



Tim Forman, Betsy Lovett, Jim Draper and  
Marty Lanahan

RIVERSIDE

AVONDALE

ORTEGA

MURRAY HILL

# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

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June 2015

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Fiercely Local News  
Fiercely Loyal Readers

## Best and Brightest “Light the Night”

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's 39th Annual Arts Awards lit up the downtown spark district, as an evening atop a parking garage transformed into a stunning rooftop gala- complete with a fresh spring breeze. As the evening progressed, big announcements were made on behalf of the creative community following the awards ceremony.

*For more about the event, see page 29*

## Fundraising at its Southern finest



Posing with a thoroughbred, Reed and Kristina Nelson, Kay and Michael Fellows, were some of the more than 200 guests who raised a toast to the 141st Kentucky Derby at the annual St. Mark's Episcopal School Derby Day fundraiser.

*For more about the event, see page 21*

## Dispute continues over access to St. Johns



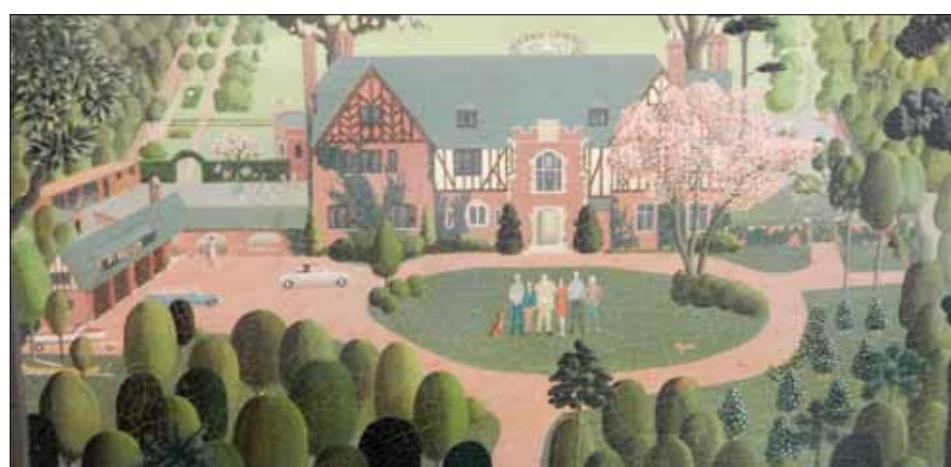
It didn't always look this clear. The access path to the St. Johns River from Richmond Street via Little Van Wert was, for decades, an overgrown opportunity for unsavory activity at night. Now, in light of a proposed bill

to close it to the public, residents are coming together to keep the city-owned right-of-way open.

Despite opposition by several city departments, Riverside Avondale Preservation, the St. Johns

Riverkeeper and dozens of neighbors, owners of the two properties adjacent to the access have filed an application to close the access and deed them the riverfront property.

*see page 4*



## New life for historic Avondale mansion

In the early 1970s Pokey Towers commissioned New York artist Jack Moment to portray her family in front of their new home at 3730 Richmond Street in Avondale in a primitive-style painting. Moment depicted the Towers family of Bill, Elizabeth (Betsy), William, Pokey, Agnes, John and Corey, the family's Irish setter, in front of the grand old house. Family

friend Wyndham Manning, who lived in the spacious apartment above the four-car garage, is shown hanging out a second-story window while housekeeper Helen Jefferson, who was considered "family" by the Towers, stands in the driveway. To read more about the Towers' experience in the home that retains their name in the National Historic Register, turn to page 18.

## Local artist tapped for Hemming Park



Shaun Thurston, a Riverside artist, spent more than three months painting the 154-foot mural that wraps around Hemming Park's on-site storage area. It was unveiled on May 28 to media and observers. The artwork was commissioned by the Friends of Hemming Park, Preston Haskell, Bill Prescott and the Dalton Agency.

*see page 9*

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# Letters to the Editor

## Striping 'solution' brings on more problems

I'm writing in response to the article on striping in Riverside/Avondale in your April issue. I live on a newly-striped street: College Street, in Riverside. I live very close to the intersection of College and King.

While striping was a favored response by the residents, the way in which it was carried out does nothing to alleviate the problems. By putting striped parking spaces on both sides of the road, the driving lane is narrowed to a single lane down the middle of the street – not at all different from the Lydia Street photo that you ran, except that College Street parking boxes are heavily used. When cars are parked on both sides of the street, there is one lane to drive in. Drivers must move into the parking spaces to pass each other, and the courtesy of your fellow driver makes a huge difference between safe passing and dangerous passing.

The speed limit has also been lowered in this section of the road, from

30 mph to 15 mph, but there is no enforcement and little effort by drivers to follow this new speed limit. I have never seen a patrol car in this section of the street enforcing the speed limit, nor do I know of anyone who has received a ticket for continuing to drive 30, 35, even 40 mph through this narrow, highly populated section of the road. Even the buses regularly come through at speeds much higher than the limit.

I've seen a much better response on other streets in Riverside/Avondale. For example, on Pine Street in Avondale, the road was only striped on one side. This allows enough space for two lanes to still travel. While it cuts down on parking, the safety of the drivers and the residents must be taken into consideration as well. There seems to be some simple solutions – stripe only on one side, or take the roads down to one lane. Yet, the 'solution' that was implemented only solved one part of the problems, and brought on many more.

— Melissa Gilleland

## Veteran reporter joins *The Resident*

As summer approaches, we want to introduce you to our new News Editor, Marcia Hodgson, a veteran journalist with newspaper experience in Boston, Alaska, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Florida. Although you will see her byline in both editions of *The Resident*, Marcia's main focus will be the San Marco edition.

A native of Wellesley, Massachusetts, Marcia has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from George Washington University, a certificate of creative writing from Washington University in St. Louis and a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Tampa.

As a student, Marcia worked part-time in the sports department of *The Washington Post*. After graduation, she wrote feature articles and worked in the newsroom *The Christian Science Monitor* in Boston. She has also served as a sport reporter for the *Anchorage Daily News* in Alaska, *The Day* in New London, Conn., and as sports editor for *The Milford Cabinet* and *Wilton Journal* in Milford, New Hampshire.

As a student in Washington, D.C., she was part of an investigative team that won the collegiate award for depth reporting in her region from the Sigma Delta Chi Society of Professional Journalists. At the *Anchorage Daily News*, she won three writing awards from the Alaska Press Club.

Marcia and her husband, Bob, moved to Florida in 1993 where she



Marcia Hodgson

worked as a reporter and photographer for *The Beaches Leader* and *The Ponte Vedra Leader*. After taking more than a decade off to bring up her daughters, Celia Hope and Hillary, and to care for her ailing mother, she is now ready to take pen and pad in hand and continue her journalism career – this time in the historic districts of Riverside/Avondale and San Marco.

Show Marcia how friendly we Southerners are and give her a warm welcome!

## Library Summer Program

Summer learning programs for children ages 5 to 12 originally scheduled for Willowbranch Library will be held at the Murray Hill Branch Library, 918 Edgewood Ave. South, at 3 p.m.

**Friday, June 19** – Jacksonville Zoo: Zoafari Outreach with live animals

**Friday, June 26** – Curious Moon Puppets: Super Skeeter

**Friday, July 10** – Barry Hinnant: Magic is Super

**Friday, July 17** – Safari Soundlab, interactive music program

**Friday, July 24** – Balloons R4 Twisting: Super Balloons!

## Best Vacation Ever



Will this be the year you take your best vacation ever? Share your vacation trip with our readers and send photos and description to [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net) no later than July 19 and we'll include it in our August issue. Prizes will be awarded to winners of all ages for Best Vacation Ever!

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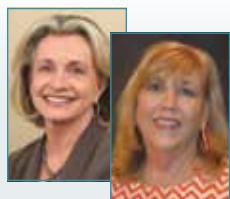
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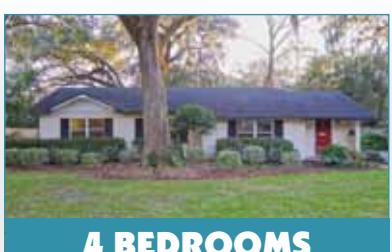


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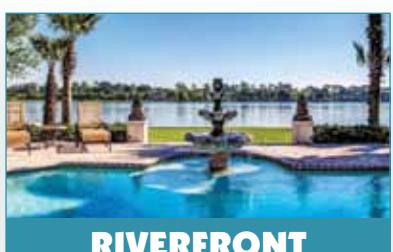


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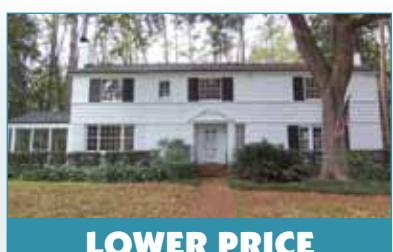
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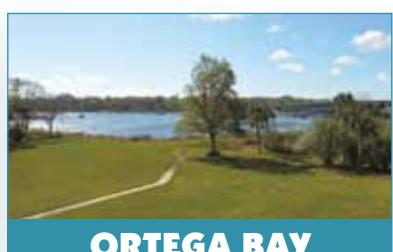
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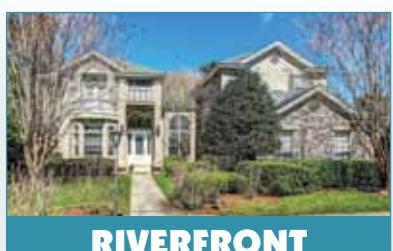


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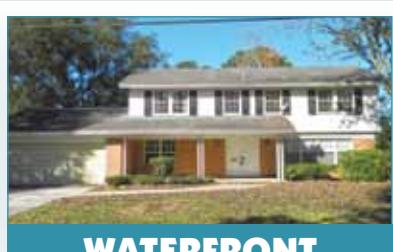
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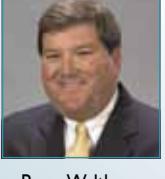
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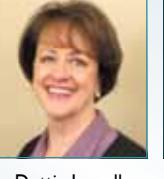
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# Residents circle wagons to prevent river access closure

## Motives for bill's fast track not clear, questioned by residents

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

The path from Richmond Street along Little Van Wert down to the St. Johns River was, until recently, overgrown but visitors still traverse it to the bulkhead, where it is a great vantage point for fishing, watching fireworks and the Blue Angels, as well as for a few moments of peace and solitude.

But if John and Kristen Surface and Charles and Joan Cousar – neighbors on either side of the path – have their way, a fast-tracked bill [2015-360] will close the public right-of-way access to the river.

The bill was introduced to City Council on May 12 by District 3 Councilman Richard Clark and residents are wondering why Clark, who represents East Arlington neighborhoods between I-295 and the Intercoastal Waterway, would be interested in an Avondale river access point in District 14.

*The Resident* reached out to Clark, via phone and email, with the same question, but had not received a response as of press time.

The first public hearing was held on May 26 at City Council and nearly three dozen people spoke during the public comment session, at a ratio of about 2:1 against the bill.

Unless the fast-tracked bill can be delayed for two weeks, it is on the agendas

to be addressed by both the Rules and the Transportation, Energy, Utility (TEU) committees on June 1, and the Recreation, Community Development, Public Health & Safety (RCDPHS) and Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) committees on June 2, with a Council vote expected on June 9.

Clark's bill also proposes to waive the requirement for Public Works to perform an administrative review and receive favorable replies from all agencies prior to legislation for closure being submitted to Council. Additionally, the bill would "allow the right-of-way to revert to the property owners on either side of the property."

According to casual estimates cited by other property owners in the neighborhood, that access could be worth \$600,000 to \$700,000. If it were to revert to either or both adjoining property owners, they will have obtained it for the cost of the \$1,688 application fee plus attorney's fees.

### Public notice sets off alarms

When Don Rushlow, who lives on Hedrick Street one block from the access, saw the public notice posted at the entrance to the access point last month after the bill was introduced at the May 12 Council meeting, he immediately began a door-to-door campaign to alert surrounding homeowners.

"For some unknown reason, the city



The right-of-way covers a storm drain that runs under the street out to the river. A portion of the drain appears to have caved in.



This small pile was the extent of trash found at the seawall on May 15. According to Paul Harden, attorney for the neighbors adjoining the right-of-way, the Surfaces and the Cousars have picked up "beer cans by the thousands" from this area.

stopped mowing and maintaining this access a few years back. There is still a clear path you walk to get down to the Sea Wall," he noted in his appeal to neighbors. "Because of the city's neglect, there is a lot of vegetation overgrowth on either side of the path and poor lighting at night. Now the city is going to abandon it entirely."

Rushlow also contacted media outlets, Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) and District 14 Councilman Jim Love, as well as Councilman Clark. RAP responded with a statement that said while it is working to ensure that the bill does not become law, it is also working with the neighbors on legitimate concerns about after-hours

activities.

Love, who sits on the TEU Committee, said there would have to be good reason to close the access, but that there are other solutions.

"It probably needs to be cleaned up," said Love, who opposes the legislation. "If it belongs to the city, which it has to if they are asking for it to be closed, then we ought to maintain it and leave access."

The Jacksonville Historic Preservation Committee, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the City of Jacksonville Planning Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department have also come out against this bill.

*continued on page 5 >>>*



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Restricted parking sign at entrance to river access partially hidden by overgrowth before residents cleaned it up last month.

### Activating the neighbors

Rushlow's plea galvanized the community. "Instead of closing the access point, the city needs to mow, clear and maintain this precious gift. Put up some proper lighting. Clear it out so JSO can drive by any time and check on the site," he stated. "Don't take away what little left we have of nature in this older, lazy part of town steeped in history."

Brooks Moore, an attorney who has lived on Richmond Street for 15 years, met, along with other concerned neighbors, with the adjacent neighbors to discuss their intentions. "They say it's because it's dirty," she said. "The solution is not to deprive the neighborhood. Trash can be managed with trash cans." Moore also noted that the bill was vague and that she didn't understand why the review should be waived. Moore's husband Chip

and 17-year-old daughter Woody both spoke against the bill at the May 26 hearing.

"Access to the river here has been a big part of my childhood," said Woody. "It's been functioning as a park as long as I've been alive."

Chip Moore asked that the process be slowed down to get public input and look at other options. "There are other solutions that can be explored," he said. "It is one of the reasons we bought a house where we did."

Over on Hedrick Street, Lude Stokes said, "Why would someone who doesn't live in our district even propose this? I cannot understand why the city is trying to withdraw access." Stokes, who has lived in the area for more than 50 years, said the access should be maintained and left open for all residents to enjoy.

Jim Polk, who lives on Pine Street had similar questions. "Why is this being done? Who is benefitting from this?" he asked. "I'd love to know. That river access does not need to be closed. I don't want to believe that the city would sell us out like that, but nothing in Jacksonville surprises me anymore."

Donna Lewis, also on Hedrick Street, was even more direct with Councilman Clark. In an email she said, "To my knowledge no effort was made to solicit input from the neighborhood in general or from those of us who live in the immediate area as to our thoughts on the matter. I find your involvement and the corresponding lack of community involvement to be a rather peculiar turn of events."

Lewis also requested that his office send to her all supporting documentation, analysis, surveys, and property history, telling Clark in her email, "Any attempt to circumvent an

existing ordinance is inherently suspect and warrants close public scrutiny and principled consideration."

As of press time, Lewis had not yet received a reply to two requests for those documents. At the May 26 Council meeting, Lewis was one of more than two dozen who spoke against the bill, saying, "I want to deal in facts, not anecdotes or old claims of crime-ridden activity."

Because the applicants, Surface and Cousar, have indicated safety concerns living on either side of the river access, Lewis has requested a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Survey from Gary Dickinson of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Community Affairs Division, "to determine how we can, as a community, use landscape and other measures to deter criminal activities on the right-of-way."

### Make it a park

Those speaking in favor of closing river access included a half dozen or so residents, as well as Harden, Surface and Cousar, citing reasons of safety. "My clients requested for two decades that the city clean it up," said Harden. "This is not a park, public blogs notwithstanding."

Harden stated that the JSO had suggested the surrounding homeowners find a remedy through closing the access, indicating that it had been identified as an unsafe location. There is not a clear line of sight from the street down to the river and often parked vehicles obscure sight of the trail head.

Despite the pleas to close it, the overwhelming opinion is to turn it into an official park.

Since that strip of land is not an official

park, one of the solutions that RAP is looking at is to have the 60-foot wide by 437-foot long river access designated a park and brought under the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department for oversight and maintenance.

If the city cannot maintain it, several nearby residents, including Bryan and Kim Clontz, have indicated a willingness to be part of a community-led park support group. The Clontzes started a GoFundMe account to collect funds to pay for monthly mowing.

"It should not just be the burden of the adjacent neighbors," said Bryan Clontz. "It's not that complicated [to maintain it]."

Tom and Sue Kenaston and Krystie Wells, in an email to The Resident, described the access as a "pocket park," saying "[We] quite understood restricting parking along Edgewood Avenue near that pocket park to discourage the mess of dead fish, discarded fishing line, old bait and random fish hooks that the less respectful fishermen left behind but do not understand the lack of city maintenance or the city's willingness to discard the pocket park at Little Van Wert as a public access park for the St Johns River. If it were periodically maintained and there were some enforcement of hours, public access wouldn't be a concern."

The solutions proposed seem to be "either/or" – either close the access to the public, giving the land to the Surfaces and the Cousars, or create a public park, allowing anyone to use it. No one, however, has yet suggested a King Solomon-like "cut the baby in half" compromise: enclose the city-owned property with chain link fencing and a padlock, thus ensuring that no one except authorized personnel have river access.

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Top row from left:  
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James Lanier, OD

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Ellen R. Wagner, OD;  
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# Memorial Park Association launches 5-year restoration goal

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News



Among Jacksonville's hundreds of public parks, many of which are tucked away within small neighborhoods, at least three transcend their locations to serve a greater community. Downtown's Hemming Park, the Treaty Oak Park (also known as Jessie Ball duPont Park) on the Southbank, and Memorial Park in Riverside regularly attract visitors from all over the city.

Despite the fact that many are managed by the City of Jacksonville, parks enjoy the much-needed support of "friends" – such as the Memorial Park Association – for upkeep through physical labor and/or raising of funds for major work.

In March 2013, MPA's board of directors adopted a master plan to restore the luster of the park by restoring the centerpiece of the park – the fountain and the bronze statue Life, often referred to as Winged Victory – as well as improving lighting levels and aesthetics, updating and improving site utilities, fixtures, soil conditions, plant selections and other park elements; supporting an increased day-to-day presence of park management that will enhance maintenance capabilities and deter vandalism and crime, and advocating for the park through the creation of an ad hoc "Governmental Affairs" committee.

Last year the association's board and volunteers secured a \$200,000 matching grant for capital improvements. To date the board has personally matched over \$150,000 and, along with volunteers, contributed over 730 hours in park cleanup. Three major events were held in the park in 2014: a free Memorial Day breakfast, a free Veterans Day sunset concert performed by the U.S. Navy Band Southeast, and Oktoberfest, a two-day event featuring local beer and food, live music, and lederhosen.

Last month, the Memorial Park Association, in collaboration with the City of Jacksonville, launched an "Adopt The Park" sponsorship program. Local businesses from realtors to restaurants, automobile dealers to agencies, boutiques to breweries, and more committed to different levels of sponsorship, while showing their support for the Memorial Park Association.

This year's sponsorships totaled over \$21,000 and will directly impact the MPA's yearly costs to enhance and beautify Memorial Park. The installation of four new welcome stations in the park will include signage naming the "Promenade" and "Mr. Dawson

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Our operating expense for park maintenance, repair and enhancement is approximately \$20,000 annually.



Society" sponsors and featuring the "Esplanade" sponsorship level.

With these sponsorships and individual donations, the association hopes to completely restore the park by 2020, four years before the centennial celebration of the park's founding in 1924. Memorial Park is the only park in the state dedicated to the 1,220 Floridians who lost their lives in service during World War I.

Learn more about Memorial Park and the Memorial Park Association at [memparkjax.org](http://memparkjax.org) or visit them on Facebook or Twitter.

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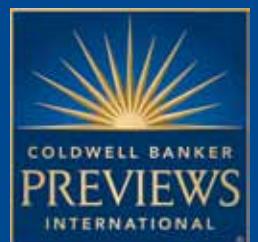
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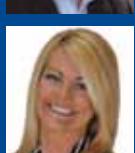
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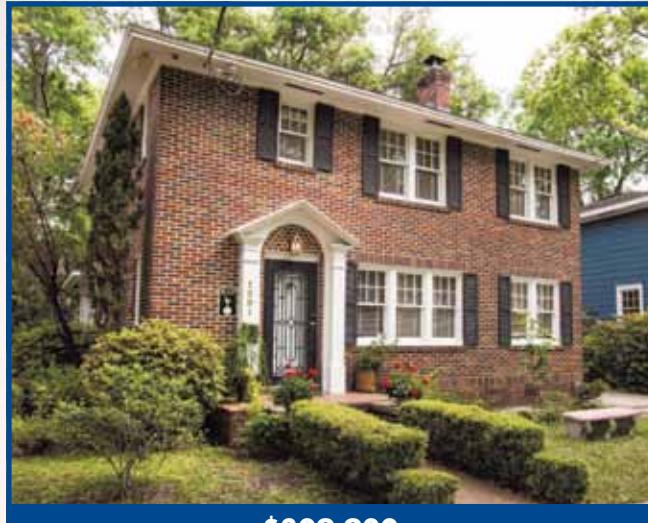


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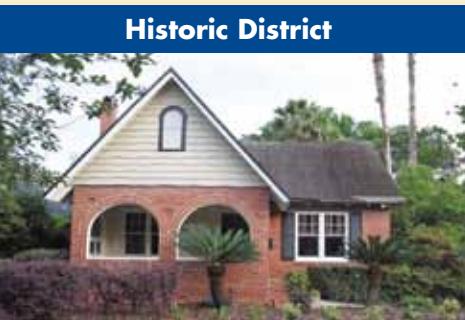


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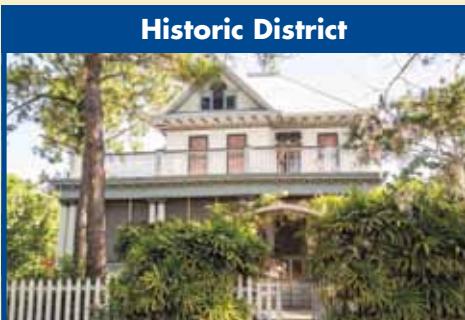
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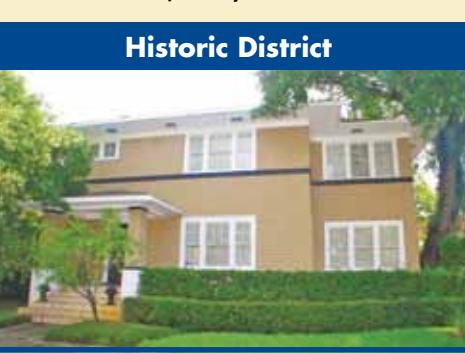


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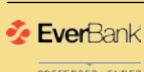
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# River taxi seeks partnerships for sustainability

## Marketing plans proposed for right-size expansion

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

A fully enclosed 98-passenger vessel joined the St. Johns River Taxi fleet late last month. It's the second of two newly acquired pre-owned boats operated by Lakeshore Marine Services as part of its agreement with the City of Jacksonville to maintain four taxis.

