

Wedding reception turns into murder mystery

See MYSTERY on page 21

Bobbi McGinnis, Robin Lewis



the GIFT GUIDE

Valentine's day

page 22

Perfect Gifts

Resident



Community News

Fiercely Local News, Fiercely Loyal Readers



Artist's conception of the expanded Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville.

Expansion underway for Ronald McDonald House

BY GREG WALSH RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Families with critically ill children traveling to Jacksonville face a serious financial burden when the child must be hospitalized days or weeks for treatment.

If they aren't fortunate enough to have family or friends in town to stay with, their only options are Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville or paying for a motel room. Unfortunately, because of overwhelming demand, Ronald McDonald House in San Marco has been regularly exceeding capacity on a daily basis.

But more rooms are coming soon at Ronald McDonald House.

Officials with the local non-profit,

which has assisted more than 32,000 families since 1988, announced in January the "House that Love Built" is starting a \$13 million expansion plan that will take its current facility from 30 to 54 rooms.

Fundraising that began last year already has raised \$10.4 million in private donations, and now the facility is reaching out to the public for the remaining amount.

"We're hoping the public can help us get over the finish line," said Diane Boyle, Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville executive director.

With Jacksonville's "medical tourism" on the rise to places like nearby Wolfson Children's Hospital, the expansion of the facility at 824 Children's Way can't come

soon enough. In 2014 alone, the facility provided housing to more than 1,100 out-of-town families.

"We are responding to a need that is the direct result of growth in pediatric healthcare," Boyle said.

In addition to the increased number of rooms, the San Marco facility that opened in 2001 will also add amenities such as:

- A rooftop healing garden
• A new volunteer kitchen, with existing kitchen remodeled for family use
• An iconic stair tower, guest balconies and covered parking
• Refurbishment of the dining room, play room, teen activity room, laundry areas, food storage areas, and administrative area

See McDonald House on page 6

Long-sought Millers Creek dredging getting closer

BY GREG WALSH RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Over the past six decades, residents living along Millers Creek have seen hopeful signs the St. John's River tributary would be dredged, only to be disappointed when the plans got dropped for one reason or another.

A new effort by residents living along the St. Nicholas neighborhood creek seems to have more traction than past efforts, although not everyone living along the creek wants their property taxes to increase.

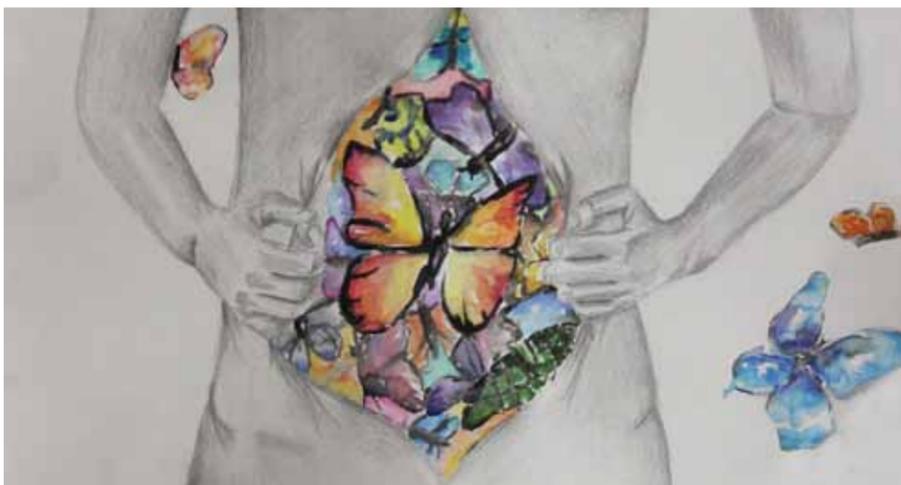
At a town hall meeting in January, several residents heard about progress on legislation introduced by District 4 Councilman Don Redman to create a special taxing district to fund an engineering study and subsequent dredging. If adopted by the City Council, the legislation [2014-700] will create a five-member board to oversee property taxes levied on properties located on Mayfair Road, Gay Avenue or Morier Street.

Owners of 21 of the 29 properties required to pay the non-ad valorem tax have expressed support for the dredging, said Scott Wilson, Redman's executive council assistant. Still, Redman deferred introducing the legislation for two weeks after some residents came to the Jan. 15 meeting with questions.

"It sounded to me like the people at the meeting weren't opposed, they just needed more information," Wilson said.

Questions included why some properties had to pay and others didn't,

See Millers Creek on page 31



Love is...

...butterflies in your stomach, as depicted by Grace Chepenik, sophomore at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

For more student art, turn to page 38

Inside this Issue

Southbank development clears first of many hurdles, page 7

Get ready for Riverwalk ribbon cutting, page 9

Contented clucking music to hen owners' ears, page 13

Why we love our community, page 24

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Publishers

Seth Williams
seth@residentnews.net

Pamela Bradford Williams
pamela@residentnews.net



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Call 904.388.8839 or email:

Debra McGregor - debra@residentnews.net
Tarryn Bradford - tarryn@residentnews.net
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Send Us News!

Editor — Kate A. Hallock
editor@residentnews.net
News Editor — Greg Walsh

Design Production

Joe Birch
Danielle Smith-Boldt

1650 Margaret St. #310, Jacksonville, FL 32204
Phone: 904.388.8839 • Fax: 904.388.2209
www.ResidentNews.net

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Residents supportive of lake dredging idea

BY GREG WALSH
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Some Lakewood Road area residents attending a town meeting expressed general support for restoring a shallow, stagnant lake that once was crystal clear, deeper and filled with fish.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer held the public hearing Jan. 15 to collect comments on whether the city's Public Works Department should consider dredging Colonial Manor Lake and rebuilding its bulkheads.

"If the project is done it would take at least eight months and involve heavy equipment and large trucks in the neighborhood."

*~ John Pappas
Public Works Department
director of operations*

"Okay, so there is general agreement that the work should be done," Boyer said to about 40 people. "We will let the engineering department go back and review it."

But whether work on the lake, which is surrounded by about 30 homes, will indeed be done is unclear. If declared



feasible by city engineers, the project would then have to compete with other city area projects for the limited storm water mitigation funds.

"This isn't something that will be done in two years," Boyer said.

Dredging the lake back to its 8-foot depth could have a positive impact on storm water runoff and be part of a citywide effort to lessen lawn fertilizers and other waste that raises nitrogen levels going into the St. John's River, said John Pappas, Public Works Department director of operations.

Pappas noted that if the project is done it would take at least eight months and involve heavy equipment and large trucks in the neighborhood.

The 4.5 acre lake, which sits between Lakewood and Mapleton roads, was created in the 1930s. It is fed by an artesian well that was blocked by the city, along with 20 similar wells around the same time period, in an attempt to preserve the aquifer and prevent groundwater contamination, Pappas said.

Emilio Zeller, a Northwood Road resident, said his family moved to the area in the early 1940s and he remembers swimming and fishing in the lake as a boy. "It was eight feet deep and was crystal

clear," he said. "It had bass and brim in it that we would catch and eat. I wouldn't touch the fish in there now. The place is a health hazard."

Pappas agreed with Zeller's assessment that the lake – it's now only two feet deep due to silt and clouded with algae – mainly serves as the area retention pond.

One resident's suggestion to replace the lake's original bulkheads, which could collapse during dredging, also got a positive response from Boyer and Pappas.

"I could definitely see a possibility of rebuilding the bulkheads," Boyer said.

Additional digging would be required to the small streams feeding and slowly draining the lake to clear vegetation and improve flow, Pappas said.

When asked for ideas to improve the lake and surrounding park, one resident suggested the city maintain the lake's fountain more often so it doesn't get clogged and burn out the motor. There was also support for adding bike racks, having city crews empty overflowing trash bins more often and replacing basic concrete benches with ones decorated by local school children.

Boyer said she will hold another formal town meeting on city engineers' formal dredging proposal once it's completed.

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Spring Is In The Air

Our community is bustling, preparing for the prime sales season we've been waiting for all year. People are painting, mulching, decluttering. Fresh flowers are appearing. Our houses are being loved. Spring is back and there's no doubt about it.

Spring commotion switches my gears. I feel like I'm on my first 10 speed racing through the streets of Ortega Forest trying to feel a prophetic wind on my face. There's nothing simple about real estate, but it fascinates me with the endless twists and turns. Real estate is like distance running... the end is always a few more miles away. I pull into the driveway after my race through the Forest and Dad's confident voice booms into my heart. "There's nothin' easy about it. Just go get it!" He was right of course. I love getting up and getting it.

My goal is your goal. To be happy in the end. There isn't anything much better than completing a sale where the sellers and buyers, both Realtors and the loan officer are all talking about going out together to celebrate. My belief is we are all on the same side and we all win when we are mutually respectful. When I see you at Publix, I know my neighborhood is still the place I want to call home. Where else would life be so friendly? I love selling homes because of you. This is my life and I love it. If you need a Realtor who commits, why not try me?

—Anne Rain

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UNDER CONTRACT

1321 PINETREE RD - \$375,000
3/2-1,830 sqft. Awesome Curb Appeal the moment you drive into wider drive appointed with brick accents. Charming, picture perfect home. This brick beauty has original hardwood floors throughout. A Beautiful renovated Kitchen with stainless steel appliances.



2217 MILLER OAKS DR NORTH - 2.6MM
6/5/1-5,700 sqft. Elegant custom home by Morales Construction in 1996 with recent updates in last few years. Situated on high bluff. Privately gated and professionally landscaped riverfront estate. Magnificent oak canopy showcases the winding drive.



1754 MORO AVE - \$295,000
3/2-1,539 sqft. Bungalow beautiful in San Marco. This home is move in ready and loaded with charm. Period multi-colored broken tile mosaic sunroom, wood floors, and fireplace. Super convenient location that's a short walk to San Marco Square, Bistro Aix, and more!



UNDER CONTRACT

917 CHILDRENS WAY - \$240,000
4/1/1-2,059 sqft. This is an unbeatable location for either a home or office just across the street from the Ronald McDonald House! The zoning is commercial, residential, and office. A spacious enclosed front porch allows for a relaxing sitting area.



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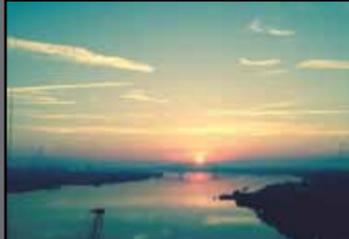
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UNDER CONTRACT

1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD 1209 - \$315,000
2/2-1,159 sqft. Enjoy spectacular views of the St. John's River. Nicely upgraded unit with luxury amenities. Large Open Gourmet kitchen with Top of the Line Appliances, Ultra Luxurious Baths Featuring High-End Finishes and Fixtures.



3744 MONTCLAIR DR - \$237,000
4/2/1-2,579 sqft. Location, location, location; Montclair is conveniently located between Mandarin, Baymeadows, and San Marco shopping and restaurants!! Home sits on a large corner lot with boat or RV parking on the side.



3024 NORTH MERLIN DR - \$237,000
4/2/1-2,572 sqft. This very large 4/2.5 home has tile throughout the first floor except downstairs office. The beautiful tiled living room with vaulted ceiling has very large windows on two sides allowing for maximum sunlight!



UNDER CONTRACT

1719 RIVER OAKS RD - \$235,000
3/1-1,383 sqft. The most charming home on the block! This beautiful 1930's San Marco bungalow is one of a kind. Busting at the seams with unique details like the original hardwood floors, gas fireplace, sun porch perfect for enjoying a cup of coffee in the morning.



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SOLD

2304 BELOTE PL
3/2-1,758 sqft. SOLD by Laura Klement. Thinking of walking to San Marco Square, just steps from your front door, to see a movie, have dinner, visit with friends or window shop. Or walk around the block stopping at one of three neighborhood parks. Or entertain at home.



1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD 2401 - \$359,500
2/2-1,666 sqft. Come live the low maintenance lifestyle in luxury! Prepare to be wowed when you enter this spacious 2 bedroom 2 bath condo located in "The Peninsula". Situated on the 24th floor facing SW, this stylish unit features a large living room with tile floors.



7015 SALAMANCA AV - \$350,000
3/2-2,080 sqft. Step inside this lovely, spacious, renovated San Jose home! You will find gorgeous, original hardwood floors and separate living, dining, and family rooms. Fabulous new kitchen features cherry cabinets, stainless steel appliances and corian countertops.



SOLD

1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD 1710
3/2-1,878 sqft. SOLD by Camilo Ramirez. ONLY 3/2 AVAILABLE!! Hard to find C3 floor plan. Enjoy Breathtaking Views of Historic San Marco and The St. Johns River from Every Room in this Beautiful 3 Bedroom 2 Bathroom Corner Sky Home.



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3/2-1,650 sqft. LISTED and SOLD by Anita vining and Camilo Ramirez. This is an awesome buyer opportunity currently occupied with great tenant for an investor... Riverfront Townhome offering Million \$ views in San Marco. Spectacular views of pool & St. Johns.



2755 BEAUCLERC RD - \$1.05MM
4/4/2-4,510 sqft. Mediterranean design custom built by current owner. Two story home on beautiful acre lot in park like setting. Heated pool and majestic trees. Open floor plan includes first floor master suite and office/library. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters.



3653 POINT PLEASANT RD - \$280,000
4/2-2,153 sqft. Pristine & updated one story home situated on almost a half acre. New kitchen (2012) boasts granite counters, stone mosaic backsplash, Stainless steel appliances & tile floors which overlooks lg family room w/ new fireplace, tile floors & new sliders leading to patio.



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1431 RIVERPLACE 3306
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Letters to the editor

Residents share views on traffic calming measures

I applaud all those residents that are bringing to the attention of drivers that use our neighborhood streets as short cuts to avoid traffic on San Jose [also known as Hendricks Avenue]. I grew up in the San Marco area on Thornwood Lane and have traveled many miles on my bicycle in my youth. I now live and own my home on Duke Road and have lived here for 28 years. Duke Road only had the local neighborhood traffic when I bought my house but the past few years I have noticed that the traffic has increased on Duke Road.

