

Thanks to the San Marco Merchants Association, electric car aficionados will have a place to plug in while visiting San Marco square. *To read more, turn to page 6*



Realtors applaud a seller's market in Jacksonville's historic districts. *For story, turn to page 11.*



# Resident

Community News

San Jose — San Marco — St. Nicholas

www.ResidentNews.net

Fiercely Local News ... Fiercely Loyal Readers

November 2015, Vol. 7, Issue 11

## Community enjoys annual country fair festival

The Sasser sisters of San Marco – Sarah, Rachel and Anna – show off their artistic talents at the face-painting booth their family sponsored during the Fall Festival at Southside United Methodist Church Oct. 25.



## Baptist Health opens new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center

*Cancer eradication through comprehensive care*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

A throng of dignitaries and medical staff watch as the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center sign is unveiled atop the former Baptist Outpatient Building Oct. 17. *Read more, page 14.*

## Patrons Celebrate the Red Shield

The Salvation Army's Northeast Florida Command drew an outstanding crowd to the San Jose Country Club Oct. 24. This was the second year the gala has been thrown for the organization that is 'Doing the Most Good' for area residents in need. See more on page 23.

Janne and Jody Brandenburg



## Cashing in at the Cowford Ball

Support for the local North Florida chapter of the American Cancer Society continues, as patrons celebrate a shared vision to end cancer. This year's event marked 20 years of the ball, one that has helped to deliver much needed funding to community initiatives. See more page 23.

Sarah and Teddy Foster



## San Marco street fair supports sustainability

For the third year in a row, local nonprofits and businesses that support sustainability set up booths on Hendricks Avenue to raise environmental awareness and to support the San Marco community.

On Oct. 17, a portion of Hendricks Avenue from the San Marco Public Library to Aardwolf Brewing Company was closed for the Green Lion Fair, giving residents and visitors the opportunity to peruse booths set up by organizations such as the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the North Florida Land Trust, the San Marco Preservation Society and North Florida School of Special Education's Berry Good Farms among others. Three electric cars were on display, and shelter dogs were available to be adopted.

Green Lion Festival organizer Glen Wiegler of San Marco and his dog, Eddie



## JDRF celebrates Miracles Gala

An evening at the Sawgrass Marriott became a pleasing perusal of Parisian décor and splendor during the 15th annual "One Night" gala, themed a "Night in Paris." See more on page 22.

Pete and Marilyn Carpenter with Jennifer Glock and Gala Honoree Michael Ward, chairman and CEO, CSX Transportation.

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A former corrections officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is extremely thankful to her attorney Raymond Reid for his diligent efforts resulting in a \$1.46 million dollar verdict. Our client was driving on Main Street when a taxi cab driving the wrong way caused a violent crash. Our client suffered injuries requiring neck surgery and knee surgery and she was no longer able to work as a corrections officer. After more than three years of hard work and a two week jury trial, Pajcic & Pajcic was able to recover more than 10 times the insurance limits for a very deserving client.



It was a magical moment at Episcopal High School when the football field was named in honor of the late attorney Gary Pajcic, who coached at the school. And the special surprise came at the unveiling when Coach Charlie Hunt learned the field was also named after him. Pajcic & Hunt coached the Episcopal Eagles together back in the day. Both also played football at FSU. We are so proud that these two men who were so close will be linked together forever through Pajcic-Hunt Field.



It was great to see our former client Bob Conley in his own sky box in Tampa at the Jaguars vs. Bucs game. Bob suffered a catastrophic injury in a car accident many years ago, Pajcic & Pajcic was able to recover more than \$11 million for Bob, despite there being only \$25,000 in insurance available. Bob and his wife Cecelia have been able to purchase a new home with all the latest equipment to assist him. Of course, they would do anything if Bob could walk again but they are thankful the major settlement allows them both to live better lives.



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## What are you grateful for this Thanksgiving that you normally take for granted?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

### Christina Storz, San Marco

My sister. We're only a year-and-a-half apart. We are closer the older we get and I enjoy spending time with her. There was a lot of fighting as kids but not anymore.

Gratitude takes us outside of ourselves. It helps us acknowledge the sources of goodness in our lives and often encourages us to pay that goodness forward. November is the month when we traditionally pause our busy lives to give thanks to people or things for whom we are grateful or the circumstances that prompt us to appreciate them. *The Resident* reached out to ask residents to share with us what they gratefully take for granted.

### John Ricci, San Marco

I'm grateful for community. We never really explored it or enjoyed it as often and as willfully as we have in recent months.



### Mark Campochiaro, San Marco

I'm grateful my cancer's in remission. My health is much better now than it has been. I'm very grateful. I attribute it to being able to walk in San Marco. I like to walk along the river.



### Robin Jamison, San Marco

I'm very thankful for my husband. We've been married a year and a half. He's gotten close to my parents and especially my dad when he was very ill. My parents moved to Old San Jose, and he was instrumental in smoothing the transition. He is my best friend.



### Val Wirth, Lakewood

My job because normally I take it for granted but recently I realize it's not that bad of a job and a lot of people don't have a job.



### Jeff Strickland, St. Nicholas

Time with family. We've recently been going through a couple of passings in our family – a couple of elderly and one not so old, my older brother. We had quality time at the end. We're not a distant family by any means, but we get caught up in our day-to-day lives and it's easy to forget what's important and that's family.

### Susan Caven, San Marco

Trees. The trees are the gift that keeps on giving. They grow every year, and they clean our air. They beautify our city.



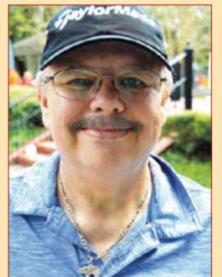
### Lisa Labs, Miramar

I moved to San Marco from Ponte Vedra in 2012. Work has kept me busy, but recently I've been getting out on this parks project and others in San Marco and it's really made me appreciate a tight community in a big town like Jacksonville.



### Larry Horton, Lakewood

My health. I just turned 60 and I realize what good health I have compared to other 60-year-olds and I'm very grateful for it.



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**Talking Economics**

As Autumn settles into our doors and through our windows, the flow of real estate continues forward. Earnest buyers with low interest rates in hand are seeking sellers who are ready to move before 2016 rings in. The threat of higher rates next year loom. Pro-active buyers are here. This might be the best time to sell in the next six months but only the Feds know for sure.

Considering our National Unemployment Rate is 5.1%, still under the average 5.83% but well ahead of the staggering 9.9% we saw in 2010, we are approaching our norm. Gross Domestic Product is used to measure economic output which means the rate our economy is growing, and looking at the GDP, we are definitely growing. GDP increased 3.9% in the second quarter this year. Once Yellan and the Federal Reserve decide we are strong enough, rates will drive up to begin taking a stab at our National Debt.

What does this mean to real estate? Sale prices go down as rates go up because buyers will qualify for less. Period. The reason our rates stayed low the past 7 years was to pull us out of the recession caused by the economic crisis. It worked. Drive through Riverside and Murray Hill and you'll see dumpsters in front of houses being renovated. Renovation means more buyers which means everyone is moving up to the next level. Consider putting your house on the market now to take advantage of our strong sales energy. We still have more buyers than sellers in our neighborhood, but it's going to change. Be wise, stay a step ahead. Need a Realtor who loves her job? Why not try me, full time and full-on.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Construction supervisor responds to resident's frustration with drainage project on Pennsylvania Avenue

I read your article about the storm sewer improvements on Pennsylvania Street and yawned. You may want to come see the progress made on the project to date. Work began September 1 and what was once one of Jacksonville's beautiful neighborhoods now looks like a third-world country backroad quagmire. Mud, dirt, muddy "water" that has some less desirable contents from a broken sewer pipe mixed in it cover quite a bit of the road. Ditches have been dug then abandoned blocking roads. Pipes and other supplies that may eventually be needed for the project have blocked roads from the beginning. Some of this material is on residents' yards. No outside staging area was used for any of this material. Yards and plants have been damaged with heavy equipment and trucks with the contractor promising to "fix it before we leave." After one month the project "boss" was replaced.

It is a hell of a mess and there is no end in sight. It has been a while since we have seen a politician or other representative from the city. The contractor said work would be finished by Christmas but failed to say what year.

Thrilled to live in San Marco,

*Steve Allred*

In response to Allred's letter, *The Resident* went out to the construction site and talked with Site Supervisor Mike Osbourne of Auld and White. He said his crew plans to remove a maple tree on the city easement in back of two homes, 1026 Pennsylvania Avenue and the adjacent property, because the drainage pipe,

which is being installed, needs to make a 90-degree bend. A pine tree and the oak tree on the corner of Pennsylvania and Sunnyside Drive may have to come down, Osbourne said. "I'm not sure about a pine tree. In the case of the oak tree on the corner, we will do everything we can to keep that old tree up," he said.

Heavy rain during the last week of September and first week of October held the project back for two weeks because the bottom of the work zone was flooded, Osbourne said, noting that, even when it wasn't raining, the soil was so saturated that the crew needed to wait until they were able to pump the water back out.

Osbourne said he was aware of Allred's letter. "My response would be that the crew was erroneous in that someone put two Styrofoam cups in a pile to be hauled off to the dump. To be totally environmentally friendly, we require that they be put them in a trash bag. This was corrected. Apparently the resident thought that was the good pile of dirt that was going back into the ground, but let me assure you this process is heavily inspected and if those had been thrown in there it would fault our testing equipment," he said.

"We work to save as many trees as possible. We have an arborist on hand. He will actually be cutting the root structures to make sure the trees survive," Osbourne continued.

Osbourne said sewerage was "controlled" at all times and runs approximately seven feet underground. "The sanitary service line was in conflict with the new drainage pipe.

To resolve it we need to spend an extra four days here due to maintaining the gravity fall of all the pipes."

As for when the project is to be completed, Osbourne said he expects to be finished in mid-December 2015. "We're allotted for weather days, which were tacked onto the completion date at the beginning," he said. "We really want a good rapport with the residents. We talk with the men daily about respecting the homes and property, and in no way, personally and professionally, have we wanted to cause anguish or frustration for this resident. Auld and White has big ties with the community and we want it to stay that way," he said.

In a telephone interview, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer said she routinely visits construction sites in her district and has visited the Pennsylvania Avenue site on a weekly basis. She was present on Oct. 9 when OSHA inspectors were on the site. "It's a construction site and yes, it's going to be disruptive for a relatively short period for permanent positive impact. People need to be patient," she said. "The area will be put back together and everything will be restored. We are solving a serious flooding problem."



To the outsider, it may look like a mess, but work is progressing nicely on the city drainage project on Pennsylvania Avenue, said Auld and White Site Supervisor Mike Osbourne Oct. 9.

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# High tides, eclipse, heavy rain cause abnormal flooding



It wasn't raining but the flooding was heavy on Lasalle Street and San Marco Boulevard Oct. 6.



A car plows through heavy flood waters on River Road Oct. 6.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It was hard to tell where the road ended and the St. Johns River began on River Road near Riverfront Park in early October.

Flooding due to heavy rains and higher-than-usual tides impacted several streets in San Marco and the South Shores neighborhood.

Eli Dirani, a San Marco resident living on Lasalle Street, said the water had entered his home and was up to the bottom of the cabinets in his kitchen. "It's getting worse without even the rain, so why is it flooding?" he asked, noting water was pouring onto the roads from under manhole covers in the street. "It's sewer water, that's what it is, and this is supposed to be America. It's sad."

Heavy rains in late September and early October caused drainage work on Pennsylvania Avenue, where residents often find their backyards and garages flooded, to be delayed for two weeks. The bottom of the work zone was flooded, and even when it wasn't raining, the

workers had to wait until the ground was less saturated in order to pump the water out, said Mike Osbourne, Site Supervisor for Auld and White.

According to District 5 Councilmember Lori Boyer, city officials met Oct. 8 with a National Weather Service meteorologist, and the weatherman cited offshore winds, lunar cycles, which, combined with a week or two of heavy rains, caused the abnormal flooding.

The high tides persisted for two or more weeks, causing LED signs denoting flooded areas to be seen in San Marco Square and near the entrances to River Road. Downtown the high water was comparable to that of Tropical Storm Gabrielle in 2001, but of much longer duration, Boyer said in an email.

San Marco has pump stations at Landon Avenue and Children's Way, but if they pump the water to the river, and the river is higher than usual, there is nowhere for the water to go, Boyer said. "The goal is to protect people's homes," she said, noting that developers usually build houses higher than the street so water will be able to drain away from homes. Jacksonville

Public Works Department gives a higher priority to areas such as Pennsylvania Avenue where flooding impacts personal property and actually comes into people's homes, she said.

Building a pump station at a cost of \$8 to \$9 million near Lasalle and Riviera Streets has been in the budget since 2008, but has not been funded, Boyer said, noting Riviera Street floods with every heavy rain and not only with extreme high tides.

Public Works and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office coordinated signage and barricades for traffic management so that vehicles could avoid driving through the flooded streets, she said. JEA worked to insure the

wastewater lift station in South Shores was pumped down before each high tide in order to prevent any possible release of wastewater onto surface streets, she added.

"Please know that when the tides do return to normal, I will follow up on clean-up and repairs to roadways and drainage systems, as well as work to fund potential solutions for future events," she continued.

"It's a frustrating situation, and we can't correct everything," said Boyer. "We'll never have a 100 percent solution when property is near the river and below the water level, but we should be able to achieve a 95 percent solution so that when this occurs it's a very rare instance," she said.

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# Historic District to get EV Charging Stations

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

In order to attract visitors who drive electric cars to San Marco, the San Marco Merchants Association was awarded a grant by JEA and the North Florida Transportation Organization (TPO) to have an electric vehicle (EV) charging station installed near San Marco Square.

As part of its Regional Alternative Fuels Master Plan, the North Florida TPO has provided \$300,000 in funding from its Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to purchase and install 27 EV charging stations with electric utilities at locations within the JEA service territory throughout greater Jacksonville, including four in San Marco.

The San Marco Merchant's Association charging station will be placed in the back corner of the Southside Baptist Church's parking lot across from the church on San Marco Place, behind Firehouse Subs. Other locations in the San Marco/San Jose area where EV charging stations will be installed include the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) at 1025 Museum Circle; the JTA Kings Avenue garage, 1003 Kings Street; and A Stitch in Time, 5724 St. Augustine Road near San Jose Elementary School.

JEA has contracted with Novacharge to install the ChargeWell-brand stations. They will be "Level 2" charging stations allowing vehicles to retain a full charge in a couple of hours, said Marci Larson of the North Florida TPO.

Currently, there are 15 Level 2 EV charging stations within Jacksonville including nine that are located on auto dealer lots, said Gerri Boyce, Media Relations Coordinator for JEA. Two public DC Fast Chargers powerful enough to energize a Leaf or BMWi3 in 30 minutes are also currently available – one at JEA headquarters downtown and one at the Gate Town Center in Southside, Boyce said. "We anticipate more DC Fast Chargers across the area in the next 12 months," she said.

Installation of the stations will begin in October and take three months to complete, said Larson.

Prior to the decision, the TPO and JEA held public meetings to reach out to the community in order to find convenient locations for the EV chargers. The locations were selected after organizations or merchants applied.