It's also a positive move by the operator to try to "right-size" the city-dictated fleet for expansion plans to increase ridership.

The first vessel that Lakeshore Marine Services acquired earlier this year is a 50-passenger Beachcat commercial passenger boat with 250-horsepower engines that enable it to go longer distances more quickly to sites such as Jacksonville University or the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens.

"We want to purchase boats deliberately with consideration of expansion," said Heather Surface, a partner in the company.

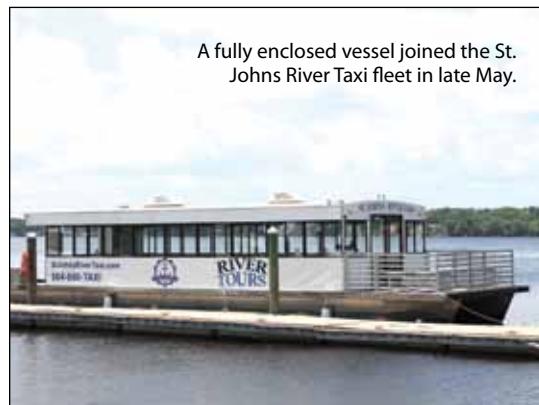
However, despite the launch of the St. Johns Explorer on May 26, the river taxi operator is struggling to keep the service going. If the current rate of ridership continues, it will lose nearly \$250,000 next year.

### Solutions on the table

Earlier in May, Surface brought a strategic plan to improve ridership to the Jacksonville Waterways Commission, as she sought support from the advisory board before rolling it out to potential partners.

Citing ridership figures provided in the 2014 Request for Proposal (RFP) that are higher than what has been served in the past year, Surface told the Waterways Commission last month that a new strategy is needed to ensure that the fleet continues service.

The figures in the RFP were based on 2012 ridership, which was over 50 percent more than during the comparative months of service after Lakeshore Marine Services took



A fully enclosed vessel joined the St. Johns River Taxi fleet in late May.



Proposed river taxi stops on the wish list to sustain, then expand, service.

it over in August 2014.

Surface stated that among the reasons for decline were the gap in service after HarborCare LLC stopped operating in June 2014; construction on the Southbank Riverwalk for more than a year; one less Jaguars home game in 2014; a lack of destinations, and little to no marketing of the service.

One strategy she proposed would increase the number of regular destinations from four (Metropolitan Marina is only used for Jaguars game) to a dozen or more, including potential landing spots as the Riverside Arts Market, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and Memorial Park, the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens and Jacksonville University.

Surface is also looking for private-public partnerships to bridge the \$250,000 expense gap. Citing more than half a million dollars for vessels, labor, maintenance, fuel, insurance, and fees and permits, she said that marketing sponsorships and private funding matched dollar for dollar by public funds would help sustain the service.

Calling the proposed marketing plan On Board Jax!, Surface said events utilizing the water taxis could include a monthly "cruise and learn" series, sponsored tours for at-risk youth, restaurant sampling cruises, music

jams, Sunday charters and more.

Surface said that she already has several partners lined up, including the Jaguars and the Omni Hotel, stating, "All downtown hotels should follow suit if they want us to maintain regular service for their hotel guests."

On May 26, Bill 2015-0397 was presented to City Council at the request of Mayor Alvin Brown seeking a contract with Lakeshore Marine Services that would provide city funds of \$240,000 for use over two years as long as the operator matches those funds.

Surface indicated that she had commitments from two "founding partners" – the *Florida Times-Union* and the Jaguars – who have each pledged \$30,000 in cash or in-kind support each year for two years.

### Long-term agreement, with exit clause

In the meantime, a new five-year agreement between the city and Lakeshore Marine Services went into effect May 22, 2015. Although it includes a clause that will allow the river taxi company to reduce hours of service based on ridership, Surface hopes they won't have to invoke that clause or the exit clause that allows them to give a 30-day notice to shut down service.

"If ridership doesn't improve we do have an exit clause, but we've invested a lot of time and energy and purchased boats," said Surface. "I know ridership is down but chiefly it's because the service doesn't go anywhere."

"Unity Plaza is a great addition to the city, but you should be able to get there by water. And wouldn't it be wonderful for residents on the Southbank to travel to the Cummer and to the YMCA by water taxi?" she asked. "But first we have to make it work for Downtown and then eventually expand the service, procuring the right boats."

Surface would like to see a river transportation feasibility study conducted by the city, looking at city-owned facilities, amenities, population densities, bridge spans, etc. to help change the mindset that boating is purely recreational.

"If there's a business that will benefit from us providing transportation to their waterfront doorstep, we should be that provider," she said, adding that once the apartments at 220 Riverside and Brooklyn Station are occupied, Riverside Avenue will become a parking lot during commuting hours. "The river taxi can and should be part of the transportation solution Downtown. It could be just a walk across the street to a landing site behind the YMCA."

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# Hemming Park transforming cynics one event at a time

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

In 1857, two public parks were created that today have served eight generations of citizens. One, famously known, is Central Park in New York City.

The other was a forgotten treasure until about a year ago: Hemming Park.

Thanks to legislation enacted in August 2014, Jacksonville's oldest public park was given a new opportunity to appeal to future generations.

With \$1 million in city funds and another quarter million to be raised through private funding, the Friends of Hemming Park began a venture that had more than its share of skeptics and cynics: "...transform the plaza into a green urban gathering space to serve as the epicenter of the revitalization of Jacksonville."

"Perception has been a huge challenge for us," said Vince Cavin, executive director of Friends of Hemming Park. "We want people to know that Hemming Park is a great, safe place."

FOHP has worked steadily since late last fall to change those negative perceptions, enlisting nearby businesses to tell the story that Downtown is a family-friendly place to make it a day out.

"Go to the library, visit MOCA, have lunch at The Candy Apple Café at Sweet Pete's...and spend time in the park," said Cavin, a resident of Riverside.



Anyone for a pickup game of chess or checkers? Activities are available in Hemming Park every day beginning at 10 a.m.

Murray Hill resident Sarah Collins is marketing and community outreach director for FOHP and works closely with Riverside resident Liz Grebe, events and programming director, to come up with attractive programming, both active and passive, that ensures that something is going on in Hemming Park every day.

"We're trying to get people to just come to park and see that it's not the same park as it was a year ago," Collins said. "There is stuff going on all the time but people can make it what they want it to be."

## Measuring success

In addition to raising \$250,000 in private funds – and FOHP is at 90 percent of the August 2015 goal – the group must also schedule at least five special events per quarter that draw attendance of 500 or more people. In nine months, FOHP have hosted 42 crowd-drawing events, and Gastrofest is one recent example.

"They didn't have the capital to front the cash for the alcohol, but they had the

idea and a lot of the relationships in the community and wanted to do it in Hemming Park," said Cavin. "We had the money to put it together and the team was ready. That's like a perfect marriage of what we can do when we come together with a good idea."

Even on days when there are no special events, park usage has increased substantially and the demographics have improved as well.

"From being a walk-through park with 20-30 people on average, we have a couple hundred here every day," Cavin said. "One of the ambassadors' duties is to take a demographic sample every day. We're close to a 50-50 gender mix; before, it was 90 percent male."

The park management group still has a long way to go, including putting a plan in place to guarantee sustainability. Cavin said they are seeking major sponsors for naming rights in four areas: Wi-Fi and charging stations; the Reading Room; the Kids' Zone, and the main stage.

"We're looking for four Founding

Friends, at \$50,000 a year for five years," said Cavin. "We want sponsors who say 'I want to support Downtown and this project is important to revitalization.'"

Cavin also welcomes in-kind support, equipment sponsorships, grants, and event sponsors.

"The biggest thing is figuring out sustainability and that will take good grant opportunities and sponsorships and the right kind of concessions and partnerships," he said.

Collins added, "We're programming towards sustainability with large events throughout the year, as well as regular active and passive programming to showcase its versatility and get people to re-define what they think of Hemming Park."

Hemming Park is also learning to be a good neighbor to surrounding businesses.

"Reception from nearby merchants has been excellent. As far as I know everybody really loves what we're doing," said Cavin. "We've changed the front door for MOCA and the library." He noted that after the Jazz Festival, the manager at Chamblin's said they had 60 percent better sales than in an average week. "Their sales are great when we have things in the park," he said.

Although there's still some hesitation on the sponsorship side to see if the change is real, and if it is going to last, Cavin said "Now we have some proof of success. It's just getting that word out there."

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# Riverside YMCA secures funding, construction begins

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Three years after a \$22 million capital campaign was launched, the YMCA of Florida's First Coast has finally secured the financing needed to begin construction on the new Winston Family YMCA in Riverside.

Construction of the Winston Family YMCA, named in honor of long-time Y supporter and Jacksonville business leader James H. Winston and his late wife Mary, began last month and is anticipated to be completed in 15 months.

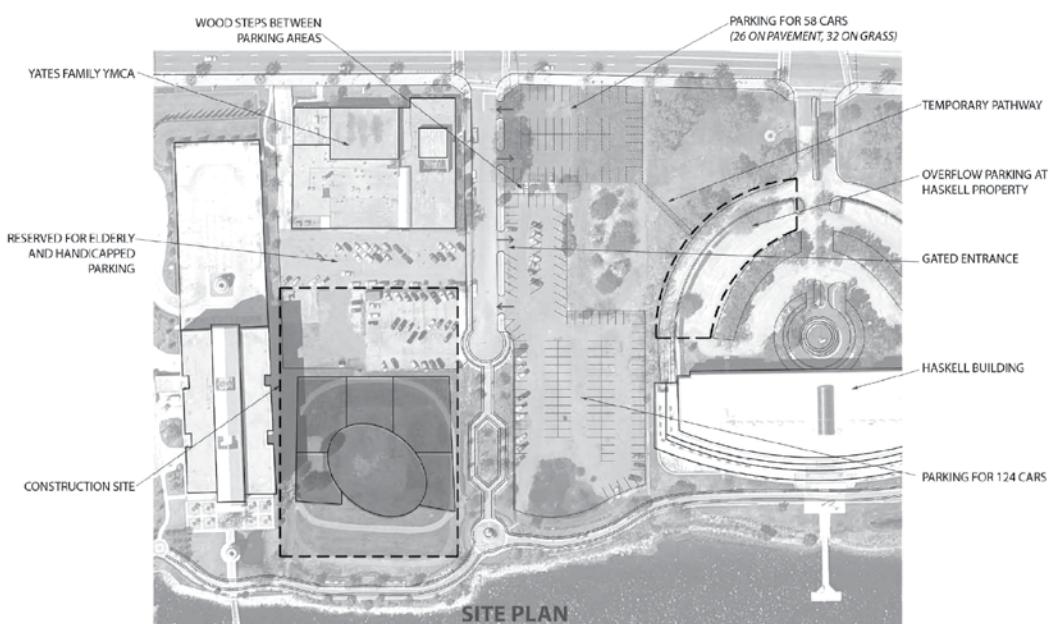
"We look forward to opening the doors of the new Winston Family YMCA, but it's about more than a beautiful place to lift weights and work out," said Ortega resident John Baker, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the YMCA of Florida's First Coast. "This incredible facility will not only enhance the neighborhood – both physically and regarding the quality of life offered – but this flagship branch will help the Y expand its charitable outreach efforts to underserved parts of our community."

The YMCA, which has raised \$18 million of the \$22 million needed for the overall project, has secured lending from Fifth Third Bank, Seaside National Bank & Trust, and Jacksonville Bancorp, Inc. Pledges received from donors such as Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver and Russell B. Newton, Jr., are payable over five to 10 years, so the bridge loan was required to begin construction.

To completely eliminate additional long-term debt for this project, the Y's Healthy Futures Capital Campaign will continue working to raise the final \$4 million for the Winston Family YMCA.

Haskell Company, conveniently located next door, is the construction manager and RS&H (Reynolds, Smith & Hills) is the architect for the project.

The Y will remain operational throughout all phases of construction, including improvements to existing parking and additional parking.



## New funding available for culture projects

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc. announced two new funding opportunities for arts and cultural projects in downtown Jacksonville that represent nearly half a million dollars in funding.

The 2016 SPARK Grant Program continues the Cultural Council's initiative designed to ignite a core downtown area known as the "SPARK District" through arts and cultural activities and temporary installations. During its first two years, the grant program awarded \$106,000 to eight artists and one organization.

This year award amounts will range between \$10,000 and \$30,000 each for projects that will take place during 2016. A SPARK application workshop is scheduled for June

15, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 W. Water St., Jacksonville. Deadline for applications is August 6. The privately-funded program is open to individual artists/cultural providers and 501c3 nonprofit organizations from Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Clay and Baker counties. For more information, visit [www.culturalcouncil.org/SPARK2016](http://www.culturalcouncil.org/SPARK2016).

The Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) Urban Art Projects (phase one of three) will invest \$180,000 in Skyway columns, utility boxes, bike racks, street furnishings, and outdoor sculpture. The arts-based civic engagement public art commissions promote community development through public art, urban design and attractive streetscapes

in the downtown urban core.

Individual artists or artist teams from the five-county area are encouraged to apply for up to six permanent public art project installations. Each project will engage audiences of all ages at the street level and is complementary to clean up and beautification initiatives further enhancing and shaping the city's overall design, functionality and visual aesthetic.

Two DIA Urban Art Projects application workshops are scheduled for July 7 and July 11 with time and location to be determined. Deadline for applications is August 17. For more information, visit [www.culturalcouncil.org/DIAurbanart](http://www.culturalcouncil.org/DIAurbanart).

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### Gearing Up For Summer Sales

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Will I do this for another two decades? I laugh as I imagine that. Time will tell me what to do later, but for now, I am all about real estate. For me, it's sort of like a great football game with offense, defense and special teams working together to get to the finish line victorious. I love this job. You and your lovely homes are why I am sitting here today, happy and busy and looking forward to my next listing. If you need a Realtor who likes her job, why not try me? Your challenge is my goal. I love what I do because of you and your beautiful homes.

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# St. Vincent's serves community for 99 years

It's never too early to celebrate a milestone. Although just one year shy of its century anniversary, St. Vincent's HealthCare held a special lunch for associates on May 1, noting 99 years of health care in the Riverside community.

St. Vincent's Riverside was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1916 to provide health services to the sick and the poor of North Florida. The medical center has a long history of service to Jacksonville citizens, including a mobile health outreach ministry to the underinsured, mobile mammography, and operation of St. Catherine Labouré Manor, a nearby senior assisted-living facility.



Hospital administrators serve associates at 99th anniversary lunch

## Underwear challenge raises \$55,000

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

Laura Crooks of Avondale had one birthday wish this year, to raise \$1,000 for the Underwear Challenge sponsored by the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC).

"For my birthday this year, I told my friends and family that I did not want gifts," Crooks said. Instead, her request was to have her friends and family donate money toward her team, Laura's Birthday, so she could make her goal and help DESC provide seven days worth of underwear and socks for each member of the homeless families they serve.

Crooks was on hand during the First Annual Great Underwear Challenge held at Mellow Mushroom in Avondale May 12. During the event donors were charmed by Captain Underwear who, as well as Jacksonville sports personality

Cole Pepper, served as host of the event.

DESC held the charity event to raise money so that it can provide seven days of underwear and socks to each member of the homeless families it serves. Last year DESC served more than 5,000 families, but with its limited budget it was only able to provide two pairs of socks and underwear per person, said Julie Handley of Avondale, Chairman of the Fundraising Committee.

"It's a hard thing to imagine waking up and having to use yesterday's underwear, but for our families it is an everyday reality," said Beth Wilson of DESC. "The Great Underwear Challenge is about providing self esteem and hope to families in Jacksonville."

Supporters of the DESC campaign raised \$55,000 during the gathering, where the charitable organization accepted monetary donations as well as socks and underwear. Mellow



Captain Underwear, Jeff Meyer, Nancy Chamblin and Laura Crooks

Mushroom also contributed a percentage of the night's food and beer sales to the cause. The total included a matching donation of \$20,000 from Jeff Meyer of Ortega.

"We've been supporting DESC for years," Meyer said. "It has low overhead and services and does a tremendous amount for the people and our cities most pressing needs." Meyer also said he felt his support was a "good investment."

Crooks said she had generous friends and made her goal of \$1,025. "I'm so thankful that I can do it. I feel blessed to

do it. It's a great way to give back to the community," she said.

"My grandmother used to tell me, 'Unto whom much is given, much is expected.' I was blessed, but some people have nothing. They have to depend on the love of others," Crooks said, noting that the DESC clothes closet is in dire need of clothes in large women's and men's sizes. "We try to meet their needs and give them things that they will be proud to wear," she said.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Community Hospice earns distinction of excellence

For the second year in a row, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida has been designated Elite Status, the only organization in Florida to receive the distinction, and one of only 39 hospices nationally with such an accolade.

The award was granted by Deyta, a division of HEALTHCAREfirst, as part of its Hospice Honors program, a landmark compilation of more than 1,700 hospices providing the highest level of satisfaction as measured from the caregiver's point of view.

Community Hospice board chair and Ortega resident Fernando Acosta-Rua said the honor is just part of the remarkable story the organization continues to weave for itself.

"In every facet of everything the organization does and in the full complement of services provided, Community Hospice reflects a core understanding that compassionate care and support for patient and family comes first," said Acosta-Rua. "And I believe that is what is ultimately revealed in the results of this data."

The prestigious annual review



John Erstling



Fernando Acosta-Rua

recognizes high performing hospice agencies by analyzing patient care and measuring satisfaction of care from the caregivers' perspective.

"To earn Elite Status from Deyta two years in a row is a reflection of our commitment to our community and to the dedication and professionalism of our staff," said John Erstling, senior vice president of Community Engagement and Philanthropy at Community Hospice and an Avondale resident. "It is an honor to work for an organization that places such high value and commitment to patient and family needs as well as the needs of the community."

## Cathedral Arts Project receives \$100,000 grant

The Cathedral Arts Project received a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to support its Any Given Child initiative. The grant is one of more than a 1000 grants totaling \$74.3 million that the NEA has awarded to arts organizations throughout the country.

The grant will be used to expand Any Given Child programming in Duval County Public Schools, particularly middle schools, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. The funds will help provide high-quality programs, professional development opportunities and equipment in several geographically diverse middle schools over the next few years.

"Receiving the money is a wonderful thing, but first and foremost is the recognition we received at the national level," said Allison Galloway-Gonzalez of Riverside, who is executive director of Any Given Child in Jacksonville. "Receiving this grant from the NEA is further testament to the foundation that has already been laid and the ambitious goals we have set here in Jacksonville," she said.

"By working together with the Cathedral Arts Project, Duval County Public Schools, the City of Jacksonville, and our incredible network of community volunteers and artists, we are investing in the creative capital of students and ultimately our nation's ability to compete in a rapidly changing global economy,"



Allison Galloway-Gonzalez

Galloway-Gonzalez said, noting that it was probably the "collective nature of our work that was appealing" to the NEA.

"We had incredible support from the Superintendent, the arts organizations and the business community in town, she said adding that the NEA may have been impressed with the Cathedral Arts Application because "it felt like an entire community effort."

Statewide, 27 NEA grants totaling \$675,000 were awarded to Florida nonprofit organizations last fall, including one to WJCT Public Broadcasting. This spring, the Cathedral Arts Project grant was among 24 grants to Florida organizations totaling \$1,378,775 including \$771,775 to the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs to support programs that benefit the state.



## Residents invited to be part of new city website

Following a nine-week testing of a new City of Jacksonville website, the renovated and upgraded site – coj.net – launched in early May. While prominently displaying photos of Jacksonville landscapes, landmarks and events, the City is also inviting residents to submit their original photos that showcase the city. Selected photos will be featured on COJ.net. More information about the submission criteria can be found at coj.net/photos.

The last update to the site was 2010, nearly 20 years after COJ began its online presence. The new site features upgrades that provide greater mobile access, enhanced search functionality and translation services. Future phases will include customized templates for pages belonging to different city departments and agencies.

Feel free to provide your feedback on the new site at COJFeedback@coj.net or share your thoughts with readers by sending an email to editor@residentnews.net.

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## Cathedral Terrace to undergo renovation

Cathedral Terrace, a downtown apartment building for seniors owned by Lakeshore South-based Aging True, will receive a major renovation in October.

The \$27 million makeover is part of the latest Renew Jax project. The city will contribute \$803,000 in State Housing initiatives Partnership program funds. The funding includes a combination of private tax credit financing and state and Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority sources.

Cathedral Terrace houses 240 one-bedroom apartments reserved exclusively for low-income residents who are elderly or disabled. The renovations will take place floor by floor. Residents will be relocated to vacant apartments while their units are being rehabbed. The renovations, which will include new flooring, appliances and painting, are expected to take a year to complete.

## City to host pogo competition in Hemming Park

Sports fans and athletes in Jacksonville can add another sports event to the city's ever-growing list of competitions held in Jacksonville.

Pogopalooza 2015, the World Championships of extreme pogo, will hold the 2015 U.S. Open in Hemming Park June 5-6. The event will feature the best Xpogo athletes from across the globe, including US, Canada, South America, Russia and Western Europe. Athletes will soar over 10 feet off the ground on super-charged, specially fabricated pogo sticks, pushing the limits of action sports. The championship is a high-paced competition featuring Freestyle, Best Trick and High Jump events, in which athletes compete for a \$10,000 total prize purse as well as coveted world rankings.

Jacksonville is one of only two cities to host tour stops for Pogopalooza 2015. Now in its 12th year, Pogopalooza is the largest pogo stick event in the world and has been held in 15 cities across three countries since 2004. Following the 2015 U.S. Open, the World Finals will be held in Philadelphia July 3-4.

In addition to a world record attempt, qualifiers and finals, an amateur competition will be held June 6 at noon. The event also features a pogo stick expo and a free jump area where children and adults can try the world's best pogo sticks, both classic and extreme. Hemming Park will also have local vendors, food trucks, refreshments, music and more.