About five years ago I was contacted by a neighbor that was an officer on the unofficial Lakewood Home Owners Association that they were going to circulate a petition for having road humps placed on Duke, Cornell and Stetson Roads to control traffic at the time, which was about six years ago. At that time we had drivers cutting through our streets exceeding the posted speed limit of 30 MPH. I signed the petition and the road humps were installed. Well it worked for a while but as our road hump on Duke Road has had many vehicles travel on it, it has flattened out and drivers do not slow down any more and fly across it. One year a city engineer was looking at it one day and I approached him and told

him that it was no longer effective and needed to be redone; he informed me that the city did not have the money to redo it. I informed him to tell COJ that the low bidder that was chosen did a poor job and the road humps should be built like the road humps over in Argyle Forest that are made with ripples in the hump and when you crossed over one you would know it.

Your article on reducing the speed limits on the streets of our neighborhoods is a good idea for law abiding citizens but for those who have disrespect for the laws of society it will not change a thing unless JSO increases manpower and has a motorcycle cop in every neighborhood. Being said, changing the speed limits on our streets is just another tax burden to us the residents of San Marco and the Lakewood area. The road humps work only if they are properly installed with pride in one's work instead of just dumping a pile of asphalt in the road and making a substandard hump that becomes a joke. There has been many times that I have watched drivers come down Duke Road traveling more than 30 MPH and the hump that is just past my property line has no effect what so ever. I just wish COJ would sit in my driveway

all day and note how many commercial trucks, cars and landscape companies come down my street and do not slow down because they know that the hump is a joke.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to inform you of opinion and how the change in speed limits would not have an effect on our streets.

-David W Durban

compliance. Only the law-abiding drivers will be negatively affected. I am generally in this category. If they want to inconvenience me or take this roadway away from me which I probably have spent a few tax dollars to maintain, I believe they should pay full cost of signage and also take over all future maintenance costs.

The simplest solution seems to be to enforce the current speed limit. If it is a constant problem then it should also serve as a good source of city revenue. Although I sympathize with the issue I believe we should look at revenue positive rather than negative solutions. Also, the road probably was there when they bought their houses.

-Steve Clark

Unless I misunderstood the problem, the residents are complaining about excessive speed along the roadway. This sounds like an enforcement problem. Merely lowering the speed limit on the signs does nothing to guarantee

For more on the dialogue between residents concerned about neighborhood traffic and City officials, read our story on page 11. If you have an opinion to share about this issue, please send it to editor@residentnews.net.

Deadlines for grants

Early children 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 \$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.

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Recycling program delivers misunderstanding for homeowners

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 recyclables.

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.

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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SOLD Another One!

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 federal 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.

MCDONALD HOUSE from page 1

"The Jacksonville community has demonstrated immense support and praise in the expansion of the House, and we could not be more thrilled and humbled by the heart and sincere love our donors and volunteers have illustrated towards our families and our mission," Boyle said.

Jacksonville's Ronald McDonald House first opened as a 10-bedroom house on Jefferson Street and the average family stay was less than a week. Family stays now range an average of 12 days and up to six weeks at the facility, which provides free meals, a laundry room on each floor, playground equipment for their children

and a van service to each of the five nearby medical facilities.

Families staying at the House are referred there by medical providers. The families are asked to make a \$10 per day donation, however, no one is turned away, Boyle said.

More than 2,000 people volunteer 22,000 hours each year at the House. "Volunteers are so important to us," said Boyle, noting that dozens of churches and non-profit organizations are regular contributors. "We couldn't complete our mission here without the volunteers."

But Boyle stressed more important than the amenities is the "community

of care" that exists at the Home and has proven most beneficial to families suddenly face emotionally draining circumstances involving their children.

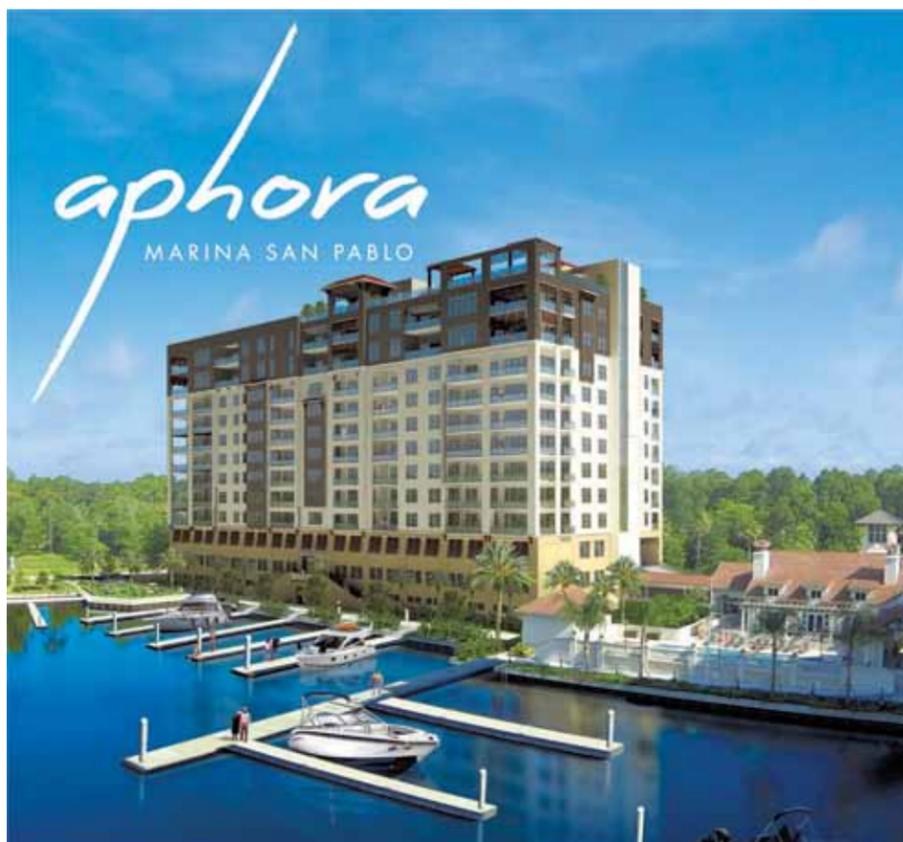
"The Ronald McDonald House is more than a home-away-from-home, it is truly a place of respite and community where families can be together and heal together," said Curt Cunkle, chairman of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's board of directors and EverBank's president of North Florida banking.

"Studies show many positive outcomes from a family-centered approach to children's healthcare, when families can

be together during this very difficult time. These benefits include shorter recovery times, positive attitudes, and decreased anxiety levels in both the parents and the child. Furthermore, we are a home to many, many families who, because of limited means, would have nowhere else to go," Cunkle said.

There are currently 177 Ronald McDonald Houses operating in the United States and a total of 330 globally that serve families with critically injured and chronically and seriously ill children.

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JEA finalizes 'Healthy Town' contract for Southbank site

BY GREG WALSH
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Healthy Town, the expansive multi-use housing and commercial development envisioned by Jacksonville's Peter Rummell and Michael Balanky, is one step closer to becoming a reality along the Southbank of the St. John's River.

The JEA Board of Directors on Jan. 20 voted unanimously to approve a contract with Rummell and Balanky's company, Elements Development of Jacksonville LLC. The vote came three months after the JEA Board accepted Elements' \$18.6 million bid to develop 28.6 acres of the former JEA Southside Generating Station that was decommissioned in 2001.

Elements Development now has one year under the contract to get its proposal through the City's planning and zoning department and then presented to the City Council for consideration.

"It still must be ratified by City Council but we are very optimistic," Balanky said following the JEA Board vote. He declined further comment.

In October, a JEA committee reviewed the bids from Elements and Atlanta-based RocaPoint Partners, which bid \$11.5 million. Using a 500-point scorecard the committee weighed the price as 40 percent of the score, while 60 percent was based on construction schedule, experience, local presence, job creation, capital development, access, Southbank Riverwalk extension and environmental concerns.

Elements received 463 points for its proposal compared to 385 for RocaPoint, JEA officials said.

Developing the site into multi-story condominiums and apartments, retail and commercial business space, recreational areas and a large dock area with dozens of slips will cost an estimated \$400 million, Balanky said previously.

A large component of the development will center on the river itself. Rummell says the amenities – including restaurants and recreational opportunities – will be unlike anything Jacksonville has seen before. An estimated 2,500 permanent jobs could be generated by the development, he said.

The project is of particular interest to Rummell, who's been involved in many international development projects and is a former Disney Co. executive. Balanky said Rummell wants to use Jacksonville's Healthy Town as a prototype for similar developments worldwide.

Among some unresolved issues is where access roads will enter the property. JEA worked out a tentative deal prior to taking bids that would extend Prudential Drive through the Duval County Public Schools parking lot; on the other side it would connect with Broadcast Place and run under I-95. Currently, there is no funding for the roadwork proposal.

Balancky also said Elements may want to alter those access points, but he was optimistic that property access issues could be worked out.

Elements' local connection was likely a key consideration during the bid review

process because the project will involve developers traversing some complicated bureaucratic and political terrain that could stall the project.

JEA first had to spend more than \$28 million to remove contaminated soils and

put in groundwater monitoring devices. One of the stipulations for building on the brownfield site is the winning bidder had to continue the remediation process so that contaminated soils below are not disturbed.

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 Scot 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,"

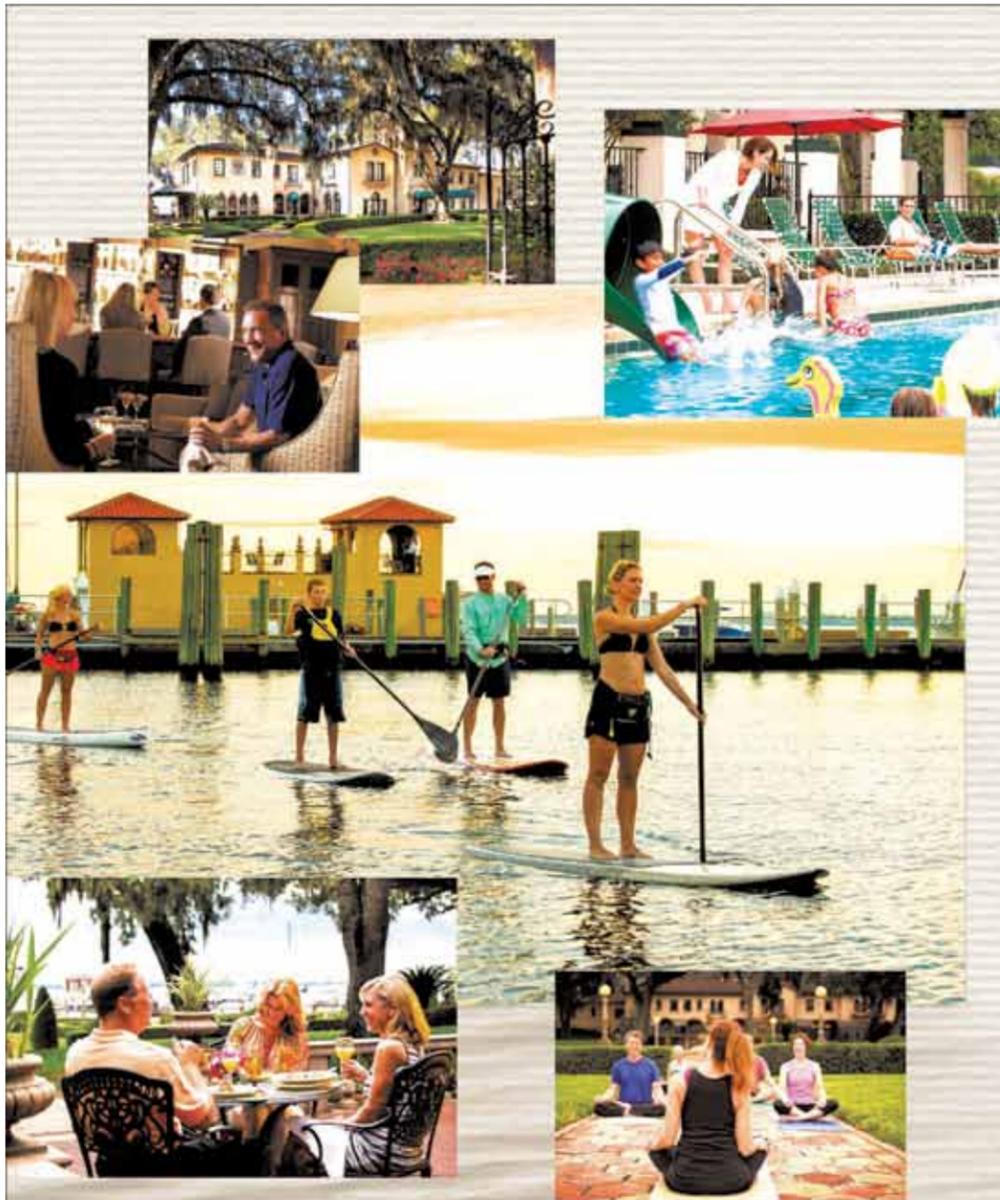
said JTA Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. "It is a reflection of the market's high level of confidence and trust in JTA's leadership team and solid financial position."

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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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.

Pajcic & Pajcic has nine AV rated "preeminent" attorneys and is one of the few firms on Martindale-Hubbell's list of Top Ranked Law Firms in the Southeastern United States to receive the perfect 5.0 rating in client satisfaction.



Brand new Southbank Riverwalk to open

BY GREG WALSH
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Get out the ticker tape and blow up the balloons, the City of Jacksonville is planning to celebrate the reopening of its iconic Southbank Riverwalk.

