

The league has 600 kids from 42 ZIP Codes and 87 schools. Although it started at Riverside Presbyterian Church about 14 years ago, the league now uses schools and churches all over the city. Brackin noted that 33 percent of the league's players are there on scholarships.

Although Brackin is very quick to say that it's the community that is so amazing when it comes to both RPC Basketball and the Sanctuary on 8th, she has a fan, too.

"I think Sara Brackin is an amazing person; she's created so much wonderful opportunities for children of need," said Margaret Moore, a volunteer teacher at The Sanctuary. "She's very humble and never wants any sort of recognition for anything. Sara does connect the dots many times and pull people together for great needs."

The children are pretty excited about the new goals.

"I love those new goals," said Joshua. "Playing basketball helps me get stronger," added Kendarius.

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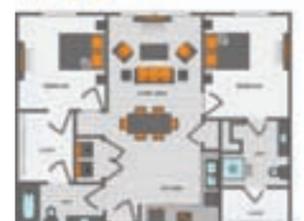
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Daphnie's parents asked Pajcic & Pajcic for help. Our attorneys secured policy limits from the farm owner's insurance company.



A thorough investigation also revealed a defect in the seatbelt buckle. Pajcic & Pajcic sued the car manufacturer and seatbelt maker. The cases were settled and the design flaw was fixed.

Fortunately, we were able to recover enough for Daphnie to buy a beautiful home and a specially equipped van. She is able to pay for the services and equipment she needs every day. There will always be regret for what might have been but her remarkable character and personality have allowed her to live a rewarding and happy life despite her catastrophic injury.

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Baptist Health offers new depression therapy

Local patient shares his experience

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Since 2008, when the Federal Drug Administration put its stamp of approval on transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), over 18,000 people nationally who suffer from debilitating depression have undergone this new type of therapy.

Last fall Baptist Behavioral Health, the first health system in the Jacksonville area to offer this treatment, began performing this new brain stimulation treatment to help people suffering from severe depression who have not had success with antidepressant medications.

Ronald Rosener of 5 Points has been on medication for severe depression for about 20 years, but has not seen a noticeable improvement. Because of his depression, he rarely gets out of the house except to work three days a week as a food runner at The Brick and to visit his parents.

Rosener, 59, was eager to take part in the new treatment.

"I have had two suicide attempts in the 20 years that I've been treated," he openly shared. "I wasn't to the point of being suicidal quite yet again before this treatment started, but it was getting to that point that the doctor was asking me again each time I saw him."

The non-invasive, outpatient procedure uses a pulsed magnetic field to stimulate function in brain regions known to affect mood. The 37-minute process involves a patient sitting in a chair similar to a dentist's chair. The patient is awake and alert with a soft magnetic coil plate resting lightly on the patient's head. Highly focused MRI-strength magnetic pulses are delivered to stimulate nerve cells in the left prefrontal cortex of the brain, an area known to control mood. This alters blood flow and metabolic activity in the brain resulting in improved mood.

During treatment the patient hears a clicking sound and feels a light tapping sensation. Patients receive daily outpatient

care for four to six weeks and resume normal activities immediately after each treatment.

Rosener was just about at the end of his rope when his mother, a retired nurse, saw an article in a Mayo Clinic publication and pointed it out to him.

"I've been consistently treated with medication, therapy, 24 ECT [electroconvulsive therapy] treatments since 1994, but before that I had no insurance and was dependent on the county for help. But off and on [since childhood] I've been treated for depression for a long time," Rosener said. "I would isolate myself unless I had to go to work; it was the only thing I would force myself to do."

Rosener's psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Solloway, medical director for Baptist Behavioral Health, suggested he give it a try and Rosener readily agreed.