## 220 Riverside to see new restaurant this fall

Brooklyn continues to boom. While tenants of 220 Riverside are starting to move in, new businesses continue to open and attract residents from nearby 5 Points and Riverside. The latest announcement last month was that the owners of downtown-based The Candy Apple Café & Cocktails have confirmed plans to open a restaurant at 220 Riverside later this fall.

Jennifer Earnest and Liz Earnest, the mother-daughter team who own and operate The Chef's Garden Catering and Events, will again partner with Alan and Ellen Cottrill, the husband-wife team behind the San Marco-based businesses River City Contractors and Millwork Design.

"We are thrilled to expand our restaurant portfolio with our new venture at 220 Riverside," said Jennifer Earnest,

co-owner of The Candy Apple Café & Cocktails and a San Marco resident. "...we look forward to joining in the movement to revitalize Brooklyn, too. Our new restaurant will share our high standards for quality food and service that we bring to The Candy Apple Café & Cocktails, the Cummer Café, and The Chef's Garden Catering and Events."

Meanwhile, Sweet Pete's Candy partner Marcus Lemonis, who has a 50 percent equity stake in the business, entered into verbal agreements last month to purchase two buildings on North Hogan Street in order to expand the classroom, retail, and private event space for Sweet Pete's Candy and The Candy Apple Café & Cocktails. Lemonis is also seeking to acquire the rights to a parking lot next to Sweet Pete's.



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## Avondale resident helps Urban Parks initiative

Local attorney Steve Pajcic for a second year presented Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown with a \$50,000 check to help fund Brown's Urban Parks Initiative. The initiative helps youth in some of Jacksonville's higher-crime neighborhoods participate in safe and productive recreation during their summer break.

The donation will expand the Rec 'N Roll program for inner-city youth from 10 parks to 18 parks beginning June 15. The eight-week summer program places coaches and retired coaches in urban parks for supervision and guidance during the summer break.

Pajcic remembers the times he and his brother Gary spent in Woodstock Park as young boys and credits that experience with his success today.

"I want kids growing up today to have the same opportunities that I had, which



Steve Pajcic

was to come to this park that was like a second home to me, and feel safe, hang out, have fun and grow up without having to worry so much about crime or other things," Pajcic said. "It seems today we don't honor our children enough by giving them this kind of opportunity and I want to change that. We need to do for our children what we used to do for them and maybe we can have the kind of success with our children that we used to have."

## Pele's Wood Fire closed

The corner of Park and King is a bit dimmer now in the evenings. Lights are out at Pele's Wood Fire while new equity owners Jacques Klempf and Fraser Burns decide how to rebrand the business.

Klempf and Burns, owners of Forking Amazing Restaurants recently entered into agreement with MAF Restaurant Group

LLC, owned by Mark Frisch, for purchase of an equity stake in MAF Restaurant Group. Rebranding of Pele's Wood Fire will be tailored for the Park and King retail district; at this time there were no details about the plans.

Forking Amazing Restaurants also owns Bistro AIX in San Marco, Ovinté at the St. Johns Town Center and the Cowford Chophouse, slated for a summer 2016 opening downtown.

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# Clerk foils robbery at Pulp

*Flower shop not so lucky*

By Kate A. Hallock,  
Resident Community News

A string of robberies, some at gun point, occurred over a two-week period last month beginning with an antiques shop on Park Street. It wasn't until media coverage of a thwarted attempt in Avondale that the pieces started to come together.

On Thursday, May 7, at approximately 9:30 a.m., a robbery was reported at Pulp Juice Bar, located at 3645 St. Johns Ave.

According to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office report, the suspect reportedly parked a white two-door pickup truck along the Dancy Street side of the business and entered the store. The suspect placed a plastic bag on the counter as he brandished a white handgun with an orange tip. He pointed the gun at the clerk, Erisa Ali, and demanded that she place the money from the register in the bag.

Ali refused the suspect's demands and slammed the register drawer shut. "He said, 'Put the money in the bag' and I said, 'What money?'" said Ali.

The would-be robber then reached over the counter and attempted to open the register drawer himself, but was unsuccessful. According to Ali, the suspect

exited the store, and Ali locked herself in a restroom to call the store's owner, Jason Bajalia. The police report said the suspect returned to his vehicle and was last seen driving north on Dancy Street.

Ali stated that she thought the gun was fake but said the incident was "really scary" nonetheless. Although all Pulp employees are instructed to accede to such demands, Ali said she wasn't thinking when she refused to comply. "I just did it," she said, describing her immediate reaction to close the cash drawer.

On Thursday, May 14, the JSO indicated they believed the same suspect committed robberies at The Looking Glass located at 2748 Park St and the St Johns Flower Market located at 4015 St Johns Ave. as well as a petit theft (property valued at less than \$300) at Great Clips located at 4495 Roosevelt Blvd.

Marianne Thiesen, co-owner of the St. Johns Flower Market, said that the robber got away with more than \$100 in change when he tricked the clerk into opening the cash drawer with a request for change for a dollar. "We didn't have a policy about that," said Thiesen. "We do now."

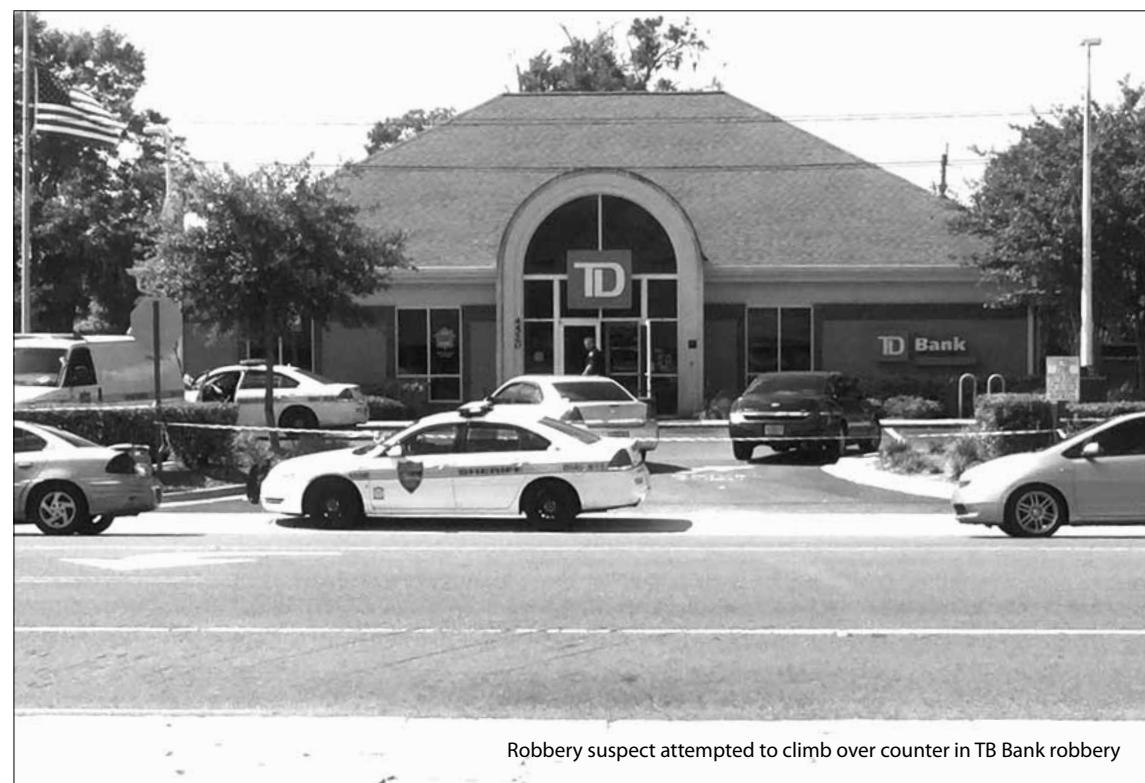
According to Thiesen, a police officer came to the shop on May 15 to tell her that they had apprehended the suspect. *The Resident* was able to confirm this with the JSO.



Pulp Juice Bar clerk thwarted attempted robbery

*Ali refused the suspect's demands and slammed the register drawer shut. "He said, 'Put the money in the bag' and I said, 'What money?'"*

- Erisa Ali



Robbery suspect attempted to climb over counter in TD Bank robbery

## Police search for suspect in TD Bank robbery

In an unrelated incident, on Saturday, May 16 at 9:45 a.m. a robbery was reported at the TD Bank on San Juan Avenue. According to the report, the suspect entered the bank and approached the teller area demanding cash. The teller complied with demands and while collecting the money from the drawer, the suspect attempted to climb over the counter. Prior to the suspect making it over the counter into the teller area, the teller handed the suspect the money. The suspect fled the bank and was last seen traveling eastbound on San Juan Avenue toward Roosevelt Boulevard on foot.

The suspect is described as a white (Hispanic) male approximately 5'6" to 5'9" tall, weighing 160 pounds, with low cut salt and pepper colored hair. He was wearing large black sunglasses with green lenses, a dark grey long sleeved button up shirt, light gray pants and black shoes. He was carrying what appeared to be a dark colored computer bag. The suspect did not display a weapon during this incident.

Anyone who has any information in regards to the suspect is asked to contact the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at (904) 630-0500 or email JSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org. To remain anonymous and receive a possible reward up to \$3,000 contact Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS.

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## Restoration planned for façade of historic venue

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Except for a three-year period in the early 1980s, the 88-year-old Florida Theatre has continuously provided cultural and entertainment events for four generations of Jacksonville residents and visitors.

Prior to its temporary closure from 1980 to 1983, the theatre offered a wide variety of entertainment for five decades, from international stars like Elvis Presley to locally produced opera, dance, and dramatic performances, and civic use.

Now host for community events such as the Jacksonville Film Festival, the Florida Ballet, and the One Spark Speaker Series, as well as headliner concerts such as Natalie Merchant, Merle Haggard, Dave Chappelle, Queens of the Stone Age and John Legend, the Florida Theatre Performing Arts Center welcomes more than 150,000 visitors annually.

The Mediterranean Revival-style building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and deterioration threatens the integrity of the elaborate terra-cotta balconets, banding and ornamentation on the building's exterior. Thanks to a \$150,000 state historic preservation grant and \$75,000 in matching funds from the City of Jacksonville, the

theatre is currently undergoing a \$225,000 restoration of its façade.

"We have not yet established a time-line for this project. I can say, however, that it will be done before the end of the 2016 fiscal year, because that's what the state funding requires," said Florida Theatre President Numa C. Saisselin, an Avondale resident. "The city will be managing the project. We have not put it out to bid yet though."

Saisselin said the project is limited to seven very specific repairs to the masonry and stone on the façade of the building: (1) repairing or replacing the cracked terra cotta finishes at the seventh story faux balconies; (2) repairing or replacing the cracked terra cotta finishes at the horizontal banding between the sixth and seventh stories; (3) re-caulking all terra cotta joints; (4) repairing or replacing the cracked terra cotta finishes at the second and third story window surrounds; (5) repairing the cracked terra cotta finishes at the lower level; (6) replacing one cast stone sill at the rear of the building; and (7) grouting and caulking all sills.

"It's the kind of very un-sexy and monotonous repair that bores most people to death, but is a very necessary part of maintaining a historic building," Saisselin stated. "It is all exterior work. There is no interior work. No shut down of the theatre is required."

The current restoration is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$4.1 million renovation over 30 years ago. Riverside resident E. W. Nash, then president of the Southeastern Region for Prudential, was tapped to chair the multi-million dollar capital campaign.

According to the venue's website, the renovations at that time included the restoration of the original balcony seats,

replacement of the rocking chair seats installed in the orchestra, and the addition of a wall at the rear of the orchestra seating section. The concession stand was retained, as was the marquee, both of which date from the 1950s. Many of the theatre's other features required minimal reconstruction, and a significant amount of the building's original equipment features and fixtures remain intact and in use today.



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## A landmark property gains grateful owners

*Love shines through Lane-Towers house restoration*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Edward W. Lane House in Avondale, regarded by architectural historian Wayne Wood as "the most spectacular example of Tudor-Revival style architecture in Jacksonville," is in the process of being refurbished down to its very foundation.

In 2012 John and Yvonne Hove paid \$2.6 million for the elegant riverfront mansion, known as the Lane-Towers House, at 3730 Richmond St. Over the past three years they have been steadily rejuvenating the exterior structure back to its original 1920s grandeur with plans to subtly modernize it inside.

John Hove, whose hobby is to restore pre-World War II automobiles, brings engineering expertise to his massive renovation project. As owner of an international company that manufactures and distributes of intermodal hardware products to the transportation industry, reconstructing a large historic home is a welcome challenge.

"I like to fix old things," Hove said. "Restoring this house is like restoring 50 cars at the same time."

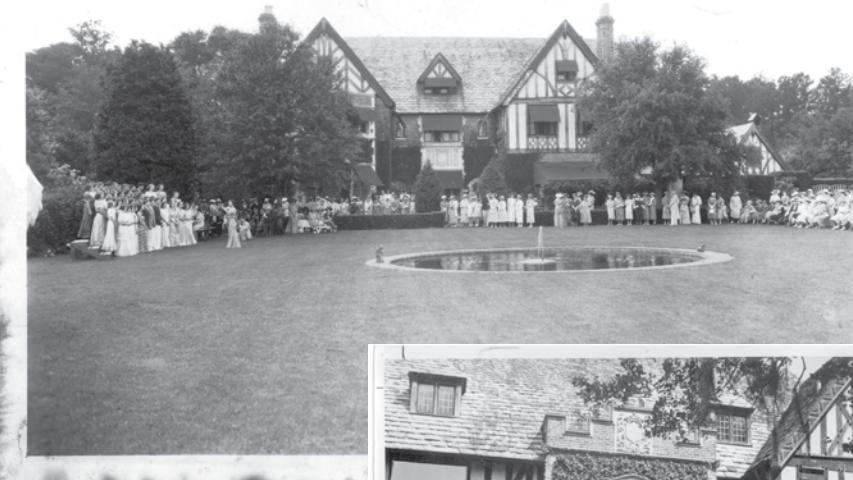
"We're changing the inside of the house but we aren't modernizing it. We're making it more congenial to 2015," said Hove's wife, Yvonne. "You don't often get to bring a house into the 21st century and have it look like the 17th," she said, noting the inside will be comfortable while retaining "90 percent" of the classic Tudor interior.

Sitting on a two-and-a-half acre lot, the Lane-Towers House is the largest single-family dwelling in the Riverside-Avondale Historic District and was one of the largest homes in Jacksonville when it was built, said Wood, who wrote the definitive architectural reference, *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage Landmarks for the Future*.

"It is one of the greatest houses in Jacksonville," Wood said. "Over the years I have always listed it as one of my top 10 buildings architecturally in Jacksonville."

*"I just remember a lot of laughter and parties and fellowship and joy in that house," Betsy said.*

*"It was a happy, happy home."*



Edward W. Lane House, circa 1930.  
Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Preservation Commission.



Front door of the Edward W. Lane House, circa 1930.  
Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Preservation Commission.



The Lane-Towers House was featured on the very first Riverside-Avondale Preservation tour in 1976 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

### European influence

Designed by famed Jacksonville architects Mulford Marsh and Harold Saxelby (also designers of Epping Forest), the house was built in 1928 for Atlantic National Bank founder Edward Wood Lane, Sr. and his wife Anna Taliaferro Lane, daughter of U.S. Senator James P. Taliaferro (Dem.-FL, 1899-1911). Prior to building the house, the Lanes had traveled extensively in Europe and sought to recreate a Tudor-Revival home with many of the details Mrs. Lane had admired in the European homes she visited.

The exterior of the house includes such attributes as half-timbering with pegged joints, leaded- and stained-glass windows, a slate roof, Tudor-style arches over the doors and some windows, ornamental cast stone, massive chimneys with star-shaped tracks and chimney pots, steep gables with ornate bargeboards and random-shaped limestone blocks that trim the windows, doors and corners.

According to the Hove's plan, the interior will again include pegged oak floors, rich linen-fold wood paneling, exposed beam ceilings, arched doorways with carved stone lintels, huge stone fireplaces, and sculpted plaster ceilings. The Hoves have been careful to save as much of the original woodwork, plaster and unique features of the house as possible.

In 1928, the home cost the Lanes \$130,000 to build. Mrs. Lane took a special interest in its construction, Wood said, personally supervising the bricklaying as she observed the workers from a lawn chair under a tree in the backyard.

Prior to the Hoves, Lane House has had two other owners: Mortgage banker and developer William Towers and his wife, Jean, known to everyone as Pokey, who

*continued on page 19 >>>*

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lived in it for 12 years and banker Raymond Mason, Jr. who purchased the house with his former wife, Meredith, for over a \$1 million in 1986. It was the first million-dollar sale ever in Jacksonville, said Pokey's daughter, Elizabeth (Betsy) Towers, noting that Beverly Brandenburg, a realtor with Manormor Sotheby's International Realty in San Jose, represented her mother.

### A livable castle

The Towers bought the house in 1969 when the asking price was \$175,000, but paid less, said daughter Agnes Towers Morrissey. At that time the house had six bedrooms including a second-floor maid's quarters, seven full baths, two half-baths, cedar-lined closets, metal-lined humidors in the library and a walk-in safe where her mother used to store peanut butter so she wouldn't eat it, recalled Betsy. On the landing was a secret room behind the paneling that could be accessed by putting a bobby pin through a pinhole in the railing, Betsy said. "The paneling would pop open. It was a great hiding place," Betsy said adding that her mother stored Christmas decorations and suitcases there.

The library on the first floor was identical to the library in Ninah May Holden Cummer's former home on Riverside Avenue, which was also designed by Marsh and Saxelbye, Betsy said. Mrs. Cummer's home was torn down to build the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and her library is now the Tudor Room at the Cummer.

"I just remember a lot of laughter and parties and fellowship and joy in that house," Betsy said. "It was a happy, happy home."

During their 40-year tenure, the Lanes had also renovated the house to add a breakfast room on the rear as well as a cage-like elevator that went to the second floor, Betsy said. When the Towers repainted the home before moving in, her mother added a gold leaf ceiling to the breakfast room, she said.

We never felt like we were living in a castle, Betsy said. "It was home. It was very livable. When we moved in, Mother said, 'This house needs to be filled with flowers, children and dogs' and it was. She wanted it used by people."

The Towers family ate most meals together in the giant dining room, Betsy recalled. Each of her siblings had their own room and bath. The master bedroom had two separate bathrooms. On the third floor, Betsy had a dark room and Agnes had an art studio. "It had grand rooms, but we really lived in all of them," she said.

Because her father had grown up in another house on Richmond Street, he was familiar with the house and neighborhood,



Agnes Towers Morrissey and Elizabeth (Betsy) Towers grew up in the Lane-Towers House.

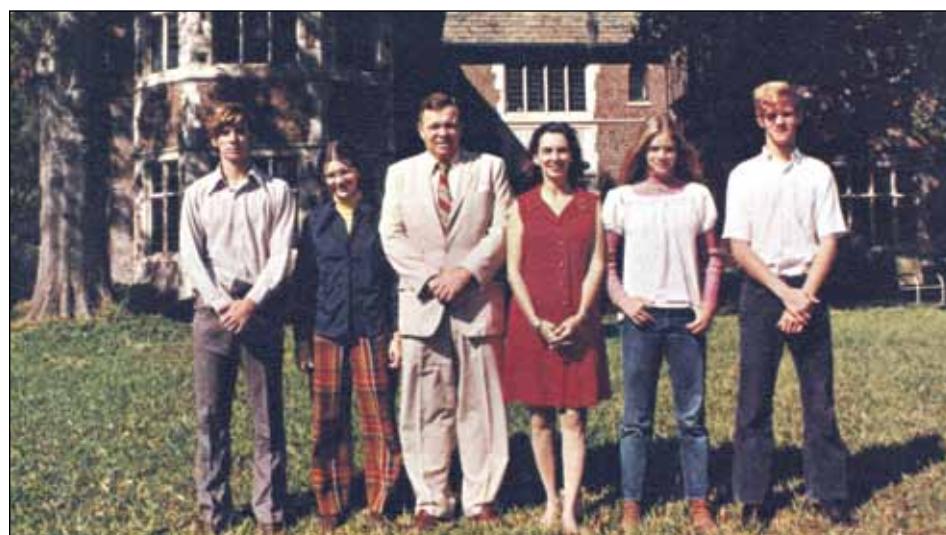


Photo used for family holiday card and inspiration for the painting by Jack Moment.

Betsy said. When he was six years old, he would often sneak down to the Lane's house and peer through the gate to watch Mr. and Mrs. Lane enjoy coffee served by their butler on the terrace, she said, adding that he and his brother, Charlie, would also sneak oranges off the Lanes' citrus trees.

"My father loved the house," Betsy said. But tragedy struck a few months after the Towers family moved into the home in 1972 after completing renovations. When William died in the house from a heart attack, Pokey Towers continued to live there with her family for 12 years after his death.

### Unique guests

Believing the house should be shared, Pokey took pleasure allowing charitable functions to be held in the house. Prominent people such as famed billiards player Willie Mosconi, soap opera actress Susan Lucci, and the Moroccan ambassador were guests, Betsy said, recalling that she had never seen Chanel shoes before Lucci's visit and was "flabbergasted" when the actress left them behind.

"We used the house for so many

purposes," Pokey said in a telephone interview. "A lot of organizations used it and friends would ask if they could have their 50th anniversary parties there. Agnes had a big wedding there and Betsy a small one. We had a lot of small weddings, mainly for people in the office. It was nice to see the house used. It was a house that lent itself to so many things. It filled a hole in my heart at the time. Bill had just died, so it kept us busy," she said.

It was Betsy who decided to list the house in the National Register, taking more than a year to go through the application process. "From a very young age, I could see how quickly things change," Betsy said. By being listed in the National Register, the house "would always be protected and no one could tear it down," she said.

Both Betsy and Agnes said they often regarded the house as a "living and breathing" entity with a personality all its own. Something about the house was "magical," said Betsy, and her sister agreed. "When my dad died, it rocked my world," said Agnes, who was only 15 when her father suddenly passed away. "It was as if

the house wrapped its arms around me. It has such a solid presence. I've always felt protected by the house, even if I was there alone," she said.

In 1985, when Pokey Towers decided to marry Dr. Jim Lyerly, a widowed neurosurgeon with whom she had gone to Lee High School in Riverside, she decided to sell. "He was not interested in living in a big house," said Agnes. "She wanted to scale down." The Lyerlys were married in the house before they moved out and now live in Ortega.

Raymond Mason married his former wife, Kim, at the Lane-Towers house in 2000. They raised their two children there and allowed it to be featured in magazines, TV commercials and made-for-TV movies, most notably *The Babysitters Seduction, Point Man*, a TV series filmed in Jacksonville and Disney's *Summertime Switch*.