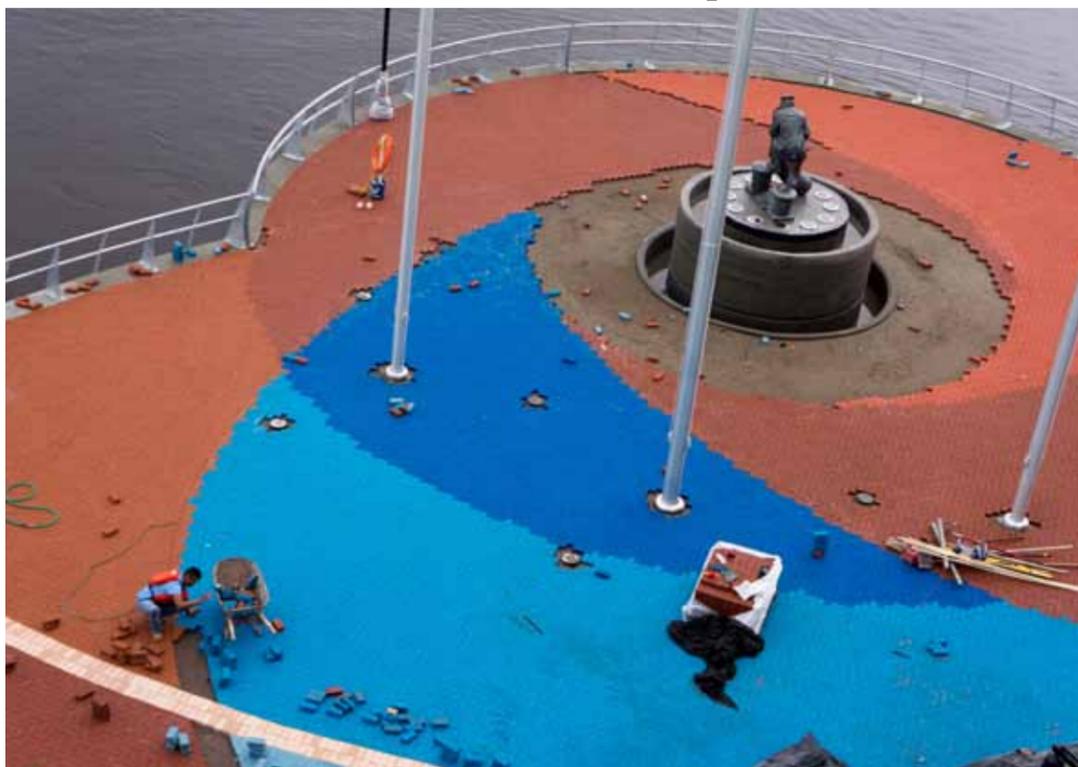
Although a precise date was not available by press time, city officials anticipate an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on the new concrete walkway would likely be held the second or third week of February.

Details about the new Riverwalk include:

- Full length is 1-1/4 mile
- It varies in width from 12 feet to as much as 90 feet wide in some locations
- The project, contracted to Haskell Co., remains on budget at \$17 million
- Approximately 6,346 cubic yards of concrete was used in the project
- Locations for the river taxi pick-up/drop-off spots was still being determined

In addition, when asked whether the final project matched an artist's conception of the Riverwalk, including unique shade sails and creative lighting, Debbie Delgado, the city's public communications officer, offered the following response:

"The reflectivity illustrated within the artist renderings of the shade sails properly depicts the intended night-time illumination through a highly reflective, Teflon shade material. This material will



Workers make progress on a portion of the new Southbank Riverwalk, slated to open this month.

stand up to the diversity of elements and exposure to the weather as a river side development. While offering a sculptural daytime shade system, with integrated seating, these "sails" will provide a "screen" for a multitude of color up-lights. They can respond to City activities such as the Jaguar games (teal lighting), Florida/Georgia games (various school colors) and provide an element of energy through night lighting.

"The pavers are multi-colored and the pattern depicted within the illustrations

matches the pattern in the intended design. The illustrations again depict an evening atmosphere and are artistically enhanced to illustrate various site lighting, i.e., up-lighting, color LED lighting, pedestrian lighting.

"The design intent is to create an activated destination through lighting, color, paver pattern design, which all lend itself to a riverfront destination opportunity. The movement within the paver patterns reflects the constant movement of the St. John's River."

Construction of the all new Riverwalk began in September 2013. It replaces the original version, built of wooden planks in the 1980s. Over time the planks and support structures began to decay and eventually forced city officials to close sections out of concerns for public safety.

District 4 Councilman Don Redman, who was injured in a bicycling accident on the Riverwalk in 2009, previously said he's hopeful the Southbank Riverwalk will be as popular as the Northbank version.

Stretching from the Museum of Science and History to the Duval County Public Schools

building, the walkway will feature 53,000 square feet of colored brick pavers, new steel guardrails and improved lighting, such as LED light poles and illumination in the walkway itself.

A related event is the Southbank Call to Artists contest. Daniel Austin of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville said a winning artist will be chosen by the Riverwalk's re-opening, however, the project itself may not necessarily be finished by that date.

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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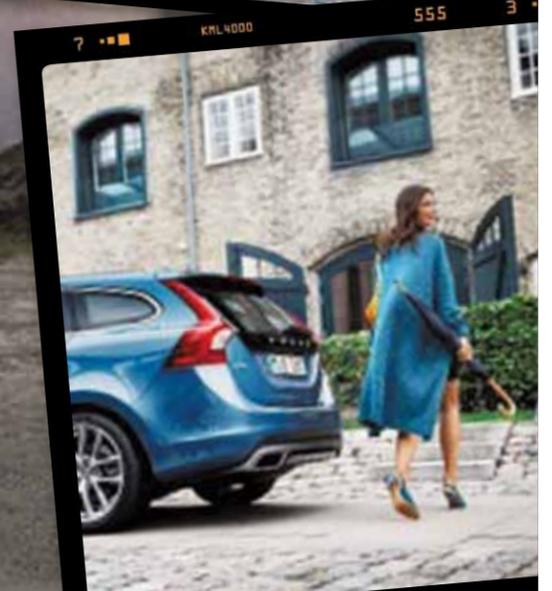
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San Marco neighborhoods first to jump at traffic calming option

BY KATE A. HALLOCK AND GREG WALSH
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Not too long after District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer's legislation for residential opt-ins for speed reductions was passed, several neighborhoods met last month to start the process for 20 mph limits on their streets.

Boyer held four town hall meetings in January to get a feel for speed reductions in at least four San Marco neighborhoods.

To begin the process of changing the neighborhood speed limit residents must circulate petitions and get a minimum of 75 percent of the affected property owners to support it. According to the ordinance (2014-666), once the petition is completed, City of Jacksonville Public Works Department will send an invoice to the neighborhood for 50 percent of the estimated costs.

Also upon receipt of the petition, an engineering and traffic investigation will be conducted to determine if the speed limit reduction is reasonable. If it is so determined, Public Works will install new speed limit signs and the lower speed limit will go into effect. Once the reduced speed limit signs are installed JSO would likely monitor traffic every couple of months, Boyer said.

At the meetings, along with Boyer, were Jim Robinson, director of public works; Bill Joyce, chief of engineering and construction management; John Pappas, operations director, and Nelson Caparas, the City's new traffic engineer.

At each meeting Boyer polled the audiences, ranging from a dozen in one to more than 30 in another, to get a sense of the level of approval for lower speed limits. While more than the majority attending were in support, when it comes time to circulating petitions the first hurdle is for a resident to take ownership of the process.

Other options have drawbacks

Reducing the speed limit to 20 mph was the choice of most Lakewood, Pinetree and Northwood road residents attending a traffic calming meeting. Alternative actions

discussed included installing asphalt speed humps or putting up stop signs along Lakewood to slow drivers, but those options had their drawbacks.

Everyone agreed, however, that action is needed to avoid a traffic-related tragedy. "We have long straightaways (on Lakewood). People think they are on the interstate!" one resident said.

"We've had dogs killed; kids nearly hit on bikes," another resident said.

The reduced speed limit signs cost \$200 each. They would be placed near where Northwood, Pinetree and Lakewood connect to Hendricks Avenue and where Lakewood intersects with San Jose Boulevard, Boyer said.

After earlier informal discussions with some residents, Public Works officials came to the January community meeting with a plan for speed humps. Installing seven speed humps in the neighborhood would cost a total of \$12,600. The city would split the cost, with the property owners on the three roads deciding how to split up and pay their share.

Northwood Road resident Stephen Morgan said he liked the speed hump idea but only if it could be painted and landscaped and more decorative sign posts used. "I am for the speed hump idea but I can't stand the signs," he said.

However, several residents felt the warning signs required on each side of the speed hump by the city would still diminish property values. Others also disliked the bright white arrows that would be painted on the roadway alerting drivers and that the speed humps would get so close to the curb they might diminish storm water runoff.

A recent traffic survey by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office found the neighborhood has brief periods of heavy traffic, usually afternoon commuters attempting to avoid backups on Hendricks Avenue. Between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. the area had a high of 77 cars per hour and low of 60 cars, with the top speed reaching 46 mph in a neighborhood posted at 30 mph.

Stops signs where Northwood and Pinetree meet Lakewood are not an option, Boyer said, because drivers would soon learn they could ignore them.

Try it and see

Boyer also noted at each meeting that starting with reduced speed limits was a positive, relatively low cost trial approach to traffic calming. "We will evaluate it," she said, "and come up with Plan B if this doesn't work."

While she hopes that 20 mph speed limits will move traffic off residential streets and on to main roads, Robinson

cautioned that posting new limits may give a false sense of security to pedestrians and bicyclists. "Only the level of enforcement will make an impact," he stated.

Pappas concurred. "All it will take is to get a couple of speeding tickets at the beginning of the year and it will fix it for the rest of the year."

Should all go according to plan, once the speed limits are reduced, online maps will eventually pick up on the lower limits and factor them into travel times, which will ultimately encourage drivers to avoid neighborhood streets.

Boyer proposes new Class A offense enforceable by citation

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

An amendment to Ordinance Code Chapter 804 – Traffic Code – is good news for motorists, but perhaps not-so-good news for homeowners situated on corner lots or on curves with a significant amount of street-side landscaping.

Last month District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer introduced legislation that would make traffic visibility obstruction a non-criminal offense punishable by the City of Jacksonville as a Class A offense (resulting in a \$25 fine or 10 days in jail or both), or punishable under state or federal law pertaining to operation of vehicles.

Bill 2015-6 will also amend Ordinance Code 609 – Code Enforcement Citations – to add "obstruction visibility" as an offense enforceable by citation by the Code Enforcement Division.

Currently visibility obstruction offenses (for example, bushes growing on private property in an intersection view zone) are enforced by the Sheriff's Office issuing a traffic ticket. This bill would make such offenses punishable by means of a civil citation issued by Code Enforcement in addition to a JSO traffic ticket.

Good for motorists

Many homeowners prefer the roadside privacy created by tall, dense shrubs or trees – such as pines that grow low to the ground – but they can present a road hazard for drivers trying to determine if the road ahead is clear.

The ordinance indicates that nothing can be placed temporarily or permanently within 25 feet of an intersection that would obstruct motorists' visibility. That includes bushes, trees and hedges, as well as signs, pennants and banners, which can obstruct a motorist's line of sight when approaching an intersection or traversing a curve in the road.

As of press time, the bill was ready for Council vote.

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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. It began airing on WJCT-TV on Jan.

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.

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.

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DOWNTOWN HAPPENINGS

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.

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.

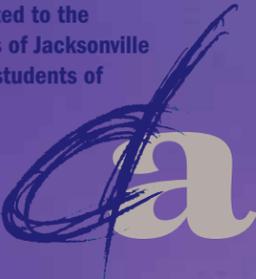
"The café is only the first phase of amenities to be added to the park; we're looking forward to becoming part of downtown's culinary experience," said Vincent Cavin, Friends of Hemming Park executive director.

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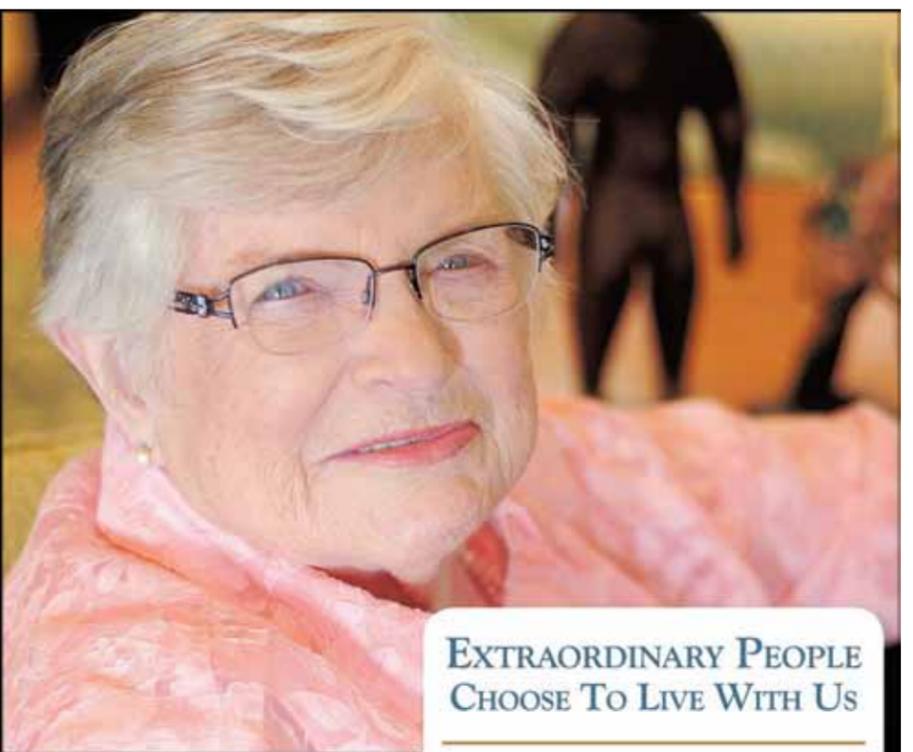
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Hen raising program gets review this year

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 city's 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.



A total of 300 permits were issued by the city for the pilot program.

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



Chicken pen in Dennis Glasscock's backyard on Orlando Circle.

An outspoken supporter of the legislation, San Marco resident Dennis Glasscock was so excited about the idea he received the second of the 300 permits issued.

"I certainly hope after this year's review we still have a hen ordinance. I like know where my food comes from," said Glasscock.