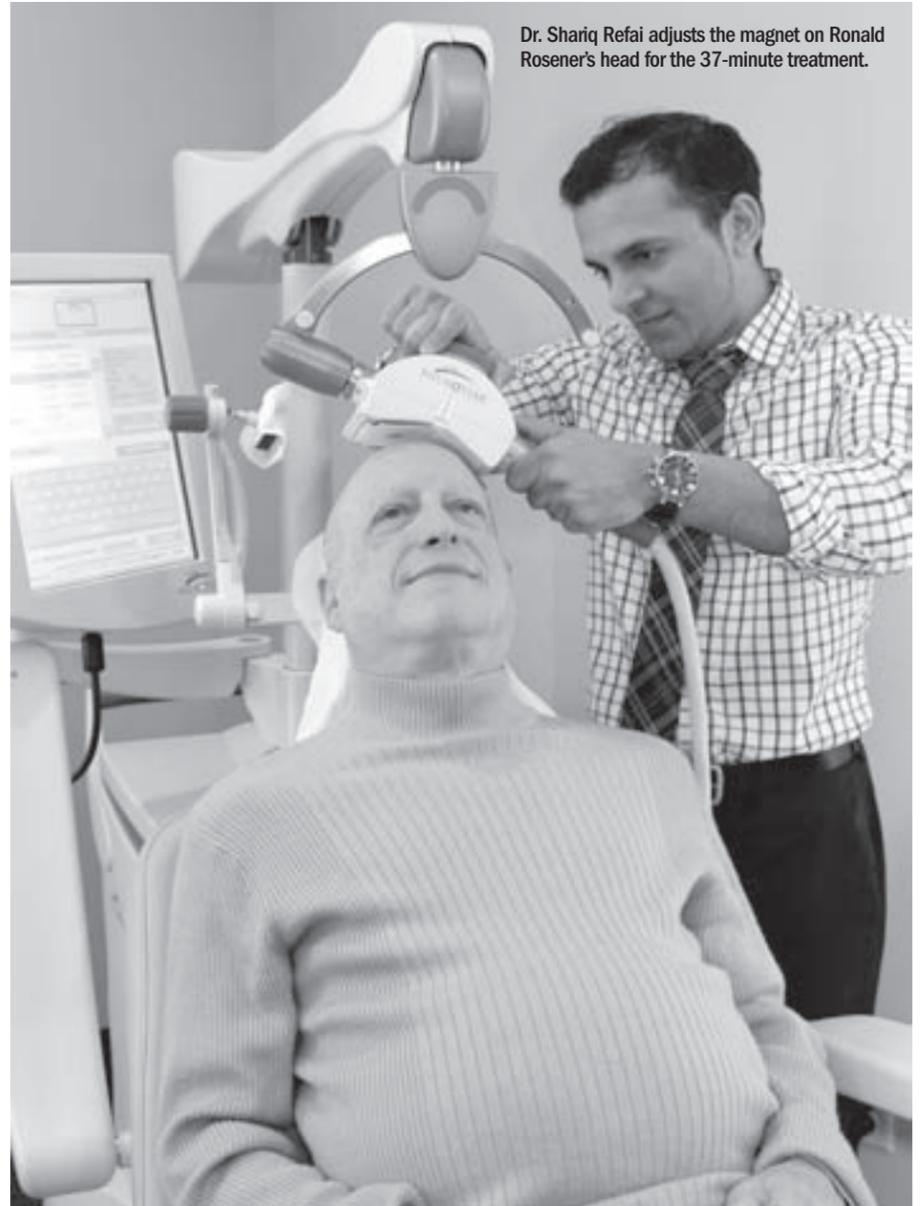
"Dr. Solloway is the best; he's an expert. He's at the Age Well Clinic and has patients that have been medicated for a long time and have tried a lot of different medications," Rosener explained. "There are probably only a couple or three that I haven't been on, usually in all combinations. You get to point where you realize that if you've tried them all, in many combinations, it's not the medication that's going to end it."

Indicators of success

When Rosener agreed to an interview with The Resident, he was at the tail end of his six-week treatment. He was forthcoming about the signs of success and hopeful for the future.

"A really good indicator came by surprise. Last year I couldn't make myself go to my sister's for Thanksgiving and deal with all that ruckus around me. This year I went gladly and had a good experience," he said. "Another indicator [that the treatment is successful] is that I am able to be interviewed."

His ultimate goal is to reduce the



Dr. Shariq Refai adjusts the magnet on Ronald Rosener's head for the 37-minute treatment.

number of medications he takes and perhaps even to get off of some altogether.

Dr. Shariq Refai, psychiatrist for Baptist Behavioral Health, and the premier physician providing the treatment said it's difficult to say at this point just how long the effects of the treatment will last.

"It's been effective at keeping depression at bay for long term, but since it's so new it's difficult to say how

long 'long term' will be," said Refai. "It's on a case by case basis."

Rosener admitted that getting out and getting involved with something is also beneficial for coping with depression. A cat lover, he wants to reach out in some way to help deal with abandoned cats. He is also considering a cat-sitting service.

"One thing that has kept me going is my cats; that's one thing that keeps me from suicide," concluded Rosener.

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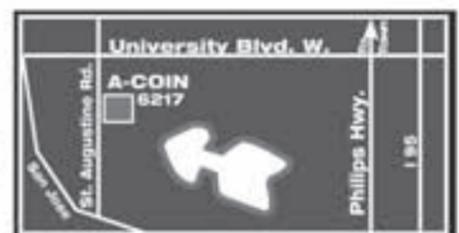
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Hello Getting to Know Bobby Martin



Bobby Martin is approaching two decades of volunteer work with the Board of Directors of Communities In Schools of Jacksonville and that's no small thing, considering that he's also involved with the Ronald McDonald House, Prisoners of Christ, The Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville, the Florida Theatre, BASCA and the Flagler College. In addition to those organizations, Martin is also past chairman of the TPC.

Communities In Schools is near and dear because...

I've always understood the value of our children and getting a good education. I thought this was the best way to make a difference in the lives of those students who need help overcoming challenges with learning.

I would encourage others to become involved because...

The return on investment for the students that you help is enormous, plus the personal satisfaction of watching these young people succeed is priceless.

No newcomer to the community...

I have lived in Ortega for 45 years. I love the community and friendly atmosphere. My favorite local restaurant is The Brick.

I think people would be pleasantly surprised to know that...

I take an annual bicycle trip that lasts more than two weeks and takes us more than 250 miles. I've been to the Keys, Virginia, North Carolina, and West Florida, just to name a few. Besides my granddaughters, my passion is fixing anything mechanical.

My retirement is different than most because...

I continue to consult with the Florida Times-Union, also serving on their Editorial Board, and I am active with several nonprofits. When I do take a day off, I work around the house or spend time with my family.