The goal of the San Marco Merchant's Association request is to bring activity into San Marco Square, said George Foote, Executive Director of the SMMA in a meeting of the association Oct. 14. The approximate cost of installing the charging station at this location will be the cost of the station plus \$7,500 for its installation, Foote said. There will be no cost to the SMMA, said Boyce. Once installed, ownership will be given to SMMA, she said.

Two parking spaces will be set aside for electric vehicles to charge, Foote said.

In order to be awarded a charging station, the applicant had to guarantee

**"We are excited to have such a great EV charging station location in San Marco..."**

— Peter King

the station's location would be accessible to the public, Larson said.

"We are excited to have such a great EV charging station location in San Marco and look forward to working with the San Marco Merchants Association to promote the ChargeWell network and drive electric in Jacksonville," said Peter King, of JEA who is coordinating the project.

Additional funds from TPO have been made available with priority for charging stations in Nassau, Clay and St. Johns counties, said Boyce. No details are yet available for this phase of the project, she said.

In the future, the TPO will work with other utilities to expand its ChargeWell network and provide electric vehicle drivers with more opportunities to charge up in the region, Larson said.

## Reducing the carbon footprint

The \$300,000 allocated for the EV charging stations is part of nearly \$5 million in funding the North Florida TPO and Clean Fuels Coalition have spent toward reducing petroleum

dependence by encouraging the speedy adoption of alternative fuels, vehicles and infrastructure in the region, said Larson.

Additional investments awarded by the TPO went to St. Johns County CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) Fleet and Public Access Station (\$732,000); Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Fleet and Public Access CNG Stations (\$2.75 million) so that JTA can buy approximately 100 CNG buses and modify its bus maintenance facility downtown; Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Pilot Project (\$375,000) to help FEC purchase four new locomotives with LNG kits and two fuel cars; City of Jacksonville Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Sanitation Trucks (\$315,000) so the city can cover CNG equipment costs for up to seven new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) sanitation trucks; Clean Truck Program (\$162,000) in partnership with JAXPORT to assist truck owners in converting to more fuel efficient and cleaner burning engines in order to reduce port truck emissions.



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# North Florida TPO moves downtown

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

A new downtown North Florida Regional Transportation Center has become home to the North Florida Transportation Organization.

The TPO, which formerly rented space in a JTA-owned building on Prudential Drive on the Southbank, has moved to a 25,000-square-foot building at 980 N. Jefferson Street.

In order to coordinate the management of traffic and incidents under one roof, TPO will share its new quarters with Operations Center staff from the Florida Highway Patrol and the Florida Department of Transportation, along with partnering agencies from Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns counties, said Marci Larson, a representative for TPO.

The benefits of co-locating law enforcement, fire and rescue, traffic engineering and other agencies includes improved communications and coordination as well as expedited notification and response times in critical situations, she said.

The new center features state-of-the-art technology including multiple video walls tracking traffic camera images, traffic flow sensors, news and weather. The floor encompasses 32 adjustable operator consoles arranged in groups of four. Each station will have multiple monitors displaying pertinent information for the operator's organization and the partnering agencies within the quad.

The building will be energy efficient and the entire facility is equipped with LED fixtures with the goal of saving at least 30 percent of electric utility usage per year. The new HVAC system



The North Florida TPO will no longer use this building on the Southbank for its headquarters.

incorporates chilled beam cooling to reduce humidity and maintain equipment at a projected \$50,000 savings per year.

A private ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Nov. 12 at the new location. Elected officials from four North Florida counties as well as representatives from transportation, logistics, business

organizations, partner agencies and TPO members will be allowed to attend the invitation-only event.

TPO had resided at its Southbank location since April 2004. The building on Prudential Drive is owned by JTA. By press time there was no word what JTA has planned for that property.

# Students assist tree planting effort in San Marco park

Students of all ages as well as several members of the community were on hand to assist Green ReLeaf's tree-planting efforts in Alexandria Park Oct. 3.

A collaboration between the city's Parks and Recreation Department, Greenscape, JEA and the San Marco Preservation Society, the goal of the Green ReLeaf effort was to increase the diversity of the native trees within the park, planting several species that will provide a splash of color.

Several members of environmental club at The Bolles School were on hand to help with the planting including Grace Igel, Mary Fletcher, Adam Pooley, John Norcross,

Jack Swinson, Robert Pooley, Shali Chithriki and Claire Cywes. Norcross is a resident of Ortega while Swinson hails from San Marco.

Two Landon Middle School students, Emma Nestor and Kate Whitaker, used the event as part of a leadership school project.

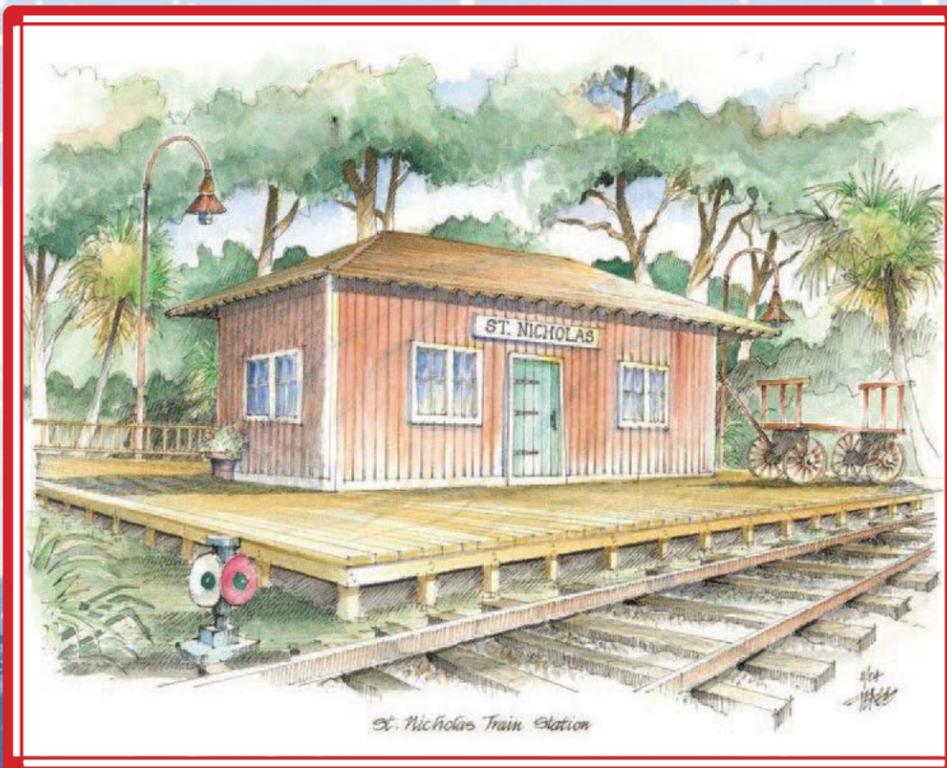
Also assisting with the work was Anna Dooley, Executive Director of Greenscape, Susan Caven of San Marco, former President of Greenscape, Andrew Dickson of San Marco, President of the Preservation Society and Bryan Mickler of San Marco, SMPS chairman of the tree-planting committee.



Landon Middle School students Emma Nestor and Kate Whitaker used the tree-planting event as part of a leadership project for school. Also helping out was Emma's father, Brad Nestor, and her brother, Owen.

# Jolly Christmas at St. Nick's

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# Residents asked for input on JTA Mobility Works Program

## Charrette allows residents to share opinions for safer Beach Boulevard

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Now that the Jacksonville Transportation Authority has restructured the bus routes in an effort to make public transportation more frequent and reliable, it is turning its sights on infrastructure.

With an eye toward improving roadways to enhance business development and revitalize the community, JTA transportation consultants have been studying ways to make some of Jacksonville's "high frequency transit corridors," such as Beach Boulevard in St. Nicholas, more walkable and safer for pedestrians as they get to and from bus stops.

As part of its Mobility Works program, JTA reached out to St. Nicholas residents for feedback during a series of three charrettes held at St. Nicholas Park Christian Church in mid-October.

JTA Mobility Works is a program designed to complete projects funded by the local-option gas tax, which was extended in the spring of 2014 by the City Council for another 20 years. In order to leverage this future funding, JTA has issued bonds to cover the cost of the projects, generating \$100 million through the bond issue.

With this money, JTA plans to complete 13 roadway and 14 mobility corridors projects within the city over the next five years.

Consultants from Nelson and Nygaard and RS&H have been hired to assist JTA in reviewing transit, pedestrian and bicycle movements within each mobility corridor. They have been reaching out to "every conceivable community group to determine what projects will be most beneficial to the neighborhood now and in the future," said JTA Senior Transportation Planner Frederick N. Jones during a charrette in St. Nicholas Oct. 15. "We have no preconceived notions about this," said Jones. "We want to allow the community to have input and vision."

The projects include items such as sidewalks, bike paths, transit accessibility improvements, lighting, bus shelters, landscaping and reducing the number of lanes on some roads.

After gathering information on all 14 corridors, JTA will begin prioritizing its projects in the spring of 2016, Jones said. Improvements will begin to be implemented in the fall of 2017, he said.

Approximately \$15 million will be available for improvements with \$5 million going toward transit enhancements

such as shelters, sidewalks, and ways to make areas more ADA compliant. The remaining \$10 million will go to improving the mobility corridors with \$1 million of it for planning and the remaining \$9 million to implement infrastructure changes.

### Looking at St. Nicholas 'triangle'

St. Nicholas residents should curtail their "expectations" because funding must be stretched between many possible projects, Jones said. JTA will make less costly changes in the beginning and look toward long-term improvements in the future. "Big picture projects cannot be done without more funding," he said.

In studying the Beach Boulevard corridor, JTA consultants looked at the St. Nicholas Town Center Vision Plan from 2004 and the Southeast Vision Plan for Jacksonville from 2010, two "critical" plans that have already been approved by the City Council, Jones said. "We don't need to reinvent the wheel with this," he said.

In the St. Nicholas charrette, the consultants discussed the section of Beach Boulevard extending from University Boulevard to the Overland Expressway. Residents have complained about excessive speed, difficulty crossing Beach Boulevard near the shops and a desire for more lighting and signage, said Michael R. King of Nelson and Nygaard.

One suggestion offered by the consultants was to move the US 90 designation from Beach Boulevard to the Hart Expressway, making the heavily traveled corridor from the Beach bypass St. Nicholas Town Center.

Another suggestion would be to slow traffic near St. Nicholas Town Center by planting a median and providing more on-street parking as well as bike lanes. It's possible to reduce the number of lanes in this area because the number of cars traveling this portion of Beach Boulevard has lessened in recent years to 18,000-

19,000 vehicles per day, he said. Hurricane evaluation is not an issue, he said.

One other suggestion, which was well received by residents in the room, is to make Beach Boulevard one way from the Mudville Grille to Linden Street, which would also be one way, funneling traffic from Beach to Atlantic Boulevard. Atlantic would become a one-way street from Linden headed into downtown. Both Atlantic and Beach would remain two-way roads until they reach Linden. On Beach, traffic would be one way heading east from San Marco until Linden. Beach would remain a two-way road east of Linden with traffic moving east and west.

This plan would create a one-way triangle around St. Nicholas Town Center, calming traffic and enhancing the business community, he said. The plan would require Atlantic and Beach being reduced to three lanes in this area and the speed limit would be lowered to 35 mph.

Removing the overpass near the conjunction of Atlantic and Beach was also discussed and a "wobble" road would be built in its place, as is shown in the 2004 St. Nicholas Town Center vision plan, he said.

Another option would be to work with the overpass and make Beach three lanes (with a middle turn lane) instead of four within St. Nicholas town center from Walton Street to Schumacher Avenue, bringing back on-street parking and a bike lane.

Any improvements would be done in phases, King said. In the short term he sees completing sidewalks, adding a pedestrian crossing on Beach Boulevard near the bus stop and shops on Beach in St. Nicholas Center and enhancing the walking routes from the bus stop to the neighborhoods. Also removing the sign signaling Beach Boulevard as a route toward the beach might be instituted as well as making the pedestrian bridge over Beach at Bishop Kenny a gateway to the St. Nicholas neighborhood.

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# Women's Board events fund Pediatric Surgery Center of Distinction

## Former Prime Minister kicks off Florida Forum season

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital goes into high gear in the fall, when its signature events kick off annual fundraising efforts for the hospital.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak was the featured speaker as the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital opened its 2015-16 Florida Forum lecture series Oct. 5 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

The series is part of the Women's Board's effort to raise \$4 million to establish the Pediatric Surgery Center of Distinction as well as ongoing programs and equipment needs at Wolfson Children's Hospital. In the past, the Women's Board has contributed more than \$26 million to the hospital so that it may provide the best health care possible for all children.

Later in this year, the series will host

Former First Lady Laura Bush and Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning. Bush will speak on Tuesday evening, Nov. 10, while Manning will be the guest on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Both events will be held at the Times-Union Center.

### ¡Viva España!

The 39th Annual Art & Antiques Show, this year themed ¡Viva España!, will run Dec. 3-6, at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, and includes the 2015 Children's Fashion Show, ¡Vivan Los Niños! on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Convention Center. Master of Ceremonies will be T. Wayne Davis, Honorary Art & Antiques Show chairman.

Sheila Collier and Christy Martin, 2015 Art & Antiques Show Chairs, have planned six lectures sure to appeal to younger patrons, professionals and sustaining patrons. Speakers include Alexa von Tobel, Alexa Hampton, Juliana Catlin and William Nash, Richard Keith Langham, Barbara Westbrook and J. Michael Francis, Ph.D. For details, visit [womensboardwch.com](http://womensboardwch.com).



Sheila Collier and Christy Martin, 2015 Art & Antiques Show Chairs

## Philanthropy, an investment in the health of a community

### Baptist announces \$100 million comprehensive fundraising campaign

Baptist Health announced the public phase of Securing Tomorrow Together, a \$100 million comprehensive campaign that will fund strategic needs and priorities across the entire health system, including capital improvements and program enhancements on Oct 14.

"Philanthropy is critical to our future as we fulfill our mission to the community. There is so much that we have been doing, and want to be able to do, that will never be adequately reimbursed," said Hugh Greene of San Jose, president

and CEO of Baptist Health. "Yet, these programs are essential in caring for the most vulnerable, as well as introducing innovation in enhancing patient care and promoting good health. We see philanthropy as an investment in the health of our community!"

The campaign's silent phase began in 2013 after lengthy discussions with leaders throughout the community as well as the health system, said Pierre N. Allaire, chief development officer and vice president for Baptist Health Foundation. So far \$70 million has been raised, he said, noting the campaign will end in 2018.

"I wholeheartedly believe a gift to this campaign is an investment in the future of our community," said Richard Sisisky of

Epping Forest, a campaign chair. "A sustainable, strong health system is an incredible asset, which is why I'm so honored to be a part of this ambitious initiative."

Early on, Michelle Stys and her late husband, Walter, made a significant gift and bequest commitment to Wolfson Children's Hospital to establish endowments that will provide permanent support for pediatric neuroscience and programs, which serve medically fragile babies and children. To recognize their transformational support, the Neuroscience Institute at Wolfson Children's was renamed the Walter and Michelle Stys Neuroscience Institute. Through the Baptist Health endowment-matching program, their gift will be

matched at 150 percent so the earnings will support the program in perpetuity.