Getting started in the hen-raising business was as easy as using Craigslist, where Glasscock found "the ladies" for sale. Start-up costs totaled several hundred dollars for the coop, feed and related materials, but once he got it established upkeep has proven relatively easy, he said.

"I have been using the deep litter method in the coop, so when I clean it out I have fertilizer for my raised bed tomatoes and peppers," he said. "Since

the hens were nearly grown when I got them, they aren't exactly pets. Several evenings a week I let them out into our backyard. They chase bugs and eat weeds. They also provide entertainment and as it gets dark they put themselves to bed."

He gets four to five eggs per day and shares them with friends as the supply builds up.

"The eggs actually have flavor," he said. "Keeping hens requires very little work, they need feed and water and fresh bedding and a safe coop."

Visit www.coj.net, click on Departments and then Planning and Development for more details.

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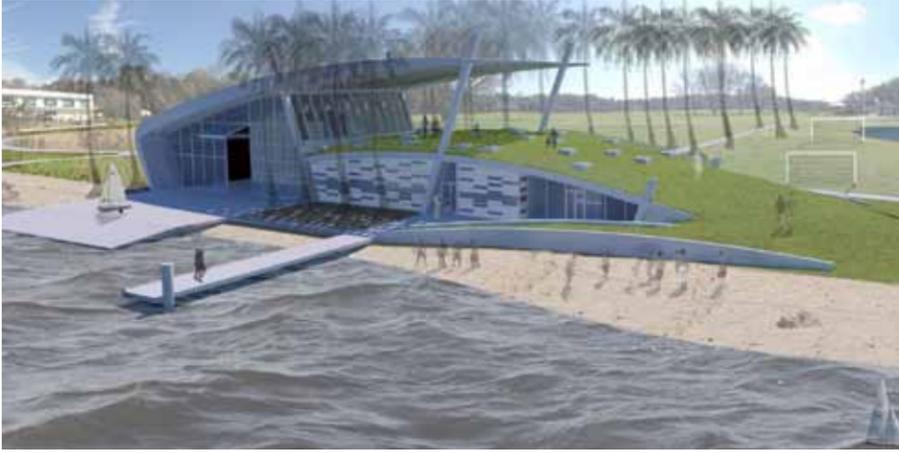
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JU coach envisions multi-use facility along St. Johns



Artist's conception provided by Jon Faudree

Unique structure would promote river, local watersports

BY GREG WALSH
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

When sailing coach Jon Faudree arrived at Jacksonville University two years ago he was struck by how little the St. John's River was utilized by the school.

Undeterred and committed to growing a successful sailing program, Faudree told an architect friend about the situation and encouraged him to design a structure that not only would benefit the university's watersports programs but be environmentally sound and have multiple uses.

"I talked to this architect friend of mine and he came back with this amazing drawing," Faudree said of New Jersey architect Quinn Schwenker. "It really ties very well together."

The sailing coach with 23 years of experience said he was struck when he arrived at JU how "nobody was really taking advantage of this waterfront and great piece of property."

With only five team members and poorly conditioned boats, Faudree reached

out to several campus officials including President Tim Cost and immediately got a positive response. That led to a structure originally conceived as just a sailboat storage and meeting site blossoming into a centerpiece for all recreational activities on campus.

"He right away saw what I was trying to build, and how important something like this could be, not just for the sailing team but in general," Faudree said. "He said, 'You want to bring the water to the campus, I want to bring the campus to the water.'"

The coach's enthusiasm for the project is evident, Cost said.

"We are extremely proud of our outstanding and growing sailing program, and are fortunate to have the dynamic leadership of Coach Faudree. We are always looking for ways to enhance the academic and experiential environment for our students, and the St. John's River waterfront is one of the natural places for us to focus these efforts."

A key part of the building for Faudree is that it must be environmentally friendly. The latest design has a metal roof over a grassy seating area capturing rainwater for redistribution; some electrical current used there may be generated by river current, he said.

The \$6 million facility – a mixture

of storage, banquet and meeting rooms, and outdoor training center – would be entirely funded through private donations and be built on land once used for the college golf course.

Faudree said the goal is to have construction begin in 2016 and be completed within a year – well before JU is tentatively scheduled to host the college sail boating championships in 2020.

In just two years, the sailing team has gone from five to 25 members and is rising quickly in its conference standings. The proposed facility, which would store up to 36 boats and gear, is seen as a key part of continuing that growth, he said.

But his hope is to grow interest in the river. Once completed, the structure "will be a gateway to the community. The goal is to have community access to the waterfront," he said. "We want to get everybody excited about the water and to promote watersports."

"My goal is in 10 years to be able to look out onto the river and have 100 people on it paddleboarding, surfboarding, wind surfing and sailing."

The project also ties in nicely with recently announced plans to look into the feasibility of a city aquarium at the former Shipyards site. Faudree says he's gotten good feedback about the idea and is already getting some assistance with creating promotional materials from JU.

For more information, email Faudree at jfaudree@ju.edu or call (339) 309-9213.

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 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.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Regions Bank declares winner in San Marco

The green bicycles at area Regions Bank locations catch the eye of consumers. So much so that San Marco resident and local banking customer Doretta Stevens always joked about owning the bike while visiting her local branch.

“Every few months – and this has probably been a year and a half – I would tease them about the bike...so about three weeks ago, maybe a month, they were having a raffle.” Stevens continued with a grin, “I said, that’s my bike so I’ll just do this as a formality, so I put in for the raffle.”

As bank leadership prepped for the contest, local Branch Manager and Vice President Scott Wohlers was rooting for Stevens. “Every time she comes in she says, ‘When are you going to give me a bike?’” shared Wohlers. “I’ve gotten to know her, she comes into the branch regularly and I was just ecstatic when I drew her name out as the winner.”

It was poetic justice that Stevens turned out to be the winner of the bicycle, after having focused her attention on it for quite some time. The contest reached far beyond the local San Marco



Regions Bank staff member Leanna Runge, Regions Vice President and Branch Manager Scott Wohlers, Doretta Stevens and her mother Evelyn Woodard, Regions Senior Vice President and Jacksonville City President Franklin Danley and Regions staff member Jacqueline Gargiulo

branch at 1600 Hendricks Avenue, as members of every branch in the area were eligible for the giveaway. One branch would ultimately be the location for the giveaway and San Marco was chosen for the announcement. The bank is located at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Lasalle Street in San Marco.

Memorial Hospital unit focuses on senior mental health

Memorial Hospital is now offering expanded inpatient psychiatric care at a new 14-bed unit in the hospital. The Senior Pavilion is staffed with physicians specially trained in geriatric medicine and can treat behavioral health disorders in older adults, the hospital said in a news release.

The pavilion provides patients daily sessions with a psychiatrist, group and individual sessions, family therapy, medication management and 24-hour nursing care for seniors who are suffering from stress, depression, life trauma and

aging and transitional coping issues.

“Mental illness is extremely common for seniors who are dealing with the stresses of aging, illness and grief,” said Dr. Anika Forbes, The Senior Pavilion medical director. “By offering this specialized level of care, we are able to meet a growing community need and help patients improve their quality of life.”

The hospital also offers a comprehensive outpatient geriatric behavioral program. Visit www.memorialhospitaljax.com for details.

Aubin joins Children’s Hospital Association board



Wolfson Children’s Hospital of Jacksonville President Michael D. Aubin has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Children’s Hospital Association.

“I look forward to serving on the Children’s Hospital Association’s Board of Trustees and working on solutions to our common challenges in improving health care for children, and the health and well-being of children in the North Florida and South Georgia region and across the country,” said Aubin.

A longtime child advocate, Aubin has served as board president for the Florida Association of Children’s

Hospitals (FACH), and serves as chair of its Advocacy Committee. He has been a member of the CHA’s Medicaid Reform Steering Committee, its Executive Steering Committee, and the Leadership Committee on Advocacy and Policy. In March, Aubin was named the “R. David and I. Lorraine Thomas Child Advocate of the Year” by the Children’s Home Society of Florida, Buckner Division, in Jacksonville.

The Children’s Hospital Association advances child health through innovation in the quality, cost and delivery of care. Representing more than 220 children’s hospitals, the Association is the voice of children’s hospitals nationally.



Chokshi named chief of ophthalmology

San Marco resident Amit Chokshi, a board certified ophthalmologist, was chosen by his peers as chief of ophthalmology at Baptist Medical Center. He is one of the youngest chosen for that position. Dr. Chokshi, a graduate of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, has been in practice for 15 years.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Multi-cultural describes Julia's Salon

When Julia Leggett talks about her Hendricks Avenue hair salon she quickly points out to visitors the salon's multi-cultural connections and wide appeal.

"We are a multi-cultural salon," Leggett says of Julia's Salon, 4426 Hendricks Ave. "We have stylists here from Venezuela, Albania, Peru ... I also have a lot of ethnic training and teach classes for that."

The salon, which has seven stylists, is also in a part of an area that Leggett has fallen in love with. The South Carolina native with more than 20 years of styling experience says she couldn't be happier being in San Jose's Miramar Shopping Center. "I moved into this area because it is so family oriented and accepting. I just love it here," she said.

Haircut prices include \$11 for children under 11, \$15 for men and \$17



for women. Stylists there also do a variety of advanced hair styling and coloring techniques, said Leggett, who may look familiar to some who see her on a local access TV program called "First Coast Craze."

The salon is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Call (904) 744-7426 for information.

Attorney, community volunteer recognized by Legal Aid

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid recognized attorney and community volunteer Robert Spohrer, Southbank resident, as the 2014 Equal Justice Award recipient at the 16th Annual Robert J. Beckham Equal Justice Awards Celebration on Jan. 21.

Spohrer, Senior Partner at Spohrer & Dodd, PL, and long-time community volunteer and advocate for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid received the award for his dedication to advancing JALA's mission of providing social and economic justice for the poor and marginalized.

In practice for over 40 years, Spohrer is a past Board Chair of HandsOn Jacksonville, currently serves as the Board Chair of Southern Legal Counsel, and was appointed to the JAXPORT Board of Directors in August 2012.



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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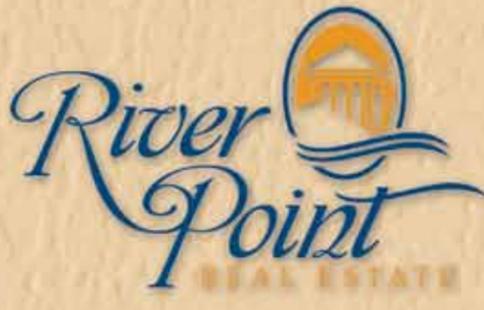


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Peterbrooke Chocolatier factory moving from San Marco

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."

Although the factory is leaving San Marco, Peterbrooke Chocolatier's retail store there will remain open, he said.



Taylor Residences staff and visitors dedicate the adult daycare facility.

Taylor Manor opens adult daycare wing

Taylor Residences in San Marco recently opened a new adult daycare facility in its Barber Wellness Center. The state-of-the-art facility located at its Chester Avenue campus will provide up to 18 seniors with medications, meals, physical and mental stimulation, health monitoring and society activities.

Opened in 1963, Taylor Residences

provides independent and assisted living, skilled nursing, home health care and a full-time medical clinic at both its campuses. The wellness center was dedicated in June and includes offices of Baptist Primary Care, and Taylor home health care, Taylor adult day care and Taylor therapy and fitness gym.

Visit www.taylor-residences.org for details.

Italian clothing items sold at Alessandra's Clothing



Alessandra Gage knows a thing or two about Italian clothing. After all, she's Italian! And she also ran a clothing shop in her native Italy before immigrating to the United States three years ago.

Alessandra's Clothing, 10210 San Jose Blvd., offers shoppers an opportunity to browse for fine ladies clothing as well as accessories, including jewelry, shoes, scarves, watches and cellphone cases. The same clothing items are available in Atlanta, Miami and Italy but Gage offers them at a lower price.

Awash in her favorite color, pink, and adorned with large chandeliers and oversized mirrors, Alessandra's

Clothing is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information call (904) 327-4310 or visit www.facebook.com and search for Alessandra's Clothing.



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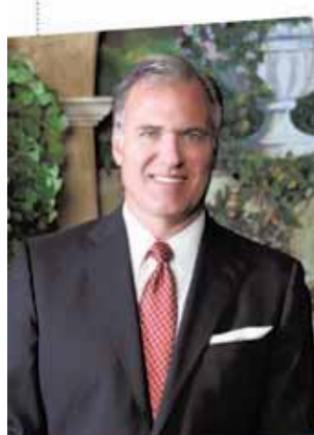
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A gathering of appreciation, arts education



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



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



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



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

Taste of Haiti raises funds to run

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 all of CRUDEM's administrative and fundraising costs, so every single donated penny goes to Haiti."

Sandy and Rev. Christopher Martin, John Godfrey, Harriet Lovejoy



Jane Condon, Ca

Suzanne Perritt, Pat Jamison



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



Libba McKinnon, Sue and John Mazur



Jane Still, Jane Willis, Dr. Bob Still, Gloria Rinaman



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Cynthia Trimmer, Francine Palmeri, Yaima Coto

Best-selling author speaker at JALA celebration

Bryan Stevenson, a 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.

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.



Jerry and Kathy Weedon



Marianna Smith and Wayne Hogan

Garden Club hosts "Who dun it?" mystery dinner



Seated, Debbie and Mike Keller; Bob and Margaret Schumacher

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.

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



Members of the Mystery Night cast



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

Karen and Buddy McCombs, Greg and Elise Nowikowski




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60 years of marriage and positive influence

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jeanette Ferrell of St. Nicholas, along with her siblings Nancy, Connie and Tracy, celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of parents Benny and Sarah Bateh in December. The Batehs have lived 55 years in their St. Nicholas family home and Ferrell's home is nearby.

Benny, 80, and Sarah, 75, are both from Ramallah, Palestine, grew up here and met at Memorial Park on Riverside Avenue. They fell in love and married in December 1954 at Assumption Catholic Church. Their children and grandchildren all attended Assumption Catholic School and Bishop Kenny High School.