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The Way we Were

Sassy Pattillo

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Although she's answered the question countless times during her 80 years, Sarah Allison "Sassy" (McCarthy) Pattillo just laughs at the memory of a school classmate on the West Riverside Elementary playground who loudly declared her to be "Sassy!" The intended insult instead became her lifelong nickname. While this gentle soft-spoken lady seems a far cry from "Sassy!" the name holds happy memories.

"I grew up on an Edgewood Avenue Circle before my parents Margaret (Durkee) and Edward McCarthy bought an Ortega Boulevard waterfront home across from St. Mark's [Episcopal Church]. There was my brother Edward, me and my sister Deborah. Mother grew up in Empire Point and my father was an attorney from Richmond, Va. I attended John Gorrie Junior High School and St. Anne's in Charlottesville, Va., then Hollins College for two years before transferring to UF Gainesville. I graduated with a commercial art degree," Pattillo recalled.

In Gainesville, Sassy met handsome Charles E. "Pat" Pattillo from Tampa who was four years older. Pat went on to become an award-winning Jacksonville architect; the couple were married 55 years until his passing in 2012. In the beginning of their courtship and after her college graduation, however, Sassy's mother declared her far too young for engagement or marriage and opted for a tried-and-true solution.

"My parents sent me off to Europe to travel for two months with my friends Cecilia Todd of Avondale (now in Tallahassee) and the late Preston Stockton," she said. "But Pat was so wonderful, everyone loved him and he wrote to me every day via two more Avondale friends, Kakki (Howe) and her husband Radford Lovett. Radford was in the military stationed in Germany. When I visited they had stacks of Pat's letters for me. When I returned home Pat and I were engaged. We married in my family church, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, just before my 25th birthday."

Pat was hired by Hardwick & Lee Architects and the couple settled into their first home in what Sassy refers to as "Splintersville." Their Westfield Road home was across the railroad tracks on the other side of Roosevelt Blvd. Although not considered the best Ortega Forest street at the time, the Pattillos lived there

nine happy years.

"We were friends with several other young neighborhood couples and we took bets on which of us would be the first to move out. I remember Pat and I were so afraid that we would be the last ones to leave!" she said. "In 1968 we moved to Apache Avenue and were the youngest family on the street. We raised our son, Charles (Chase) E. Pattillo IV and daughter Britton (Pattillo) Howze."

While her children attended school Sassy worked for several Avondale retail shops over the years. She worked for the late Mildred Green, an Avondale interior decorator, Apache Avenue neighbor and friend Alice Irving of The Jade Tree gift shop and at Shirley Leao and Betty Dupree's lingerie shop Trousseau Treasures. She spent 12 years in partnership with close friend Jane Chadbourne at their business on St. John's Avenue, Custom Imprint Ink. Customized stationery and posters were bestsellers.

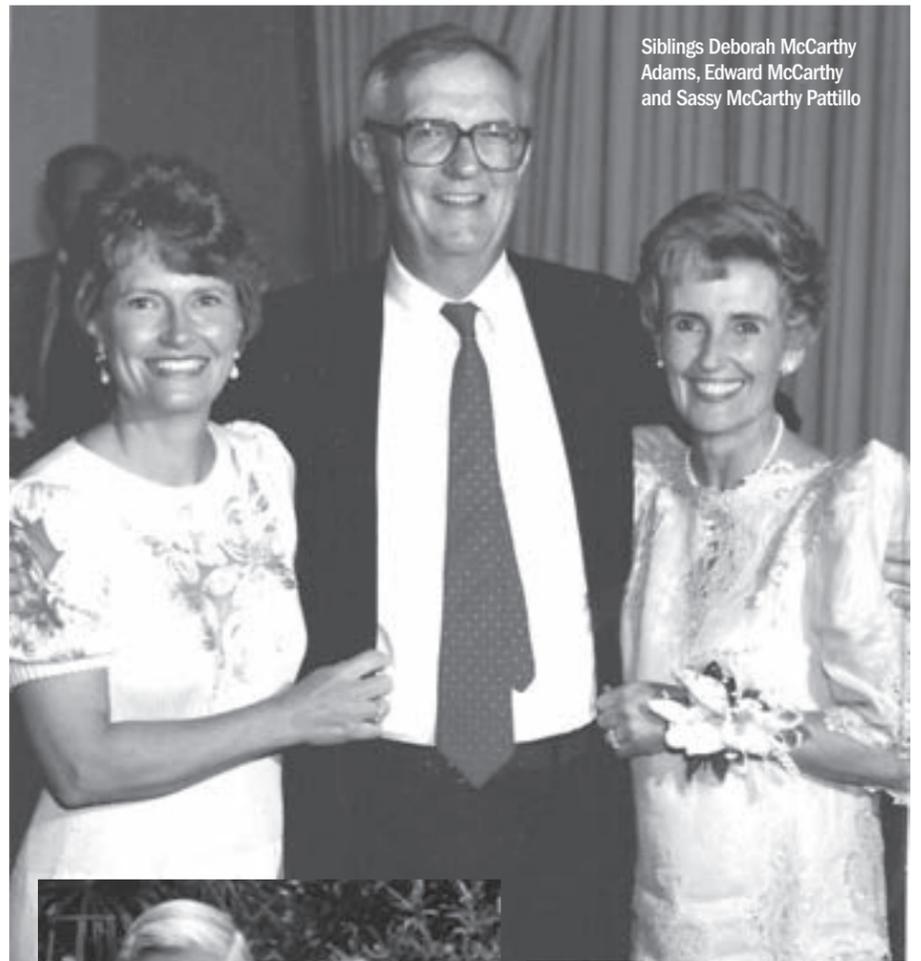
"We both had art backgrounds, were childhood friends and knew everyone," she said. "It was very successful and rewarding...a wonderful time in my life."