According to a newspaper article, Mason remodeled the home installing central heat as well as a game room on the third floor, which included a home theater, pool table and dance floor. On the property a tennis court was built as well as a boathouse with multiple lifts and a swimming pool.

Each family that has lived in the house has loved it, Agnes said. Betsy concurred saying, "For Mrs. Lane, it was the creation of the house. For our family, it was the sharing of the house. When we lost Father, we felt it was an extension of him because he had loved it so much and then he was gone. I'm sure it was the same for Raymond, who grew up next to it. Clearly he loved it, too," Betsy said. "Every family that has lived in the house has had an adoring love for it," she said expressing appreciation for the Hoves and their desire to preserve the house for all generations. "The integrity of the house is the important thing, the fact that it's being preserved. We're so pleased it has come under their stewardship," said Betsy. "They are pouring so much love into the house when it really needed it."

Yvonne said love for the house is the main impetus behind their restoration. "One of the reasons John and I want to bring it up to par is because the house had been loved," she said. "It's kind of like my child, isn't it? It has its own life. I'm so glad that John and I found it."

*Next month, The Resident will share specific details of the Hoves' restoration of this historic Avondale property. To view more photos of the house and enjoy more of the rich history of 3730 Richmond Street, visit [www.residentnews.net](http://www.residentnews.net).*



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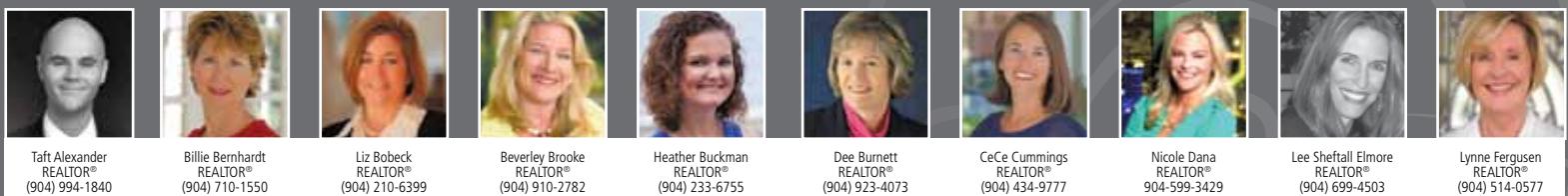


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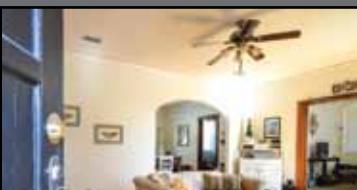
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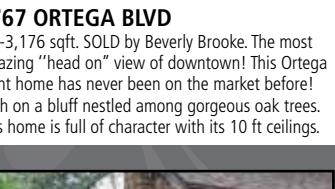
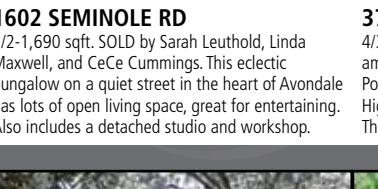
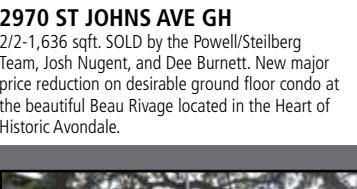
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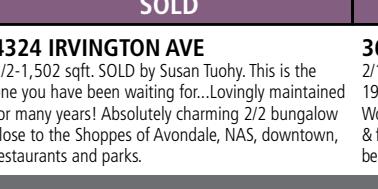
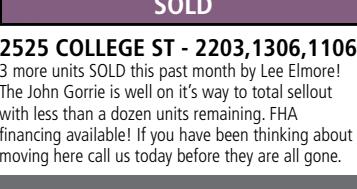
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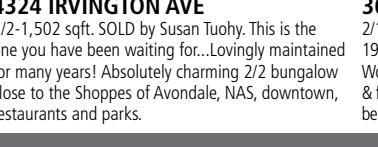
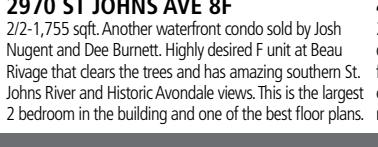
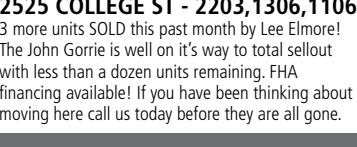


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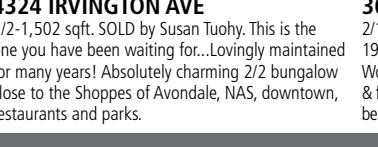


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2/2-1,755 sqft. Another waterfront condo sold by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett. Highly desired F unit at Beau Rivage that clears the trees and has amazing southern St. Johns River and Historic Avondale views. This is the largest 2 bedroom in the building and one of the best floor plans.



**4324 IRVINGTON AVE**

2/2-1,502 sqft. SOLD by Susan Tuohy. This is the one you have been waiting for...Lovingly maintained for many years! Absolutely charming 2/2 bungalow close to the Shoppes of Avondale, NAS, downtown, restaurants and parks.

**3655 HERSCHEL ST**

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## Save the date for 'tour de food'

The fall social season starts off with a bang at the annual Delicious Destinations event at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Sept. 10-12. With Tour de France as the theme, event chairs Jennifer and Henry Brown, Kelley and Stephen Kunz and Kristen and Josh Martino have planned a long weekend's worth of fun and food.

Beginning with a Celebrity Chef Reception and Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 10, Chef Jean-Pierre Brehier, of France and Ft. Lauderdale, will demonstrate recipes, ingredients and techniques while Chef Hermann Muller's team of talented chefs assemble the dishes for the patrons.

On Friday night, major donors and sponsors will enjoy a private reception with the chefs, then on Saturday night, the gourmet event will wow everyone with the food and wine pairings by chefs from up and down the East Coast. Don't forget about the live and silent auctions with many unique items. Visit [deliciousdestinationsjax.com](http://deliciousdestinationsjax.com) for details.



## Southern hospitality all 'round on Derby Day

Supporters of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School – 225 in number – enjoyed a beautiful evening at the Kentucky Derby Dinner and Auction on the school's campus. While American Pharaoh may have won the 141st running of the Kentucky Derby, the real winners of the evening are the students of St. Mark's, who will benefit from the proceeds raised.

Chaired by Jessica Ryals, the evening kicked off with a viewing of the Kentucky Derby, bluegrass music, hors d'oeuvres, and a bourbon bar. Guests, dressed in their best derby hats and attire, posed for photos with a "thoroughbred." A Southern-themed catered buffet dinner featured pork tenderloin and shrimp and grits.

Final fundraising numbers are still tabulating, but the goal was surpassed thanks to the fun and anonymity of using a mobile bidding system. Guests enjoyed the convenience of using the BidPal system on their phones and tablets to place bids on fabulous silent auction items.



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# Champs again at Physicians Cup tourney



The team of McClow, Clark and Berk P.A. Radiology Services won the championship, for the second year in a row, at the 10th annual Physicians Cup Golf Classic. The sold-out event of 37 teams netted over \$40,000 for the St. Vincent's Physicians Giving Society. Held May 18 at Timuquana Country Club, the tournament was co-chaired by Dr. John Donovan, Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons, and Dr. Brad Williams, North Florida Anesthesiologists. Title sponsors were Merrill Lynch and ProAssurance.

Becky Rood, Rufus Holton, Allison Vogt, Ed Johnson

## Time to make a rush for annual cancer ball

Throw on your Levis and join the American Cancer Society celebrating its 20th annual Cowford Ball, "Gold Rush" on Saturday, October 3, 2015. The event at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds features gourmet fare, live and silent auctions, midway games, entertainment, dancing and a few surprises! The event will support the American Cancer Society's mission of saving lives and celebrating more birthdays by helping people stay well, get well, finding cures and fighting back. Visit [www.cowfordball.org](http://www.cowfordball.org) for details.



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

Young women cap leadership program with celebration luncheon



Front row: Lyra Nguyen, Brenee Cummings, Cristine Ambas, Tabatha Wescott, Cierra Richardson, Laura Crooks. Back row: Ngan Huyah, Ruby Nwaebe, Cierra Stone, Tamer Britton, Doug Milne.

Twelve Jacksonville women celebrated the completion of the year-long Young Women in Leadership program May 13 at Lee High School.

Sponsored by The Woman's Club of Jacksonville, the program is designed to enrich their lives by focusing on a broad array of issues pertinent to women in today's world. It is also meant to support their goals for higher education.

The group met once a month to discuss topics such as building short and long term goals, building strong communication skills, self-motivation, interviewing techniques as well as how to apply for educational scholarships. The Woman's Club of Jacksonville provided refreshments at the meetings as well as scholarship help to individual students.

Laura Crooks of Avondale and Douglas Milne of Ortega Forest were the co-directors of the program. Milne provided a special graduation luncheon, which was catered by the Cross Creek Steakhouse.

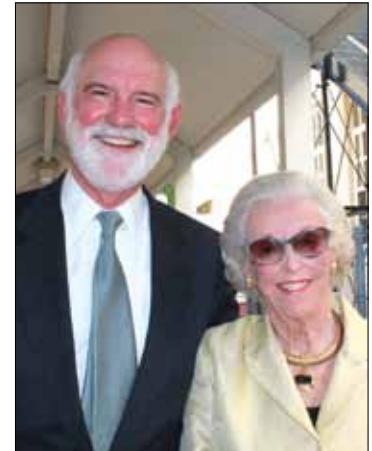
Established dental practice opens new location



Residential and business growth in the Riverside/Brooklyn area prompted the 31-year-old practice of Carlson Dental to open its second office recently. Last month staff moved into new digs at 501 Riverside Ave. in the EverBank building, giving area residents and office workers a short stroll to the dentist. Extended hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., including lunch hour appointments, provides a great convenience for employees at local businesses and 5 Points residents.

Carlson Dental is also located near Baptist Health South on Bartram Park Boulevard. More information about the practice can be found at [www.Carlsontentalgroup.com](http://Carlsontentalgroup.com) or call (904) 262-8409.

## Local school honors alumni with first annual award



Gilchrist Berg,  
Helen Lane

Helen Murchison Lane, member of the Ortega Elementary School Class of 1936 was honored last month along with Gilchrist Berg, Class of 1963, at the 1st Annual Ortega Elementary School Distinguished Alumnus Awards.

Lane was recognized for her contribution to the arts, while Berg was honored for contribution to education at the school's Spring Exhibit and Concert Night May 7. "Both distinguished alumni exemplify the spirit of excellence, unselfishness and love that has been instilled in Ortega students since 1923," said Dekle Day, president of the Ortega DoDads Club.

Lane, whose four children had also

attended what is now one of the top five Museum Magnet schools in the country, offered this advice to the boys and girls at the event: "Always smile!" Berg, whose tenure at the school coincided with a daughter of Lane, told students to "be absolutely grateful" and to "pick good heroes."

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## FTA recognizes local resident for Route Optimization

Brad Thoburn, Ortega resident, has been recognized by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as a RisingSTAR. The award is given to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to transit in the first five years of their transit career. Thoburn received the award during FTA's 2015 Southeastern Regional Transit Conference, May 13-15 in Atlanta, Georgia.

As JTA's Vice President of Long Range Planning and System Development, Thoburn oversees planning, engineering,



Brad Thoburn

construction and project development for the Authority. Thoburn's team developed the Route Optimization Initiative (ROI) plan that completely overhauled JTA's fixed bus route and community shuttle services.

## New director of college guidance named



Justine Worthington

St. Johns Country Day School has appointed Justine Worthington to the position of Director of College Guidance. She will replace Rod Cox who is retiring in July after 26 years of service to the school.

Worthington comes to St. Johns from Dayton Christian High School in Dayton, Ohio where she serves as the Director of College Guidance. Prior to that she was an Admission Counselor at Ohio Northern University and at her alma mater, Otterbein University, in Westerville, Ohio where she earned her B.A. in Psychology. She holds a College Counseling Certificate from UCLA. Worthington is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC).

## Racing to shape future of the community

Friends and co-workers keep Jared Bynum's memory close at heart, especially during the annual Mt. Acosta Classic.

"Every year we pull the community together and collectively give back to the students that will shape the future of this community," said Marie Vogler, an engineer with Haskell. "Having continued local support from Grassroots Natural Market, City Cycle Shop, Open Road Bicycles, Lakeshore Bicycles and Champion Cycle, as well as a collection of restaurants, makes this event one of a kind."

Representing her Haskell colleagues, Vogler presented a \$9,575.01 check to Sara Bravo, principal of Julia Landon College Preparatory School at Southside Baptist Church on May 3. The check is the third annual presentation in memory of cyclist Jared Bynum, a member of the church and former employee of Haskell. Bynum was killed while bicycling when struck by an SUV in October 2012.

To date, \$31,000 in funds raised from the Mt. Acosta Classic are used for \$5,000 scholarships to former Landon students who participated in the Southside Mentoring Program.

"This scholarship and the Mt. Acosta classic are just two ways that Jared's friends and family honor his memory and continue his legacy by investing in the next generation," said Rev. Gary Webber, Southside Baptist Church, which manages the funds. "Southside's partnership with Landon Middle school began six years ago. This year we have 18 mentors – the most the program has ever had. The scholarship program is an extension of our church's commitment to these students long past their middle school experience."



Marie Vogler, Sara Bravo

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**4401 Ortega Farms Circle**  
Waterfront Estate on over 2.5 acres & 154 feet on Ortega River. Lovely 4BR, 2 full and 2 half baths plus attached 1BR/1BA guest quarters. In-ground pool, barbecue pit & greenhouse. 5,140 sq. ft. \$725,000



### 746 Ralph Street

Craftsman Bungalow near the popular King St. District. This 3BR/2BA features an updated kitchen and baths as well as walk-in closet/sunroom off of upstairs bedroom. 1,475 sq. ft. \$165,000



### REDUCED

**1070 Wolfe Street**  
Updated 3BR/2BA with New roof, New ceilings, New HVAC. All new kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops, fresh interior and exterior paint, updated baths. 1,676 sq. ft. \$205,000



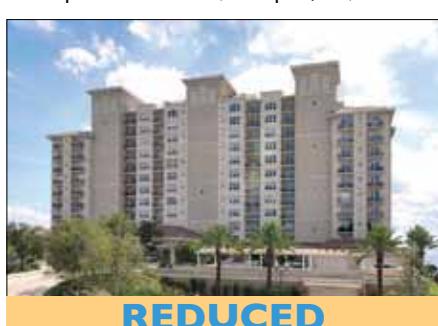
### REDUCED

**3675 Riverside Avenue**  
A Nice 3BR/1BA, 1928 Bungalow complete with a inviting Front Porch. Close to the Restaurants and shops of Avondale. Cute eat-in Kitchen with granite counter tops. 1,185 sq. ft. \$210,000



### 1650 Parrish Place

This 3BR/1BA home offers an excellent floor plan with a formal living room, dining room and sunroom. In the sought after Fishweir school district, the home has a garage, irrigation system and lots of storage. 1,575 sq. ft. \$232,000



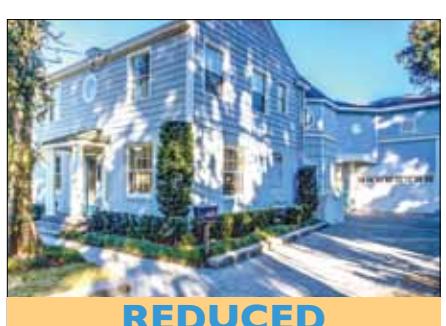
### REDUCED

**2358 Riverside Avenue, #904**  
This 9th floor condo has 2,725 sq. ft., 3BR/3BA with marble floors, large open living area with gas fireplace, formal dining room, owner's suite w/ great master bathroom, gourmet kitchen w/granite and stainless. \$849,000



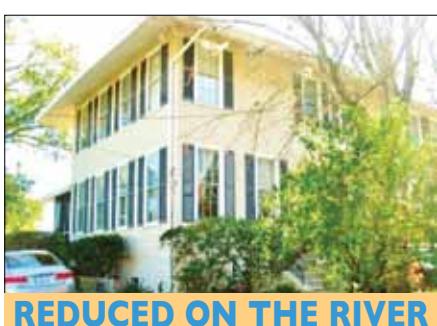
### 4824 Attleboro Street

3BR/1BA Classic Mid-century brick home in Murray Hill. Completely updated with new roof, AC, windows, kitchen, gorgeous refinished hardwood floors, attached 2-car garage and lovely Florida room. 1,321 sq. ft. \$152,000



### REDUCED

**4009 San Jose Boulevard**  
Beautifully renovated 1930's two-story. This home features: renovated kitchen, family room, study, playroom / office, 4BR/3.5BA, large renovated master suite with walk-in closet and dressing room, and 2-car garage. Approx. 3,220 sq. ft. \$829,000



### REDUCED ON THE RIVER

**1844 Cherry Street**  
Classic 5BR/5.5BA riverfront in the heart of Avondale. Private 200+ foot lawn and gardens. Newer wing with fireplace and built-ins serves as great room or master suite with sep. entry. 4,144 sq. ft. \$995,000



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### 820 Murray Drive

One of the first homes built in Murray Hill, this 1914 home has 5BR/3BA, master suite with antique tub and walk in shower. Hardwood floors, gas log fireplace, and open kitchen. 2,382 sq. ft. \$249,000

# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Kuzel honored by JSO for service

Sheriff John Rutherford presents Riverside resident Kevin Kuzel with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to the community on April 30. Kuzel, executive assistant to District 14 Councilman Jim Love, had assisted the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office with the annual ShAdCo Safety Fair on Jan. 17. Kuzel helped JSO Sergeant Dennis Pelot with planning and organizing of the safety fair, and served as event photographer.



## Matrimony in Murray Hill

Murray Hill residents Mallory Taylor Hayes and Jeremy Adam Haygood became man and wife on April 25 at Riverside Park United Methodist Church. Well-wishers gathered at the Timuquana Country Club for an evening reception. After a Jamaican honeymoon, the Haygoods returned to Jacksonville, where Mallory is a nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center and Jeremy works in the financial industry.



## HabiJax CEO is EVE Award finalist

Mary Kay O'Rourke, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc. (HabiJax), has been selected as a finalist for the 2015 EVE Awards in its employment category.

"To be selected as a finalist for the EVE Awards is a true honor," said O'Rourke, a Riverside resident. "There are many great women in the Jacksonville community who do amazing things each day, and I am sincerely humbled to be recognized."

O'Rourke has led HabiJax since 2005 and is accountable for the oversight of a budget of more than \$13 million. As a result of

O'Rourke's efforts, HabiJax is financially stable and continues to thrive.

Now in its 46th year, the 2015 EVE Awards luncheon will take place Friday, June 5, 12 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront.



Mary Kay O'Rourke

## Oldest eye care firm to donate exams, glasses

Jacksonville's oldest continuous private optometry practice celebrates its 65th anniversary by giving back to the community. In recognition of the Riverside-based firm's longevity, Drs. Lanier, Bowman and Associates will donate 65 free eye exams and glasses to Jacksonville's indigent community. The practice, founded in 1950 by William H. Wood, O.D., been recognized nationally for practice innovation and advanced patient care techniques.

"Since 1950, when Dr. Bill Wood opened his Optometry practice doors in the Exchange Building in



Front: Ellen Rogers Wagner, Alison Webb; back: Todd Bowman, Jim Lanier

downtown Jacksonville, it has been a blessing and a privilege to serve so many of Northeast Florida's residents with quality, state of the art eye care in a good, old fashioned, friendly atmosphere," said Dr. James Lanier.

## Men's Garden Club welcomes life members



Donn Elliott, president of the Men's Garden Club, presents Terry DelValle with a plaque commemorating honorary membership.

During its May meeting, the Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville, established in 1945, inducted Bill Huebner into its roster of Honorary Life Members, which includes Chaplain Roy Lightfoot, Richard Basford, Jim Fortenberry, Jim Love and Russ Snyder.

The club also awarded its second honorary membership to Terry DelValle, Duval County Program Leader/ Urban Horticulture Agent, for her outstanding service to and in recognition of achievements which exemplify the club's highest ideals. The first honorary member is Karen Love, of San Marco, who provided the club's members with refreshments for many years.

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## Publicity for public school plight leads to preservation award



Patsy Bryant, center, holds the award given to the Annie Lytle Preservation Group

Thanks, in part, to a story in the February issue of *The Resident*, the nonprofit Annie Lytle Preservation Group was a recipient of a Historic Preservation Commission award at the May 7 event.

The Commission's annual awards ceremony recognizes outstanding projects and services that promote historic preservation in the Jacksonville area. The Annie Lytle Preservation Group was recognized with a Preservation Project or Service award for its 10 years and hundreds of hours of work dedicated to the preservation, cleanup and securing of Annie Lytle Public School #4.

"On behalf of all of us at ALPG, I would like to thank you again

for the article. It is how we were discovered by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission and led to the nomination and the upcoming ceremony," said Patsy Bryant, one of the dedicated volunteers who has helped clean up decades of debris and graffiti at the century-old building on Chelsea Avenue.

Other local groups to receive awards included Riverside Avondale Preservation for rehabilitation of the Buckland House, now RAP's office and Troy Spurlin Interiors for rehabilitation of a Riverside Avenue home that now serves as both office and home for Spurlin. The Commission also honored Richard and Rebecca Stein with the Architecturally Compatible New Construction award for their residence on Richmond Street.

## Riverside resident honored with Lifetime Achievement



Cindy Edelman

Cindy Edelman, of Riverside, was one among several recipients of the Innovation in Education Awards whose leadership and dedication inspire students and educators alike.

The May 14 event held at Jacksonville University honored individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations across Jacksonville, including Maxine Engram, I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless; Ashley Ferguson, KIPP Jacksonville, and Joseph Rawlins, Duval County Public Schools (Individual award); John D. Baker, Patriot Transportation Holding Inc. and Paula Chaon, Citigroup Inc. (Business Leaders); St. John's Country Day School and The Leadership

Schools at Eugene Butler (Schools K-12: Public, Private and Charter); Episcopal Children's Services, The Community Foundation, The Chartrand Family Fund, The Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership; GRASP Academy; Team Up; The Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF), and Operation New Hope Inc., "Breaking the Cycle" (Collaborations); Northeast Florida Military Veteran College Network (Military Champion); Carlisle Interconnect Technologies, Investing in Kids!, St. Johns Technical High School; Community First Credit Union, Community First Cares Foundation; Jacksonville Symphony Association, Communities in Schools: Jump Start Strings; The PGA Tour, Teach for America Jacksonville; Stellar, Nease High School: The Stellar Academy of Engineering; St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Florida Blue, Duval County Public Schools, HealthTeacher, and VyStar Credit Union: High School Credit Union Branch Program, Reality Fair (Education Partnerships).