"My mother grew up in Riverside near Boone Park, attended Fishweir Elementary and graduated from FSCJ. Dad's father fought in WWI and they settled in Jacksonville when he was 13. My parents had six children, two sons are now deceased. They love their two grandchildren, my daughter Elizabeth Schneider, 23, and my son Max Schneider, 21, plus their two grand-dogs – my sisters' English Setters Ginger and Riley, who my parents always want to dog-sit," Ferrell said.

The Batehs see no reason to retire and both continue to work with family helping when needed, at Benny's Sandwich Shop. The downtown breakfast and lunch shop is on Forsyth Street in the old Atlantic Bank Building vault.

"My father is a self-made success. He operated Brentwood Food Market with

his brother John from 1954 to 1984, then retired, which only lasted one year. He opened Benny's Sandwich Shop in 1985 and in May 2015 he will celebrate 30 years there. Benny's is known for my mother's cooking and baking, especially her homemade tabbouleh, hummus, soups, pastries and baklava," Ferrell said.

Benny is a regular at the Beaver Street Farmer's Market where he likes to personally select the produce for his restaurant. He closely follows the stock market and world events during free time.

The couple are members of the Ramallah Club of Jacksonville and Assumption Catholic Church.

They support the Multiple Sclerosis Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association and the Jacksonville Humane Society. They enjoy attending family reunions or having dinner with family and friends. Benny tells everyone that Sarah is the most wonderful wife anyone could ever have, Ferrell stated.

"It's amazing how independent and hard-working they still are at their ages. They just keep going strong...they enjoy picnics and one of their favorite places

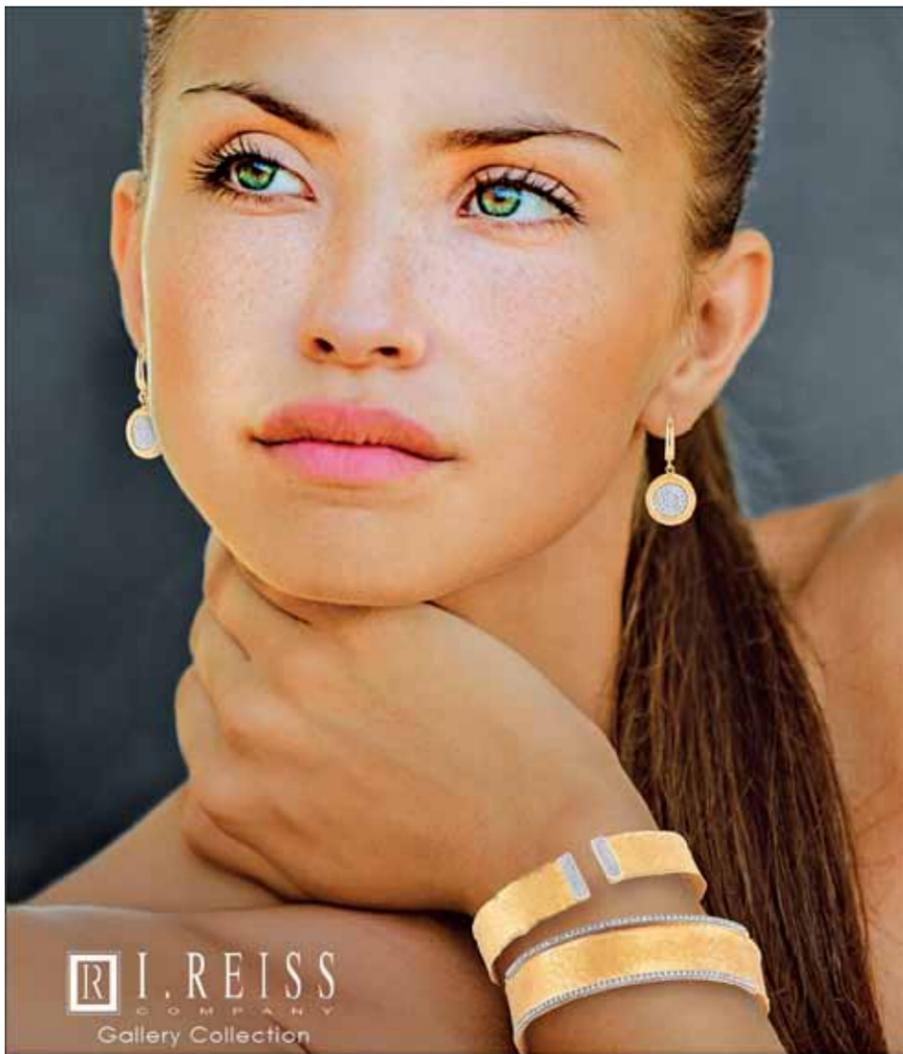


has always been the Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine,

which is interesting!" Ferrell said. "I asked mother how they managed such a long marriage and working together. She said patience is the most important thing...it also helps to ignore small annoyances and that she always tries

to find what they can agree on."

The Batehs base their lives on faith, prayer, family and hard work, Ferrell said. Those closest to them realize that as they celebrated the couple's 60 years of marriage they actually celebrated much more. The example set by Benny and Sarah Bateh for their children and grandchildren and the positive influence they have had on those around them will be remembered long after they are gone.



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The Resident's Top 10 Reasons

Why We Love Our Community

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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 Southside, along the banks of the St. Johns River. From San Marco to St. Nicholas, Christopher Point to Point La Vista and points in between, they 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 The 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.

#3 Rich History

Present-day St. Nicholas could be, arguably, the oldest of our neighborhoods with its origins dating back to the 1783 Fort San Nicolas. A century later some of the parcels in that area were established as South Jacksonville, and then in 1925

ground was broken for the San Marco development on more than 80 acres of the former estate, Villa Alexandria. The San Marco Preservation Society, formed in 1975, promotes historic preservation, cares for our tree canopies, helps city planners to execute smart growth, develops pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, and encourages civic pride.

#4 The River

The St. Johns River is often times considered our greatest asset, along which many homes and businesses are fortunate to reside. There are also many smaller creeks and tributaries that provide pleasure for kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, fishing and enjoying wildlife. We love that the Rising Tides, a group of community-minded advocates from area schools, regularly come out to clean our waterways. The best part of our waterway is that you can sneak out to an access point on the St. Johns for a minute of meditation, to throw a line or to embrace a loved one during a stunning sunset (which we relish in each day).

#5 Arts and Entertainment

Twice a year, in the spring and late fall, San Marco Square comes alive with artists of every medium, drawing crowds from throughout the region, while welcoming artists to town. For film buffs, don't forget about the San Marco Theatre, a 1938 art deco cinema that shows current movies while you eat, drink and enjoy the flick. Theatre Jacksonville helps provide acting camps and encourages theatrical excellence; it has continued to draw crowds since 1919. One must also mention the close proximity to the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, a great asset to the local neighborhoods.



There are countless places, from fast casual to haute cuisine, to fine food and beverages sure to please the palate, no matter what your taste. Many of the craft cocktail spots, wine bars and hookah lounges mingle well with restaurants serving plates of tacos, gravy-draped biscuits, seared steaks and other seafood offerings native to North Florida, to name a few. Many of our best 'hot spots' are owned and operated by people who live in our neighborhoods, which makes their reviews and reputations that much more important. The merchants help set the tone of participation in community and their collective efforts make our area an outstanding (along with your support!) place to call home.

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Gerhard Richter, Untitled, 1966, acrylic on canvas. Collection of Preston H. Haskell. Photograph courtesy of Douglas J. Eng. © 2015 Gerhard Richter.

#6 Retail Therapy

San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas are more than a destination, they provide a unique sense of place that brings people back to our city, creating a lasting impression. If you ask someone if they've been to San Marco, chances are they recall the Lions Fountain and the experience of shopping in the Square and surrounding areas on Hendricks and Kings Avenues. Not only does San Marco Square provide a place to relax and enjoy events, but area thoroughfares host custom tailors, consignment shops, jewelers and everything in between. From relaxed fashions to gala gowns, outdoor outfitters to galleries and art houses, you can certainly find what you'll need to make life interesting. That brings us to...



#8 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. In addition to traditional houses of worship, yoga studios and holistic healing houses are also in great abundance throughout our neighborhoods so residents can escape the bustle of the day.

#9 Health Care Excellence

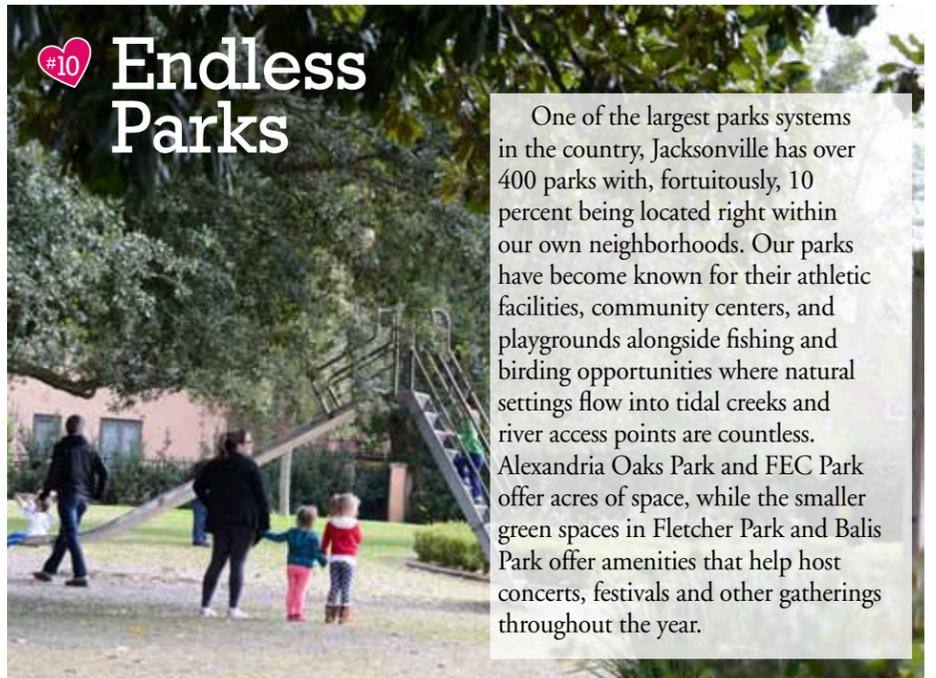
We are fortunate to have several major medical centers in Jacksonville and best of all, right in our own backyard. Baptist Health, Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours all dot the south bank of the river. This year, Baptist Health celebrates 60 years and we love that it is a leader in medical technology, investing in life-saving, life-enhancing equipment and procedures. More than anything else, our pediatric care is a top-notch asset in the region.

#7 Economic Growth

Although it's not as romantic to talk about, economic growth is an essential portion of what we love about our community. Despite the setbacks of the recent recession, homes in the historic districts fared better than other parts of the city and throughout the state, in many cases. As businesses continue to dot our landscape, the importance of smart planning and growth continue to be a focal point of our leaders. As residents, we appreciate good food, great shopping and excellent products and services close to home. That's why we're continuing to see plans unveil on the development of the Southbank and continued talks for a Publix-anchored development adjacent to the San Marco Square. Kudos for the hardworking residents that continue to support our area businesses and continue to shop local!

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#10 Endless Parks



One of the largest parks systems in the country, Jacksonville has over 400 parks with, fortuitously, 10 percent being located right within our own neighborhoods. Our parks have become known for their athletic facilities, community centers, and playgrounds alongside fishing and birding opportunities where natural settings flow into tidal creeks and river access points are countless. Alexandria Oaks Park and FEC Park offer acres of space, while the smaller green spaces in Fletcher Park and Balis Park offer amenities that help host concerts, festivals and other gatherings throughout the year.

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Nellie – The best dog in the world

Submitted by Susan Galant

Editor's Note: This unsolicited story was timely for this issue about love because, truly, there's nothing that says unconditional love than a pet. This dog just happened to be a hero, too!



Exiting my car in the driveway with an arm full of groceries, I heard the familiar sound of power tools in the backyard. There was a loud crack as I entered the garage, and I assumed my 'Bob the Builder' husband had finally gotten around to trimming that tree. I walked to the back of the house and surveyed the yard to find it quiet and still. Glancing around, I found my husband with his head beneath the kitchen sink

attacking another item on his list. With the saw still buzzing in the distance, I guessed my equally industrious neighbor was busy outside. We, however, were closed up tight on this cold, gray January day, so I had to tip my hat to my neighbor diligently working in the cold weather. What I didn't know is that in the time it took me to walk through the garage and into the house, a man had fallen at least 15 feet from the top of a ladder, fracturing his skull, crushing his sternum, ribs and collarbone. Our best guess is that he laid unconscious on the deck for a time, because all was quiet in the house and yard, except for the low hum of a gas trimmer. The trimmer had fallen to the ground below the deck, stubbornly running, giving the illusion of a man at work.

Groceries put away, I settled in with a book by the fire and my dog, Nellie, at my feet. My husband continued to work on the project at hand. All at once Nellie stood at attention and howled, a bellowing sound reserved

for danger or alarm. Her hair raised up along the ridge of her back and she ran for the door. When I say she motioned us over, it is no exaggeration. Upon opening the door, she dashed for the fence and we could now hear our neighbor desperately, but weakly, calling for help. His strength was draining and he was badly hurt. The rest of the story unfolded as you might expect, a phone call to rescue, and glorious help on the way.

Truth be known, my husband and I always thought we had the best dog in the world from the first day we brought her home from the Humane Society, and now we know the rescue door swings both ways. So the next time you consider expanding your family by four legs, consider adopting a pet from a shelter. The life you save may not just be the animal's, it very well may be your own, or even the guy next door!

With our neighbor safe in the hands of rescue, getting the help he needed, I decided to go back to the store. You guessed it – dog treats!



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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 archaeological 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



Susan Caven

to interpret 19th century women's history.

According to San Marco resident Susan Caven, the archaeological dig will be the Ximenez-Fatio House

Museum's signature event in St. Augustine's 450th anniversary. "The Dames are delighted to participate in St. Augustine's 450th celebration. Our museum is such an integral part of the City's history," she said. "The location was considered a prime lot on the oldest platted street in America, so America's first buildings were built on our site."