The Pattillos were Gator fans who attended every game and tailgated with several other couples including Chuck and Dolly Thompson of Ortega Forest, Lamar and Judy Drake and Joe and Kathy Branch.

"That's a bitter pill to swallow! Our children refused to go to UF and now a second grandchild is heading off to FSU! All Pat's friends say he is definitely having a good laugh over that," she said.

Family life was boating on the St. John's River, water skiing under the bridges and activities at the Yacht and Timuquana Clubs. Sassy said all the men golfed and the women enjoyed bridge. Their children swam together, played tennis and their friends practically lived at the Pattillo home. Pat designed an elaborate treehouse for his children, large enough for several people to stand and walk in. Many days were spent making paper airplanes to fly down from the treehouse or playing ping pong. When the family traveled to Sea World to swim with the dolphins, it was an unforgettable experience for Sassy.

Other memories were of fall children's parties where everyone bobbed for apples and attending the annual Jacksonville May Fete put on by the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd



Siblings Deborah McCarthy Adams, Edward McCarthy and Sassy McCarthy Pattillo



Charles and Sassy



Three generations: Charles Evans Pattillo IV, III and V

in Boone Park. It was exciting to see who would be selected May Queen.

After Pat retired in 1994, Sassy was proud of the book he published entitled St. Dunstan's & John. It's a novel about historic churches built along the St. John's River and buried treasure during the Civil War.

"Pat was fascinated with local history, especially the string of churches built along the St. John's. He used his research

to write an historical novel," she said. "After its publication he was often asked to speak to civic groups about the river churches' history...that made us both very happy."

Sassy looks forward to visits with her sister Deborah (McCarthy) Adams and husband James of Greensboro, N.C. and her brother Edward and Julie (Fant) McCarthy of Avondale and her four grandchildren.

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Couple's love story extends to community

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

A familiar sight to anyone driving or walking past Stinson Park is Ronald and Carol Easter, walking their rambunctious black Maltipoos Callie and Abbey as they collect trash in the picturesque riverfront park on the Fairfax side of the Ortega Bridge. Married 48 years, the couple care deeply for each other – and for the community. The daily ritual is something they must do, they said.

“The park is always crowded and we don’t like children to see garbage... we want it clean for them and we’re helping the community,” said Carol, 69. “We’ve lived in Fairfax Manor since our marriage in 1966, when my grandmother Nora Quillen went house-hunting for us and found the perfect home. Stinson Park is so beautiful, picking up the trash makes a big difference.”

Paper trash isn’t the only thing they have to pick up, unfortunately. The haul includes every kind of liquor bottle, cans and far too many unsafe and illegal items. Nothing surprises the Easters any longer after cleaning the park since Carol’s 2011 retirement. She worked 37 years for Duval County School Board Human Resources.

“There’s trash that is shocking and then there’s the flowers left everywhere after weddings, forgotten decorations,



Ronald and Carol Easter

plastic, party and picnic leftovers. The reason we also clean the base of the Ortega Bridge is to gather all the fishing lines and anything else that could hurt children, dogs, birds, fish or aquatic life,” they said.

The Easters commend the city for doing a good job of emptying trash receptacles, although on holidays they

usually need large garbage bags for overflow, especially after July 4th and New Year’s. It’s clear that although they’ve found the perfect way to help out and are constantly thanked, they’d like to be out of a job.

“If only visitors would discard their trash, or if more people like us would help keep it clean!” she said. “Our concern now is that about 20 percent of the bricks were removed from the paved octagon and thrown into the river. We notified the city, but no response. Ronald pulls them out and recently

someone replaced about half. We’ve put a sign up, but bad things like that in the park usually happen overnight.”

It’s not easy to get an updated park report from the Easters, who during this interview were cooking a homemade meal for a neighbor fighting cancer and recovering from surgery. The couple cherish their neighbors who, during 1980 and long after, helped them survive every parent’s worst nightmare.

“We have two children, Gretchen Frazier, a teacher at Hendricks Elementary, and our son David, 44. When David was 9, riding his bike, he was hit by a vehicle on Marquette Avenue and suffered massive brain damage. Neighbors, friends and family rallied round and helped us every step of the way. Our son was comatose, paralyzed and barely alive,” she said. “After arduous years of recovery, 157 operations and rehabilitation he’s able to live independently. The doctors said there’s no medical reason to explain how David survived. He’s a living miracle.”