The campaign support has even reached beyond the walls of the five hospitals that comprise the Baptist Health system. "It's encouraging to see the impact philanthropy has made across the communities we serve as we build and expand programs to serve those who are in need," added Audrey Moran of Riverside, senior vice president for Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy.

To make a gift online or to learn more about Securing Tomorrow Together, visit <http://foundation.baptistjax.com/campaign>. To speak to a development director at Baptist Health Foundation, call (904) 202-2919.



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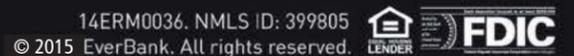
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# LOW INVENTORY IN HISTORIC DISTRICT MEANS SELLER'S MARKET

By Lorrie DeFrank  
Resident Community News

A strong real estate market is a sure sign that people like living in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods of San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. Realtors throughout the Historic District agree that its well-built charming homes are in huge demand. The trendy lifestyle also plays a big role in keeping prices up and inventory down.

"People like the charm and character of homes in these areas. They appreciate the

old-time craftsmanship, which they wed with updated amenities...from bungalows to tasteful mansions," said Missie Sarra LePrell, broker associate, Re/Max Specialists.

In addition to proximity to shopping and events, people who live in the Historic District appreciate their sense of neighborhood, she said. "For example, the San Marco Preservation Society looks out to preserve the dignity of the historic neighborhood to make it flourish and grow. People have an element of protection, a tangible asset that newer

neighborhoods don't have," she said.

Availability of homes for sale in San Marco, particularly, is low, LePrell said. People who are moving to bigger or smaller homes often stay in the neighborhood, creating piggyback sales.

"There is very little on the market in the San Marco quarter," agreed Anita Vining, Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. "Inventory that was there a few years ago has thinned out, there is not a heavy turnover and the price point has edged up"

***"Historic District people are diehards. They love that quality of building."***

— Missie Sarra LePrell, Re/Max Specialists

## By the numbers



Compared to a year ago, monthly statistics have improved across Northeast Florida, with sales in the Historic Districts significantly exceeding regional averages. The following Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) market analysis compares the entire region – which encompasses all of Duval, Clay and Putnam counties and part of St. Johns County – with the combined historic neighborhoods of San Marco, San Jose, St. Nicholas, Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill.

## DAYS ON MARKET UNTIL SALE

Northeast Florida Region:

**-8.5 %**

Historic District:

**-10.8 %**

## MEDIAN SALES PRICE

Northeast Florida Region:

**+7.1 %**

Historic District:

**+10.2 %**

## CLOSED SALES

Northeast Florida Region:

**+4.3 %**

Historic District:

**+34.5 %**

## INVENTORY OF HOMES FOR SALE

Northeast Florida Region:

**-15.6 %**

Historic District:

**-21 %**

According to NEFAR, interest rates are widely predicted to go up before the end of the year – another reason for buyers to take advantage of the favorable conditions.

"The market is great right now, as it has been pretty much the last two years. We don't have enough inventory in the Historic District, interest rates are historically low and lenders are willing to loan," said Anne Burpee Rain, broker Realtor, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Inc. "So if a realtor is wise enough to price correctly, a house sells almost immediately and gets multiple offers."

Prospective buyers who are wary of higher rates call all the time, Rain said, adding that "typically this time of year sellers slow down on listing but now is a great market and perhaps by spring rates might go up."

Whether they are seeking a two-bedroom/one bath bungalow smaller than 1,000 square feet or a riverfront mansion, most buyers want properties to be ready to move into with updated electricity, plumbing and roof, Rain said. However, many are willing to do some updating just to get in the neighborhood, and once they're in, they tend to stay.

"Because of the culture and diverse options in San Marco, people want to grow within the community," said Elizabeth Hudgins, a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. "San Marco Square is the only place in town with a 'village vibe.'"

### Condos, rentals in high demand

"The Historic District is booming. There is not enough inventory. It's going crazy," said Sacha Higham, Realtor and principal at Traditions Realty. "It always fared better during the recession. Now it's back. People want to live here for the diversity, the arts scene, the restaurants and so much else going on."

Condo sales are also hot, Higham said, and like single-family dwellings in the Historic District, inventory is low. He said rental units also are in high demand. "The rental market is going up so dramatically it's mind-blowing. We don't have enough inventory for sales or rentals," he said. "It's a seller's market. Homes are definitely going up. If they are priced right and in

great condition, they move. We're getting into multiple bidding again."

With interest rates and inventory so low, houses priced in the \$200,000s and \$300,000s are moving quickest, but higher-end homes also are going in days, he said.

Condo availability is low in San Marco, according to Vining. San Marco Place has none and the Peninsula has very few, she said, because of the desirability of the location with its "urban feel – walkability in neighborhoods, shops and dining, and convenience to downtown."

LePrell agrees that variables in the real estate market in the Historic District are numerous – from empty nesters moving into smaller homes to people in good-sized homes moving into their dream homes on the water. Most are particular about updated electricity and plumbing as well as remodeled kitchens and baths.

"People have different tastes but they know where they want to be," LePrell said. "Historic District people are diehards. They love that quality of building."

For instance, Suzanne Perritt recently bought her third house in San Marco. "A pedestrian neighborhood is a very unique

thing in today's world," she said. "I moved because my lifestyle changes called for different homes. A lot of people in San Marco watch for the right house to come along and relocate according to what is going on in their lives."

Because of an overall rejuvenation of the area – particularly San Marco, Riverside and Avondale – an increasing number of historic homes built before 1930 have been purchased and renovated recently, said Jeff Chefan, principal CEO and managing broker for Manormor Sotheby's International Realty. More young professionals are drawn to the walkability of the Historic District and the liveliness of such areas as 5 Points, he said.

"Young professionals are drawn to San Marco because of its central Jacksonville location and its proximity to downtown," said Laura Wesson Klement, Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty. "They enjoy the uniqueness of San Marco Square and all it offers. Plus, Hendricks School, the park-like neighborhoods, the historic homes, as well as San Marco's history, dating back to the 1800s."

## Vandals destroy furniture in Palmer Terrace Park

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

In October, St. Nicholas residents were dismayed to discover vandals had destroyed picnic furniture in Palmer Terrace Park, a well-used pocket greenspace on the St. Johns River in St. Nicholas.

Recently, a St. Nicholas resident, who often picnics in the park with her grandchildren, spotted the damage and contacted the neighborhood watch group, said Beth Pavlicberry, a member of the watch group.

On Oct. 21, Pavlicberry sent out a notice to the group asking for information about recovering and repairing the concrete table and benches.

She also contacted Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department about the damage. *The Resident*, which is on the neighborhood watch distribution list, also made a call to Pam Roman, media contact for the City Parks and Recreation Department, alerting her to the situation.

Upon hearing the news, Parks District Manager Keith Meyerl gathered some maintenance staff and immediately left to survey the damage, said Roman.

"My district manager went right out there," Roman said. "Normally the neighborhood calls us and we try to get right out there. Our guys are very responsive when we get the word."

Palmer Terrace resident John Haley met up with Meyerl, said Pavlicberry in an email. Meyerl and his staff were able to salvage half of the furniture thrown in the river, but the rest was too broken to repair, Roman said.

The Parks and Recreation Department is researching whether it is cost-effective to repair the broken furniture or replace it with something new. The benches and table will be restored to the park sometime after the first of the year, Roman said.

In the meantime, Virginia Mitchell, a St. Nicholas resident, has offered to donate a tile-top table and four chairs to the park, said Pavlicberry in a neighborhood watch email. The table weighs 125 pounds and she recommends chaining the chairs to the table to make it more difficult for vandals to toss in the river, Pavlicberry said.

Also, Parks and Recreation is considering building steps



Benches in Palmer Terrace Park in St. Nicholas were vandalized sometime in mid-October.

down to the sand at the river's edge, Pavlicberry said. Another remedy being considered is to pour a concrete slab near the bulkhead and attach the table and chairs to it, she said.

"We have to look at this budget-wise and see if it is better to replace the furniture or redo it," Roman said, adding her department might install a different style of bench with "footers" that can be placed deep in the ground and would be harder to move.

"This happens more frequently than you think, not just here," Roman said. "The industry is always looking to make better products. We need to see if something different is in our budget."

Palmer Terrace Park is a good example of a neighborhood park partnership between the city and residents, said Roman, noting that at this location local residents actively assist the city by helping remove debris and litter.

## Lakewood church suffers vandalism

Assault report at neighboring church proves fraudulent

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Congregants from a San Jose neighborhood church felt violated Sept. 24 when they arrived on their church campus and saw vandals had deliberately despoiled elements of the exterior courtyard.

Sometime during the night hooligans desecrated the exterior of Lakewood United Methodist Church on San Jose Boulevard, smashing concrete benches and tables, ripping signs off buildings, trashing a decorative fountain beyond repair, tearing down security cameras and busting up lighting fixtures, cutting wires to electronic equipment as well as the air conditioning line to a school building used by middle schoolers, and smearing feces on exterior doors.

A Jacksonville Sheriff's Office police report estimated the damage at \$5,000, although Rev. Scott Farman said he is not sure what the cost of the damage is since the church is still working with its insurance company.

Perhaps most damaging to the church congregation was the disappearance of a sign dedicating the church playground to Jake Medley, a nine-year-old child who died in April 2014 of late infantile Batten disease. "The morning we discovered the vandalism and the missing sign it was Jake's birthday," said Denise Foster, a church employee.

"We had members of the congregation walk around and pray for the facility and for the people who did this act," said Rev. Farman. "It's hard to understand why, due to the viciousness and the financial component of it," he said, adding the vandalism was deliberate because the perpetrators came prepared with tools to do heavy damage. "The act was not to solely incite fear. Our turn is toward compassion."

As of mid-October, the church had no idea who was responsible for the damage, Farman said.

Two weeks later fear within the Lakewood UMC community escalated when a female volunteer at neighboring San Jose Baptist, which is located directly across the street from Lakewood UMC on San Jose Boulevard, reported being assaulted by a man with a knife as she attempted to put trash in a dumpster behind the church facility Oct. 7.

"We had a lot of scared people here," said Farman, adding Lakewood UMC and San Jose Baptist are not often in communication. "That happened two weeks after the vandalism at our church and people felt under attack."

According to police reports, the woman told police she broke away from the man, re-entered the church and dialed 9-1-1 on her cell phone after locking herself in a closet. Although the woman sustained minor injuries and was transported to Memorial Hospital, a JSO investigation revealed the armed robbery attempt and assault never occurred, said Melissa J. Bujeda, JSO public information officer, in an email.

"The story was fabricated by the victim," Bujeda said.

## Customers, merchants rally behind restaurant after arson

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Neighboring merchants and loyal customers have shown support to restaurant owners after an arsonist set fire to their Miramar restaurant in early October.

Toscana Little Italy, a popular Italian restaurant located at 4440 Hendricks Ave., sustained heavy smoke damage when a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt smashed in the restaurant's front door with a chunk of concrete and set the wooden bar in the back of the restaurant ablaze.

The fire was set around 4:30 a.m. Oct. 4, said Mikel Gjergji, co-owner of the restaurant and a San Jose resident. The arsonist, who poured a flammable fluid over the hand-carved bar before lighting it up, was caught in the act on surveillance video, he said.

"We're speechless. Smoke destroyed the whole place," said Gjergji. "We'll have to re-do everything."

A week after the fire occurred, the scent of smoke was still present and all the furniture had been removed from the restaurant to be cleaned. Gjergji and his father, who is also an owner, were working to clean up the area inside.

"We plan to redecorate it, redesign it and move things around. Soon we will be offering the same great food," he said, adding he is still negotiating with the insurance company.

"We hope to reopen as fast as we can," Gjergji said, noting he is aiming for mid-November or perhaps in time for



The hand-carved wooden bar at Toscana Little Italy was a total loss after an arsonist torched it in the early morning of Oct. 4.

Thanksgiving. "Maybe we'll do something different this year and be opened that day," he said.

The eatery's custom-made mahogany bar was destroyed and the furniture sustained smoke and water damage. Even the crown molding near the ceiling was damaged, Gjergji said. "We need to completely rebuild."

In the meantime, Gjergji said his employees and regular customers have rallied around him, with some checking in almost on a daily basis.

"Such good people have been supporting us," Gjergji said. "Our customers are like family. Some have been eating here since Day One," he said. "The folks at

Players Grille (a restaurant in the same strip mall) have really supported us. They bought us lunch when the demolition happened last week," he said.

Also offering tangible support were John and Tina Nardi, owners of the UPS store next door to Toscana, said Gjergji. Because his restaurant's computer system was destroyed, the Nardis helped by allowing Gjergji to use their computers to copy and fax paperwork. They are also planning to print new menus when the restaurant reopens.

"We're trying to do everything we can for them," said John Nardi. "I'm not very mechanically oriented, but anything we can do for them, we will."

# INSTITUTING THE WOW FACTOR

*A Duval County principal shares her ideas on how to raise money*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

When Jackie Cornelius first took over as principal at Douglas Anderson, Jacksonville's Magnet School for the Arts, she knew very little about professional fundraising.

Although Douglas Anderson functions as a public school, its intense focus on the arts require funds over and above what local taxpayers shell out for its survival. Extra cash is essential to keep DA students competitive at college application time, and to assure talented students be included in the program regardless of need. Often individual students are unable to afford necessary supplies like musical instruments or ballet shoes. To keep DA's students on the cutting edge, Cornelius has made it her mission to secure extra funding from private sources.

While other dedicated art schools in the nation hire specific staff to raise money, DA has no paid fundraising employees. "Most arts schools have a development office. The Houston School of the Arts, which DA is patterned after, has a full-time person. Usually the principal is busy just running the school. I do it all, but that's not the norm," she said.

Cornelius is active with the Arts School Network, a non-profit association founded in 1981, comprised of the leading arts schools and colleges. The Network is dedicated to providing leaders in arts schools with resources, support, and networking opportunities. Learning from her Network peers, Cornelius has turned the practice of fundraising into an art form. Fundraising is simple, she said, it's about building connections and relationships.

"I'm a facilitator," Cornelius said. "I try to connect the right people together. That's where the magic occurs. I build relationships and provide connections between those who have access and can make a difference with those who have needs and are deserving."

The most critical element in raising money is to have passion for your program and commitment, said Cornelius. Her motivation is the sincere belief arts education is valuable and important for all students.

"It needs to be genuine. If it's artificial, it's doomed," she said. "To create a program and garner support, you need

to have WOW in front of you. When you talk with a person about what you believe, you want them to respond with "WOW! Let them see it for what it is."

Knowing the intricacies of your program is important, Cornelius said. Integral knowledge and data is essential so you can answer any question, she said. Because she defends the value of arts education on many levels, Cornelius formulates quantitative data to support her claims.

A few years ago, Cornelius distributed a questionnaire to educational institutions within the Arts School Network asking what they consider indicators of success. Among their criterion were high standardized test scores, low drop-out rates, high attendance rates, high graduation rates, local, regional, state and national awards, performance by invitation, partnerships and collaborations with symphonies and other arts organizations, teacher recognitions on local, regional, state and national levels and extensive news coverage at local, state and national levels.

With the responses, she collaborated with Dr. Warren Hodge at the University of North Florida in compiling statistical analytical summary of data from all the schools.