The project is designed to provide archaeologists with a rare chance to see what had been buried under the property since the earlier dig located behind the

main house which produced the renowned Caravaca Cross. Halbrit found the cross buried underneath an old trash pit during a 2002 dig. The cross is believed to have become popular in the 17th century to celebrate the end of the plague.

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

"What makes our museum so special and unique is that each room has a different story to tell. The archaeological dig will show that our property holds exciting tales about our past," said Caven, a

current member and past-president of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Florida (NSCDA-FL). "Opening this dig to the public fulfills the Society's primary mission, which is conserving and sharing America's fascinating history."

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.

Programs help nurture nonprofit culture

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 Schmoosa-Palooza – what the organization refers to as "speed dating and training" with fund development professionals.

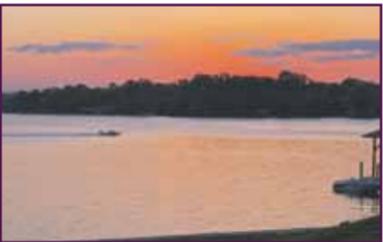
Despite a tone of sarcasm in the name, there was a serious climate in the meeting room at the River Club on Jan. 21. Lessons being taught by veteran fundraising, development and training professionals may prove to be a part of the success of the nonprofit sector in Jacksonville and the greater Northeast Florida region.

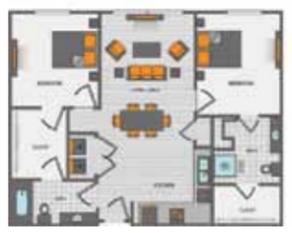
Fortunately, in Northeast Florida, this active chapter helps to nurture the habits, behaviors and conduct of its members in order to properly approach donors. The many lessons taught by the trainers help to teach the less experienced nonprofit staffers



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.

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.

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FT Upcoming Events



Comedian Howie Mandel
 Thursday, February 19 at 8:00 PM
 Comedian and Actor Howie Mandel has done it all over his 30+ year career, movies, TV, animated series, stand-up and game show host/judge.

The Piano Guys
 Friday, February 6 at 8:00 PM
 The Piano Guys became an Internet sensation by way of their immensely successful series of strikingly original self-made music videos including One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful."

The Time Jumpers
 Vince Gill, Kenny Sears and Ranger Doug Green
 Saturday, February 7 at 8:00 PM
 Comprised of some of the best studio and touring musicians in Nashville as yet another opportunity to play music on their off evenings.

Celebrity Chef
Alton Brown- Edible Inevitable Tour
 Sunday, February 8 at 7:00 PM
 Famed Chef Alton Brown brings his brand of quirky humor and culinary-science antics to the stage.

Diana Ross
 Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 PM
 One of the last true superstars, DIANA ROSS is the recipient of 8 American Music Awards, a Tony Award and is a Golden Globe Award Winner.

Jazz Piano
Marcus Roberts Trio
 Friday, February 20 at 8:00 PM
 He has worked with Bela Fleck, Elvin Jones (drummer for the John Coltrane Quartet), and Wynton Marsalis, playing on 10 of his recordings.

Full Rock Symphony
Dennis DeYoung and the Music of STYX
 Saturday, February 21 at 8:00 PM
 In this rock symphony concert, 6 musicians join him on stage to perform eight of the band's Top 10 hits

CW's hit magic show
Masters of Illusion- Believe the Impossible
 Sunday, February 22 at 7:00 PM
 Astounds even the most jaded with its fast-paced sleight of hand experts, escape artists, comedy magicians, illusionists and more!

From the Broadway hit musical
Jersey Boys
The Midtown Men
 Wednesday, February 25 at 8:00 PM
 This sensational production reunites Four Stars from the Original Cast of Broadway's Jersey Boys.

Comedian
Wanda Sykes
 Thursday, February 26 at 8:00 PM
 Wanda earned an Emmy for writing on The Chris Rock Show.

Savion Glover's StePz
 Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 PM
 Tony Award winner for the Broadway show Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk

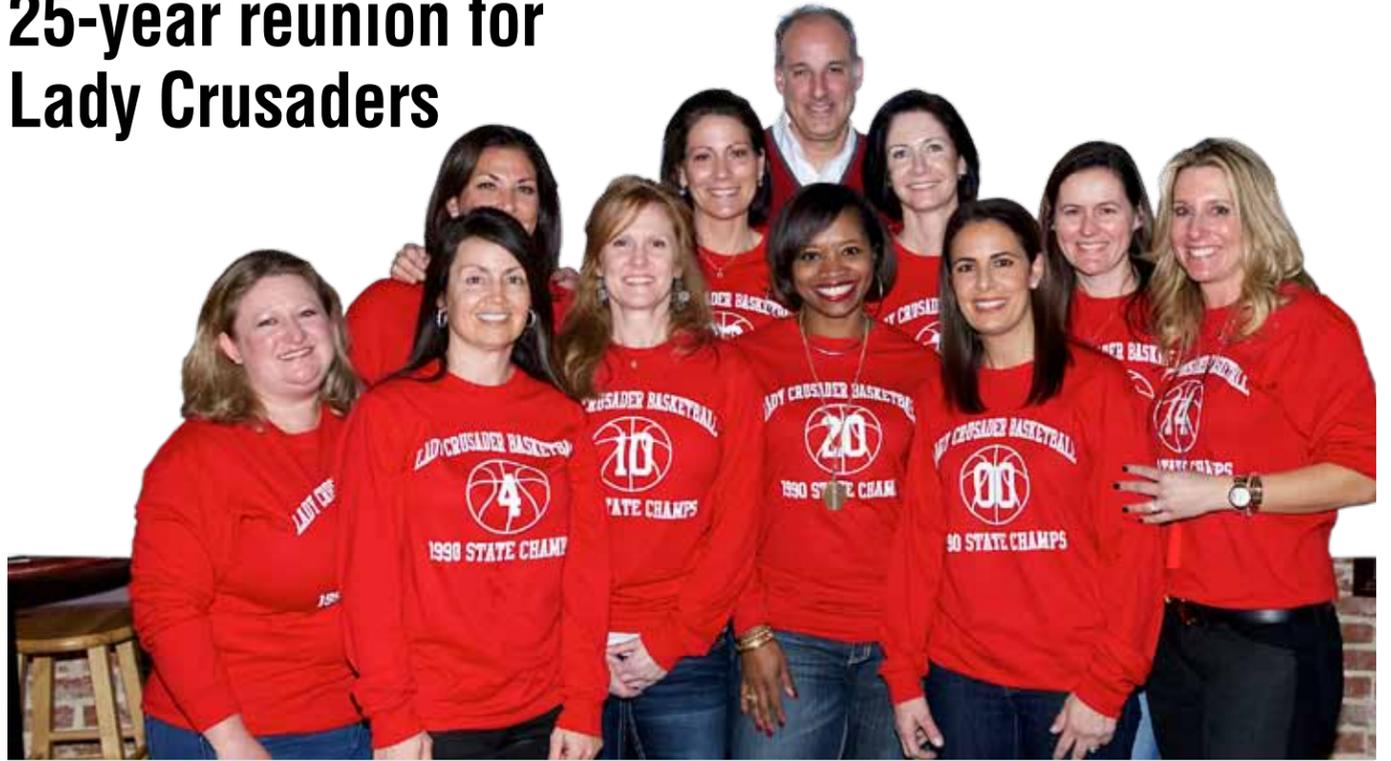
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25-year reunion for Lady Crusaders



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.



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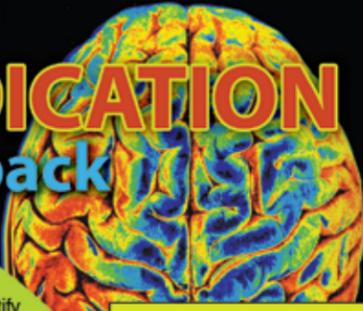
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Baptist Health offers new depression therapy

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."



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

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 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.

"You get to the 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."

~Ronald Rosener, patient

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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 price 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 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



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

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.

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MILLERS CREEK from page 1

how the taxing district board members were chosen, why a jetty and navigational aids must be maintained and how long the special taxing district will remain in effect.

Wilson said Wayne Flowers, an attorney working with residents to create the special taxing district, planned to address those questions and any others at a follow-up meeting on Jan. 28. If there are no lingering issues, Wilson said a final City Council vote on the legislation could come at the Feb. 10 meeting.

Neighborhood resident Jonathan Wright, a dredging supporter, says the time is long passed for it to be done.

“The headline, if you need it, is ‘Broke Down Creek,’” said Wright. “If nothing is done it will continue to back up and will continue to be stagnant.”

Millers Creek, which sits across from EverBank Field, is only about 1,000

feet long as it meanders toward Atlantic Boulevard. Records show the creek was last dredged around 1947 and that discussions occurred in the 1960s about cleaning out accumulating silt and vegetation blocking the waterway.

But the discussions never proved productive, even in 2009 when the City of Jacksonville had the creek listed as No. 2 on tributaries needing immediate dredging. The result is the creek has only about 2 feet of water and is essentially unusable to boaters except for a few hours per day during high tide.

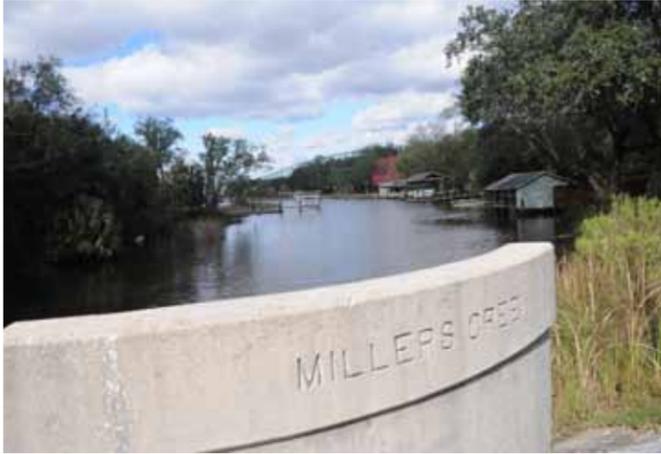
A resident of the area since 2002, Wright says he’s hopeful the taxing district can work quickly to get an engineering study that would provide cost estimates and firm timeline for the work. Such a study would cost about \$20,000, he said.

However, a preliminary review of the dredging by Taylor Engineering of Jacksonville indicates it would cost between

\$800,000 and \$1.5 million to take the creek’s primary channel to 5 feet deep, Wright said.

Ideally, the city could issue bonds for the dredging and use the annual tax collections to repay it over a 20- to 30-year period, Wright said.

Current cost estimates could be nearly half that amount if the dredging did not require a barge. It’s not clear, however, if the owner of property where trucks could load is willing to allow access, he noted.



In the meantime, more than 200 storm drains in the St. Nicholas area continue to dump sand and silt into the creek, Wright stated.

“You have people who have lived along the creek for 50 years and haven’t put one dime into it,” Wright said. “What we (supporters) all realized is that once people move here they don’t want to leave. This is a great neighborhood and a great place to live. We might as well have the creek the way it should be and accessible.”

Some residents previously expressed concern they couldn’t afford a higher property tax bill. But Wilson noted all homeowners living along the creek will likely see improved property values once the creek is dredged, allowing improved river access.

Wilson noted the special taxing district will fall in Councilwoman Lori Boyer’s district when redrawn City Council district lines take effect July 1.

Engaged citizenry recognized nationally

Despite oft-heard grumbling about nonresponsive government, the City of Jacksonville was recognized as one of just 18 city/county governments nationwide for its best practices in engaging citizens through customer service centers.

The Public Technology Institute (PTI) reviewed applications for excellence in several areas for their contact centers, including citizen participation processes, integrated communication channels, integrated technology, and performance reporting.

Jacksonville’s contact center, 630-CITY, received 1.3 million calls last year, and has worked with city departments to resolve more than 2.8 million service requests from Jacksonville residents since the center opened in 2000. In 2014, it marked serving its 5 millionth customer.

All 630-CITY services are available at the main customer service center located in the Ed Ball Building (214 N. Hogan St. – 32202) and at the information desk in City Hall (117 W. Duval St. – 32202). Residents can contact customer service at (904) 630-CITY (2489), by email at 630CITY@coj.net, or online at 630CITY.coj.net.

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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details contact Jeanette Yates, j.yates@
southsidemethodist.org, call (904)
396.2676 or visit www.southsidemethodist.
org and click on Youth Ministry.

Men's Garden Club

Mon., Feb. 2, 7 p.m., Garden Club of
Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.
Wayne Meyers, Master Rosarian, will speak
on "The Best Way to Care for Roses"
Open to the public. Contact Donn Elliott,
sweetwoodfarm@hotmail.com for details.

National Wear Red Day Happy Hour

Fri., Feb. 6, 5-7 p.m., BlackFinn
Ameripub, St. Johns Town Center, 4840
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Wear your red and enjoy drinks and
appetizers to benefit the American Heart
Association.

Let Our People Go

Sun., Feb. 8, 1 p.m., Congregation
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in Our World Today; free and open to the
public.

Into the Mystic

Thurs., Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m., Garden Club
of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.
Community Connections to hold
annual Mardi Gras event; festive
masks encouraged. Proceeds help fight
homelessness and poverty. Go to www.
communityconnectionsjax.org to register
or call (904) 350-9949 for details.

Scotch, Sports & Smokes

Thurs., Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m., Deerwood
Country Club, 10239 Golf Club Dr.
Annual Men's Event, sponsored by
Jewish Family & Community Services,
is an evening of scotch, the Jacksonville
Armada FC and cigars. Dinner speaker
is Mark Frisch, owner of the Jacksonville
Armada FC. For Sponsorship and ticket
information, call (904) 394-5727 or email
sduggan@jfcjax.org.

4th Annual Mukti Ball

Sat., Feb. 14, 6:30-11 p.m., 220 Riverside Ave.
Benefit for Rethreaded, with celebrity
poetry readings by Delores Barr Weaver,
Melissa Ross and others; live music. Tickets
available for purchase through www.
eventbrite.com.