Carol grew up with her mother, Ferne Crow, and two sisters on Riverside Avenue and later lived in Venetia. She met Ron Easter of Murray Hill on a blind date at Penny’s Drive-in located where The Loop operates on St. John’s Avenue. After they married, Ron, now 75, worked for Boyager Insurance before starting his own business, Master Clean, in 1972. The couple has three grandchildren, fireman Wade Painter, nurse Caroline Painter and Gracie Frazier, 11, who is always ready to help her grandparents clean up the park.

Seniors asked to help with survey

The Northeast Elderly Survey is a nonprofit study for seniors 55 and older that live in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns or Volusia counties. The UNF sponsored and Institutional Review Board approved study will investigate seniors’ quality of life in Northeast Florida. Participants will be asked questions about their own needs and perceptions of social and health care needs and services.

The study involves a one-time survey available at <http://eldersnf.wix.com/survey> that should take about 20 minutes to complete. Responses are completely anonymous. Study results will be used to improve senior programs and services.

The survey will be available until the end of April. The introduction to the online survey states:

In order to be eligible to participate you must be: (A) at least 55 years of age, and (B) identify as heterosexual. The data collected will be used for research purposes. Although there will be no direct benefits or compensation for participation, your input will provide much needed justification for additional funding and the development of gay-affirmative health and social services in Jacksonville and other surrounding counties in Florida.

If you have any questions or would like to request a paper survey with an addressed, stamped return envelope, contact the principal investigator, Dr. Lynne Carroll, at lcaroll@unf.edu or Gil Pena, research assistant, at n00832678@ospreys.unf.edu.

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100 years old, still laughing, making others laugh



By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

When asked what she thought about achieving the grand old age of 100 years on Jan. 10, Julia Connors Cathey cracked up everyone at her birthday lunch.

“I prayed this morning that I would make it to a little over a hundred, but I almost didn’t make it!” she exclaimed.

As she went to the closet to get a coat that morning, a small Christmas tree fell out and gashed her leg. “I called the ambulance; I knew I had to go. We went over there [to the hospital] and I realized I had to rush back to my party,” she said. “But I’ve got nine more lives!”

Born at home in West Jacksonville and the oldest of seven children, Cathey attended Woodstock Park Baptist Church when it was located on St. Clair Street. Her mother was a founding member of the church. Cathey’s father was a contractor who built many homes in Avondale and Murray Hill. “Sometimes we had money, sometimes we didn’t. We went through the Great Depression. Then World War II changed everything,” she recalled.

The spunky woman attended Annie R. Morgan Elementary School, also on St. Clair Street; John Gorrie Middle School and Robert E. Lee High School. “Mother pushed me [to attend school at age 5] and I was always a year younger than the others. I always wanted to go back and play with

children my age,” she said.

After the war, Cathey and her husband moved westward, first stopping in Chicago for a brief period. “That’s when I moved to Idaho and lived in the Northwest for 50 years. The Northwest was my favorite place but I’m very happy right here.”

“Right here” is Riverside Presbyterian Home where the centenarian has lived for 15 years, except for 2012 when she was at St. Catherine Labouré Manor for rehab after a stroke. She returned to independent living at age 98.

The longevity gene comes naturally to Cathey. Her mother lived to be 108-1/2 and had also lived at Riverside Presbyterian Home from the time she was 100. Cathey’s youngest sister, Florence Dickey, also lives there and will be 91 next month.

Cathey had two children, a daughter and a son, and was a homemaker her whole life. She now has five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. When asked if she had ever worked outside the home, Cathey said “No, I wanted to play!”

She is a late-in-life artist, starting to paint when she was in her 60s. Her children made a calendar of her still-life paintings a few years ago.

Cathey is in very good health considering the stroke. She gained her speech back along with her mobility, although she did lose hearing in her right ear and said she was too old to get a hearing aid. “I just limp along,” she said, laughing.

Residents’ families name Arbor Terrace Best of Senior Care

Arbor Terrace Ortega was presented with the 2015 Best of Senior Care award for receiving consistently high ratings from residents and their families in the past year on SeniorAdvisor.com, the premier ratings and reviews site for senior

care and services nationwide. “On behalf of SeniorAdvisor.com and A Place for Mom, I am pleased to inform you that Arbor Terrace Ortega has been rated by your families as the Best of the Best in Senior Living for 2015,” said Catherine Vergara, a representative from A Place for Mom. “This exclusive designation is awarded to fewer than one percent throughout the nation. That is amazing. Your families think you are great and are very happy with the caregiving you offer.”

Now in its second year, the SeniorAdvisor.com Best of Awards celebrate the best of the best in senior living and home care across the United States. The award is only given to communities and agencies that have received outstanding online feedback from their families through the SeniorAdvisor.com site. In 2015, of the nearly 100,000 providers currently listed on SeniorAdvisor.com, only 879 were recognized with this award.

Vergara presented the award to Linda Jones, Resident Care Director, and Sharon Glenn, Lead Bed Tech, on Jan. 8. “I thank the families for entrusting us with their loved ones. Without them we wouldn’t be here,” said Jones.



Linda Jones, Catherine Vergara, Sharon Glenn

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Largest class in R.E. Lee High School to hold 50th reunion

The largest class in Robert E. Lee High School history – 720-plus students – will hold its 50th reunion on April 25. The reunion will include the mid-Sixties classes from 1963 to 1967.