Through her study she discovered art school students score 50-70 percent higher than the mean on SATs; the graduation rate at arts schools is higher (98 percent of the DA senior class graduated last year); and attendance rates are higher on local, state and national levels. "I use this information when I talk with people," she said.

Cornelius also utilizes other fundraising tools. Start with a vision. Ensure your mission is clear and simple. Know your purpose then define your needs. Develop a solid strategic plan and goals. Establish an advisory board comprised of key community members who will serve as guardians in times of hardship. Join local like-minded organizations such as the city Cultural Council, museum boards, the Rotary or local Chamber of Commerce, she said.

Have staff members join national, state and local boards for their specific area. Host annual events such as galas where city leaders and philanthropists serve as honorary chairs and tie a major giving campaign to the event is also of vital importance.

Establishing an endowed foundation is a good way to cover expenses not in the operating budget, she said. When building a bank of donors, start small by establishing one-on-one relationships with stakeholders and alumni before approaching community leaders and general supporters, she said.

"Find out what they do for a living, what interests them. Perhaps they are costumers, or the executive director of the zoo. See what expertise and experience they have and what their interests are. Know your needs. Plumbers, architects and local businessmen all have connections and can advise you," she said.

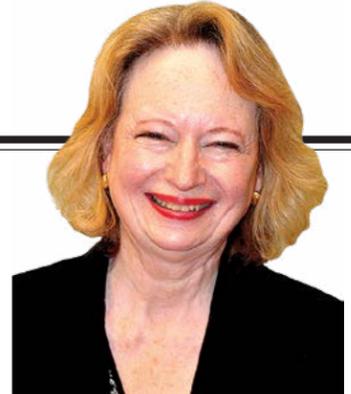
"It's important to establish a personal relationship with them. People often give because of you, not the institution. You as an individual are an important part in the

success of the relationship," she continued.

Donors want to know their giving makes a difference. The value of hand-written thank-you notes cannot be underestimated and publishing a magazine is another way to thank patrons for their generosity, she said.

"I say to people there are many ways to make a difference and contributing resources to DA is only one of many. You need to match the person with what they are passionately interested in," Cornelius said. "It might not be art or education but hospice or the river or nature. I might connect them with Mayo, or the St. Johns Riverkeeper. The bottom line is to be genuine. This way, I'm still working to make a difference, even if it is not here, and that's part of the magic. I'm a part of facilitating them with what they want to do."

## Fundraising tips from Jackie Cornelius



Jackie Cornelius, Principal, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

1. Start with a vision. Make sure your mission is clear and simple.
2. Conduct a needs assessment. Determine where you are now and where you need to be.
3. Have a solid marketing and strategic plan and goals.
4. Develop a list of major gift prospects. Include members of your constituency, community leaders and others interested in what you have to offer.
5. Establish an advisory board composed of key community members.
6. Join local community groups.
7. Have staff join national, state and local arts boards in their specific area.
8. Establish an endowed foundation to support your organization.
9. When building a bank of donors, start small with local stakeholders. Relate to them one-on-one.
10. Establish connections on personal level. Network every party and event. Be genuine, honest and passionate.
11. Be visible and active in the community. Accept invitations. Become a guest speaker and presenter.
12. Partner with other groups.
13. Sponsor VIP tours of your facility.
14. Host luncheons and dinners for donors and community supporters.
15. Recognize donors in an in-house publication.
16. Share your facility with other organizations.
17. Expand your search for gifts beyond monetary donations.
18. Send out press releases. Get positive information about your organization in the news.
19. Host an annual event such as a gala. Have city leaders serve as honorary chairs. Ensure a major giving campaign is tied to this event.
20. Create a logo and brochure for your organization.
21. Praise potential donors and established donors.
22. Send thank you notes often.

14TH ANNUAL

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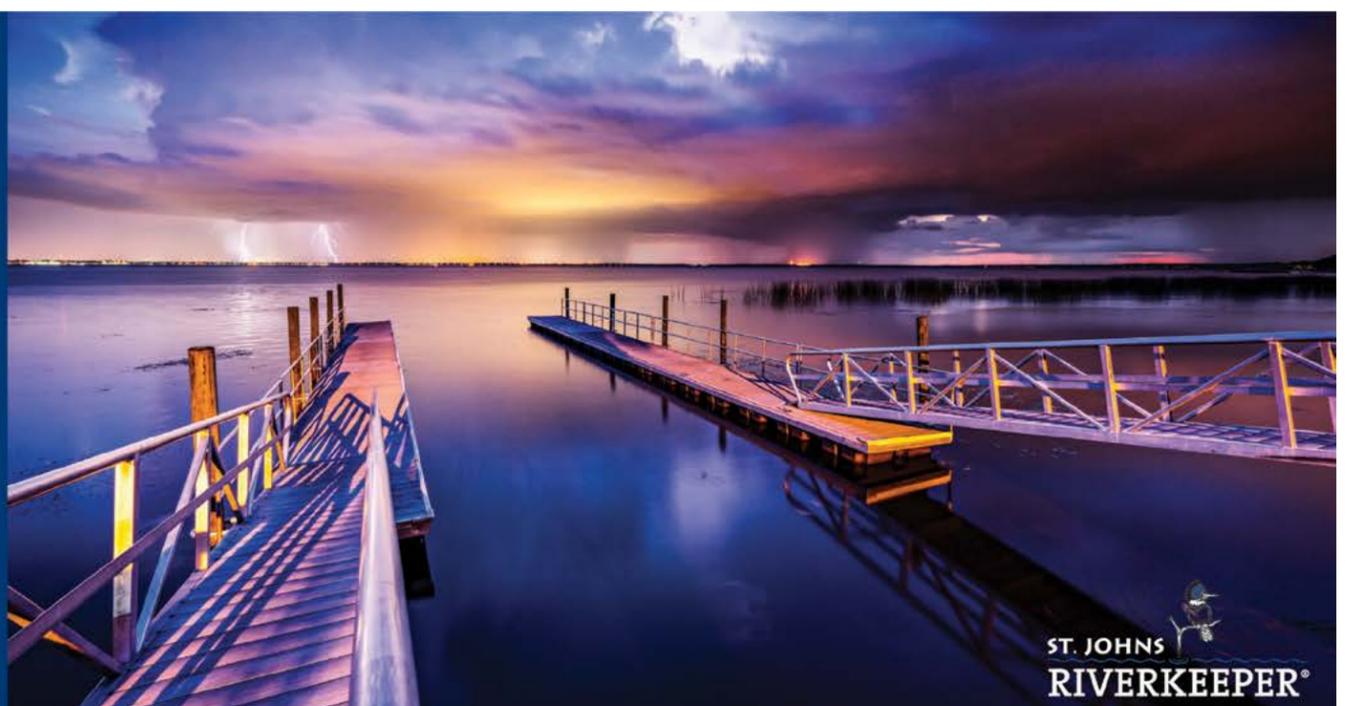
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**Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center** FROM PAGE 1

In what Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene termed a “transformational moment” in the 60-year history of his healthcare system, Baptist Health went to war on cancer by officially opening the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center at a press conference Oct. 17 in San Marco.

The new center, which became operational Oct. 1, is housed in what was formerly Baptist’s former Outpatient Center on San Marco Boulevard.

The event marked the merger between the Northeast Florida healthcare system and MD Anderson of Houston, Texas, one of the nation’s top cancer centers, which is devoted exclusively to patient care, research, education and prevention.

During a press conference, Greene said the center represented the marriage of two organizations that are equally committed to delivering comprehensive and advanced cancer care. “It is not a merging of logos or

a labeling exercise,” Greene said. The center will replicate the model of care patients find at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas giving residents in North Florida “little need to travel outside of their community,” he said.

Also speaking at the press conference were Dr. Ronald A. DePinho, President of MD Anderson; Cere Hardin of Ortega, chairman of Baptist Medical Center’s Board of Directors; and Dr. Joe B. (Bill) Putnam of San Marco, the center’s new medical director. Putnam formerly worked as a thoracic surgeon at Vanderbilt University and was a faculty member in the department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular surgery at MD Anderson’s Houston campus for 15 years.

**One-stop shop**

As a one-stop shop for cancer care, the new center will be a single destination for cancer patients and their families by including medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, pathology, laboratory, diagnostic imaging, infusion and other support clinical services. Private infusion therapy stations, large patient exam rooms, nursing stations and comfortable waiting areas designed to full of natural light with colorful artwork on the walls have been modeled after MD Anderson’s outpatient clinics in Houston.

The new center in San Marco comprises 100,000 square feet of space and will include everything a family needs to support both the patient and caregivers as they battle the disease.



Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene announces the opening of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in San Marco Oct. 17.



New MD Anderson sign atop the former Baptist Health Outpatient Building and Hill Breast Center Oct. 17.

On hand will be a staff of 240 including 40 experienced physicians with expertise in major oncology specialties such as breast, gynecological, urology, gastrointestinal, thoracic, neurological, colorectal, lung, prostate, melanoma, sarcoma and more. The staff will provide “integrated” and “seamless” cancer care, with patients getting personalized treatment plans, Putnam said.

To support families, the center will offer specialists in oncology navigation, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, genetics, personal counseling, psychological care, pastoral care and social services.

“This unique program is designed to address the complete continuum of care for the cancer patient and their family,”

Putnam said. “Every new patient will have the benefit of not just a single set of physician’s or surgeon’s eyes, but a multidisciplinary group of experts specific to that patient’s cancer.”

At the end of the press conference, before the outside sign atop the new Center was unveiled, Greene mentioned that Baptist has purchased much of the land comprising two city blocks across the street from the center on San Marco Boulevard. On that property Baptist Health plans to construct a new building, which will be final home to the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Construction on this building is in its design phase. Its anticipated opening will be early 2018, he said.

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL**

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# Episcopal names new FieldTurf football field for Pajcic and Hunt

Episcopal School of Jacksonville named the school's new FieldTurf field at McCormick Sports Complex after one of its longtime supporters and its assistant football coach during a dedication ceremony Oct. 23.

The field, which was newly installed over the summer, was named Pajcic-Hunt Field for the late Gary Pajcic, who sent his five children through the school, and longtime assistant football coach Charles Hunt, Sr., who also coaches track and field at the school.

A large gift from the Pajcic family, and Pajcic's five children – Curt, Curry, Ian, Seth, and Shaara Pajcic Swallow – made the dedication ceremony possible. The Pajcics' gift is part of Episcopal's 50th Anniversary capital campaign, Lead the Way, which is seeking to raise \$18 million for school improvements.

Pajcic and Hunt both played football for Florida State University. Hunt later went on to play in the NFL and in other professional leagues before settling back in Jacksonville to coach at the school. Pajcic went on to law school at Florida State and later moved back to Jacksonville to form Pajcic & Pajcic, a successful Jacksonville law firm, with his brother, Steve. A well-known philanthropist, Gary Pajcic had donated millions for important causes, including education.

Pajcic and Hunt developed a lifelong friendship, and Pajcic, who coached football at Episcopal in the 1980s, recruited Hunt to join him in coaching the Eagles. Hunt never left the school, continuing to coach football and track for more than 30 years.

"Today marks an exceptional celebration of friendship and two men's dedication to the mission of Episcopal School of Jacksonville," said Head of School Charles F. Zimmer. "We cannot fully express the depth of our gratitude for Coach Hunt's long tenure here developing our student-athletes, or the



The Pajcic family poses in front of the new Pajcic-Hunt Field sign after the dedication ceremony Oct. 23.



Charlie Hunt poses with his family in front of the new Pajcic-Hunt sign on the Episcopal scoreboard Oct. 23.

Pajcic family's longtime championing of the school. We are deeply thankful for all that both men have given our community over more than 30 years."

### Award-winning football star

As a football player at Paxon High school, Pajcic was believed to be the first athlete ever to win Player-of-the-Year honors in both football and basketball in Duval County. He was also Florida's Scholar-Athlete of the Year and was ranked the top football player in the state in several publications.

Pajcic was quarterback for the Seminoles, earning honorable mention All-America honors in his sophomore year after throwing for nearly 1600 yards and eight touchdowns. He was also part of one of the most famous plays in FSU history. Known as "The Catch," Pajcic threw what should have been a game-winning touchdown pass to Lane Fenner

in 1966 against The University of Florida. It was ruled out of bounds despite evidence showing otherwise and debate over the play continues to this day.

Along with practicing law, Pajcic found time to coach all his children at Episcopal High. From 1983-1993 he coached his four sons in football and later coached his daughter, who was on the golf team.

Pajcic died at the age of 58 of a sudden illness in 2006.

After playing at FSU in the 1970s, Hunt signed with the San Francisco 49ers. He later played for the Jacksonville Express

in the World Football League and on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' first team. After playing in Canada for a season, he finished his career with the Jacksonville Firebirds of the American Football Association.

Episcopal hired Hunt in 1981 as an assistant football coach. During more than 30 years of coaching football and track at the school, Hunt has shepherded more than 900 athletes. Under his tutelage several individual student-athletes have won state track titles. He also coached the 2007 girls' track team to the state championship.



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

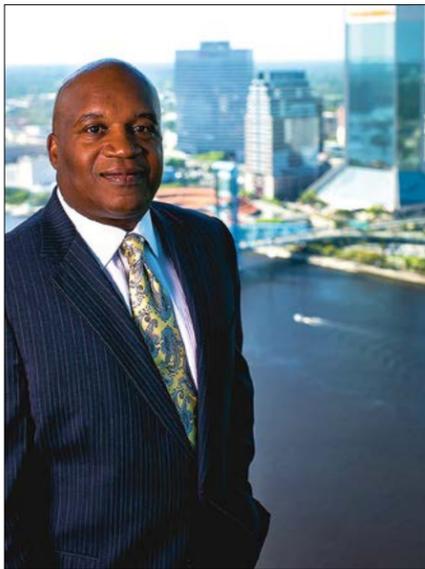
## JTA's Nat Ford honored by White House

Jacksonville Transportation Authority CEO Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., a Southbank resident, was honored as a "White House Transportation Champion of Change," on Oct. 13. Ford was one of 11 individuals from across the country honored by the White House for exemplary leadership and innovation in transportation.

Ford was awarded for leading the overhaul of the JTA's transportation system by implementing ROI, which has increased ridership, decreased travel times, and made safety upgrades to buses and stations. His efforts have transformed JTA into a more reliable, more efficient, and safer system for the people of Jacksonville.

"Public transportation is essential to the quality of life," said Ford. "I am honored and grateful to be recognized as a White House Champion of Change for the implementation of ROI. This award belongs to the entire JTA team of professionals that I have the honor of working with. I want to thank the JTA Board of Directors, our staff and our customers."

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. This Champions of Change event



Nathaniel Ford

honored people who recognize these challenges in transportation, and have endeavored to solve them.

"The Route Optimization Initiative represents 21st Century transit innovations that our customers expect and deserve," said JTA Board Chairman Scott L. McCaleb. "I am honored to have Nat Ford as our CEO and extend my heartfelt congratulations to him for championing the change."

## Speech and Hearing earns autism care certificate

The Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center (JSHC) has earned its certification of autism care from the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). This designation means that at least 80 percent of the JSHC staff has undergone a rigorous training process that will assist in providing speech pathology and audiology services for those who have autism. It is believed that the nonprofit is the first healthcare provider in North Florida to undergo this training for its staff.