## Ortega residents named principals at real estate appraisal firm



Justin Markley



Courtland Eyrick

Ortega residents Courtland C. Eyrick, MAI, and Justin S. Markley, MAI have been appointed as principals within the oldest real estate appraisal firm in Jacksonville.

Broom, Moody, Johnson & Grainger, Inc., now known as Florida Valuation, formed in 1982 to offer commercial and residential appraisal services

to clients throughout the state of Florida. Eyrick will lead the firm's litigation efforts, while Markley will focus on serving bank and institutional clients. Also named a principal is Nick Chop, MAI, and current president of the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Appraisal Institute.

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1061 Holly Ln.  
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5950 Clifton Ave.  
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2368 Riverside Ave.  
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3917 Barcelona Ave.  
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556 Broward Rd.  
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2957 Bridlewood Ln.  
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1614 S. Edgewood Ave.  
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3943 Oak St.  
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2651 Post St.  
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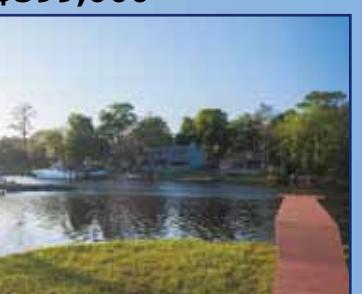
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5038 Eagle Point Dr.  
**\$340,000**



1690 Woodmere St.  
**\$332,010**



4922 Seaboard Ave.  
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5021 Ortega Farms Blvd.  
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4605 Princess Anne Ln.  
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4530 Iroquois Ave.  
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2227 Herschel St.  
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# trons and special guests 'Rock the Decade'



Baum, Susan and Brian Wiley, Liz and Paul Cohn



e and Tom Culligan with Bobby Martin and Lesley Roberts



Theatre President Saisselin with wife



Allison Adams, Will Krieg and Dr. Annmarie Kent-Willette

It was a time to celebrate the 1950s, as board members, major donors and friends of the Florida Theatre came together to celebrate a festive evening on Forsyth Street. The evening included special guest appearances by Norma Jean Baker, aka Marilyn Monroe, and Elvis Presley, who entertained guests and took time for photos.

There were plenty of poodle skirts, polka dots and sock hop essentials present as attendees danced the night away on the theatre's stage, following the tented dinner and silent auction cocktail hour. According to theatre President, Numa Saisselin, the event will help to raise about twenty percent of the operating budget. "A night like tonight helps us to get there, as we fund theatre programming for educational opportunities," said Saisselin. He went on to talk about local schools such as Douglas Anderson School for the Arts and LaVilla, those that provide unique experiences for their students thanks to donors and supporters. The event took place under a tented entrance where food, fine hand-crafted cocktails and an expansive silent auction adorned the retro-themed party on Saturday, May 16.

## Winning spirit lights the way for awardees

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville honored several neighborhood artists during its 39th Annual Art Awards Gala, Light the Night, on May 2 in the Spark District. Money raised from the gala will benefit the Council's private arts grant program.

The honorees included Amber Amerson of Riverside, Art Educator Award; Cari Sanchez-Potter of Riverside, Art Innovator Award; Kedgar Volta of San Marco, Emerging Artist Award; Al Letson of Ortega, National Impact Award; Martha "Marty" Lanahan of San Marco, Helen Lane Founders Award; Dr. Mauricio Gonzalez, the Robert Arleigh White Award for Art Advocacy and Baptist Health, the Business Award for its commitment to enhancing the hospital experience with visual art, gardens, natural light and "sense-sensitive" design, as well as its dedication to arts in healing.



Sarah Hande with Dr. Marcelle Polednik



Cultural Council Development Resource Manager Ryan Ali, Darnell Smith and Cultural Council Executive Director Tony Allegretti



Bill Gardner and Jennifer Ernest



Award Winner Cari Sanchez-Potter hoists her "Equal Point" award



Heather Wingard, Diana Davis and Krista Eberle

# Social REGISTER

## trons enjoy good food, beer, at 6th annual RiverHops



Bill and Karen Norris



Linda and Ray Hindmarch



Bernadette Moran and Frank Rossi



Rick Beaver, Peggy Holt, Dr. Joe Barton

The stunning home of Charlene Johnson at the Marsh Landing Country Club in Ponte Vedra was the venue of the 6th Annual RiverHops charity benefit for North Florida School of Special Education May 2.

More than 200 guests attended the pairings dinner, which featured beers from Intuition Ale Works and delicious food prepared by Executive Chef Ian Welch of Bistro Aix/Ovinte and Chef Brett Swearingen of Berry Good Farms, the school's teaching farm.

The event featured a silent and live auction. Two popular items that were auctioned off included a dinner at the riverfront home of Gary McCalla and a party with the school's new food truck.

Proceeds from the event will help fund North Florida School of Special Education's programs for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities.

## Pine Castle raises \$60,000 on Derby Day

The racehorse American Pharaoh may have won the Kentucky Derby, but Pine Castle's programs for the disabled were the real winners during its annual "Run for the Roses" Derby Day fundraiser May 2. Kelly and Erik Smith served as honorary co-chairs for the event.

Over \$60,000 was raised during the benefit at Timuquana Country Club where more than 200 guests dined on traditional Derby fare – bourbon flank steak, shrimp and grits, Derby pie and mint juleps. The event included a live telecast of the race from Churchill Downs, which allowed guests to choose a horse and enter drawings to win prizes. The evening also included live music, silent and live auctions, a photo booth and bonnets and bow ties contests.

"Run for the Roses is a festive, fun way to support Pine Castle," said Mary Jarret of Riverside, past president and current board chair. "It's a party with a purpose that you don't want to miss. Mark your calendars for next year!"

The next Pine Castle "Run for the Roses" event will be held Saturday, May 7, 2016, as the Kentucky Derby is annually held on the first Saturday of May.



Pine Castle Executive Director John May with Mary Bland Love



Co-Chairs Kelly and Erik Smith



Lori and Paul Whitman, Jason and Melissa Hyne with Karen and Dave Matthews



Terrance and Catherine Kelly



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Lee Norville



Troy Scott



Linda Shepherd



David Taylor



Lisa Anthony Tucker

# 3rd annual Wiffle Golf benefits JALA

Steve and Michael Pajcic of Pajcic & Pajcic hosted their 3rd Annual Wiffle Golf + Happy Hour to benefit Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. The event held at Steve and Anne Pajcic's home on May 15 offered awards, including \$6,000 for a hole in one, with an additional \$6,000 donated in the golfer's name to JALA.

The course, with two par 5s and three par 3s, involved real golf shots, including putting and plays about as tough as a player's home course. Rounds at TPC were among the prizes for "closest to the pin" and lowest gross score. Pajcic & Pajcic also matched all entry fees, hole sponsorships and prizes won with a donation to JALA.



Morgan Orender makes a practice putt on the floating hole



Michael, Steve and Anne Pajcic



Mitchell and Tommy Donahoo



Andy Miska, Michael Fackler, Charlee Miska, Virginia Norton

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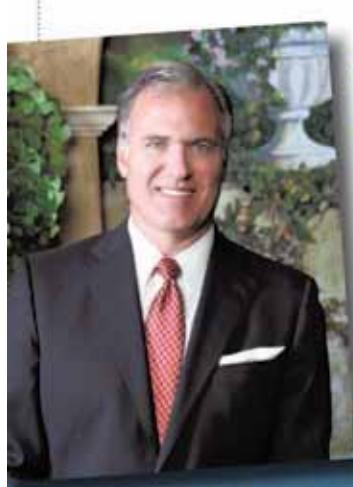
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# Glowing orange for MS awareness

Tables topped with orange linen and orchids at the Garden Club set a cheery tone for the annual MS On the Move luncheon, which raises funds to develop awareness of a serious disease – multiple sclerosis. The event raised about \$20,000 through table sponsorships and donations.

Carrie Inman Cessna, six-time event co-chair, was diagnosed with MS in 2005 but hasn't let the disease run her life. Cessna, a real estate sales associate with The Fred Miller Group, also designs custom jewelry; a portion of the sales of her Buki Designs Jewelry at the luncheon will also benefit the MS Society.



The Fred Miller Group sponsored two tables at the annual MS Luncheon.



Ceci Kane, Margee Michaelis, Jane Slater



Cheryl Russell, event co-chair, Corinna Madrid, North Florida Chapter president, Dawn Emerick, guest speaker



Another multi-table sponsor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, turned out in force to support the fight against MS.

## Garden Club helps fund Riverkeeper campaign

At its annual meeting to install new officers, the Garden Club of Jacksonville also presented a check for \$1,800 to the St. Johns Riverkeeper for its civic outreach project.

"We are the voice of the St. Johns River and get our funds through private donations; we don't seek any government funding at all. These funds will be designated for the Save the St. Johns Campaign for technical, legal and scientific expertise to address the myriad of issues that are affecting the St. Johns," said Jimmy Orth, executive director, St. Johns Riverkeeper. "The good news is that to help raise \$250,000 the Delores Barr Weaver Foundation is matching up to \$125,000, so this contribution you've given us will be doubled. There are so many issues affecting the river and as this is the Year of the River, this gift is perfect timing."



Jimmy Orth, executive director for the St. Johns Riverkeeper, accepts an \$1,800 check from LaVonne O'Shields, Garden Club corresponding secretary



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**STYX**  
Friday, June 26 at 8:00 PM  
Best known for their hit songs "Lady," "Come Sail Away," "Renegade" and "Too Much Time On My Hands."

**The Gipsy Kings**  
featuring Nicolas Reyes and Tonino Bialiardo

**Thursday, June 11 at 8:00 PM**  
Melding deep-heated flamenco, rumba, salsa and pop to the tune of 20 million albums sold, the Grammy Award-winning hit-makers behind 'Bamboleo.'

**Swamp Radio- How's Your Summer Going?**

**Friady, June 12 at 8:00 PM**  
Celebrate summer with special musical guests include The Willow Wacks, Herd of Watts and Mama Blue. Purchase of a \$50 ticket includes dinner at Olio before the show.

**Happy Together Tour**

**Tuesday, June 16 at 8:00 PM**  
Performances by 60s hit makers the Turtles feat. Flo & Eddie, Mark Lindsay (former lead singer of Paul Revere and The Raiders), The Association, The Grass Roots, The Buckinghams and The Cowsills.

**Jokers Wild Comedy Tour**  
**Starring comedians DeRay Davis and Earthquake**

**Saturday, June 27 at 8:00 PM**  
Comedian and actor DeRay Davis won the Comedy Central Laugh Riot Competition and went on to be a standout on the Cedric the Entertainer Tour. Comedian Earthquake always shakes things up. He has performed on One Stand for HBO, Comedy Central, BET's Comic View, Def Comedy Jam and Jamie Foxx's Laffapalooza.

**Don McLean**

**Thursday, July 2 at 8:00 PM**  
Since first hitting the charts in 1971, Don McLean has remained one of America's most enduring singer-songwriters, and is forever associated with his classic hits "American Pie," "Vincent (Starry Starry Night)," "Castles in the Air," "And I Love You So," and "Crying."

# JAX

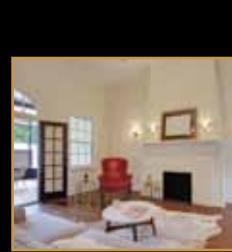
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# CAP opens door to new home

Supporters of The Cathedral Arts Project were in for a treat at its open house event May 21 in the historic Elks Building downtown. Two galleries, the Charles Margiotta Student Gallery and the Heather Moore Geraghty Community Gallery, displayed student and art teacher works. Also, in honor of the first night of Jazz Fest, local jazz drummer and Cathedral Arts instructor John Lumpkin set the mood with Erik Lofgren on the keyboards and Lawrence Buckner on the upright bass, while guests noshed on hors d'oeuvres catered by Café Nola.

The Cathedral Arts Project recently received a Certificate of Excellence from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, as one of the top programs of its kind in the country. In its third decade of serving more than 2,000 students two afternoons each week during the school year and summer, CAP provides quality, standards-based instruction in dance, music, theatre and the visual arts at no charge to the students.

Marcus Haile, Chief Development Officer, Allison Galloway, Executive Director, Any Given Child



Steve Williams,  
Daniel Austin,  
Josh White,  
Fitz Pullins



Jennifer  
Palmer,  
Brooke  
Reemsnyder



CAP Staff:  
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Holland, Chief  
Operating  
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Card, Director  
of Finance,  
Jennifer  
Clements,  
Operations  
Manager



Molly and Keith Davidson

## Cyclists learn tire changing, get free helmets



Laura Beran and her husband Josh, helps their 2-year-old daughter Gigi make a bicycle license plate as Amanda Moody looks on during Bike Day at Riverside Arts Market.



Brian Price and his son Brayden inspect a wheel during a clinic on how to change a flat tire given by Charlie Fetzer of LakeShore Bicycles, while his daughter Addison observes.



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Charlie Fetzer of LakeShore Bicycles gets some help during his clinic on how to change a flat tire during Bike Day at the Riverside Arts Market. Helping Fetzer is 4-year-old Brayden Price and his sister, 5-year-old Addison, and 5-year-old Adeley Fears.

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# Mosaic mural project draws observers, helpers

*Art in Public Places truly a public work of art*

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Had the “call for artists” for the Southbank Riverwalk Main Street Bridge mural project gone another way, the process may have been a whole lot different and the outcome, perhaps, viewed in another light.

Fortuitously, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville’s project description to create permanent public art on a 60-foot wall along the newly renovated Southbank Riverwalk included criteria that the project have a level of community engagement.

During the 41-day – and night – installation of “Mirrored River: Where Do You See Yourself?” winning artist Kate Garcia Rouh and husband Kenny Rouh have, without a doubt, fulfilled the engagement criteria.

A steady stream of visitors along the St. Johns River’s Southbank have been drawn back again and again as collaborators in the mosaic mural project.

Kate Rouh said that “helpers” have ranged from local residents who regularly come out to affix tiles, to visitors to Jacksonville for spur-of-the-moment participation, and even the homeless.

“We had a young man from Brazil who was in Jacksonville for a week with his job at CXS,” she said. “He came through one night and then came back the next night to



Kate Garcia Rouh



Kate Rouh placed the last piece of tile on the mosaic on May 12 (Photo courtesy of RouxArt)



Kenny Rouh

work with us for a few hours.”

Rouh noted that a homeless man had also spent a few evenings helping, a similar experience to that when the Rouhs tiled Main Street Park last year.

For that project, Rouh said that many of the “regulars” who hung out at the park decided to participate, likely ensuring the future integrity of the project. Unlike

two dimensional art, which may not be sacrosanct from graffiti, the mosaic art that the Rouhs create is appreciated by everyone.

The couple’s willingness to allow passers-by and hangers-on to participate in the projects generates a sense of ownership that will surely go a long way in preventing defacement of their artwork. The 448-square-foot mural under the Main

Street Bridge is the 67th project granted by the Cultural Council’s Art in Public Places.

Back at the Southbank, for those who paused on their stroll along the Riverwalk to affix a tile or two, as well as for the stalwart helpers, the answer to the Mirrored River question is clear: they will forever see themselves in this magnificent piece of public art.

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**Tirbod Fattahi, MD, DDS**  
Associate Professor and Chair  
UF Department of Oral and  
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# Burgers & Beers



Taste the neighborhood's choicest cuts

**By Katie Smith**  
Resident Community News

Rev up the grill, summer is coming. Soon the sweet smell of sizzling hamburgers will be wafting from backyards everywhere. As everyone knows, there is nothing that can do justice to a juicy burger like a large cold glass of beer. But if you haven't time to get your own grill fired up, take heart! The Resident went out and tested the best burgers and ale in the neighborhood and came up with a few suggestions.

## Bistro Aix's X Burger - \$14 *"Most pedigreed beef"*

For their X Burger, Bistro Aix opts for Chicago's Allen Brothers™ USDA Prime beef, meaning their hamburger is made from the top three percent of all graded American beef. A classic preparation of cheddar cheese, pickles, onions, local lettuce, and a chipotle sauce accent puts the focus on the meat. Plated with house-made chips, order it with an Aardwolf Belgian Pale Ale, \$5. 1440 San Marco Blvd., (904) 398-1949, [bistrox.com](http://bistrox.com)



## Black Sheep's Chuck Norris Burger - \$18 *"Most likely to roundhouse kick you in the tastebuds"*

You won't find it on the menu, but regulars know that for celebrity treatment, order the Chuck Norris burger. A grass-fed beef patty plus two strips of Pine Street bacon, under a thick layer of house-made pimiento cheese, with house-made bread-and-butter pickled jalapeños and pickles. This big burger comes with off-the-menu hand-cut fries. Managing partner Allan DeVault recommends



accompanying this action hero with the fizzy and fruity Belgian Trippel, Unibroue's La Fin Du Monde, \$6. 1534 Oak St., 5 Points, (904) 380-3091, [blacksheep5points.com](http://blacksheep5points.com)

## Blind Rabbit's Holick Burger - \$14

*"Most apt to put hair on your chest"*

Blind Rabbit anchors one end of the King Street entertainment district. Before heading out for the evening, try the Holick Burger, a beef patty layered with a thick slab of Intuition beer-braised pork-belly, served on a brioche bun, dressed with lemon aioli and house-made bread & butter pickles, and capped off with a sunny-side-up egg.



Refresh your palate with an Aardwolf Belgian Pale Ale, \$6. 901 King St., (904) 337-0146, [theblindrabbitwhiskeybar.com](http://theblindrabbitwhiskeybar.com)

## The Brick's Veggie Burger - \$12

*"Best burger for when you suddenly remember your New Year's resolutions"*

The Avondale strip is home to the city's best veggie burger. Inspired by his vegetarian wife Kelley, owner Steve Kunz and his staff developed a savory, substantial Veggie Burger recipe that features brown rice, black beans, milled flax seed, quinoa, barley, beets, and mushrooms, finished with a caramelized soy glaze. Shaped in a patty press so it stands up to grilling, you'll find no mushy, flimsy veggie



burger here. It'll stand up to the sweet and nutty flavors of Bold City Duke's Cold Nose Brown Ale, \$5. 3585 St. Johns Ave., (904) 387-0606, [brickofavondale.com](http://brickofavondale.com)

## Harpoon Louie's Buffalo Burger - \$9.99

*"Best Burger when looking for a healthy choice, but veggie and turkey burgers aren't cutting it"*

The menu description for Harpoon Louie's American Pub & Grill Buffalo Burger is deceptive: 100% ground buffalo topped with barbecue sauce, sautéed mushrooms and onions, and jalapeño jack cheese. What it doesn't tell you is how fresh and delish it is, and how much your mouth will thank you when you take that first bite of very lean buffalo meat with a zingy twist of taste from



the sauce and cheese. Served with a side, so go for the fries. Alternate bites with a sip of Intuition Ale Works flagship beer, the Peoples Pale Ale, \$4.75. 4070 Hershel St., (904) 389-5631, [harpoonlouiess.net](http://harpoonlouiess.net)

## The Fox Restaurant's Big Kahuna Burger - \$9.25

*"Most likely to be served with a bottle of Sriracha"*

If it's never dawned on you to explore beyond The Fox's breakfast menu, you're in for a treat. The Big Kahuna burger features a soy-sauce-glazed patty accompanied by the triple threat of bacon, grilled pineapple, and jalapeño, topped with melted provolone. It's a luau in your mouth. Add a bottomless diner coffee



for \$1.95 or your favorite soft drink, \$2.25. 3580 St. Johns Ave., (904) 387-2669, [yelp.com/biz/fox-restaurant-jacksonville](http://yelp.com/biz/fox-restaurant-jacksonville)



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**Mossfire's Black Bean Sandwich - \$9**

*"Best burger for when everyone else wants tacos"*

When you've worked up an appetite biking around 5 Points, give Mossfire's Black Bean Sandwich a try. It's a house-made green chili, corn, and black bean patty topped with fresh guacamole and a roasted red pepper aioli. Comes with fries, red chile slaw, or black beans. Vegetarian, sure. Boring? No way! Set



your meal off with a Sierra Nevada IPA, \$5, and don't forget a pitcher of margaritas. 1537 Margaret St., (904) 355-4434, mossfire.com

**MShack's Insanity Burger - \$11.95**

*"Best option for the indecisive"*

Hamburger? Grilled Cheese? MShack won't make you choose. The Insanity Burger is a double-patty burger housed in between two grilled cheese sandwiches, topped with lettuce, tomato, a pickle, and Shack Sauce. Indulge yourself with sweet potato tots, \$3.50, and a refreshing Bold City Killer Whale Cream Ale, \$5.25. 1012 Margaret St., 2103 San Marco Blvd., (904) 423-1283, mshackburgers.com

**O'Brothers Irish Pub's Herb-Crusted Lamb Burger - \$13.50**

*"Best burger for the non-sentimental"*

A stilton cheese-thyme crust with white wine and onion, O'Brothers' lamb burger is a savory masterpiece cooked to order, and a great alternative to your common beef patty. Try it with a side of green beans, if you're feeling guilty. Pairs well with Smithwick's Irish Ale, \$5.25. 1521 Margaret St., (904) 854-9300, obrothersirishpub.com

**Pinegrove Market & Deli's Sal's Patty Melt - \$10.99**

*"Best nostalgia option: just like Grandma used to make"*

All the Avondale locals know to head to Pinegrove to pick up USDA Choice house-aged beef for their grilling needs, but real Pinegrove regulars will point to Sal's Patty Melt as the sandwich to satisfy lunchtime cravings. It's a half-pound steak burger with grilled onions and melted havarti-jack cheese on toasty grilled sourdough bread. Comes with house-made Grove Chips, or



try the onion rings, \$3.49. The beer cooler is self-serve; grab a can of Cigar City Jai Alai IPA, \$3.75. 1511 Pine Grove Ave., (904) 389-8655, pinegrovemarket.com

**Taverna's Angus Burger - \$13**

*"Best burger for locavores"*

On your next visit to San Marco Square, swing by Taverna for their classic version of the Black Angus Burger on a whole wheat bun flavored with Greek yogurt. Taverna's ground beef is hormone- and antibiotic-free, and their focus on local and seasonal produce means your burger's Bibb lettuce was harvested by local farmer Fred Bacon. Wash it all down with Aardwolf's Belgian Pale



Ale, \$6. 1986 San Marco Blvd., (904) 398-3005, tavernasanmarco.com

**Wine Cellar's Angus Cheeseburger - \$12**

*"Best burger for when you want to be formal, but you're here to party, too"*

The Wine Cellar, a fixture on the Southbank for over four decades, is a relative newcomer on the hamburger scene. After all, their Black Angus Burger has only been on the menu for ten years. Nonetheless, their eight-ounce patty—draped in aged cheddar and mozzarella, sprinkled with crispy fried onions, with a swipe of chipotle aioli, and served on grilled ciabatta alongside rosemary



fries—is no amateur. If you're feeling refined, complement it with their house red, Foyt Family Wines No. 72 Meritage Sonoma County 2011, \$13/49. 1314 Prudential Dr., (904) 398-8989, winecellarjax.com

**Why Pale Ale?**

Noticing a trend in the beer pairings our restaurants chose, we went to the source. Why is Aardwolf Belgian Pale Ale such a popular choice to accompany a juicy burger? "Pale Ales, including American and Belgian styles, are coppery-gold beers brewed with lightly roasted 'pale' malts, and tend to have citrusy overtones with a crisp finish. With IPAs, there's a shift toward more bitter hoppiness, with some piney flavors. Look for a balanced level of hops for a great palate cleanse. Your last bite will taste as good as the first," explains Cory Lippel, bartender and assistant brewer at Aardwolf. "IPAs are great with spicy meals that can stand up to the IBUs, but those extra hops can overpower some foods with a tannin-like effect on the palate. A Belgian style, though, is a staple of dinner beers. At 5.9 percent, you can pair our version with almost anything, whether a burger or a nice piece of snapper. The sweeter malts give it a golden color and the European hop profile will satisfy even die-hard IPA drinkers. I got opinionated about it while cooking in restaurants. Good food deserves good beer."