The venue for the event will be the Deerwood Country Club and, due to limited space, only 400 tickets will be sold. To register, go to www.powderblue2015.com.

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Colonial Dames host 9th annual historical portrayal

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Duval County 5th graders witnessed history come alive for the 9th consecutive year with a repeat visit from President George Washington, portrayed in full period costume by Dean Malissa.

Malissa spoke last month to students from St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, The Bolles School, St. John's Country Day School, Fishweir Elementary School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School and John Stockton Elementary School, among others.

Forbes Magazine calls Malissa, a professional member of the National Speakers Association, "The World's Greatest George Washington Impersonator."

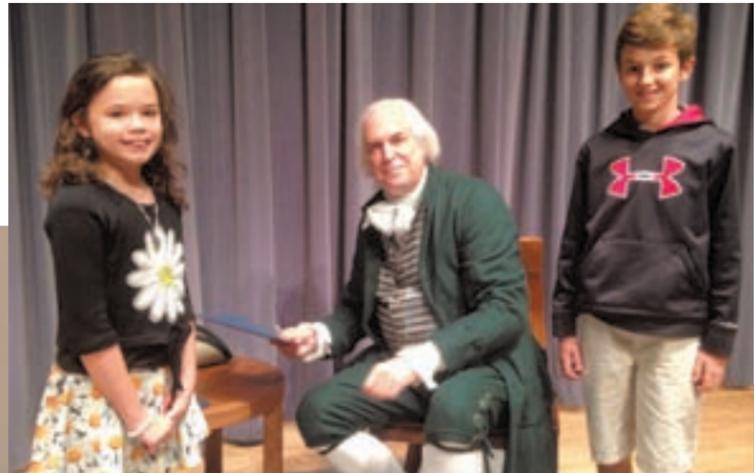
Three students were presented with awards for a writing contest. Adam Lynch (RPDS), Madiline Stafford (Stockton) and Marybeth Garrison (St. John's Country Day School) received certificates signed by Malissa for their essays on "Why didn't George Washington become King?"

The annual presentation has been made possible each year by a grant from

the Roger L. and Rochelle S. Main Trust and hosted by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Florida. The event was held at the Main Library.



George Washington shows students from St. Mark's Episcopal Day School how King George III behaved like an angry father toward the colonists.



Madiline Stafford, Stockton Elementary, and Adam Lynch, RPDS with essay certificates.



George Washington portrayer Dean Malissa signs the essay award certificate for Marybeth Garrison, 5th grade student at St. John's Country Day School.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Grandparent Program Provides Crucial Assistance

Program has available funds and resources

Patricia Amato loves her two grandchildren. The spunky New York City native can see herself taking them places in Jacksonville to let them play with kids their age, making friends and building relationships.

Unfortunately, she can't. Lingered serious health issues limit how much the 60-year-old divorced grandmother can leave her Westside apartment, even for basic tasks such as going to the grocery store.

"I would love to take them places but the weather dominates whether I can drive and when I can see and can't see," Amato said in a strong Bronx accent. "I have to go with the children for food shopping because I can't go on my own. They help me."

Caring for kids entering their teen years is proving stressful, too; just preparing them for school each day is a challenge, she admits. "You try having small kids and have all my medical problems," she said. "I was like, 'Help. SOS. I am stressed out!'"

But Amato's life – and the lives of her grandson and granddaughter, ages 13 and 12, respectively – is improving thanks to a grandparent support program offered by Aging True Community Senior Services.

Relatives As Parents Program of Jacksonville (RAPPJax), gives Amato, and about 20 other grandparents, financial assistance for home improvements, regular "wellness" checks via telephone and a monthly support group where the seniors can discuss "the struggles and joys and challenges" of raising children, said Sunshine Monk, Aging True Mental Wellness Programs Manager.

Qualifying for the program is extremely easy, Monk says. Any Duval County grandparent who is 60 or older and has custody of their grandchildren is eligible. Potential participants should call Monk at (904) 807-1203 and ask for an in-home assessment by a program representative.

There are no income guidelines for the program funded by the federal Older Americans Act.

"The program may not fix all your problems," said Monk, "but there's some support in numbers knowing you are not the only one out there facing this kind of life situation. There is hope and help."

Most in the program live in either Mandarin or on the Westside; however, Monk says she's determined to tell other Northeast Florida seniors caring for their grandchildren that this assistance is available.

"The whole purpose of the program is in line with Aging True's efforts to support seniors in our local area," she said. "We are wanting to support the grandparents who have custody of their grandkids."

"It's a struggle sometimes just going through life, and these remarkable people are taking on small children. It's a huge undertaking for them



Patricia Amato and her two grandchildren

and we just want to be able to support them in any way possible."

Much of the financial assistance goes toward home improvements, to create a safe environment for the children. "One person didn't have a backdoor that locked so we put one on for them. If they need durable medical equipment that insurance won't cover we can help with that as well," Monk said.

Plans are also in the works to fund a childcare service that will allow the grandparents a much needed break for one day a month, she said.

"We are looking for ways to add support and we are also wanting to spread the word that the service is there," Monk said.

A part of the program Amato loves, is that it pays for her grandchildren to attend a two-week summer camp. "Aging True did all of the legwork on that and sent the check to the daycare," says the Bronx, NY native who got custody of the children over 10 years ago. "(The program) has helped me so much."