"I'm extremely proud that our staff has stepped up to achieve this recognition," said Mike Howland, President and CEO of Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center. "Communication is a critical challenge for many people with autism and that is where we can help."

A Certified Autism Center provides a patient-friendly environment that includes no sensory overload, patients ushered to quiet rooms, treatment that is minimally disruptive to the patient, communication with family members regarding diagnosis and treatment, a focus on "yes" or "no" questions to patient, allowing patients to see and touch materials, and a health care professional manner that is direct and factual.

## San Marco resident honored with Excellence in College Counseling Award

The Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools honored Bolles' Director of College Counseling Steve Soud with one of the profession's top awards - the Marty Elkins Award for Excellence in College Counseling - during a recent membership meeting in San Diego.

Past recipients of the award have been college counseling leaders from many top independent schools around the country including The Harpeth Hall School, Phillips Exeter Academy, Pine Crest School, Isidore Newman School, St. George's School and the New Hampton School.

"It was a real honor to receive the award," Soud said. "To have my name included on



Steve Soud

the list of previous award winners, who are among the most prominent people in our profession, is gratifying."

Soud has worked at The Bolles School for 18 years and has served as Director of College Counseling for 12 years. He also has taught English and Humanities Honors and served as a volunteer assistant volleyball coach.

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# Fundraising professionals honor outstanding philanthropists

Jim and Tabitha Furyk, of San Marco, have been named 2015 Outstanding Philanthropists by the Florida First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for their work with Community Hospice of Northeast Florida and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

They will be honored, along with other winners, at the annual National Philanthropy Day event on Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Chairs for the event are Joanna Blinn and LeAnn Daddario.

Other award winners include Bank of America as Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation, nominated by St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Communities in Schools and Sulzbacher Center; the Jessie Ball duPont Fund nominated for Outstanding Foundation by LISC, Family Foundations, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, and United Way of Northeast Florida; Rotary Club of North Jacksonville, nominated by Westjax

Outreach, Inc. for Outstanding Civic organization; Ronald McDonald House Development Director Carol Harrison, Outstanding Fundraising Professional and San Marco resident

Ryan Schwartz, Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, both nominated by Ronald McDonald House, and for Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy, the Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center, nominated by Feeding Northeast Florida.

Schwartz is chair of RMHC of Jacksonville's Capital Campaign and has served as Board Member, Board Chair, Interim "Volunteer Executive Director" and Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee.



Dr. Sherry Magill, president, Jessie Ball duPont Fund



Ryan Schwartz, chair, Ronald McDonald House Capital Campaign



Carol Harrison, development director, Ronald McDonald House



Jim and Tabitha Furyk

## MOVERS & SHAKERS

### Children's chorus names new board members

The Jacksonville Children's Chorus welcomed five new members to its board of directors, including Randall Onstead, San Marco resident, and Amanda Warford Videll, San Jose resident. Onstead, formerly president and CEO of Winn-Dixie, Inc., is principal of the firm Onstead Investments, L.P. Videll, formerly a television reporter, is a public affairs specialist for the Jacksonville Division of the Federal Investigation Bureau.

The other new members include EverBank Vice President Kevin Copeland, Daniel Popky, former chief financial officer for Florida East Coast Industries, Inc., and HeatherAnn Solanka, a partner with Ackerman, LLP. Jacksonville Children's Chorus is celebrating its 20th year of inspiring excellence in young singers.



Randall Onstead



Amanda Warford Videll

## Sisisky named Trustee of the Year

Richard Sisisky of San Jose, a trustee for Baptist Health, was honored as a 2015 Trustee of the Year at the annual Florida Hospital Association (FHA) Celebration of Achievement in Quality and Service Awards dinner in Orlando on Oct. 8.

The program recognized 14 hospitals and individuals from across the state who have achieved notable accomplishments and had significant impacts on their local communities.

Sisisky was recognized as a passionate leader who is focused on the delivery of better health care in north Florida. Through his work, he has helped define Coastal Community Health, the recently announced affiliation between Baptist Health, Flagler Hospital and Southeast Georgia Health System, a highly integrated network of locally governed,



Richard Sisisky

not-for-profit hospitals serving contiguous markets.

He was also recognized for his role in creating the Baptist-JCA Wellness Connexion, which offers members of the Jewish

Community Alliance and patients of Baptist Primary Care free health coaching and wellness services. His generosity in creating the Sisisky-Kleppinger Lecture Series to raise community awareness of the unique health care issues facing women, was also lauded.

"I am truly honored to be selected as a Trustee of the Year by the FHA," said Sisisky. "Knowing that I am playing a role in helping Baptist Health improve the health of the greater Jacksonville community is extremely rewarding."

Sisisky has been a highly involved member of governance at Baptist Health since 2002. "Richard is an extraordinarily engaged and visionary leader who is involved in every aspect of governance at Baptist Health," said Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene of San Jose. "In addition to his many board leadership roles, Richard is chairing our health system's comprehensive campaign with a focus on securing our future for generations to come."

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# Emerging Philanthropists make more than \$75,000 in grants

## MOVERS & SHAKERS

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida announced the grant making decisions of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiatives Class of 2015. The 15 emerging philanthropists participated in a comprehensive six-month program to enhance their knowledge of strategic philanthropy, which culminated in a series of personal grants matched by The Community Foundation.

The Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class of 2015 included Benham Bishop, Annie Bryan, Josh Bryan, Imani Hope, Alexis Kane, Ronnie King, Patrick Kilbane, Michael Miller, Lauren Rueger, Ted Rueger, Melanie Setzer, Martin (Ted) Stein, James (Buck) Williams, Susannah Williams and Darryl Willie.

All class members participated in learning about the critical issues that exist in the community and researching nonprofit organizations. Participants were encouraged to explore their own philanthropic leadership style as they began to formulate their personal grant making strategy.

The class culminated in June with the following grants being made:

- A joint grant for MOCA (Museum of Modern Art) and PACE Center for Girls to create an opportunity for PACE girls to visit MOCA monthly, including arts education and museum knowledge as well as exposure to successful women who work in the arts.
- Jacksonville Humane Society for general operating support



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

- Jacksonville Children's Commission to support the Jax Kids Book Club program
- Jacksonville Arts and Music School for general operating support
- The Guardian Catholic Schools for general operating support
- Daniel Memorial for general operating support
- Mali Vai Washington Youth Foundation for general operating support
- Wolfson Children's Hospital for its Child Life program
- BEAM for general operating support
- Tiger Academy for the Principal Fund for students' academic and behavioral achievements
- Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF)
- Scoutreach Cub Pack 705 Tiger Academy
- BSA North Florida Council Troop 26 for tents
- Scoutreach BSA North Florida Council
- Wolfson Children's Hospital for MRI cinema vision goggles
- UNF LGBT Resource Center for its pilot project, Club CanDo

One interesting result that developed from the grant making was the establishment of the MyVillage Community Fund by three participants. The MyVillage Community Fund is designed to "foster the philanthropic spirit of African Americans in Northeast Florida while providing financial resources to African American-led nonprofits focused on strengthening lives with the Black community." The three initial funders are working with The Community Foundation to create the grant making parameters for the fund.



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#### THE NAME SHEN YUN

"Shen Yun" is an elegant Chinese name that can be translated as "the beauty of heavenly beings dancing." Shen (神) means "divine" or "divine being," and Yun (韻) refers to a dancer's bearing and the meaning behind his or her movement. Together, the name expresses what Shen Yun aspires to achieve: an experience so beautiful and joyous that it evokes a sense of the heavens.

# All Saints celebrates 50 years in “ageless” traditional edifice

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It’s been 50 years since the All Saints Episcopal Parish moved south from its former location on Hendricks Avenue near I-95 to the beautiful brick edifice it inhabits at 4171 Hendricks Avenue and to celebrate that anniversary members will do so in retro style.

On All Saints Day, Sunday, Nov. 1, the All Saints members plan to look back on the rich history of their present sanctuary and honor the members who built it, many who are still active within its membership.

A special Eucharistic service will be held followed by a family-style luncheon. Parishioners will don period clothing reminiscent of what members might have worn 50 years ago and enjoy a tasty spread of dishes routinely cooked in 1965. After lunch, docents will provide tours of the facility.

Also part of the celebration following the service will be a demonstration of Plein Air painting on the church grounds. The First Coast Plein Air Painters will set up their easels to paint the classic brick church “in the open air,” the style of painting in the mid-19th century, when artists worked in natural light. The public is welcome to observe the painters at work.

Heading the 50th anniversary planning committee was San Jose resident Dr. John Lovejoy, Jr. and his wife, Harriet. Lovejoy’s parents were on the church’s original planning committee in the 1960s when the church sanctuary was built.

Although the church cornerstone was laid Sunday, September 12, 1965, the congregation chose to celebrate their anniversary Nov. 1, All Saints’ Feast Day, for which the church was named. The cornerstone contains a hymnal, a cross, and a newspaper from that time.

“It’s a big day for us, Nov. 1. It’s the

Feast of All Saints Sunday,” said church pastor Father Donovan Cain, who lives in San Marco. “It’s a great milestone, 50 years, for our beautiful church sanctuary.”

## Traditional contemporary blend

Unique to All Saints is its traditional church design, which differs from other religious structures built in Jacksonville during the same time period. Designed by Jacksonville architects Saxelbye and Powell, the edifice is modified Norman Gothic architecture and features a striking large stained-glass east window located immediately to the rear of its white Vermont marble altar. The two-story window, which is entitled The Creation, was designed by Dr. Henry Lee Willet of Philadelphia, who used faceted glass to symbolize the aspiration of man toward God, said San Marco resident Paula Moore, Junior Warden at All Saints.

“It’s more like a sculpture than stained glass,” Moore said. “It depicts God’s creation of the earth, moon and sun in swirling colors. It faces east so when the sun comes up the light streams through it. When the rising sun comes through the window it’s very dramatic,” she said, noting that the congregation wanted to have a window that would provide interior light while still maintaining a sense of mystery. “People look at it and see all sorts of things. It was designed with enough mystery that people worshipping in the church see different things in it.”

The Christus Rex cross, which was hand carved out of walnut by an artist in Charleston, is suspended in front of the Creation window and above a spacious marble altar. According to a newspaper article written when the church was dedicated, the Christus Rex symbolizes the risen, reigning Christ. “It’s a very simple design making for a dramatic



The Christus Rex cross is suspended before the spectacular stained glass window on the east side of the church to the rear of the white Vermont marble altar in All Saints Episcopal’s Hendricks Avenue edifice.

place to worship,” said Moore.

The uniqueness of the church rests in its mixture of contemporary design with traditional, Father Donovan said. “Some of the architecture of the 1960s has remained stunning and beautiful and some is dated,” he said. “In our church some pieces reflect the 1960s and some are ageless. It’s a good combination of both. Whoever designed All Saints had good sense. Our church will look beautiful as long as it’s in existence.”

## 160-year history in the community

All Saints got its start in 1855 when a small group of Episcopalians met in the waiting room of the old Jacksonville-St. Augustine Railroad in South Jacksonville. Later services were held in the home of Mrs. Alexander Mitchell in Villa Alexandria. In 1877 plans were drawn up to erect a church at 1228 Hendricks Avenue near Gary Street, and in December 1890 the All Saints Episcopal Mission was consecrated by Bishop Edwin Garner Weed.

Until 1936, All Saints was a mission, supported by the Diocese of Florida. The land in the 4100 block of Hendricks Avenue was purchased in 1947 and plans were drawn up for a new building. The original church stood at 1228 Hendricks Avenue until June 1955 when the congregation moved south and began worship at its present location in what is now the church’s Parish Hall. During the following 10 years, the current sanctuary was designed and construction was completed in 1965. The original mission edifice was deconsecrated in 1955 and sold to Dr. J. Harold Newman and Abe Newman, who eventually dismantled it when the Overland Expressway was constructed in the early 1960s.

As its congregation looks forward toward its next 50 years, the church’s timeless design will remain a tangible demonstration of the openness of the Episcopalian church, said Moore. “It’s a sanctuary for our community as well as a house of worship,” she said. “It’s a special, beautiful place in our community, an opening, welcoming place. That’s what I love about it.”

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Charming antique style 2 story San Marco home with master bedroom on the first floor! This adorable home offers 3 bedrooms, den/office, formal living & dining areas, fully equipped eclectic kitchen with a wood burning fireplace, eat-in nook, lined with window views + single French door to private deck which is perfect for outdoor dining overlooking nature's wooded preserve. Master suite features his & her sinks & a large shower. Upstairs offers 2 spacious bedrooms, loaded with natural light and a full bath. \$277,500 MLS# 777599 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288



Come live in the large spacious home in the heart of San Jose, close to The Bolles School, San Jose Country Day School, and San Jose CC. Hardwood floors under most of the carpet. Large living room with wood burning fireplace, sitting room and study of owners suite. Lot size over a 3rd of an acre. Study/bonus room with separate entrance. 20' long dining room overlook large back yard thru a wall of windows. \$259,900 MLS# 796890 Charles Anno 904-993-7487



Traditional 2-story home! Relax on your master suite balcony to catch the river breeze! Walk down by the river to the community dock. Brick accent, paver driveway, enhanced landscaping for privacy, carriage style garage doors, & concrete tile roof. Upgrades: hardwood floors, deluxe master bath & gourmet kitchen, stainless Bosch appliances, granite counter tops, tile backsplash, 3-car garage! Gated community with amenities: pool, fitness, dock, fire pit, party room... \$690,000 MLS# 792567 Bruce Homeyer & Liz Reiman: The Transition Team 904-535-8686



This beautiful newly built home is just moments away from JAX International Airport, Downtown, and the historic shops of Riverside and San Marco. This home will surely take your breath away. This property is in immaculate move-in ready condition and has been taken great care of. Located on a large corner lot, great for pets and kids. Kitchen comes with marvelous 42" maple cabinetry. Stainless steel appliances and beautiful 17" x 17" tile throughout and much more. \$246,800 MLS# 784212 Joseph Poletto 904-738-6446



Stately home shows pride of ownership! Open floor plan boasts bright oversized living areas. Perfect home to entertain! Offers formal living & dining, family room w/18' + ceilings on a handsome floor to ceiling brick fireplace. Double windows allow natural light throughout. Oversized eat-in kitchen with prep island is loaded with cabinet space & 3 wall-to-wall pantry closets, separate full-size wet bar. Sliders open to back patio w/private backyard. Owner's Retreat offers vaulted ceilings, walk-in closets, garden tub, sinks w/new granite counters & much more! \$325,000 MLS# 778201 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288.