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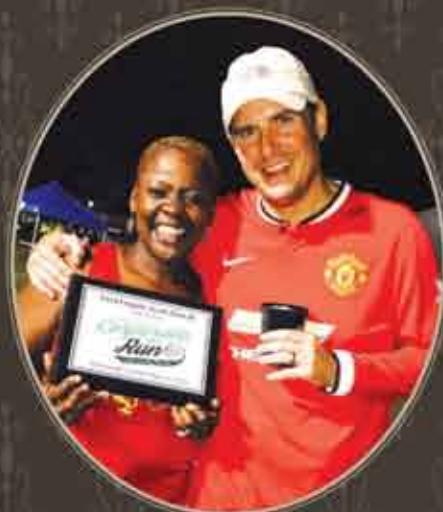


The Law Firm of Pajcic and Pajcic takes great pride in being able to give back to our community. The success Pajcic and Pajcic has had in the courtroom not only benefits our seriously injured clients, but other deserving members of our community that the law firm cares so much about.

It was a fun way to fundraise! The Law Firm of Pajcic and Pajcic held a whiffle golf tournament with all the proceeds going to Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. "JALA" provides legal assistance to low income and special-needs individuals. The 9-hole-course included an island green and sand traps. The Pajcic Firm matched every donation dollar for dollar for a grand total of nearly \$40,000 collected at the event. The Pajcic Firm is passionate about making sure everyone in our community has access to legal services.



Employees in the Pajcic Firm love to compete so it was no sweat finding people to participate in Jacksonville's 5K Corporate Run. All types of businesses, government agencies and financial institutions get together for the annual event billed as the city's largest office party. Overall, more than 3,000 people raced. We were able to take home a few trophies this year and training is already underway for next time!



For the second year in a row, The Pajcic Firm has given a donation to help staff Jacksonville's urban parks during the summer months. This will help pay for coaches to be in more than 20 parks when school is out of session. They will referee games, supervise activities and provide mentoring to young people. Steve Pajcic and his brother Gary grew up playing basketball in their neighborhood park. Steve told reporters it is something we owe our children, giving them the opportunity to have fun and grow up in a safe environment.



Pajcic & Pajcic has eleven 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.



# In Memoriam

## Charles D. Towers, Jr. – Nov. 9, 1923 – April 30, 2015

Just 26 years old when he began his long career as an attorney, Charles D. Towers, Jr. had already started garnering accolades.

He played first-string guard on the varsity football team, received a Silver Star for action during World War II as a U.S. Navy Lieutenant J.G. and after graduating from Princeton, attended Harvard and Stetson law schools.

Towers worked at Rogers Towers & Bailey Law Firm from 1949 until his retirement in 2000, serving as managing partner for many years, and was involved with many other business ventures as well, but it was his love for Jacksonville that some say earned him his laurels.

"He was a great friend, a great mentor, who would do anything in the world for me and for anyone. If you were a drunk in the street, he would get out of the car and help you," said Jim Winston, a friend for 60-plus years. "Thank God, he lived a long life. He deserved it and this town deserved it."

Towers served as president and chairman of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, and of the United Way, where he was a cofounder of Jacksonville's Tocqueville Society. He was an honorary member and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. He served on the Riverside Hospital Board and then the Riverside Hospital Foundation Board as Grants Chairman.

More laurel leaves were added to his crown as deacon, elder, and trustee at First Presbyterian Church and for his life-long service on the Salvation Army's local advisory and ARC boards and Red Kettle drive. He was on the Board of Visitors at the Salvation Army college in Atlanta and served on the national advisory board for nine years, and was given their very highest award, "The Others Award for Meritorious Service."

Towers was a cofounder of Prisoners of Christ, an international board member of Mercy Ships, involved with Campus Crusade for Christ, and on the steering committee for the Billy Graham Crusade in 2000. He was a regular participant of the Monday Group, who have met since 1976 in Winston's office.



Charlie Towers, seated center, is surrounded by family at a reunion in 2013. Photo by Heather Stine

After a life lived well, toward the end Towers recorded video messages to be played at his memorial service on May 9 at First Presbyterian Church, saying "So long" to hundreds of friends and family even as they said good bye to the man who meant so much to so many.

Members of the Monday Group, who served as honorary pallbearers, are going to build a church in Tower's memory through his foundation, The Lord's Foundation, Inc. Memorials can be given to the foundation at 6215 Wilson Blvd. #5B, Jacksonville, FL 32210.

Towers was preceded in death by his parents Elizabeth Morley and Charles Daughtry Towers, first wife Louise "Beezie" DeVore, brother William Benjamin Towers, and sister Elizabeth

Towers Miller. He is survived by his second wife Katy; sister Sarah Towers Van Cleve (Robert); five daughters: Cathy Hardage (Robert), Morley Towers, Susan Dennard (Dave), Sally Ragsdale (John), Margaret Towers; close family friends Sue Johnsen, Sharon Woodberry, Velta Sorrell; eleven grandchildren: Bobby Hardage, Charlie Hardage (Liz), Susan Hoffman (Derek), Emily McCloskey, John McCloskey (Katie), Susan Jaeger (Seb), David Dennard, Jennifer Dennard, John Ragsdale, Charlie Ragsdale (Lauren), Christopher Ragsdale; four great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

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# Hello Getting to Know Karen North

This long-time Murray Hill resident claims to know the secret to the best lasagna ever and finally landed her dream job after decades with a large corporation. Get to know Karen North and why bottle caps bring back memories.

## Best Adventure

I've got a small cruise problem. I've been on more than 20, and three trips to Europe. My best adventure was in Switzerland during a freak June 1st snowstorm which cancelled our ride on the world's steepest cogwheel train up Mt. Pilatus and forced us to take an aerial gondola ride. The snow-capped mountains as far as you could see was unforgettable.

## Best Childhood Memory

When I was little we visited my grandmother Wilma's home on Lakeshore Boulevard near the marina and she had the biggest fireplace ever. My cousins and I could fit inside of it. We loved to put paper in the fire and watch the beautiful colors light and burn. Simple happy childhood memories.

## Worst/Best Mistake I Ever Made

I've been married 30 years to Dana and I love him to death, but the man is an account representative for Frito-Lay Chips. Now that's torture. Hide those Fritos!

## Worst Moment

When my entire department was downsized by Prudential Insurance after I'd worked there 24 years. I was devastated.

## Favorite Dish or Dessert

My favorite dish is my own lasagna recipe. This may blow your mind but I start with Ragu. Yes, that's right. Ragu. Then throw in everything else but the kitchen sink. Everybody loves it. My favorite desserts are Bananas Foster or Creme Brulee – preferably served on a cruise ship!

## Most Unusual Job I Ever Had

When we were young, my cousins and I were hired to pick up bottle caps at the Normandy Theatre Drive-In after the movies ran. It was so much fun running all over the drive-in, hanging out together. We were paid about a nickel but thought we had it made.

## Best Decision I Ever Made

I thought my dream job would be to work as accountant for a great neighborhood school. I wanted to work at Ortega Elementary, but they had no opening. I accepted a job at Avondale United Methodist Church, worked there three months and loved everyone. Then Ortega Elementary called me. I thought, okay, fantastic! I took the job at the school and was miserable. Luckily Avondale UMC kept calling me, and I was able to get my job back. But if I had never gone to the school I might have never known where my true dream job was!



## NAMI Fun Day benefits serious subject



Peggy Harrell Jennings, NAMI Family Fun Day chair, with Sanctuary on Eighth's Deron Simmons, Alonzo Jackson and Vicky Watkins, executive director



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A family fun day hosted by Ortega United Methodist Church benefited the outreach, support and education programs of National Alliance on Mental Illness. Beginning with a guided walk through historic Ortega, the event included a children's fashion show, music by the First Coast Brass Ensemble, a performance by the

Jacksonville Concert Ballet Company, arts and crafts, and other fun activities for the kids, as well as a silent auction, and barbecue donated. The event raised approximately \$10,000 to fund outreach, education, support groups and the helpline (904) 724-7782. Visit namijacksonville.org for more information.

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# Riverside artists make mark on St. Augustine 450th celebration

By Marian Johns  
Resident Community News

As St. Augustine holds its official 450th anniversary celebration this September, several Riverside artists will be among a select group of regionally, nationally and internationally exhibited artists who have been commissioned to participate in the historic event.

Five Riverside area artists will be among those creating artwork for an exhibit centered on the "Monumento a la Constitucion," the monument located in downtown St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitucion. The exhibit titled, Obelisk Art 450 Tour of Compassion, will pay tribute to St. Augustine's anniversary celebration with obelisks that are replicas of the historic monument erected in the Plaza in 1813. The nearly 25 artists participating in the exhibit will create artwork on a blank canvas of an eight-and-a-half foot tall fiberglass on wood monument replica.

The project, initiated by Compassionate St. Augustine, will consist of each artist using their obelisk to portray four values that represent the four-sided monument: freedom, democracy, human rights and compassion, according to Riverside resident Cabeth Cornelius, curator for the Obelisk Art 450 public art exhibition.



## Liz Gibson

To be involved with an art project sponsored by Compassionate St. Augustine is the perfect fit for Liz Gibson. Gibson, who spent the last eight months teaching art to kids with disabilities through the Very Special Art program (VSA) in local schools, is a great example of displaying compassion for others.

Gibson creates paintings, sculptures, collages and many types of art, but it is truly in her "performance characters" where one can really get to appreciate the spirit of a strong woman who has overcome the obstacle of living with a disability.

"I have created four distinct characters that represent different developmental stages of what a person born with a physical defect goes through," explains Gibson. "Birth defects occur in all groups of people and the adversity of the disabled can truly touch us all, especially when the adversity is overcome and the deformed then become the empowered."

Gibson is also an Adjunct Art Professor at the University of North Florida and the recipient of several major artist grants including the 2014 Florida Individual Artist Fellowship. Gibson's most current exhibit will be on display this month at the Arts On Douglas in New Smyrna Beach. Her work is also on display at MetaCusp studio and gallery located in Riverside, which she shares with fellow artist Jeff Whipple.



## Dustin Harewood

Dustin Harewood has always felt inspired by the uniqueness and beauty of St. Augustine, which will no doubt be showcased in the piece he will be creating for the Obelisk Art 450 Tour.

"St. Augustine is definitely a 'one of a kind' type place. Having the chance to contribute artistically to the landscape is a dream come true," he said.

Harewood's piece for the Obelisk Art 450 Tour will focus on culture to reflect the many different heritages related to St. Augustine's history.

"When I first approached the project, I wanted to address the clear-cut process of colonization. The more I learned, the more complex my artistic concept became," he said.

Harewood, whose artistic ability could be seen at an early age, was born and raised in New York and spent his high school years in Barbados where his family is originally from.

"Picasso said that all children were artists; the problem always was how to remain one once you become an adult. I just never stopped after I got crayons in nursery school," said Harewood.

He currently teaches painting, design and drawing at Florida State College's Kent Campus. His works have been exhibited in Jacksonville, North Carolina, New York, Miami and Barbados.



## Jim Benedict

Ever since first grade "career day" when Jim Benedict donned a beret and smock while carrying around a paint brush and color palette, he knew he wanted to be an artist. Today, Benedict is not only a talented artist but also shares his love of art as a professor.

The Obelisk Art 450 public art project fits perfectly with the type of art Benedict enjoys focusing on, which is sculpting and public art.

"I really enjoy making public art. Having an impact on the visual culture of a community is very rewarding. Public art is the physical manifestation of a community's commitment to culture," Benedict explained. "It's a landmark, a meeting place and a catalyst for urban transformation."

Benedict, who is an assistant professor of sculpture at Jacksonville University, has several works in public and private collections across the country including

a series of bronze and stainless steel sculptures on the campus of his alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa. Benedict also has a Master of Fine Arts degree in 3-dimensional studio art from the University of Arizona.



## Thomas Farrell

St. Augustine's picturesque scenery is a familiar theme with Thomas Farrell's paintings, which is why he feels right at home working on the Obelisk Art 450 project to help celebrate the city's 450th anniversary.

"It was an honor to be asked. I do a lot of St. Augustine scenes in my artwork so this is very exciting for me," said Farrell, who is a practicing attorney and founder of his own law firm located in Riverside.

Farrell, who had already won a best of show award by his junior year of high school for his artwork, remembers drawing comic books and cartoons as a kid. His love of art continues today as well as his recognition with numerous awards including being named Official Artist for the 2009 Jacksonville Jazz Festival. Farrell's work was also featured as the cover for the AT&T phone book for the Florida Tri-County area in the fall of 2009. In addition, Farrell's art has been featured as the official posters of the 35th Annual Riverside Art Festival, First Annual Amelia Island Fall Art Festival and the Second Annual Legal Artwalk. His art has also been showcased on the wine bottle label of a limited edition

production of the San Sebastian Winery, which is also where some of Farrell's works are currently exhibited.



## Jeff Whipple

A 12,000-square foot studio and gallery in Riverside will be the birthplace of Jeff Whipple's creation for the Obelisk Art 450 Tour. The studio, called MetaCusp, which he shares with fellow artist Liz Gibson, is where Whipple will create his obelisk centered on a theme of celebrating life.

"All of my artwork is about celebrating life. My work is widely recognized for a three-lined motif, which appears in everything I make. It's a symbol for life, lives or life spans. I will use the obelisk along with realistically painted images to celebrate the compassion of the people of St. Augustine's past, as well as those who will live there hundreds of years from now," said Whipple.

In 2014, Whipple and Gibson were among only six other artists who received the Florida Artists Fellowship out of hundreds of applicants. Whipple, who currently teaches at the University of North Florida, has been in 82 solo exhibitions in galleries, colleges and museums. His work has also been in dozens of group exhibitions across the country and has received 48 top awards in competitions. Whipple's work is also on display at the MetaCusp studio and gallery in Riverside, which is open by appointment.



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# Sporting clays course opens to shooting enthusiasts

*Club raises funds and level of competition*



Donnie and Valerie Fain, Shirley and David DeBerry, Kathy Barco Jossim and Doug Jossim, Roy Clark and Iris McGuffin



Past President Larry Rolfe, George Prattos and John Strom



Daniel Teague takes some advice of long-time shooter, club member and instructor Roni Murray of Okefenokee Sporting Clays

Shooting sports in Jacksonville have put a fresh feather in the cap for shooters, as the Jacksonville Clay Target Sports, formerly known as the Jacksonville Skeet and Trap Club unveiled a new sporting clays course while branding a new name in early May.

Operating as one of the oldest continuously running facilities of its kind in the country, dating back to 1936, the news delivers a fresh, competitive perspective for current members and guests – many from the local neighborhoods.

"It is first class, we've almost doubled our participation and we've seen an uptick in the numbers," said Past President and Board Member Larry Rolfe, a Riverside resident. "Sporting clays is more of an imitation and test of true shooting," shared Rolfe, as he spoke on the history of shooting sports.

The course has helped to secure the club as one of the finest in Northeast Florida and the efforts to increase membership at the gun club has come to fruition after 12 months of fundraising and hard work. In order to deliver this world class outing, the current leadership made a decision to enlist the help of

consultant, Rich Hemingway, a sporting clays course specialist from South Carolina last October. With the goal set to create a top notch facility, the advice led the club to further the design and layout of the course. The fundraising goals were met by enlisting the support of donors and companies, many jumped at the opportunity to participate.

According to board member, club safety officer and shooting instructor Early Piety, the club had significant acreage to make it all a possibility. In addition to the sporting clays, the club already had 10 skeet fields with a total of eight stations on each field for members to utilize.

Today, with the skills necessary for the sporting clays the competition will be fierce on the grounds of the club. The future will continue to draw competitive shooters, just what the club had in mind when looking to expand. A recent opening on May 15 brought together leaders of the club who celebrated the opening by emptying rounds on the course, sharing steak and salmon dinners complete with libations – reveling in the club's success.



Fitzhugh Powell Sr. with wife Peggy, Kathy Barco Jossim, Safety Officer Early Piety and Club President Z Mincek

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# Conservation and connections made at annual chapter gathering

It was a fitting evening on the waterway as Sadler Point Marina hosted the CCA Florida Jacksonville Chapter annual barbecue and auction on the Ortega River. A gathering of supporters, friends and family of members and future anglers rallied for the cause of protecting our resources for fishing into the future.

The Coastal Conservation Association (or CCA) has a statewide presence that helps to drive lobbying efforts in support of sound recreational fishing opportunities and conservations efforts. By creating a lasting impact on tributaries, waterways and fish habitats in the state of Florida, the group ensures a better future for anglers. More specifically, the local Jacksonville Chapter for Northeast Florida gains considerable ground on the waterways and habitats by the fundraising efforts of local membership. One of the largest undertakings and groundbreaking efforts to date is the establishment of the George Holt Reef and the CCA Reef deployed Dec. 4, 2014 in the St. Johns River.

The event was highlighted by a live auction featuring charter trips, fine art, fishing gear and vacation trips as far away as Costa Rica were also made available to the highest bidder. The generous support of Bold City Brewing, Willard's BBQ Junction and Sadler Point Marina made the event a memorable occasion through their sponsorship of this year's event. For more information or sponsorship opportunities visit [www.ccaflorida.org](http://www.ccaflorida.org), click on the Jacksonville Chapter.



John Runion and Tom Steeg



Carl Richards with Billy Catlin, Walker and Jason Richards



Scott Durban, Committee Member Greg Craddock and Sadie Craddock



Committee Members Charles Holt and Pat Orman greet guests upon arrival

## Spend the day in memory of Clay In River Or Ocean holds 8th Annual Clay Roberts Inshore Slam

A tradition for the fishing community on Father's Day weekend and a nice way to spend time with others who remember good times with loved ones, the 8th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 20.

This will be the third year that Clay's Tournament will offer a Junior Anglers Division, sponsored by Key Auto Company. The competition is open for children ages 4 to 15, and 10 prizes will be awarded. Registration is \$15 per junior angler.

The tournament will be held at Beach Marine, located at 2315 Beach Blvd. at the Intracoastal Waterway. Beach Marine is a great venue for the tournament, providing ample space and parking for on-shore activities and promoting greater participation from the community.

All proceeds from the tournament are used to fund the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship at Bishop Kenny High School. The 2015 recipient is Joseph "Jay" Nasrallah, who plans to attend Florida Atlantic College,

beginning summer session after competing in the tournament.

### Entry Fee/ Registration

Entry Fee is \$120 per boat through June 19. Registration closes at the end of the Captain's Meeting scheduled for Friday, June 19, 7 p.m. at the Mudville Grille, 3105 Beach Blvd.

### Tournament Schedule

The tournament begins at "safe light" on Saturday, June 20, and weigh-in will be 2-4 p.m. and is open to the public. Food and festivities begin at 3 p.m. and

awards ceremony at 5 p.m. Weather date will be Sunday, June 21.

### Tournament Awards

Prizes will be awarded for 1st through 3rd place on a slam of all three species (Redfish, Speckled Trout and Flounder) as well as 1st through 3rd place for each individual species, for a total of \$10,600 in prizes. Sponsorships are available and benefits include banners, boat entries and program acknowledgement.

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### Hooked on hunting

Bill Parker knew his son Bradley was hooked on hunting from his first foray into the forest. In 2002 Parker took his then 11-year-old son on a deer hunting trip and said that within an hour of their arrival at the deer stand, they were a father-son team.

"Together we have spread into other types of hunting, but what we still enjoy to the fullest every chance we get together, is quail hunting," said Parker. "Quail hunting is a southern tradition. It's a chance for a father and son to spend the day together, and once again, every outing has a story to be re-lived."

Now at 23, Brad continues to spend the majority of his time outdoors. He is a competitive skeet shooter, helps trap nuisance gators for the FWC. He will sleep in his truck to be ready for ducks at sunrise. He's been to South Dakota to hunt pheasant...and then comes fishing: inshore and offshore.



Brad Parker on his first deer hunt

"I've seen Brad shoot skeet on Wednesday, fish inshore on Thursday, hunt quail on Friday, and then be 60 miles off shore on Saturday. All in the same week," said Parker, who lives in Empire Point. "We call it 'living the dream.'"



Bill and Brad Parker



Like father, like son

### The virtue of turkey

Ortega Forest resident Braxton Gillam grew up hunting with his father and grandfather and continues the tradition today with his father and two sons.

"I spent a lot of time in the woods and on the water when I was growing up," said Gillam, an attorney with Milam Howard Nicandri Dees & Gillam. "I have turkey hunted all over the country. Over the last couple of years I have been able to share this sport with my two boys. My older son, Wiley, shot his first turkey when he was about to turn 10. This year Grady showed interested for the first time in hunting and was able to harvest his first turkey in March. All I have to do know is convince my daughter to forsake sleeping in on the weekends during turkey season to have the trifecta."

Gillam shared that one of the 'life lessons' he's learned in hunting is patience.

"I have always struggled with patience. I heard an old man once say that patience has killed more turkeys than any turkey call, so turkey hunting is an appropriate challenge for me," Gillam said. "At 44, I am still working on my patience."



Wiley Gillam, 14 with father Braxton Gillam



Grady Gillam, 11

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## Passing down love of nature

The Parry family plays well together. They enjoy the outdoors in traditions that were passed on from father to sons, and now to sons and daughter.

"I was raised hunting and fishing from an early age (5 or 6 years old, fishing for bream in a pond or lake)," said Ken Parry. "My love of nature and being outdoors was passed down to me from my father, Bill Parry."