Aging True Community Senior Services, a non-profit organization, operates more than a dozen assistance programs, including Meals on Wheels.

For more information on RAPPJax, go online to www.coj.net/departments/childrens-commission/grands-rappjax.aspx or call (904) 807-1203.



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Talented teens get extra credit for Resident challenge

As you page through this issue, by now you've probably perceived our theme: the people, places and things we love. We wanted to see how our Junior Residents would artistically depict "love" and sent out the challenge to high school art students. Here are 10 unique views of the things that speak love to students of Rebecca Hoadley at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.



Nikki Vukich, Class of 2015



Suzanna DePeri, Class of 2016



Alice Choi, Class of 2016



Katie Nicholson, Class of 2018

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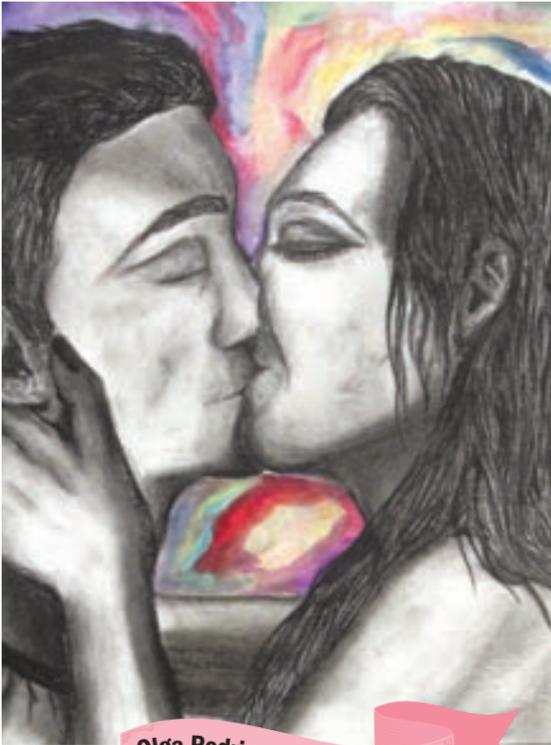
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Jr. Residents

Stanton history bowl team takes first place



Lakeside Park resident Mitchell Nuland was the captain of the winning team for Stanton College Prep at The National History Bowl, North Florida Competition, held at Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange. The winning team is qualified to compete in the National Championships in Arlington, VA and Washington, DC on April 24-26. Front: Solana Huang, Robin Zheng, Madison Lee, Sindee Lee, Joyce Hu, Ashlie Malone. Back: Grant De La Vasselais, Mitchell Nuland, Team Captain, Nihal Kala, Evan Qu

High school teams wanted for Envirothon

Duval County high school teachers are encouraged to enter a team in the Fred B. Miller Jr. Regional Envirothon in March. Presented by the Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District, the event features an in-the-field competition for students on the topics of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and environmental issues.

More than 500,000 students nationwide are expected to participate in Envirothon events, sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation. The local competition is set for 8 a.m. to noon on Mar. 5 at the Diamond D. Ranch, 5903-1 Solomon Rd. For more information visit www.duvalconservation.org or www.flenvirothon.com or contact Joyce Miller, (410) 688-2365 or mjmhavingfun@yahoo.com to register your team.

'Disaster' takes students on musical adventure



Isabella Buschini, Kelly Donovan, Shelby McCart, Caroline Hodges



Naomi Cochrane, Aubrey Finn



Alex McLaurine, Trey Dubnansky, Ryan Napoleon, Mason Montour

Riverside Presbyterian Day School has implemented many new programs involving integrative curricular studies emphasizing design and creativity. One such project was the 4th Grade Musical Adventure. To introduce the project, a group of teachers created a short video depicting the music room destroyed by a natural event and the teacher appealing for help in creating new instruments. The 4th grade teachers were a part of the video, assuring the audience that 4th graders could indeed create and build new instruments.

The adventure began in music class as the students learned the different classifications and characteristics of instruments. They then went to the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Music) design room, forming teams and collaborating in groups to create instruments with recycled goods/found objects. In art class the students completed the design process by painting and decorating their creations.

Meanwhile in music class, the fourth grade students studied experimental methods of notating music and collaborated in groups to compose a song for their own instruments. They brought their symbolic representations to the art class where they painted an abstract expression of the score. Finally, they had the opportunity to create an iMovie in STEAM class dramatizing and reflecting on their adventure.

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Middle school students compete in local Lego tournament

Second in Robot Design, St. Mark's advances to regionals

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School's Robotics team competed in the Flight of the Eaglebotics First Lego League Competition at Susie E. Tolbert Elementary School on Jan. 10.

By finishing as one of the top four teams out of 16, the SMEDS "Lego Lions," as they are called, advanced to the First Lego League North Florida Regional tournament, where 24 teams will compete at UNF on Feb. 1 for eight spots in the Florida State Tournament. The Lego Lions also received the second place award for Robot Design. The First Lego competitions will culminate at the FLL World Festival held in St. Louis in the spring.

"The robot competition was fun and challenging," said sixth grader Cole Nigro. "The judges didn't smile or give much feedback which make us nervous, and I learned that even though things worked well during practice, when it was time to compete, the

robot didn't work the way we thought we had it programmed and it took multiple tries."