Come check out this lovingly maintained, 2-story home in the heart of Jacksonville. This 10 year old home has been freshly painted & maintained. This beautiful home features wood laminate floors in the downstairs living areas & painted concrete flooring the bonus room. Bonus room could be used as an office, 4th bedroom, play room, or extra family room. The home is centrally located close to schools, hospitals, shopping, bus lines, downtown, and the beach! \$149,900 MLS# 792060 Jennifer Grunewald 904-608-8410



Beautiful updated brick, 3/2 home nestled amongst mature trees on a cul-de-sac lot. Gourmet kitchen with 42" cabinets, custom glass cabinet doors, loaded with pull-out drawers, granite countertops, trimmed in crown molding, breakfast bar & a breakfast nook. Hand-scraped hardwood flooring throughout home. Spacious bathrooms feature new marble countertops, sinks & hardware. Owner's Retreat features French doors opening to the covered patio overlooking private backyard. \$296,500 MLS# 778202 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288



Great opportunity to buy a renovated home in Seabrook. Remodeled kitchen & bathrooms. Open living space with tile floors. Kitchen has granite countertops. Plenty of natural light through front windows. Split floor plan. Covered parking & good size fenced backyard. Extended driveway to allow additional parking space. You don't want to miss this opportunity. \$125,000 MLS# 792055 The Dream Home Team Jax - Gonzalo Mejia & Michael Leachman 904-472-0726



This charming bungalow is in the heart of trendy Murray Hill, has been owned by the same person for over 40 years and has been extremely well taken care of. The kitchen is large and the 15 X 29 family room has a fireplace. The 3rd bedroom is currently being used as a den. There is a large garage with an additional work shop/craft room in the back and a farmer style sink. Large fenced backyard. Walk to the shops and restaurants of Murray Hill in just 5 minutes. \$165,000 MLS# 797045 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288



Another one listed and SOLD by the Transition Team! Brick home with large yard & newer roof. Excellent condition. 1 car garage & 1.5 car carport. Separate dining room with big window, living room with fireplace, nice large foyer & cozy kitchen. Master bedroom extra-large for king size bed. Huge 19x24 Florida room/game room! Sun porch with vinyl windows could be a greenhouse. 10x 15 storage building. Convenient to shopping and downtown. \$139,000 MLS# 790368 Bruce Homeyer & Liz Reiman: The Transition Team 904-535-8686



Fabulous Mandarin Estate: Main house features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, and a 3 car garage. Chef's gourmet kitchen with Subzero fridge, double ovens, Corian counter tops, out-door kitchen and large screened in lanai perfect for entertaining, custom built-ins throughout the home and much, much more! Guest house has a fully equipped kitchen, 1 bedroom 2 baths with a 1 car attached garage. Nestled on 3.47 acres in a natural setting. Prestigious and highly desirable Mandarin Rd location, \$624,999 MLS# 777598 Call Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288



What a great opportunity to live on a huge lot on the river! This home has a very open floor plan with lots of family living space. There's a fire place in the family room and the large windows in the living room give great water views. The large kitchen has lots of cabinets with 42 inch uppers and recessed lighting. Storage, storage, storage. Inside laundry/storage room, a large workshop, and 2 additional utility/storage rooms. At the end of the dock there is also a dock house/storage building. MLS# 791021 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288



Prime Location, in the heart of San Marco! This renovated traditional home offers 4 bedrooms, 1 non-conforming, 3 baths nestled on a double lot. Home features a chef's dream, gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, 5' + downdraft cooktop island, deep sink, stainless steel appliances, wine cooler, built in desk, wall oven + microwave, under cabinet dimming lights, granite counters & appliance garage! This home is loaded with upgrades galore! Call today to see this lovely San Marco Home! \$625,000 MLS# 798031 Butler/Corbett Team 904-521-3288

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**Miracles celebrated in style for JDRF**

The 15th Annual Miracles Gala, a formal evening coined "One Night" drew a crowd from across the region of Northeast Florida. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is the world's leading nonprofit, nongovernmental funder of diabetes research. The mission resonates with donors, as leadership guarantees

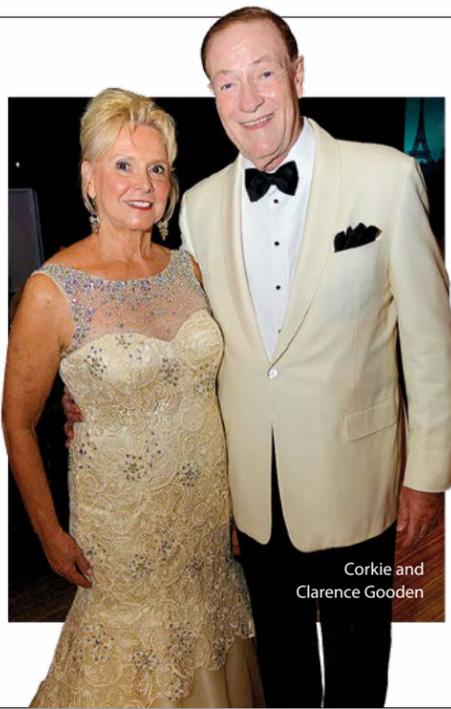
the resources are spent most effectively to accelerate progress toward finding a cure. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, seated dinner, silent and live auctions, a special Fund A Cure segment, inspirational program and outstanding entertainment. This year's gala was held at the Sawgrass Marriott on Oct. 10.



Janet and John Grim with Melissa and David Boor



Molly and Bill Hughes and Katy Guarneri



Corkie and Clarence Gooden

**SOCIAL R**

**Dreams become reality at Berry Good Farms**

The North Florida School of Special Education campus played host to an evening of outstanding culinary creations on Oct. 9. The benefit continues to serve the fundraising interests of the Berry Good Farms greenhouse and culinary support programs.

Guests were greeted and treated to a tea light-guided walk down to the new patio built around a towering oak. Complete with Tiki torches and a libation station, the evening transitioned to a guided tour through the Berry Good Farms greenhouses. The farm incorporates organic growing

methods including ground hydroponics, aquaponics, poles and a 10-unit tower

The goal of the Berry Good Farms is to teach horticulture to NFSU post-graduates while providing a valuable resource for the community. The program supports education, entrepreneurship, and self-sufficiency. Support for Berry Good Farms helps to ensure a self-sustaining community created to foster programs with intellectual disabilities. The program encompasses education and compensation for employees.



Camille Ott, Terri Bennett, Nia Bradberry, Linda Cunningham, Meghan Woods and Sally Hazelip



Bert Brown, Rebecca Skinner, Julie Steinkamp and Sarah Brown



Jamie Shelton and Ali Korman Shelton



Ann Marie McGowan, Daniel Andrews, Sophie Meyer and Steve Delvalle



Ann Carey and Keith Holt

**Magical night of masquerade for St. Vincent's**

The Club Continental on the St. Johns River played host to an evening of masks, glitz and glamour at the First Annual Corks & Forks benefit gala. Proceeds from the inaugural masquerade ball will be used to benefit the community through expansion of St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County and community outreach programs for residents in Clay County who are struggling.

Programs that will benefit include the Mobile Health Outreach Ministry and Momentum. Areas of the hospital that will benefit from these funds include emergency services and comprehensive care for women and infants at the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Women and Infants Pavilion. The event was Co-Chaired by Senator and Mrs. Robert Bradley and Drs. Omar and Lorraine Dajani.

Chef's supporting this year's event were Scotty Schwartz of 29 South, Wesley Nogueira of bb's, Pastry Chef Mallorie Finnell of Biscotti's, Waylon Rivers of Black Sheep, Sheldon Harris of The Club Continental, Silvia Pulido of Havana Jax Café, Matthew Medure of Matthew's and Restaurant Medure, Tom Grey of Moxie Kitchen and Cocktails, Ian Lynch of Bistro Aix and Ovinte.



Event Co-Chairs Senator and Mrs. Robert Bradley with Co-Chairs Drs. Lorraine and Omar Dajani

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Tricia and Bryan Cox with Nia Bradberry



Co-Chair Will Courtney, Betsy Lovett and Co-Chair Heather Lane Courtney

## Striking Gold at Ole' Cowford

Patrons packed the Jacksonville Fairgrounds to pay their respects to the mission of the American Cancer Society's local North Florida Chapter. After all, most families have been touched by cancer and the importance of supporting the local campaign is just the start. As the largest fundraiser of its kind in Jacksonville for ACS, the goal remained clear – to help build a healthier tomorrow by end-

ing cancer. Working together, a high bar was set at \$500,000 for this year's event, presented by the Ring Power Corporation. Event goers helped to 'pan out' their reserves and stake a claim for local initiatives. The funds raised will help deliver community-based patient services, cancer education and assist in supporting cutting-edge cancer research. The event took place Oct. 3.



Greg Chapas, Ryan Grimes, Jessica and Chris Wynne, Katie Smith, Cricket and Philip Kelly



Tricia Todd, Elsa Scagel and Tara Lee



John and Ann Macdonald with Deborah and State Rep. Charles McBurney

## Gathering great for support of Red Shield

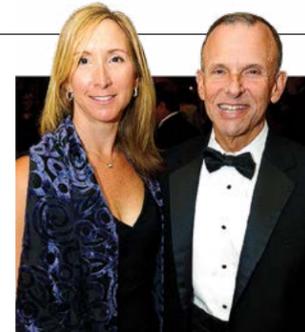
The second annual Red Shield Ball celebrates the Red Shield Lodge, a place of refuge for families undergoing tough circumstances. Through the support of generous donors and businesses, the Salvation Army in Northeast Florida was able to shelter 407 children in 2014 and, on average, 147 families per year. While under the care and auspices of the Lodge, families receive intensive case management services from crisis intervention to parenting skills, personal finance, stress management, health and wellness advice and much more.

This year's Honorary Chairs were Pete and Marilyn Carpenter and the Committee Chairs were Robert and Susie O'Quinn. A special remembrance was also paid to Charlie Towers, a man rich in his dedication to neighbors in need. Charlie was tireless in his pursuit to better the condition of others through his passionate support of the Salvation Army's mission to meet human need in the name of Jesus Christ without discrimination.

The goal this year was to raise \$130,000, said Kelly Belich, an organizer of the event. "Last year the ball grossed \$95,000," she said.



Henry and Sue Turner with Ken and Paula Durkee



Kimberly Honitz and Miller McCormick



Doug and Laura Skiles with Jim and Susan Towler



Brittany Wood, Paige Ernst and Michelle Minevich



Honorary Chairs Pete and Marilyn Carpenter with Vivian and Milton Searcy



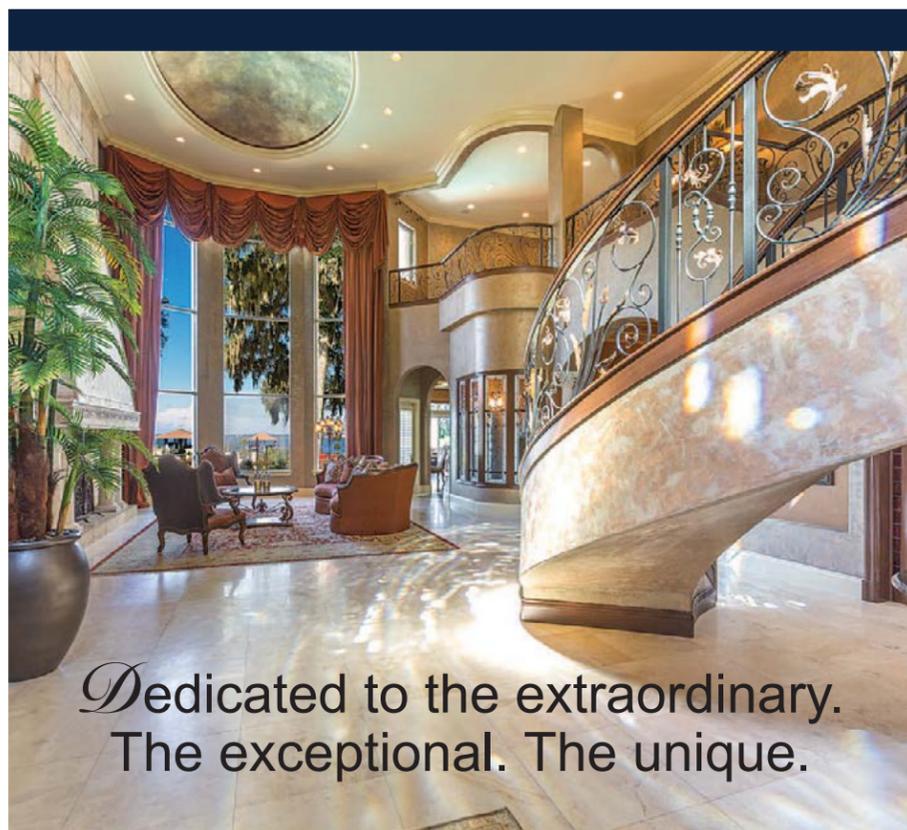


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#endcancerJAX



# Dogs and owners seek blessings at San Marco Family Pet Fair

As Fr. John Oliver of St. Philip Neri Ecumenical Church blessed dozens of dogs during the Family Pet Fair and Annual Blessing of the Pets event Oct. 3 at Fletcher Park, there was perhaps no dog that needed a blessing more than Buddy, a Pitbull, who formerly lived at St. Francis Animal Hospital in San Marco.

Severely burned when a vat of grease was thrown on him, Buddy was confiscated by the city's Animal Care and Protective Services and had been in the custody of the veterinary hospital since April. When his family was cited on animal cruelty and neglect charges, St. Francis Animal Hospital took him in and cared for him over five months, as he recovered from his wounds, ear surgery and heartworm treatment.

In addition to pro bono treatment from the veterinary hospital, Buddy received financial help from Friends of Jacksonville Animals as well as several generous donors who learned of his story from the hospital's Facebook page. Hospital workers hoped he would follow in the footsteps of Romeo, a stray Pitbull that was in St. Francis Hospital custody when he was brought to the Annual Blessing of the Pets two years ago. Romeo found a home during the city's mega-adoption event the very next day.

"We don't understand why somebody would hurt Buddy, he's such a sweet dog," said Sandy Golding, Chief Development Officer at St. Francis Animal Hospital.

Like Romeo, Buddy's story has a happy ending. On Oct. 6, three days after the



After a rough start in life, Buddy has found a forever home.

blessing event, Alex and Kaylan Watson, clients of St. Francis Animal Hospital, saw Buddy's photo on a flyer and inquired about adoption proceedings. Buddy now lives with the Watsons' other rescue dog, Riley, at their home in Southside.

"We're so happy Buddy has found a perfect forever home where he is being spoiled and loved," said Golding.

Buddy was just one of dozens of canines that was blessed at the pet fair, which was sponsored jointly by St. Francis Animal Hospital and the animal ministry at St. Philip Neri Ecumenical Church.



Courtney Cooper and her Teddy Bear Pomeranian, Neeco



Lucy receives a blessing from Fr. John Oliver as her mistress, Angel Godwin, looks on during the Family Pet Fair and Annual Blessing of the Pets Oct. 3 at Fletcher Park.

# Local cycling pros teach foster teens bike care

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Cycling pros from a bike shop in Miramar taught 12 foster teens how to assemble and repair road bikes Oct. 17 in preparation for a 50-mile bicycling adventure.

Under the watchful eye of several employees from Open Road Bicycles, the teens assembled the custom-fitted bikes they'll ride on two of the most popular trails in Orlando in mid-November. The training was part of a hands-on life skills program provided to local foster teens by Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS).

Tour de TRAILS (Teaching, Riding and Interpersonal Life Skills) focuses on teamwork, interpersonal skills, health, fitness and setting goals, while teaching foster teens biking skills and personal achievement. The program is meant to provide a sense of normalcy.

Through TRAILS training the youth will attend spinning classes at the YMCA as well as classes in nutrition, health, bicycle safety and bike maintenance and training rides of 7, 12 and 20 miles on the Baldwin Trail.