Ken and his brother Bill were taught that when taking an animal the meat must be used for food so that the animal is respected. He has passed other life lessons on to his children, too, through hunting, fishing and scuba diving.

"As my father did for me I have done the same for my three kids. The biggest lesson – life is short and you need to take the time now to enjoy these sporting activities and the beauty of nature," Parry said. "By doing so they have grown into better people and are able to use these skills in their school and social lives."

The Empire Point resident said that while hunting and fishing can be a solitary activity, the bonds that are formed doing it with family are rewarding. "Sitting in a tree stand and watching the sun rise and the animals coming out to forage is a beautiful site to see and makes me realize how wonderful God is and how blessed I am," Parry shared. "I've watched as my sons [Reid and Blaine] and daughter [Laina] have enjoyed the same."



Ken and Reid show off wahoo



Blaine and Ken



First deer



Hugh Gunter and granddaughter  
Erica Juchniewicz

## Bonding with grandpa

The first time she went deer hunting, Erica Juchniewicz dropped a buck at 245 yards, hitting it in the sweet spot right behind a shoulder. The 15-year-old learned to handle a gun practicing at a shooting range with her father Eric, but it was her grandfather Hugh Gunter, of Hugh's Riverside Automotive, who taught her how to hunt.

"When she was 12, I started taking her deer hunting. The first day she ever went hunting in her life, she killed a deer," said Gunter. "She's quite a shot; she's pretty good at it and she's constantly learning."

Gunter said that while he and his granddaughter have always been close, it was hunting that gave them something to do together that wasn't related to the family business. "It's something she really enjoys and will remember for a long time," Gunter said. "I tried to hunt with her older brother and he really loved it until he got up into the teen years. She still loves it as much as she did when she was 12 and I think she'll continue with it."

Erica has also been a member for two years of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, of which Gunter is chairman for the Jacksonville Chapter. She manages the youth raffle table at the annual banquet, which raises funds to support hunting heritage programs and help restore wild elk herds.

## For the love of music

Father Steph Britt, Rector at San Jose Episcopal Church, shares a very special connection with his daughter Katherine, a sophomore at Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Both avid lovers of music, this duet shares a love of the guitar, and sing together at church and at home along to Jimmy Buffet (their absolute favorite). When not traveling to Jimmy Buffet concerts, they also enjoy father/daughter trips to Disney World, discussing Harry Potter and watching Phineas and Ferb.



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# The Way We Were – Gladys Cariani O'Heir

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

Gladys Cariani was in her early 20s when she met her future husband, Walter O'Heir, but they didn't hit it off at first. Even though a friend introduced them, she was reluctant to agree to a date with him.

Fate intervened and one morning Gladys needed a ride to work. Walter picked her up in his used light green Plymouth. Although Walter was seven years older than Gladys the car ride went well and she agreed to a date. They began going to dances every weekend on Virginia Beach.

"It was a special time...girls wore formal gowns and dressed up to go out. I remember I had the prettiest black satin gown with a beaded matching jacket and pink panels in the long skirt...I loved dancing in that gown, O'Heir said. "There were live bands and we liked Guy Lombardi tunes and ballroom dances...we loved to waltz. Walter was working at the Naval Station in Norfolk then."

They were married in 1939 and were able to celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary in 2000, before Walter died at the age of 90.

O'Heir, 97, remembers when she and her late husband Walter took their only child, five-year-old James "Jimmy," to start school at Venetia Elementary. It was 1949 and the family had just relocated from Virginia for Walter's new job at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

"With Jimmy in school, I went back to work. The W.T. Grant Company store was located in Cedar Hills Shopping Center, where the Dollar Store is now. I had worked for the W.T. Grant Company in downtown Norfolk, Virginia since graduating from high school in 1935, until we moved to Jacksonville. I was hired as head of the household department at Cedar Hills W.T. Grant," O'Heir said. "I enjoyed working. We carried every kind of household item and clothing for the whole family. Ladies wore pretty house dresses back then, that we could run to the store in, with hose. The dresses were feminine, pretty, usually cotton and we sold hundreds of them."

O'Heir described hose made of heavier material, with thick seams in back. They stopped at the knee, because the dresses were longer, and were held up by uncomfortable garter belts.

"I remember when new silk hosiery arrived. We still needed garter belts to hold them up and there was still a seam in back, but it looked better. The new hose felt wonderful, looked prettier and were lighter weight. Everyone wanted them, but they were much more



Nancie Williams, Pernia Dodgen, Gladys O'Heir, Blair Rapanick (Nancie's daughter). Gladys O'Heir, soon-to-be 98 years old, visits her close friends every day. Her mother lived to be 100 and Gladys looks forward to celebrating her 100th with her friends in 2017!



Walter, Gladys and Jimmy O'Heir, circa 1949

expensive," she said.

The store had a pet department and sold many sewing machines and radios. The most exciting day she experienced working at W.T. Grant was when the first black and white televisions were delivered. She believes they were RCA televisions, just square boxes that no one

knew how to operate.

"They were heavy, with knobs and rabbit ear-like antenna. They were to be sold in my household department and the company sent employees to demonstrate them for us. They were high-priced, a luxury most people couldn't afford. We only sold one or two

a month and it was strange to try to sell them when none of us even owned one," she recalled.

After W.T. Grant closed in the late 1970s, Gladys worked for Peterson's 5 & Dime in 5 Points. She also worked for Mr. Hulsey's Forest Bakery in Venetia.

"I liked working for Peterson's during the holidays because we stayed so busy. The store had beautiful hardwood floors," she recalled. "And I liked working at Mr. Hulsey's bakery, especially on Saturdays when got to take home delicious leftover baked goods," she said.

The O'Heir home on Ortega Farms Circle was a happy one where Walter operated his ham radio or worked their vegetable garden. He belonged to a ham radio club and they enjoyed club events with friends. Walter, a skilled craftsman, built a 30-foot yacht with cabin and galley perfect for four people to go cruising or fishing.

"We kept the yacht docked at Lakeshore Marina and enjoyed it for many years with family and friends. We ate a lot of fish in those days," she said. "I never drove the yacht but I taught myself to drive our car!"

Half Italian, O'Heir's feisty streak shows when she described the day her husband was picked up for work at NAS and she decided it was a waste for their car to just sit, parked all day in the driveway.

"I decided to teach myself to drive. I took the car out every day after Walter left for work. I was great at driving forward, but I couldn't back up or park...I had to stop and ask for help. People laughed, but were nice about it," she said.

One morning they needed to go grocery shopping. When Walter walked to the car, Gladys told him she'd drive.

"He said, 'Oh right, you know how to drive!...but he gave me the keys, laughing. I drove us straight to the grocery store. His mouth was hanging down to his knees!' she said.

After Walter's death she sold their Ortega home to Karen and her late husband Robert Clark and moved to a Riverside apartment. Karen was the mother of her neighbor-friends Christy (and Bob) Veletta.

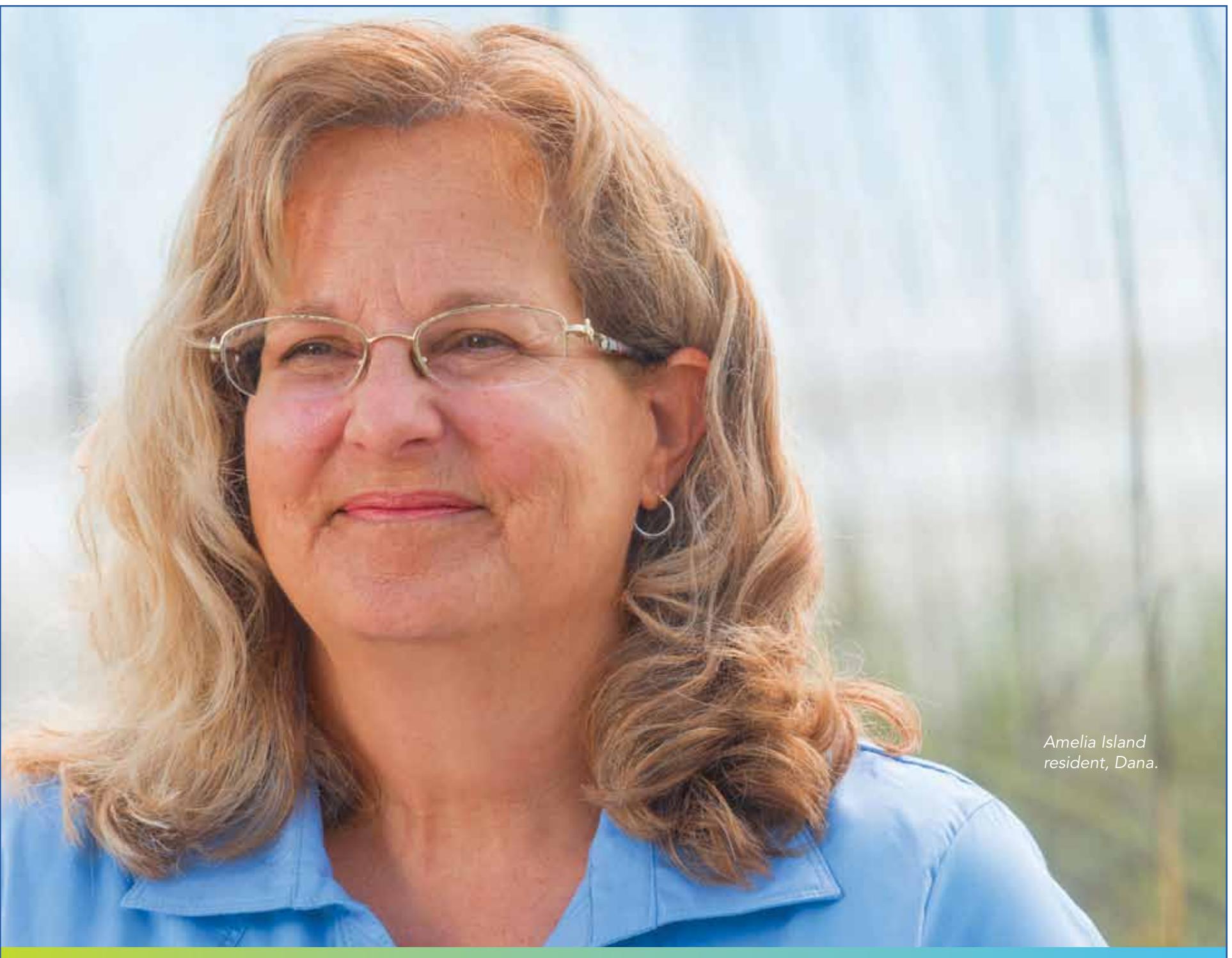
O'Heir enjoys reading mysteries, church, her friends and spending time with son Jimmy, who lives in Georgia with his wife Sharlene, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren; stepdaughter Betty Dorman and her daughter Debbie. She supports the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. She looks forward to celebrating her 98th birthday on June 22.

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Amelia Island  
resident, Dana.

# It felt like a ticking time bomb in my head.

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# The Tubbies

## Friends for life, buddies forever

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

They weren't always known as the Tubbies. At first they were simply very, very good friends who hung together and then stayed in touch after their school years ended.

Most of the boys met in first grade in 1946 at Ortega Elementary School, a few a year or two after. All went to Lakeshore Junior High School and only one didn't attend Robert E. Lee High School, from which they graduated in 1958.

"We've known each other since we were six or seven years old. We're tight friends still," said Phil Cooke, the only one of the group not born in Jacksonville. "We're godparents for each other's children. Not just occasional or once-a-year friends, we're tight friends."

All, except the one who passed away in 1999, will turn 75 this year. The remaining 10, including the three who live out of state, come together every spring for a long weekend of camaraderie.

More than just a "band of brothers," these men are, according to Cooke, "take-a-bullet buddies."

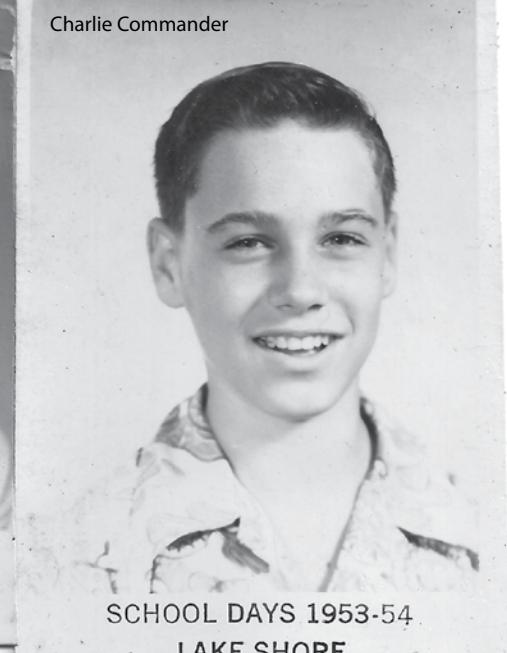
Cooke and best pal Bob Dickson, both of Ortega Forest, said the gang's name really doesn't have anything to do with their size, but the story behind it varies from, well, Tubby to Tubby.

SCHOOL DAYS 1951-52  
ORTEGA

Rip Poitevent



Charlie Commander

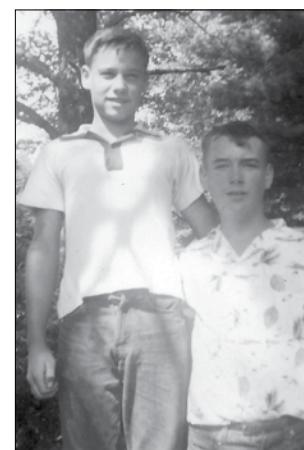


According to Cooke, "Jim Fox moved from Jacksonville during high school to Lawton, Oklahoma where he played on the B football team, and its nickname was the Tubbies. He says he brought that name back to Jacksonville."

But Cooke also had a more personal take on the name. "I thought somebody's girlfriend named us that because I was known as Fat Phil from Jacksonville," he said.

Dickson, who did not attend Lee High School, countered with another story. "When I was away at prep school, Rip

*continued on page 49 >>>*

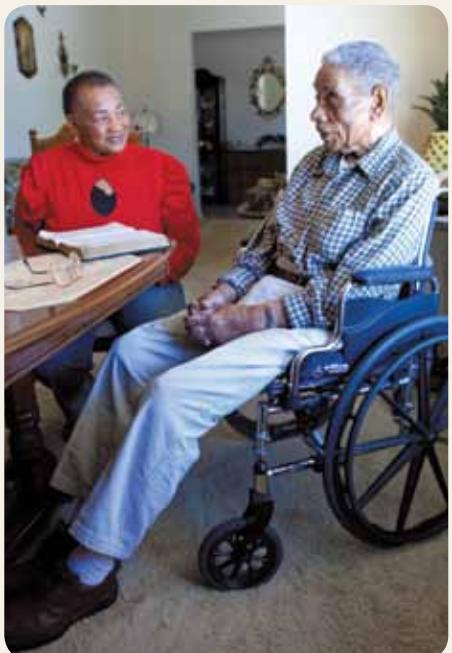


Charlie Commander, Don MacLeod

Bagging turkeys: Bob Dickson, Charlie Commander, Don MacLeod

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Don MacLeod, Jimmy Fox, Rip Poitevent, Ralph Wolfe, Phil Cooke



David Green, Guy Caverly, Jerry Kenyon, Bob Dickson



In the kitchen: Jerry Kenyon, Phil Cooke, Bob Dickson



Jerry Kenyon, Ralph Wolfe, Don MacLeod, Bob Dickson, Jim Marsh, Charlie Commander, Archie Bunker, Phil Cooke



Jim Fox, Rip Poitevent, Ralph Wolfe, Phil Cooke, Jim Marsh, Jerry Kenyon, Don MacLeod



Don MacLeod, Bob Dickson, Charlie Commander, Rip Poitevent, circa 1973

[Poitevent] and Marian got married at an early age and several guys would go by to visit and take doughnuts," Dickson said. "I heard that Marian said if they didn't stop bringing doughnuts that they would all become a bunch of tubbies."

Whatever the origin, the nickname just stuck.

### Beyond school bonds

After the usual childhood hijinks, the yet-to-be-named Tubbies began a variety of careers.

Seven of the men went into the military, some for short tours, others for longer careers and most of the branches were represented. Dickson, Cooke, Jim Fox

and Don MacLeod all served in the Navy; David Green was in the Air Force Reserves, Jerry Kenyon the Army Reserves and Jim Marsh in the Coast Guard.

Earl "Rip" Poitevent and Charlie Commander went to law school after college. MacLeod became an OB-GYN after his stint as a Navy physician, Dickson went into finance and insurance, Cooke found work at the Jacksonville Shipyards until 1991 then ran the Ortega River Boatyard for 15 years while Fox moved to Great Falls, Va. to work for an aircraft defense contractor.

Jerry Kenyon was in his own construction business, Guy Caverly in heating and air conditioning, and Ralph Wolfe started in banking, then worked in systems security. Jim Marsh worked for Xerox, then ran his own print shop while David Green worked for NCR, a major manufacturer of business machines.

Although they kept in touch constantly it wasn't until the mid-1980s that they started what is now a 30-year tradition of a long weekend get-together.

"In 1984 we started having an annual Tubby-Fest on Lake Mason, where

Phil has a house, for a long weekend to hunt and fish," Dickson said. "Charlie [Commander] has property nearby where we hunt turkeys."

Kenyon, who lives in Santa Fe, New Mex., prepares a wonderful Southwest dinner for the gang. Green, who has been legally blind from glaucoma for the past 20 years, comes from Atlanta for the Fish-O-Rama. For the third year in a row, Green caught the largest fish in the Tubbies' bass contest. "He's very attentive to bites since he can't see the line twitch," Cooke said.

There is one missing from the annual get-togethers, but he is not forgotten. "The Tubbies always start with a toast to Jim Marsh," said Dickson. "Occasionally something will go wrong at the annual weekend, like Dave would fall in, and we would glance heavenward and say 'Marsh is with us.'"

The 11 Tubbies were prolific, raising 22 sons and 12 daughters between them, resulting in 60 grand- and five great-grandchildren, but that hasn't altered this enviable bond.

"We've gone through Scouts together, fished, hunted and partied together and we've been fast friends the whole time," said Cooke. "We are in touch with each almost all the time. We are all just still, after 60-plus years, best friends, even though we are separated all over the place."

Clearly, the Tubbies have set a great and lasting example for their 99 progeny.

"It's unheard of for a group of guys to remain close friends for 65 years or more," said Cooke. "That's the bottom line."



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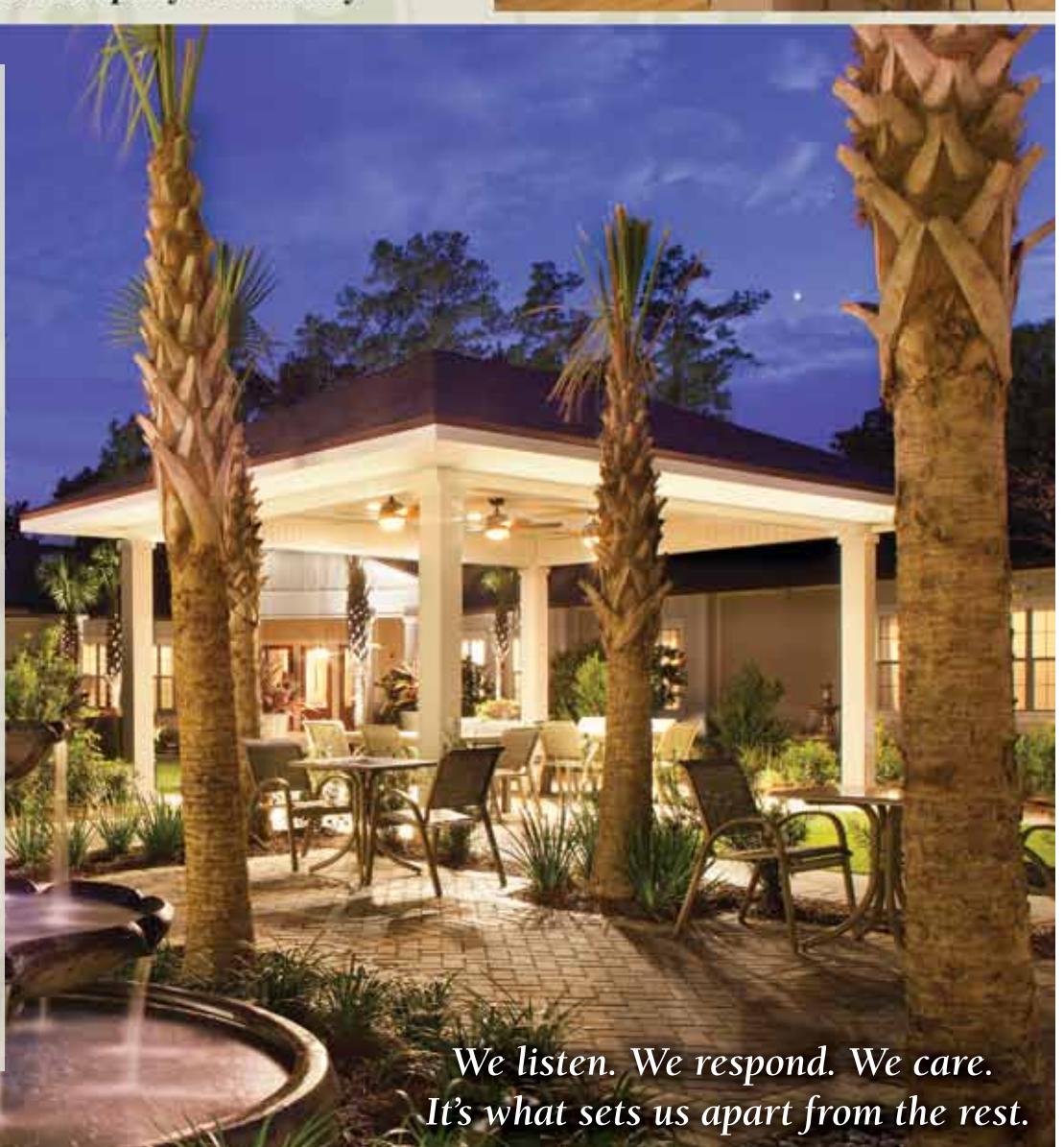


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Tessa Holmes and Orion, a Chinese Crested

## Annual Arf Barket a dog lover's dream day

Regular visitors to the Riverside Arts Market under the Fuller Warren Bridge already know it's *the* place to stroll with a favorite canine companion. Despite unseasonably hot weather, the ever-popular Arf Barket – held since August 2011 and then beginning in 2013 twice a year in May and in September – was a dog lover's paradise on May 9. Everything from teacup Yorkies to Great Danes and Newfoundlands were there for the admiring and, when permitted, a little lovin'.