Pops in Love

Sun., Feb. 15, 3 p.m., Times-Union
Center for the Performing Arts, 300
Water St.
Special price tickets benefit Seniors on a
Mission. Buy online at SeniorsonaMission.
org or call (904) 551-4373.

Women for Christ Luncheon

Tues., Feb. 17, 11:30 a.m., Prime
Osborne Convention Center
Well known Christian author Liz Curtis
Higgs will be speaking at the annual
luncheon. Early registration encouraged;
register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/
women-for-christ-annual-luncheon-
tickets-13495911635.

Garden Club Fun with Flowers

Wed., Feb. 18, 10 a.m., Garden Club of
Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.
Garden Club presents "Spring
Kaleidoscope of Colors" by Kelley King of
Kelley's Bloom Room. Demonstration and
hands-on workshop of flower arranging.
Tickets \$20; pre-registration required.
Contact Robin at (904) 355-4224.

Growing Up Dyslexic

Wed., Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Jacksonville Jewish
Center, 3662 Crown Point Rd.
The Michael and Drew Land Speaker
Series in conjunction with JFCS and
Nemours BrightStart present Jonathan
Mooney, dyslexic writer and co-founder of
Project Eye-to-Eye. For details, visit www.
jfcjax.org or call (904) 448-1933.

Run the Boulevard 2015

Sat., Feb. 21, 8 a.m., San Jose Episcopal
Day School, 7423 San Jose Blvd.
Second annual Run the Boulevard 5K and
Fun Run, presented by Arlington Toyota.
A family-friendly post-race party follows.
Register at runboulevard.itsyourrace.com/
register by Feb. 6 to guarantee free t-shirt.

Heart Ride Goes Red

Sat., Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m., Adamec Harley-
Davidson, 8909 Baymeadows Rd.
American Heart Association 2nd annual
Heart Ride Goes Red, in memory of
local photographer Paul Figura; register at
firstcoastgore.heart.org or call (904) 256-
5729. Chili cookoff/after party at noon.

Garden Club Annual Flea Market

Sat., Feb. 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Garden
Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.
Thousands of items for sale! For details,
call Robin at (904) 355-4224.

Friends of HAE Walkathon

Sat., Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Hendricks Elementary School Track,
3400 Hendricks Ave.
Proceeds will purchase new laptops and
other items. Donations can be made online
at www.friendsofhendricks.org/donate-
now. For details, contact Cindy Pearson at
info@friendsofhendricks.org.

He Knows My Name All-City Girls Conference

Sat., Feb. 28, 3-7 p.m., Southside
United Methodist Church, 3120
Hendricks Ave.

Join Thou Art Exalted Ministries for an
all-city girls event. Fun, fellowship and
creativity with Speaker Annie Pajcic and
Worship Director Lex Buckley. Open to
all 11- to 14-year-old girls. Visit www.
thouartexalted.com to register and find
more information.

29th Annual Extravaganza

Sat., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m., Moran
Theater, 300 Water St.

An evening of artistry and entertainment
highlighting the best of student
achievement at Douglas Anderson School
of the Arts. Art exhibition begins at 6:30
p.m., theater performance at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets are available at the Times-Union
Box Office, by phoning Ticketmaster
(904) 353-3309 or online at www.
ticketmaster.com.



Mwangaza Children's Choir

Sun., Mar. 1, 7 p.m., Lakewood
Presbyterian Church, 2001 University
Blvd. West

Contact Lakewood Presbyterian Church
at (904) 733-8055 or info@LPCjax.org
for more information.

Men's Garden Club

Mon., Mar. 2, 7 p.m., Garden Club of
Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.

Tatyana Vanberg, horticulturist, will
speak on "Propagating Perennials"
Open to the public. Contact Donn
Elliott, sweetwoodfarm@hotmail.com for
details.

50th Anniversary of Robert E. Lee High School Class of 1965

Sat., Apr. 25, 6:30-11:30 p.m.,
Deerwood Country Club

The largest graduating class in the
history of R. E. Lee High School will get
together to celebrate its 50th anniversary.
Members from the Classes of 1963 to
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For information and to register, go to
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8:30 a.m. 5K Race
This chip-timed, police-escorted
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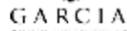
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Heart Ride honors memory of San Marco photographer



Nationally known photographer Paul Figura had a passion for motorcycles.

It was this same day last year – Feb. 28, 2014 – that nationally acclaimed and locally loved photographer Paul Figura lost a battle with a brain hemorrhage so it is fitting that the American Heart Association’s annual Heart Ride Goes Red is dedicated in memory of Figura.

First Coast who knew and loved him how important it is to be in tune with one’s cardiovascular health.

Figura was “Going Red for Women” before men were involved in the cause and before there was a “Men Go Red” society. He donated countless hours to the American Heart Association to create local and national photography for marketing campaigns. His sudden death at age 51 reminded friends, family and all on the



A window on Figura’s studio on Hendricks Avenue pays tribute to his kindness and his talent.

The Heart Ride takes places on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Adamec Harley-Davidson, 8909 Baymeadows Rd. Register at firstcoastgored.heart.org or call (904) 256-5729.

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.

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InRiverOrOcean.org | TheMudvilleGrill.com



The Way we Were

Richard LaMee

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Richard LaMee, 74, sitting and reminiscing in his elegant Lakewood home is generations removed from his French great-grandfather Captain William LaMee, but he too has added a rich chapter to the family's history.

LaMee is the last family member to carry on the LaMee Florist business started by his grandfather Frank during the 1930s. He is a fascinating historian of the LaMee family which was recognized in 1995 by the Northeast Florida Sesquicentennial Celebration Commission as a Pioneer Family who homesteaded in Florida prior to 1845.

"My great-grandfather LaMee, whose family came from France, was a pilot boat captain in the Fort George Island area. He homesteaded on Batten Island,

Hecksher Drive and that is where my grandfather Frank grew up. Frank later moved to Springfield and graduated from Jacksonville's Max Morris School of Pharmacy. He worked as a registered pharmacist in the Cowford area of Southside," Richard said.

Richard lived with his parents Clarence, a JEA employee, and Neva (Price) LaMee in their family home on Thacker Avenue in San Marco. His grandparents Frank and Susan LaMee's hobby of growing and selling plants and flowers from their home grew into a business that led Frank to open LaMee Florist in 1934. Their florist shop stood on Atlantic Boulevard at Hendricks Avenue, where only an empty lot remains today. They lived there in a modest two-story home next door to the floral shop, where they and Richard's mother Neva all



LaMee's grandfather prepares to make a flower delivery

worked.

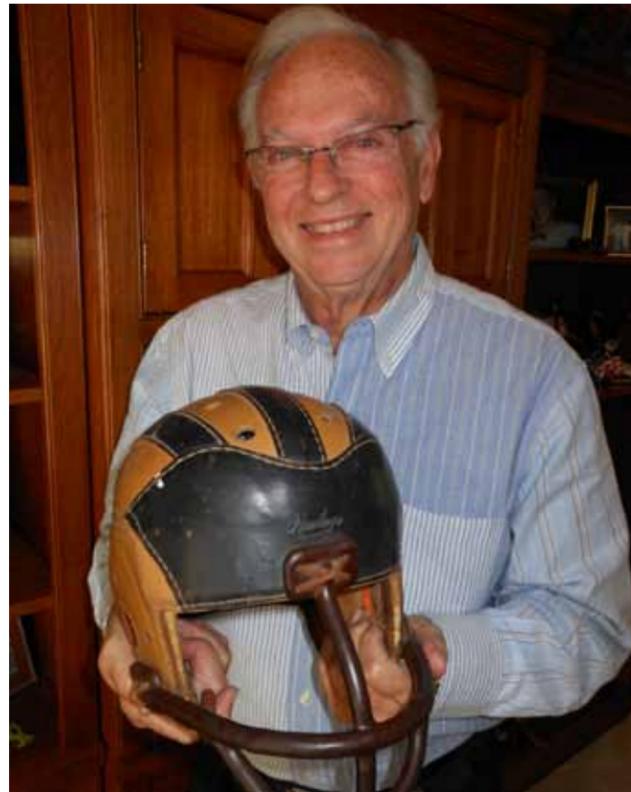
There was also a greenhouse they built out back.

Richard remembers helping out every day after school at the family business and at age 16 he started delivering flowers in the LaMee Truck. Later during its heyday

under Richard's operation, LaMee Florist grew to six locations and the family owned a large horticultural farm on Spring Park Road.

"When I turned 21, Papa Frank LaMee said for me to go pick any car I wanted to drive as my company car, so I went to Bill Nimnicht Riverside Chevrolet and bought a brand new blue Corvette right off their showroom floor. Mother asked me how in the world I was going to deliver flowers in a Corvette...of course I still had the truck too," he said.

Richard was a 1958 graduate of Landon High School, attended the University of Florida two years and graduated from Jacksonville University in 1963 with a business degree. In the 1980s he took over LaMee Florist which



LaMee holds a prized 1950s leather football helmet he received as a gift; he ran track for Landon High School but did not play football.

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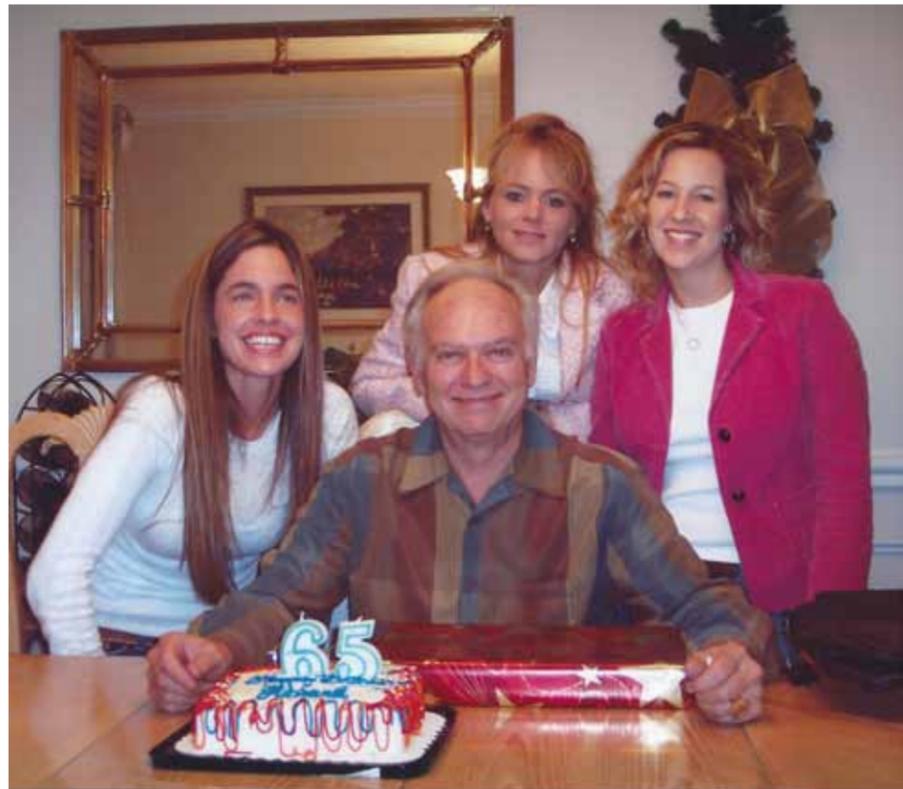
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LaMee is immediate past chairman of the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair



Celebrating a milestone birthday with their father are Richard's daughters Lorese Baker, Lisa Salsburg and Richelle Owens.

he successfully operated for more than 35 years. In 2007 he retired and sold the business to Ron and Rose Jackson, owners of Anything With Plants.

LaMee is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. His grandfather Frank was a founding member of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. A favorite hobby is golf and he is a 30-year member of San Jose Country Club. He enjoys boating in his Sea Ray, keeps in touch with JU fraternity friends and supports university athletics and events. He was honored to receive a medal from the university on the 50th anniversary

of his graduation, as one of its most outstanding alumni. Surprisingly for such an artistic gentleman, LaMee is also a bit of a daredevil who has always enjoyed racing and once owned a race car.

"I used to ride my red Harley Davidson Ultra Classic motorcycle down to Daytona, liked to race boats and owned a late model dirt track race car driven by Robert McCormick. It was a lot of fun to race at Jacksonville Speedway, but I never made any money," he said.

LaMee has served as president of every professional floral association in Florida and keeps current with floral industry

news. Although the market has changed dramatically over his lifetime, he believes there will always be a need for professional florists.

"Many grocery stores have floral departments now which is great because it makes flowers more available and affordable for everyone. But there will always be a need for professional, knowledgeable and experienced florists qualified to provide design advice and guidance, especially for weddings and funerals," he said. "The greatest advance in our industry is the ready availability of fresh flowers from anywhere in the world." Unfortunately for LaMee, his personal favorite flower is the peony, which thrives elsewhere in the country but cannot tolerate Florida's climate.

LaMee has held volunteer offices with several charities and civic organizations including Vision is Priceless, Kiwanis and San Jose Rotary Club. He is a 20-year volunteer for the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair and its immediate past chairman. LaMee praises the non-profit fair and notes that since 1955 it has donated more than \$2.7 million to local charities, awards annual student scholarships and attracted approximately 380,000 attendees in 2014.

The roles in life he values most now are those of father and grandfather. LaMee's three beautiful daughters Lisa, Lorese and Richelle and their families all live in Jacksonville. He is grateful that he is able to live close to them and all 10 of his grandchildren.



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Local kids play in Free Throw Competition



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.

Middle school students compete in local Lego tournament

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.

Trojan Warriors qualify for regional robotics tournament



San Jose Catholic School participated in its fourth year of Lego Robotics and had fun in the process. The San Jose Trojans are competing in First Lego League's World Class Challenge for the 2014-2015 season, and had success in their early tournaments.

Front: Grant R, Jack B; middle: Luke G, Adam D, Alex L, Abby O, MaryAlice Y, Jared N, Matteo T, Jazmine S, back: Austin P

San Jose has two seven-person Lego Teams that practice twice a week after school. They competed in a pre-qualifying tournament, The Robo Gator Tron in November,

with one team winning the Core Values award which exemplifies cooperation and problem solving skills. Both teams also participated in the Robo Thrasher Tournament in December and the Trojan Warriors received a bid to attend one of five regional tournaments in the state of Florida. The Trojan Warriors will compete on Feb. 1 at UNF against 19 other teams from around the state.