A four-day, three-night bicycle trip is scheduled in November. The trip includes traversing the General James Van Fleet State Trail (29 miles) and the West Orange Trail (22 miles) as well as a tour of the University of Central Florida and a visit to Universal Studios.

FSS is the lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties. For more information about FSS, visit fssjax.org.



Kendra Hilton of Riverside looks on as Kyjuan White and Ed Seitz of Avondale assemble White's custom-fitted road bike at Open Road Bicycles in Miramar Oct. 17.

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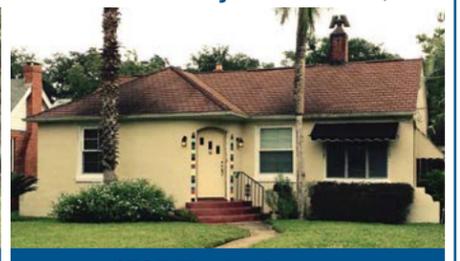
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# EVERYDAY LOCAL HEROES

Heroes are found in some of the unlikeliest places in our community. Unsung, these men, women and children don't consider themselves heroes, but in the eyes of those who require a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen, they are champions, indeed, for those in need.

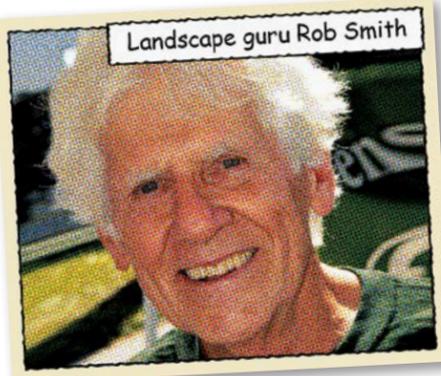
By Marcia Hodgson, Kate A. Hallock

## You just do it

For over 30 years, Rob Smith has been a fixture on the San Marco landscape.

While the graduate architect and registered landscape mastermind, who also has a Master's degree in urban regional planning, has been in business for nearly 50 years, he has spent much of his spare time volunteering for community organizations such as San Marco Preservation Society, where he has served as president twice, the San Marco Merchants Association Board, the St. Johns Riverkeeper Board and the Jacksonville Historical Commission, where he also served as president.

Part owner of San Marco's Grape & Grain Exchange, Smith recently donated his time and expertise to drawing up a new landscaping design for Whatley Park. But it wasn't the first time he has given services away to his community pro bono. When a series of roundabouts were installed to institute traffic calming in San Marco Square, Smith designed the landscaping for Balis Park. He also worked out a landscape plan for Fletcher Park a few years earlier.



Landscape guru Rob Smith

"I think you just do it," Smith said. "The community has done a lot for me."

San Marco Preservation Society President Andrew Dickson said he appreciates Smith's timeless contributions to the Preservation Society and the community-at-large and considers him to be a mentor as he tackles the job of SMPS president.

"He is an artist whose work embodies the heart and soul of San Marco," Dickson said. "Our public places express who we are, what we value, how we relate to each other, and by defining them, he has in no small way defined us as a community. I've been very grateful to him for his leadership, his good taste, and his openhearted outlook on life," he said.

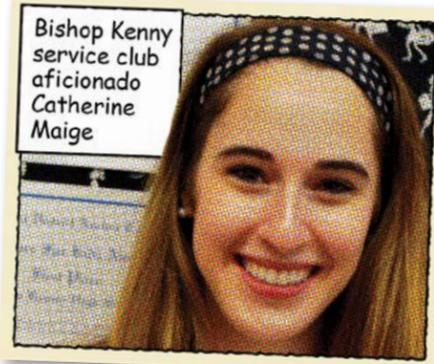
## Teen's life revolves around service to others

At the start of her senior year at Bishop John Kenny High School, Catherine Maige of Miramar has already logged 710 community service hours.

Over four years at the Catholic high school in St. Nicholas, she has been a member of the school's St. Vincent de Paul Society (three years), the Spanish Honor Society, Senior Class president; a member of the Community Hospice PedsCare Teen Advisory Board, a Nemours Children's Specialty Care Volunteer, member of the Leadership Jacksonville youth program, an art therapy leader in Kids Together against Cancer at St. Vincent's Medical Center, president of the National Honor Society, service chairman of Bishop Kenny's Anchor Club, and a 'Camp I Am Special' buddy, where she shadowed a disabled camper at Camp Marywood 24/7 helping with toileting, bathing and feeding for six solid days during the summer.

Maige is also chairman of the Homecoming Committee and is on the Homecoming Court, where she has been nominated to be queen. All this she has done while logging a grade point average above 4.0 and being playing tennis on the girls' varsity squad for the past two years.

But by far her favorite organization at school is the all-female Anchor Club, where she serves this year as service chairman. "I've met an incredible group of girls. I belong not just for the college service hours, it's a sisterhood," she said. "Someone told me about it when I was at San Jose Catholic and I was so excited



Bishop Kenny service club aficionado Catherine Maige

about joining it when I came to Bishop Kenny," she said.

Every week, the Anchor Club does something nice for someone at Bishop Kenny or the surrounding community. A feeder club to Pilot International Club of Jacksonville, Maige and her Anchor Club sisters provide dinner once a month for the residents of Ronald McDonald House and seek to raise money to benefit RMH, Catholic Charities or some other worthy cause.

The club feeds the Bishop Kenny faculty lunch once a week in a show of appreciation. It provides refugee families with bags of groceries and toiletries and food for the holidays, and it solicits sponsors for the Donna Deegan 5K to raise funds to fight cancer. And this year Anchor members are also showing tangible support for the sister of Anchor Club member Kaitlynn Himmelreich, who was born with Down's syndrome. She will be cheered by club members during this year's National Down's Syndrome Buddy Walk.

Maige said being part of so many charitable activities has helped her learn

Continue on page 25 >>>



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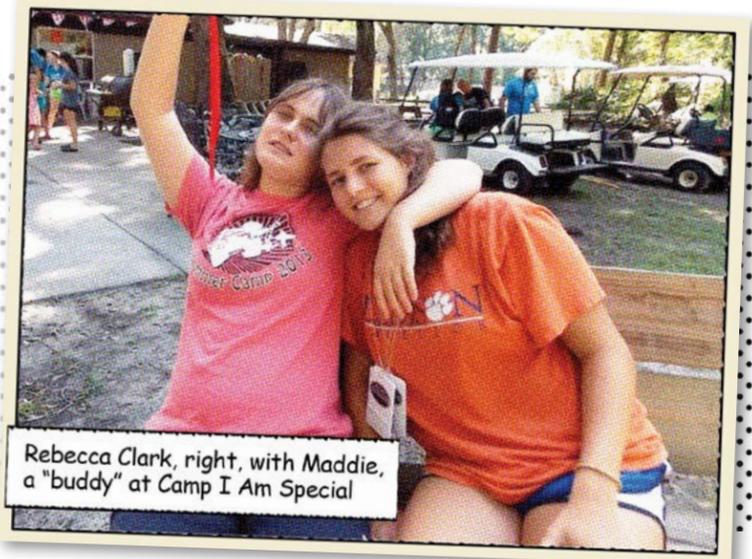
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how to balance her life. "It's showed me what's important in my life and that serving others is truly invaluable," she said.

"I like serving people and getting to know them, but this (Anchor Club) is my favorite thing," she said. "You're giving back to people. You don't need to be recognized. If no one noticed, I would still do it. It's really fun," she said, noting that she hopes to further study international health at a college in the Southeast and eventually attend medical school. "I want to be in a health field," she said, "But I'm leaving it to God."

I feel joy after I volunteer because I am helping others and giving them opportunities that they can't always get."

— Rebecca Clark



Rebecca Clark, right, with Maddie, a "buddy" at Camp I Am Special

**The glue at elementary school**

Hendricks Avenue Elementary Principal Lacy Healy refers to her as "the glue in my front office."

Office assistant Jane Moore of San Marco, the employee who Healy said manages "Band-Aids, ice and lice" for the students, is the unsung hero of Hendricks Avenue Elementary School.

On a regular school day, Moore can be seen doing a variety of functions from cafeteria duty, manning the phone in the school office, to dismissal and watching the children play outside, rain or shine, said Healy.

"She does everything because she wants to do it and not for recognition," Healy explained, noting Moore is usually the first to arrive and the last to leave the school each day. "She is truly here until the job is done," Healy said.

Assistant Principal Tiffany McClain agrees. "Wherever you need her, she's



The consummate gal Friday at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Jane Moore

there," she said. "She never takes a lunch. She never takes a break. She just keeps going and she is always so kind to everyone."

A woman with three children of her own and six grandchildren, two of which attend Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Moore said she loves her job because she loves working with children.

"I just love helping – anything to do with a child," Moore said. "I like to help fulfill their needs, educational and others."

**Free time joyfully given to others**

As a senior at Bishop Kenny High School, Rebecca Clark doesn't have a lot of spare time. What little she has, however, is freely and cheerfully given to volunteer work.

"I spend most of my time volunteering for Camp I Am Special. It is a Special Needs (physical and mental) camp that provides 24-hour care for children and adults that have some type of special need," Clark said. "The ages range from five years old to the elderly. During the camp session I am required to assist my buddy with all types of basic living activities and recreational activities."

Clark, of St. Nicholas, also volunteers for Surfers for Autism, an organization that provides surfing instruction for children and young adults with autism. Additionally,

she spends a couple of hours each week at St. Paul's Catholic School, where her mother Bobbie Rountree works as a first-grade teacher, athletic director and cheerleading coach. When Clark is not at St. Paul's organizing, cleaning and making crafts, she serves as an Extraordinary Minister at Bishop Kenny.

"I became interested [in volunteering] in 8th grade after my class went to the Clara White mission to serve food to the homeless," Clark said. "I feel joy after I volunteer because I am helping others and giving them opportunities that they can't always get."

The teen advises her peers to give volunteering a try. "You never know if you like something until you try it for yourself," she said. "There are so many different ways to help and volunteer. If you are unsure of the organization that is right for you, you should visit and research it first."

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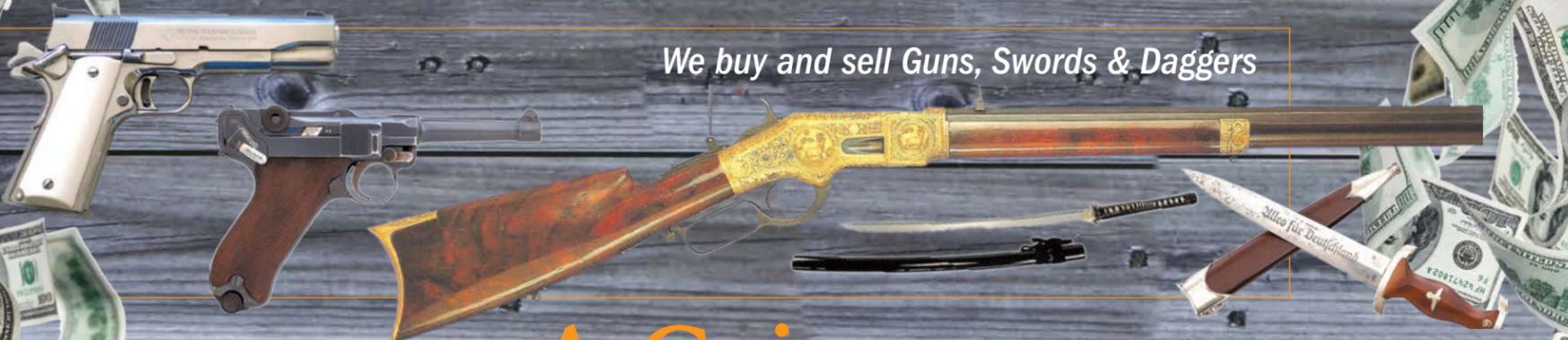
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# Forgotten treasures fund healthier lives

## *duPont antiques sold for Foundation*

By Vince Iampietro  
Resident Community News

Who would have thought after paying decades worth of storage fees, so many treasures from one of Florida's wealthiest families would surface and eventually benefit the foundations they created to help those in need?

The Jacksonville-based Alfred I. duPont Foundation had been paying storage bills for a unit in Tallahassee, but it wasn't until 2013 when its new president, Clay Smallwood, and some Foundation staff decided to find out just what was stored away. They uncovered a treasure trove reminiscent of King Tut's tomb.

"I asked what we were paying for in storage, and nobody could remember what was in there," Smallwood said.

On a trip to the storage facility to investigate he discovered numerous boxes full of items from Alfred and Jessie (Ball) duPont's homes at Epping Forest and at Southwood Plantation in Tallahassee, and from their yacht. A number of rare and valuable items, such as fine china, art glass, even an ivory-handled flyswatter, were numbered among the find.

"We decided the best thing was to monetize it (the find) to give to somebody it would help," said Smallwood of the numerous high end, and now antique, items.

"We give away money; it's what Mrs. duPont charged us to do and it's what we do," he said, adding it didn't make sense to spend storage fees when proceeds from these items could help the Alfred I. duPont Foundation.

It will take five to six weeks from the auction's close in September for a check to arrive at the Foundation, though a final tally is not yet available. Money from the sale of the items will be used to continue their philanthropic causes.

The Foundation distributes grants to endowed scholarships, social causes, Red Cross and Salvation Army chapters, churches in Delaware and Florida, and several homes for disadvantaged children as well as those with autism and special needs, Smallwood said.

Alfred I. duPont, who first made his fortune in the family's gunpowder business in New England, moved to Florida with wife, Jessie Ball, in 1926. His desire as a Florida resident was simple: "Through helpful works, let us build up good in this state and make it a better place in which to live."

Though he nearly doubled his wealth while living in Florida, duPont's viewpoint on wealth was one of stewardship. Many stories have been told of duPont helping those in need, including individuals on the streets and, during the Depression, the unemployed.

"It has been my firm conviction throughout life that it is the duty of everyone in the world to do what is within his power to alleviate human suffering. It is therefore natural that I should desire, after having made provision for the immediate members of my family and others whom I have seen fit to remember, that the remaining portion of my estate should be utilized



Murano elephant

for charitable need," stated duPont's will after his death in 1935.

Trustees Jessie Ball duPont and her brother, Edward Ball, established a foundation to care for crippled children and the elderly. Soon after, the Nemours Foundation and Alfred I. duPont Institute, which provide extensive children's health outreach programs, came into being. Though they are separate charitable entities from the Alfred I. duPont Foundation, each organization carries on duPont's mission to provide for those in need.

Providing help to others didn't mean self-deprivation for the duPonts. Lavish items from the storage facility include a hand-painted, Rosenthal porcelain Chinese dancer figurine designed by Austrian sculptor Constantin Holzer-Defanti; an 88-piece set of New York Yacht Club glassware featuring 22 kt gold rims with NYCC/duPont crossed-flags logo, and an elegant, gold-trimmed porcelain inkwell.

Several of the many items available were realized (sold) significantly above their high

estimates, said Laura Hawkins of Affiliated Auctions, which sold many of the items.

A 105-piece, early 20th century set of Hohenberg china, with gold trim and featuring the New York Yacht Club logo, had a high estimate of \$800 but realized a winning bid of \$4,900.