Last August, St. Mark's began a partnership with Renaissance Jax to break down walls in robotics and engineering within the Jacksonville community. Since October, 11 students in fourth through sixth grade have participated in the inaugural Lego robotics team.

"My favorite part of the competition was the team skit showing the research we did," said Madi Boone, fifth grader. "I played the part of an expert doctor who helped to create a 3D imager to use for surgical training."

Renaissance Jax's mission is to develop the foundation of program support for FIRST Robotics in Jacksonville with the goal to provide a pipeline of highly capable and motivated minds in STEM related fields. Engaging youth in programs such as this to attract companies with high skill needs to

Jacksonville.

Kevin Conklin, Head of School at SMEDS, and Mark McCombs, Executive Director of Renaissance Jax, Inc., shared their ideas at the Florida Council of Independent Schools Annual Conference and see the possibilities that stretch across demographics and cultures for students age 5-18 when competitive robotics is facilitated at a high level. Students engineer solutions to



real world problems and in many instances, student team solutions go on to become patented.

First in Robot Design, Bolles qualifies for regionals



The Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus robotics team won the Robot Design Award at the First Lego League tournament, held Jan. 10 at Susie E. Tolbert Elementary School. One of the top-scoring teams of 16 competing schools, Bolles also qualified for the regional tournament.

"We are very proud of this team," said Mark Meyers, Bolles Middle School Computer teacher and team coach. He said students, who call themselves 'The B Team,' worked many hours during school, after-school, on weekends and during holiday break to complete a research project and presentation

included in the overall tournament competition. "They did their research on campus and in their free time."

Bolles offers a robotics club, which meets monthly and is open to all students in addition to the team, which is a small group of experienced robotics students who compete in First Lego League tournaments.

The Bolles Middle School Robotics Team members include 8th graders Charu Chaturvedi, Charlie Davis, Nick Divita, Yash Gulani, Rishi Misra and Blake Perdakis, and 7th graders Colby Newman and Adam Pooley.

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The Time Jumpers
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Jr. Residents

Local kids play in Free Throw Competition



Allen Lovett (12 boy winner) getting ready to win his division.

Front: Leah Kelley (9 girl winner) and Cort McCarthy (10 boy winner); back: Jalen Chance (14 boy winner), Simon Brackin (13 boy winner), Dylan Masters (12 boy runner up), Bailey Ann Brackin (14 girl winner), Elijah Franklin (11 boy winner)

The Knights of Columbus Council #648 hosted a free throw competition for boys and girls ages 9 to 14 on Jan. 11 at St. Matthew's Catholic School. Several schools were represented, including Bishop Kenny High School, Bishop Snyder School, The Bolles School, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Assumption Catholic School, St. Matthew's Catholic School, John Stockton Elementary, Hendricks Elementary, and The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Winners from this event will advance to the District Free Throw Contest set for Sunday, Feb. 8. Free Throw is a national program that began in the early 1970s. Council #648, also known as the Father Maher Council, was established in 1902 in Jacksonville.

Close, but Kohla wins spelling bee again



Winner of the St. Mark's Episcopal Day School 2014 Spelling Bee is, again, Don Kohla. The 6th grader also won last year and advanced then to tie for 7th place in the Duval County Bee. This year's bee was a close competition between Kohla and runner up Jack Adams, also in 6th grade, with the two contestants going several rounds.

Both Ortega boys indicated that it takes a lot of practice, a little bit of luck, a love of reading and the help of others. Kohla said "I read over the list of words and have family verbally quiz me on the words." When asked what was the most difficult word he was given Kohla said "Rorschach. I spelled it correctly." Adams indicated that kraken was his most difficult word, but he got it right as well.

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My favorite thing about our community is...

My favorite thing about our community is celebrations because I get time to spend with my family and friends.
Avery

My favorite thing about our community is it is safe, fun and cool.
Kirby

My favorite thing about our community is the nice people that you can meet and make friends with.
Anna

My favorite thing about our community is I like my yard and my street because it is near the river.

My favorite thing about our community is my teachers because they help me learn.

My favorite thing about our community is trees because they are good for climbing.
Sam

My favorite thing about our community is our river because we can catch BIG FISH and eat them.
Logan Johnson

The answers range from sweet to serious, happy to hilarious about how our community is seen through the eyes of 2nd grade boys and girls. Last month Resident Community News Group publisher Seth Williams spent time with students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, explaining how a neighborhood newspaper reflects the positive aspects of a community. He left with dozens of "love notes" from the students and we're sharing a few with our readers.



My favorite thing about our community is all the close friends because they are family and nice to be around.

My favorite thing about our community is my dad because he plays with me.
Alex

My favorite thing about our community is that some park is like me a blue eye!
Chloe

My favorite thing about our community is because of the great park, library and neighbors.
Dylan

My favorite thing about our community is family and friends because if I did not have them I would be lonely.
William

My favorite thing about our community is park and friendly neighbors.
Jack L.

My favorite thing about our community is trees because you can play lots of different things on trees! You can play a swing!
Sarah Frances 2015

My favorite thing about our community is when the dogs get walked around our house. That is my favorite thing because it makes me joyful.
Sophia



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