One of the team coaches, Carla Chin, stated, "Lego Robotics offers a real world experience for our students to increase their use of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). They students are having fun and learning at the same time which is the ultimate goal because success is not always measured in test scores and winning medals."

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'Disaster' takes students on musical adventure

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.



Naomi Cochrane, Aubrey Finn



Ethan Barron



Isabella Buschini, Kelly Donovan, Shelby McCart, Caroline Hodges



Alex McLaurine, Trey Dubnansky, Ryan Napoleon, Mason Montour



Bolles, NFSSE team up for Special Olympics

Four members of the Bolles varsity girls basketball squad and Head Coach Kelly Stevenson have teamed up with students from the North Florida School of Special Education to participate in the Special Olympics unified basketball competition. Bolles basketball players participating on the team are Christen Carter, Reagan Banks, Margaret Ann Riley and Libby Cohen. Stevenson is assisting NFSSE Coach Tanner Graham. The team competed on Jan. 10, winning and advancing to the state finals in February.

Stevenson attended the recent Florida Council of Independent Schools conference held in Jacksonville where she was approached by Bolles past-parent Sally Hazelip, Executive Director of The North Florida School of Special Education, to participate in the Special Olympics events.

Special Olympics unified sports "join people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team...promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences."

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.



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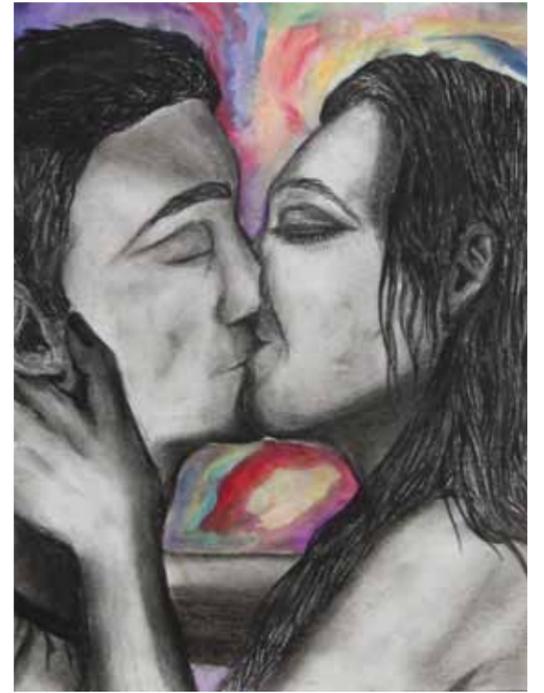


Alice Choi, Class of 2016

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.



Katie Nicholson, Class of 2018



Olga Rodrigues, Class of 2016



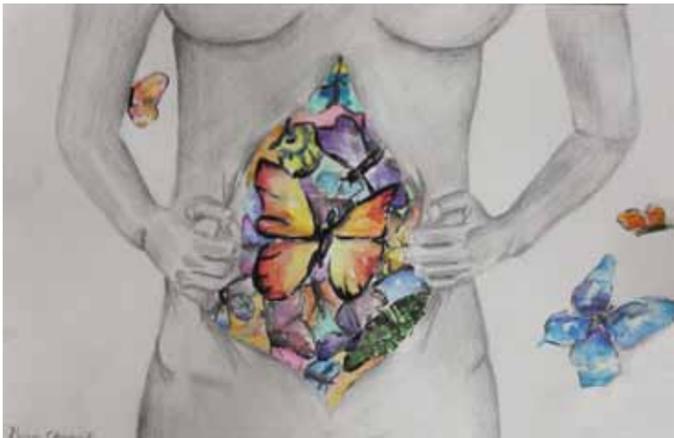
Carly Crump, Class of 2015



Andre Royce, Class of 2016



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Gap Year benefits outweigh perceived concerns

Not a stigma to sit out freshman year

BY KATE A. HALLOCK
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Once popular with young men in well-to-do early 20th century families, the “gap year” was considered to be that final fling of oats-sowing – usually in Europe – before settling down to the drudgery of business and family responsibilities. For middle- and lower-income families, though, a year or two after high school was an opportunity for young men to earn money while deciding whether to pursue higher education or stay in the workforce.

Today a gap year is so much more than final flings or saving for college fees, but oddly has a bit of a stigma, especially for students attending private high schools or college preparatory schools.

Last month, The Episcopal School of Jacksonville took a step toward dispelling the notion that taking a gap year was less than productive, counterintuitive [to higher education] or even simply frivolous.

According to Beth Mixson, chair for the ESJ Parents’ Association College Prep 101 seminar series, there are many benefits to taking a gap year. “We want parents and students to be aware that for some students it might be a good option [versus moving right into college],” she said.

A panel of experts, guidance counselor and a gap year family discussed the benefits at a workshop on Jan. 8 ESJ. Mixson had invited Holly Bull, president of the Center for Interim Programs, and Kendra Roberts, Admissions Director for Florida Region City Year to provide perspectives on different types of gap years, while Shelby Booker, Class of 2013, and her mother Sarah talked about Shelby’s gap year. On hand to address concerns from parents was Andrea Rizzi, ESJ assistant director of college counseling.

Rizzi said that a gap year is an opportunity for a student to take a break and do something of interest that might lead to furthering their studies, but she did note that while most colleges will hold a spot for a year, when an athletic scholarship is involved they probably won’t defer the scholarship.

Shelby’s eclectic gap year

Shelby is just one of two ESJ students to have taken a gap year and she said it was well worth it. “I was mature going into it, but I think I matured a hundredfold coming out of it,” she noted. “I would absolutely encourage others to take a gap year.”

Currently enrolled at the University of San Diego, Shelby globe-trotted for 13 months.

“First, I was in China on a scholarship through the State Department to study Chinese, then I came home long enough to unpack and re-pack before going to Cape Town, South Africa to work in a children’s convalescence home; from there I went to Zimbabwe to reintroduce lions into the wild, and then worked at a rural hospital in Tanzania,” Shelby recounted. “I actually got to help deliver a child there.”

After spending the Christmas 2013 holidays in Asia and Australia with her family, she backpacked for three months in Southeast Asia with a group of 20 students, volunteering, building houses, teaching and cooking. To wrap up the gap year,

“We want parents and students to be aware that for some students it might be a good option versus moving right into college.”

~ Beth Mixson
ESJ Parents’ Association
College Prep 101

Shelby got an internship to teach sixth grade math and English in a rural village in Zambia and then, finally, worked in an orphanage in Victoria Falls.

Her eclectic gap year has led to interests in ethnics studies, anthropology and international relations, but not teaching. “I loved teaching overseas,” she said. “I don’t think I would teach in America.”

Sarah Booker said Shelby’s worldly experience helped her focus on what she’s passionate about, instead of just taking



Front: Holly Bull, President, Center for Interim Programs; Kendra Roberts, Admissions Director, Florida Region City Year; Beth Mixson, College Prep 101 Chair, ESJ Parents’ Association; back: Shelby Booker, ESJ Class of 2013, Gap Year 2013-2014; Sarah Booker, ESJ Parent; Andrea Rizzi, Associate Director of College Counseling, ESJ

courses and majoring in what she has the most credits in. “A gap year is leaving your comfort zone,” she said.

‘Not an off year’

Bull, who has spent over 25 years helping place students interested in taking a Gap Year, said “Ideally, a gap year should have a certain structure to it, some creative thought that goes into it. It is not a year off...it’s very much a year on.”

She also called it a ‘smorgasbord’ year, allowing students to check out different experiences, with the flexibility to change minds about their direction. “The essence of a Gap Year is ‘I choose.’ They’re gaining skills and building a resume before they go to college,” she explained. “For many, that will improve their chances of getting into college; they are much better students with higher GPAs and are leaders on campus.”

At Bishop Kenny High School, Jerry Buckley, guidance counselor, said that typically 98-100% of BK students are college bound.

“We have not had much interest from students taking gap years, at least immediately out of high school. We are aware of the programs and resources that are available,” Buckley shared. “Gap years

have not seemed to gain much popularity with us, but we are certainly available and willing to work with students and families who are interested in pursuing information.”

While The Bolles School also has a high rate (99 percent) of college bound students, about two students per year take an organized gap year, according to Dr. Stephen Soud, director of college counseling.

“As part of our individualized college counseling process, we recommend and/or discuss gap year options with all interested students and parents,” Soud said. “Each of our college counselors is familiar with a variety of gap year programs, ranging from “off-the-shelf” (for lack of a better term) programs such as Rustic Pathways and Where There Be Dragons to more personalized options, such as the Center for Interim Programs.”

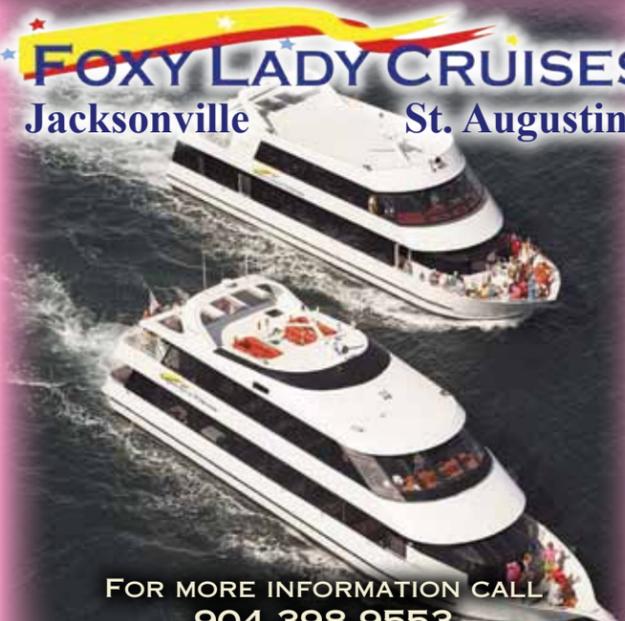
Soud also said that, generally speaking, Bolles counselors are big fans of gap years – for the right students and the right reasons.

“Our students who have taken gap years have reported great experiences and are happy they’ve done it,” Soud stated. “Studies suggest that students who take gap years are more ready for college and perform at a high level while there.”

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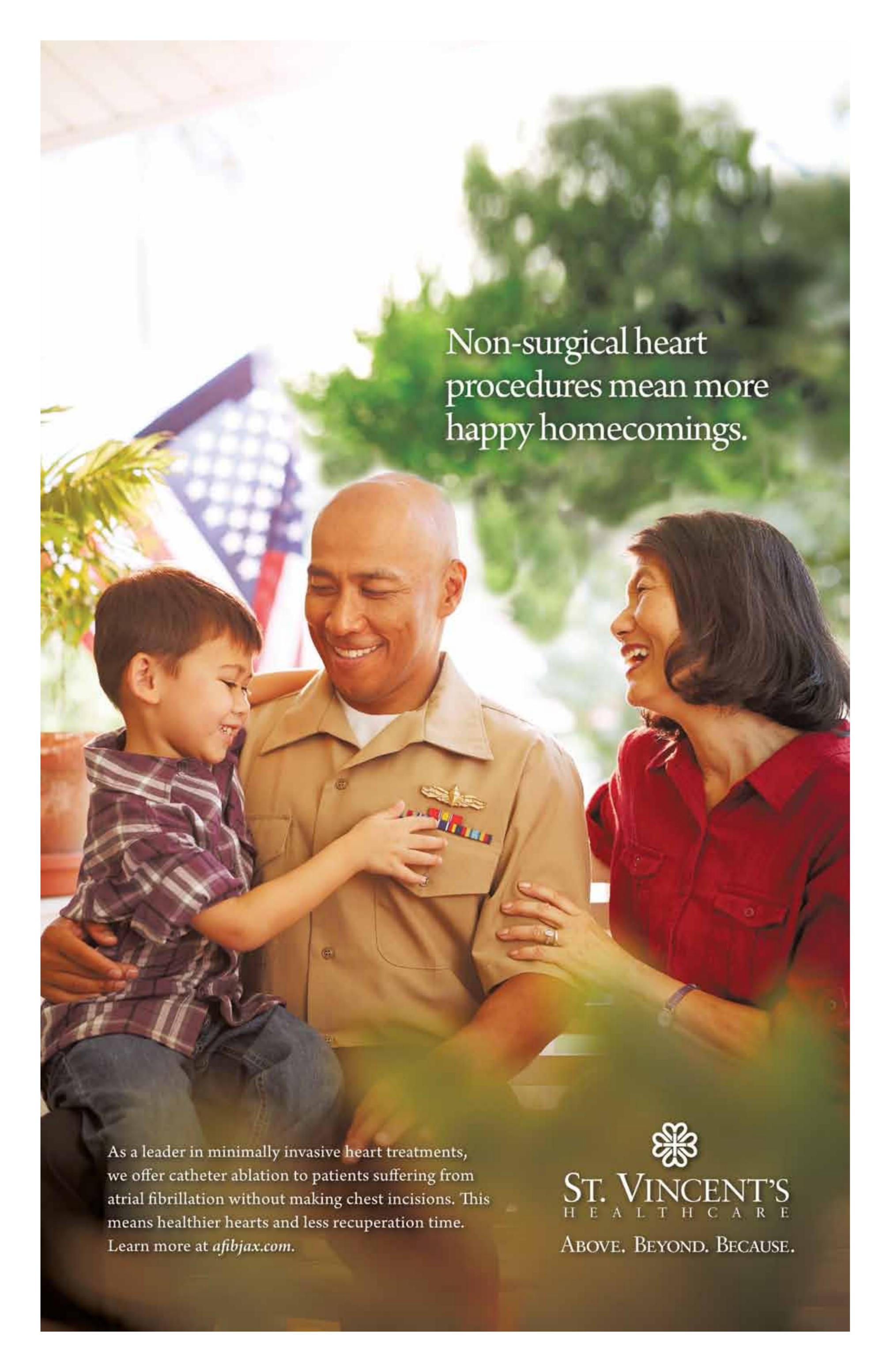
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