Jordanne Ryan and Professor



Princess Stinky took second place in the Arf Barket costume contest



Kacie Mullally with Max



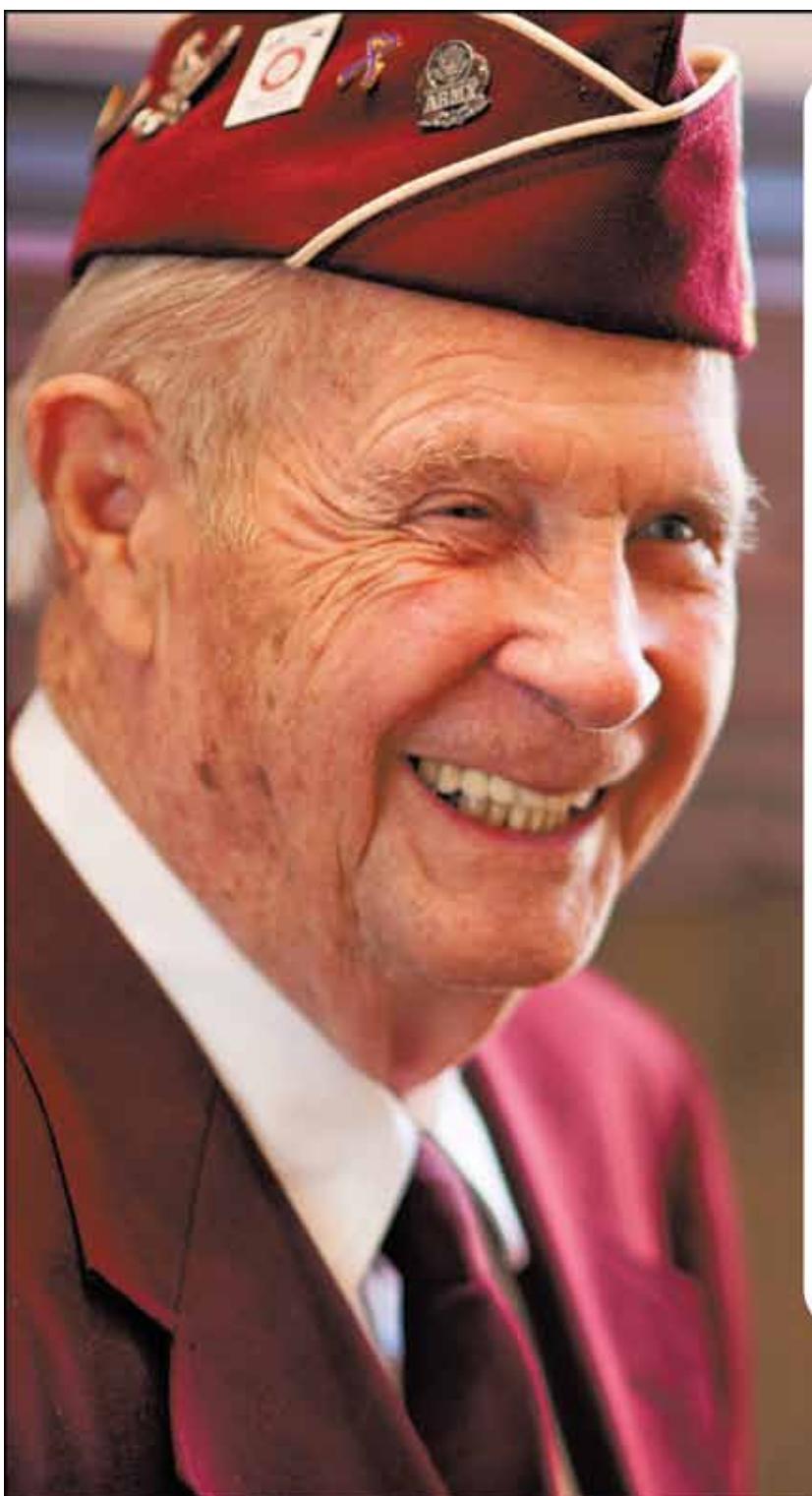
Benny asks for a treat from Cindy Van Vleck



Ninja, the Canine Companions for Independence dog at St. Paul's Catholic School



Mia Williams and Bella Guglielmi enjoy a cool treat at Arf Barket



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# Baby boom at the Zoo

Just five months into the year, it has already been an outstanding baby year for the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

According to Dan Maloney, Deputy Director of Animal Care and Conservation, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the reproductive boom is three-fold: the animal care staff's dedication, great animals, and some very good fortune.

"Our brood includes Western Lowland Gorillas, Colobus Monkeys, Black and white ruffed lemurs, Reticulated giraffes, Marabou storks, Kori bustards, Orinoco geese and Mandrills – some of whom are firsts for the zoo, and all are vital members of their cooperative zoo populations and their Species Survival Plans," said Maloney, a Riverside resident. "We are happy to report that these youngsters are thriving and already delighting our guests as they watch the babies grow and flourish."



Gorilla Bulera and baby George, born February 6 (Photo by John Reed)

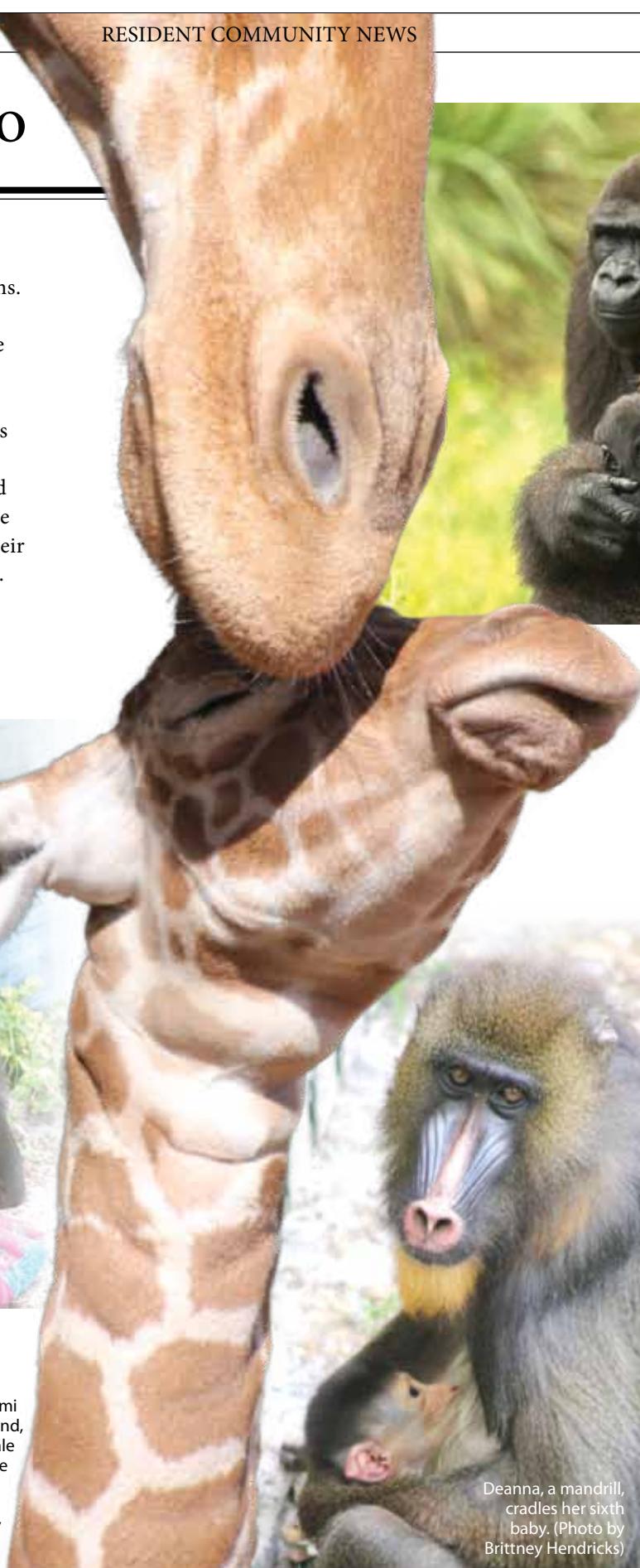


Madini's baby was born the evening before Mother's Day.  
(Photo by Fran Ruchalski)



New colobus infant  
(Photo by John Reed)

Mama giraffe Naomi gives her 193-pound, 6-feet 2-inch female calf a loving nudge after its birth on January 17.  
(Photo by Brittney Hendricks)



Deanna, a mandrill, cradles her sixth baby. (Photo by Brittney Hendricks)

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# Bishop Kenny students assist human trafficking victims

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Representatives from World Relief and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office were on hand when Bishop Kenny High School's Interact Club donated 25 backpacks for victims of human trafficking on the First Coast during a ceremony at the school.

Ally Schneider and Lily El Hassan, both sophomores at the school, led the presentation. Schneider awarded thank-you trophies to representatives of Land's End and Baker's Sporting Goods, which sponsored the event.

The backpacks were given because victims who are taken off the streets may not be able to return to collect their belongings. Each backpack was stuffed with personal items, clothing, toiletries and a journal. The students felt supplying a journal would help victims realize that there is both hope and a way out of this form of modern slavery.

"Our students were shocked to learn that human trafficking is so common in North Florida and were especially moved to hear that so many of the victims are in their age group," said Chris Ball of Ortega, an Interact sponsor and AP World History teacher at Bishop Kenny.

The students became interested in



Ally Schneider awards Brad Brooks of Baker's Sporting Goods with a trophy.

helping victims of trafficking after Bishop Estevez of the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine expressed "a need to help irradiate this human tragedy."

During the presentation, Annmarie Kent-Willette, Education Commissioner for Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, read a letter from the Mayor's office commemorating the student's efforts. "We like to highlight service projects that involve youth," Kent-Willette said. "We want to work to help them become full participants in democracy within our community."

On hand to witness the event were Fred Jones of Land's End; Brad Brooks of Baker's Sporting Goods; Michelle Crowe of World Relief, and Jackson Short of the Sheriff's Office.



The Bishop Kenny Interact Club and its supporters stand by a pile of 25 backpacks that they are donating to local victims of human trafficking.



Led by Ally Schneider and Lily El Hassan, members of the Bishop Kenny High School Interact Club donate 25 backpacks to victims of human trafficking on the First Coast.



Ford Jones of Land's End, Brad Brooks of Baker's Sporting Goods and Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando



Annmarie Kent-Willette of the Mayor's office and Lauren Toledo of Bishop Kenny hold a letter from the Mayor commanding the school's Interact Club for its contribution to victims of human trafficking.



Fred Jones and Ally Schneider

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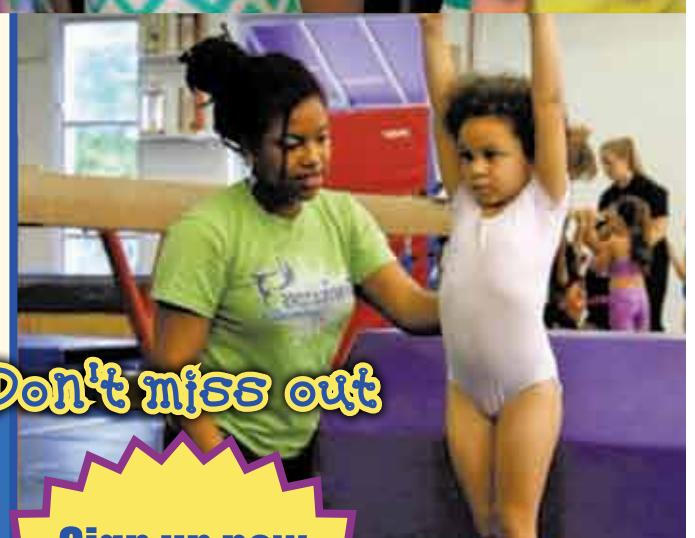
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Carolyn Cooper with a participant in VSA 2015



Ric Goodman helps a visitor work a color wheel in Art Connections, the interactive center.

## Docents among many who worked VSA 2015

Celebrating its 20th year hosting the VSA (Very Special Arts) Festival, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens relied on many volunteers for the four-day event. Among the hundreds who gave their time were two Riverside residents who are part of the docent program.

Retired banker and realtor Ric Goodman has been a docent for three years, having joined the program at the urging of friend Stephanie Welchans, a fellow docent. "She said, 'We need help. I said I don't know anything about art,'" Goodman related. "She said, 'We'll teach you.'"

First-year docent Carolyn Cooper was a science teacher

at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville for 25 years and said that becoming a docent was a great transition from teaching full-time to not teaching at all. Volunteering at her first VSA, Cooper said, "I had no idea that the Cummer could reach out to these kids like this. It means so much to all of us."

The annual VSA Festival gives students with disabilities the chance to experience art through all of their senses, engaging in viewing art, listening to music, and creating their own artwork. This year approximately 2,500 pre-kindergarten to middle school students came from five counties for the festival.

## Foster teens learn ease of working together

"Working together is easier than working alone" was the lesson one competitor learned during the Foster Teens Scavenger Hunt sponsored by Family Services of North Florida May 7. FSS is the lead agency for foster care, adoption, transitioning youth services and family preservation in Duval and Nassau Counties.

Adorned in army-green t-shirts with the Challenge slogan, "Are you up for it?", 11 teens and three FSS chaperones, tracked clues and completed tasks designed to encourage decision-making, teamwork and communications while traveling on public transportation throughout downtown Jacksonville.

"The teens successfully pushed themselves past their limits and worked in teams to figure out clues, the bus system and where important Jacksonville locations are. They conquered this challenge!" said Kendra Hilton of Riverside, and FSS project specialist who coordinated the event.

The event started at FSS headquarters on Riverplace Blvd. and included visits to Rosa Parks Transit Station, Friendship Park, the Department of Motor Vehicles, Klutho Park, the County Jail and the Riverwalk as well as other city landmarks before ending with dinner in Hemming Park. FSS staff were stationed at each location and provided clues so the teens would know where to go next.

Some of the challenges the teens needed to face were: locating a specific book by a reference



Winning team: Agnes Amante, Ethen Finley, Jasmine Forsell, Matt Hair and Bob Miller, team chaperone.

number in the city library, gather admissions information at Florida State College Jacksonville, learning the history of each landmark, and spending as close to \$10 as possible at Sweet Pete's candy store.

The scavenger hunt is one of many activities comprising "The Challenge," a new enrichment program provided by FSS that incorporates challenging and fun activities with life skills focusing on education, careers, health and community. Other activities included in the three-month "Challenge" program are canoeing, horseback riding, a ropes course and camping, which will be formatted after the popular TV reality show, Survivor and the Amazing Race.

Each participant in the "Challenge" program is asked to keep a journal to share their thoughts and feelings about each activity they complete. After the scavenger hunt, one teen wrote: "I learned working together is easier than working alone. It brings people closer. Pushing your limits makes you stronger."

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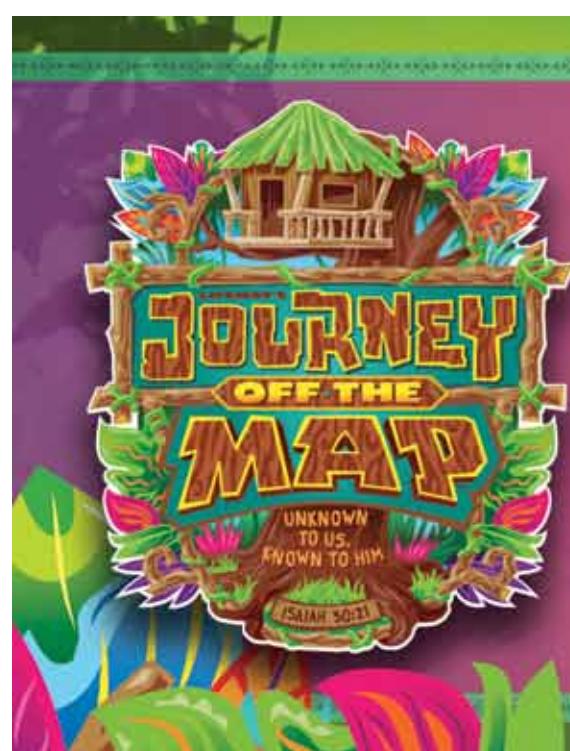
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# Jr. Residents

## Bolles senior wins prestigious scholarship



Ortega resident Carlton Higby, a senior at The Bolles School, has been awarded one of the most highly selective merit scholarships in the nation. The Jefferson Scholars Foundation at

the University of Virginia selected Higby as a recipient of the Jefferson Scholarship. He will commence his studies at the University of Virginia this fall.

Out of the 1,701 students nominated for the scholarship, 116 finalists were invited to take part in a five-day competition; Higby was one of 34 selected to receive the full-ride scholarship.

"Carlton is the first Jefferson recipient from Bolles since 2011," said Associate Head of School/Academic Dean Scott Smith. "This prestigious and, arguably, one of the most highly selective scholarships in the country, has as its goal to attract to UVA the most promising leaders, scholars and citizens in the world."



## Preschool pedal power

The new trike path opened on May 13 at St. John's Presbyterian Preschool offering more room for outdoor play. The much-needed path was tested by the Blue Door 3-year-old class enjoyed on new tricycles.

## Bishop Kenny Students join Joe Berg Society

Thomas Boyle, Mary Monk, Makenna Vance, Abigale Guy, Megan Wordell, Nicholas Hartley, Katie Montana, Sam Hanania and Ben Wright. Not pictured, Maeghan Holzbaur.

Maeghan Holzbaur of Riverside was among 10 Bishop Kenny High School students selected to take part in the Joe Berg Society enrichment seminars.

Last fall 14 public and private Duval County high schools sent 225 of their top students to take either the Joe Berg Science or Humanities examination. The 50 top scorers on each test were invited to join the Society.



Holzbaur was selected after taking the science examination.

As members of the Joe Berg Society, the students will attend twelve 90-minute evening programs per year over the next two years. Leading the programs will be college professors, medical doctors, PhDs, artists, actors, musicians, environmentalists and engineers at the Museum of Science

and History.

Other Bishop Kenny students selected from the science exam were Sam Hanania, Nicholas Hartley and Ben Wright. Abigale Guy, Katie Montana, Thomas Boyle, Mary Monk, Makenna Vance and Megan Wordell were selected due to their Humanities exam scores.

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## Ortega residents selected for All-Star swim meet

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School was well represented at the Florida All-Star swim meet in Fort Pierce, Fla. in early April. Participating in the meet were Ortega residents Katherine Baker (Class of 2012), who swims for The Bolles School, and 4th grade students Will and Drew Heck, who swim for Yates YMCA.

The All-Star team was selected from the results of the 2015 Florida Swimming Age Group Short Course Championships (Jr. Olympics), held in Sarasota. Only



Will Heck, Katherine Baker, Drew Heck

swimmers who finished in the Top 6 places in each event were eligible for the All-Star, a meet of the state's elite swimmers.



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## Art walk showcases student talent

Central Riverside Elementary held its second annual Art Walk on May 12, organized by art teacher Terry Woodlief, who was a semi-finalist for the 2015 Duval County Teacher of the Year. The Art Walk is both a fundraiser and an opportunity for students to show off their artistic talents. Woodlief plans to use funds raised for more art supplies for a future project, hand-painted tiles around the water fountain.



Chase Crowder, 4th grade student at Central Riverside Elementary



Anessa Housen, Terry Woodlief, Mark and Leah Bautista with daughter Arianna



Central Riverside Elementary kindergarten student Royce Richardson



Jodie Valentine with son Luke Czerwin, 4th grade student at Central Riverside Elementary

## Avondale student serves as student ambassador

Olivia Schueth of Avondale served as one of two student ambassadors representing St. Matthew's Catholic School during a special mass held in St. Augustine April 23. Also serving was Reese Kalka of Confederate Point. Both students are in eighth grade.

Many area Catholic Schools commemorated the 450th Anniversary of St. Augustine during a Jubilee Mass celebrated at the Rustic Altar on the grounds of the Mission Nombre de Dios. During the school year, each school created a unique item to be shared in a treasure box.

St. Matthew's school included individual prayers written by every student and faculty member to the box. The treasure box was passed in order of oldest to the most recently built school in the diocese. St. Joseph's Academy began with the first celebration and Bishop John Snyder completed the commemorative procession.

Student ambassadors from each of the 29 schools in the diocese were represented.



Tony Searl, religion teacher grades 4-8, Kathy Tuerk, principal, Olivia Schueth and Reese Kalka, student representatives, Miles Schueth and Karen Kalka

## Relative's illness sends Avondale teen down path of discovery

Carly Crump, Episcopal senior and Avondale resident, probably has what very few people can boast of: an asteroid named after her.

Crump, who won major prizes in the Intel International Science Fair (ISEF) last month, took home cash awards in addition to her own asteroid, plus something that no other Northeast Florida student has received: the Dudley R. Herschbach Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar Award.

As the only American student in this year's ISEF to win the award, Crump will be one of three students who will attend the seminar in Stockholm, Sweden as well as the Nobel Price ceremonies.

Crump's work in finding a way to eradicate the dengue virus, endemic in more than 100 countries, has

taken her to the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute for her project. She began studying mosquitoes, repellants, and vaccines after her uncle contracted the West Nile virus here in Jacksonville.

The 18-year-old scientist was recently featured in a U.S. News & World Report story about students making extraordinary strides in medical research, energy, computer sciences and other STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. She plans to attend the University of Florida next fall.



## Walton, Matson represent Bolles at State Science Fair



Front: Hannah Lee, Katie Lewis, Tanvi Madkaiker, Graham Ungrady; back: Sneha Reddy, Ann Maris Walton, Brad Bullington, Caden Matson

Ann Maris Walton of Avondale and Caden Matson of Ortega are two of several Bolles students who participated in the 60th Annual State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida, held March 31-April 2 in Lakeland, FL. Walton received the Recognition Award in Zoology.

Other representatives from Bolles included Hannah Lee, who received an

honorable mention in Botany, as well as the Metric Award at the state level fair; Katie Lewis, who placed fourth in the Earth category; Tanvi Madkaiker, who placed fourth in Zoology; Graham Ungrady, who received a fourth place award in the Environmental category and Sneha Reddy, who also received a Recognition Award in Zoology.

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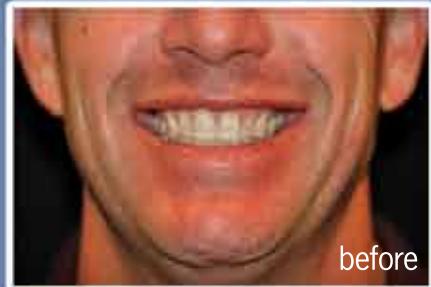
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