Also purchased for \$4,500, well above its estimated value of \$200, was a Murano blown glass elephant from the estate of Edward Ball, brother-in-law of duPont.

Beating its high estimate of \$500 was an Alfred I. duPont monogrammed sterling silver set, which sold for \$1,050.

In addition to these items, a number of family photographs were among the duPonts' belongings. These will be given to the Alfred I. duPont Testamentary Trust for safe keeping and possible display at some future date, Smallwood said.

"It's incredible the legacy he and his wife left is still ongoing and touches people," he said, adding that because of the duPonts' philanthropic foresight the legacy will touch lives in perpetuity.

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# Déjà vu fashion show raises money to combat domestic violence

Some of the male models donned skirts and all the men on the runway sported fancy heels in an effort to “walk a mile in a woman’s shoes,” during Hope for a Better Life’s “Purses and Pumps with a Purpose” party Oct. 2 at the University of North Florida University Center.

Nearly 300 enjoyed the Déjà Vu Fashion Show, which was hosted by Jennifer Candelino in an effort to raise money for Hubbard House. Included in the event were a silent auction, dinner and fashion show, which included the special “men walking in our shoes” event, featuring local celebrities. The purpose behind the fun was to help raise awareness about domestic violence.

Donations from the community of women’s clothing, shoes and accessories, were used in the fashion show and eventually donated to Hubbard House, along with hundreds of other donated items.

Among the judges of the fashion show were Kristi Brandon,



Laura Bowmaster, Dr. Mary Pentel, president of Hope for a Better Life, Karen Duncan and Russell Fox

Hubbard House chief development officer, Dr. Kathy Bing, North Florida OBGYN of Jacksonville Beach, Dean Peggy Hinchey, president and CEO of Communications Center, Alexandria Pentel, developer of the blog, “Prep of the South,” and Joanne Long, a buyer and manager of Carla’s Shoes in Ponte Vedra. The women judged each model’s outfit on creativity and style.

Chairing the event were Dr. Mary Pentel and Dr. Sayra Sievert. Pentel is president of Hope For A Better Life, Inc., while Sievert serves as the organization’s vice president.



Sayra Sievert, vice president of Hope for a Better Life, with her daughter Mallorie



Laine Reinecke-Clayton, Hubbard House community education manager, Kristi Brandon, Hubbard House chief development officer, Jennifer Burnett, Board member, and Barbie Velazquez hold up their purple painted ring fingers, signifying their stance against domestic violence.

# EnviroFest draws visitors to Cummer

The 2nd Annual EnviroFest, a family-friendly event to raise environmental awareness through the arts, education and music drew visitors from all over Jacksonville on Oct. 3. Hosted by The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens in partnership with the City of Jacksonville’s Environmental Protection Board, kids of all ages had the opportunity to participate in book readings, recycled art projects, tours from Museum educators, a Fish Fusion community art project sponsored by Community First Credit Union, a seed swap, a hands on water-conservation activity, and much more.



Earline Edelson and granddaughter Paisley enjoy playing with toys from Bay & Bee, an eco-friendly play space.



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### Thursday, December 3

(Guest Speaker ticket holders and Benefactors only)



5:30 - 8 pm Sneak Peek

6:30 pm Doors open for Alexa Von Tobel

6:45 pm Alexa Von Tobel, Guest Speaker

### Friday, December 4



10 am - 3 pm Show Hours

10 - 11 am Lecture and Book Signing, Alexa Hampton, *Decorating in Detail*



11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lecture, Juli Catlin & William Nash, *Florida Architecture and Style: From Ponce de Leon to Lilly Pulitzer* (ASID credit, 3.0 CEU Florida State Approved)

6:30 - 7:30 pm Benefactor Reception

7:30 - 11:30 pm Opening Night Party with The RiverTown Band

(Ticket holders and Benefactors only)

### Saturday, December 5

10 am - 5:30 pm Show Hours



10 - 11 am Lecture, Richard Keith Langham, *If These Walls Could Talk*



1:30 - 2:30 pm Lecture and Book Signing, Barbara Westbrook, *Every House Has a Story*

### Sunday, December 6

11:30 am - 5 pm Show Hours



1 - 2 pm Lecture and Book Signing, Dr. J. Michael Francis, *Before Jamestown: Europeans, Africans and Indians in Spanish Florida*

2:30 - 4 pm ¡Vivan Los Niños! Children’s Fashion Show, featuring current and former patients of Wolfson Children’s Hospital with Special Entertainment

4 - 5 pm Children’s Fashion Show Reception

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# Family Promise milestone more than a number

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

During its nine-year charter Family Promise of Jacksonville – one of more than 185 affiliates nationwide – has served almost 100,000 meals and provided more than 40,000 nights of shelter through 16 host congregations.

Those numbers are meaningful only when you talk to some of the more than 750 Family Promise volunteers who make and serve meals, and spend the night in their respective church buildings with families who would otherwise find themselves separated at city shelters.

Lynn Doiron, Family Promise coordinator at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Marco, said her church became a host congregation after their pastor found someone sleeping in the dumpster. After contacting Family Promise, the church hosted a family in late 2009, believing they would do this as a one-time Christmas mission.

"The message 'No room in the inn' took on significance for us," said Doiron.

Since then, St. Mark's has hosted approximately 50 families, and Doiron said the most common "complaint" they hear is the families have gained weight during their stay. "You want to make your best meals for guests," she said, "and that's what we do."

With the goal of helping homeless families stay together during their search for employment and permanent housing,

Family Promise has helped 122 families (144 adults and 235 children) who today have the promise of a future.

While Family Promise provides case management services, including budget, job and life skills counseling, it does not provide a steady stream of handouts.

"Our model is one of limited engagement so that the families figure it out on their own," said Mark Landschoot, Family Promise executive director. "They need to be part of their own journey."

Following the chapter's first director, San Jose resident Mindy Roberts, Landschoot has been with the nonprofit since 2008 and manages the operation with the help of a part-time volunteer case manager, who he hopes to bring on as an employee, and a part-time development director. He coordinates shelter rotations with the 16 congregations and four interim houses.

Family Promise works to have families settled in permanent homes within 90 days and, according to Landschoot, the average length of shelter stays is 60 days. Each host congregation is scheduled approximately every four months to provide up to three families with meals and a place to sleep for one week.

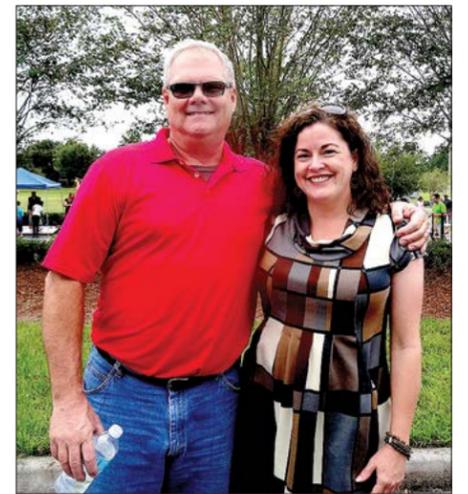
"Most of our families are situational homeless – the loss of a job, a medical crisis or a forced change in housing. By adding the interim homes, we can serve more families in crisis. Most importantly, we are keeping families together and off the street," said Landschoot.



Lynn Doiron, Nicki Hassell, Lynette Weber, Family Promise volunteers with St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, San Marco

## Cardboard City raises awareness of homelessness

Family Promise's Fifth Annual Cardboard City event will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20-21, 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. at CrossRoad Methodist Church, 10005 Gateway Parkway North. Participants will spend a night under the stars in a cardboard box, tent or their car to experience, in a small way, what it's like to be homeless. If interested in participating, visit [familypromisejax.org/cardboard-city/](http://familypromisejax.org/cardboard-city/) for details.



Mark Landschoot, Family Promise executive director with the chapter's first director, Mindy Roberts

## Local ingredients main draw at Farm-to-Table fundraiser

Kitchen on San Marco was the locale of the Farm-to-Table dinner Oct. 3 to benefit Sustainable Springfield, a nonprofit organization that works to unite people with nature by creating healthy communities and sustainable practices in the Jacksonville area. The evening was organized through a partnership with San Marco Preservation Society to help cultivate collaboration and shared cooperation, helping foster growth in urban neighborhoods.

Chef Ryan Randolph of Kitchen on San Marco, focused the evening's menu on locally-sourced ingredients within the five-course gourmet meal, which included squash and cider soup, caramelized fennel and onion flatbread, fall panzanella, whole roasted Atlantic fish and butterscotch pot de crème.

Carve Vodka, Aardwolf Brewery, Harris Meadery and Veterans United Brewery provided the evening's beer, wine and cocktail pairings.



Kitchen on San Marco prep staffer Patrice Allen with Kitchen on San Marco Sous Chef Sean Beene



Top: SMPS's Alex Varkonda, Kitchen on San Marco General Manager Eve Markowicz and Glen Weiger



Left: Paul Grey and Stephen Wolf of Carve craft vodka

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# Changing face of 'homeless' addressed with new campus

By Vince Iampietro  
Resident Community News

The I.M. Sulzbacher Center vision of "ending homelessness one person at a time" just got closer to fulfillment.

At Transformations, the Center's annual fundraiser, guests were delighted to hear great news: Sulzbacher Center is planning to build a new campus for women, children, and families, aptly named Sulzbacher Village.

After 20 years of offering comprehensive services to Jacksonville's homeless men, women, and children at locations downtown and at Jacksonville Beach, the new campus will reach more homeless to provide food, shelter, comprehensive health care, and life-skills training.

Sulzbacher President and CEO, Cindy Funkhouser, said in a press release that "Sulzbacher Village will build its new campus outside of the downtown core, where our homeless women and families can live

safely and continue to access the services they need to put their lives back together."

The facility will include studio, one-, and two-bedroom units to house single women, female veterans, and two parent families, with a total of 70 units accommodating up to 310 people, while 30 more units will house women and families in need of short-term emergency housing and medical respite care.

## Land gift moves project one step closer

"Women and children are the largest segment of homeless today. There are 200 at Sulzbacher Center, with a waiting list," said W.C. Gentry, who not only chairs the "Opening Doors" fundraising campaign, but who was instrumental in helping the Center obtain land needed for the new Village.

In 2012 when his father died at age 94, Gentry sought to honor his dad and talked with the minister about using 4.5 acres of church land for a playground in his father's name.

However, Gentry said he knew of the Sulzbacher Center's long-time dream of the building project. He said he put two and two together and spoke with people at the Center about the church's available acreage.

"The church embraced the idea of using the land for the Sulzbacher Center's project," said Gentry. The United Methodist Church agreed to a long-term lease for \$1 per year, he said, adding that the plan fits with the Methodist Church Conference's commitment to do local missionary work for communities in need.

Fostering forward momentum for the project was Dan Murphy, Senior Vice President and Treasurer of Fidelity National Financial, Inc. in Jacksonville.

"We made the decision to go forward with Sulzbacher Village for women,

children, and families," explained Murphy of his time as a Sulzbacher Center board member in 2014-15 fiscal year. "This has been kind of a dream around the organization for a long time."

In addition to serving on Sulzbacher's board, on the first Wednesday of every month, a group of Fidelity National employees prepares meals from scratch, while another group serves the meals for up to 500 people at the Center.

"We've been doing that for five years now, and it's very popular among Fidelity employees - they can't hit the respond button fast enough [when the email request for volunteers goes out every month]," Murphy said.

The Opening Doors fundraising campaign has so far raised \$16 million, with about \$11 million awarded in the form of low-income tax credits from the State of Florida (Florida Housing Finance Corporation) along with other programs, while almost \$5 million more was raised from individual and foundation donations.

The initial seed money was provided by Gentry, who expects the balance of \$2.5 million to be raised by the public campaign by the end of 2015.

Women, children, and families at Sulzbacher Village will have access to case management, job training, life-skills training, special programs for female veterans, and an 8,000-square-foot health center with a focus on pediatric medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health services. In addition, those health services will be available to children in the surrounding neighborhood.

Not only will the project provide more housing for women and children as well as men with children, it will free up space to expand Sulzbacher's downtown services for childless men in need. "City officials are excited; this is going to be a great thing and will open more space for homeless men," Gentry said, adding "Cindy has done an incredible job running the Center."

## Giving for Sulzbacher Village

The Lead Gift for the project came from the Lucy B. Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, while naming opportunities came from a variety of trusts, funds, corporations and individuals.

- Florida Blue will name the pediatric clinic, along with Baptist Health/Wolfson Children's Hospital, which will be providing operational support and funding.
- The entire female veterans' wing and its rooms have been named by the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.
- The central courtyard and gardens will be named for the Bryan Family Trustees of The Henry and Lucy Gooding Endowment.
- The daycare center playground has been named by the DuBow Family Foundation.
- The children's program playground will be named for The Stellar Group.
- The children's computer lab will be named for Drs. Julie and Duncan Baker.
- The main lobby will be named for Ginny Myrick.
- The waiting room of the Clinic will be named for Hugh Greene.
- The single women's wing will be named for Julia Taylor.
- The resident resource center will be named for Dan Murphy.
- The family wing will be named for Susan and W.C. Gentry.
- The children's program basketball court will be named for Patrick Geraghty.
- The courtyard playground will be named for McGuireWoods.



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## 19th Annual Jewish Book Festival

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## Plein Air Painting

Sunday, Nov. 1, 11 a.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 4171 Hendricks Ave. First Coast Plein Air Painters will paint on the church grounds. The public is welcome to come and watch them work. For information call (904) 737-8488

## CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2 p.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. Southside Annual CROP walk. Contact [Ucom.jax@gmail.com](mailto:Ucom.jax@gmail.com) or visit [hunger.cwsglobal.org](http://hunger.cwsglobal.org), click on Florida.

## Men's Garden Club

Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m., Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave. Joe Stumpf, North Florida Bonsai Club and Master Gardner will speak on bonsai planting, care and re-potting

## Festival d'Vine

Friday, Nov. 6, 6-9 p.m., Treaty Oak, Jessie Ball duPont Park. A tasting experience of food, wine and craft beer to benefit Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Program. Visit [ccbjax.org](http://ccbjax.org) or call (904) 265-2182 for ticket information or purchase online at [www.festvaldvine.eventbrite.com](http://www.festvaldvine.eventbrite.com)

## San Marco Chamber Music

Sunday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m., St. Mark's Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. Concert will feature creepy selections by J.S. Bach, Camille and Andre Caplet and a special guest narrator Courtney Lewis. Concert is free but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information contact Ellen or Eric Olson at (904) 731-1310 or email [info@sanmarcochambermusic.org](mailto:info@sanmarcochambermusic.org)

## Wine Not? Survivor Social

Monday, Nov. 9, 6-8 p.m., Tapa That, 820 Lomax St. American Cancer Society's Riverside Relay-For-Life team hosts the wine and painting event – a luminaria bag painting class for cancer survivors and caregivers, led by Kyle Willis, president, Local Artist Coming Together. For more information, call (904) 391-3618

## 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Community Outreach

Saturday, Nov. 14, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St. Gather your friends and co-workers to sponsor a table where you will work as a team to help package meals for Hunger Fight during three food-packing sessions. The meals are distributed to hungry children and families in Northeast Florida and South Georgia. [hungerfight.org](http://hungerfight.org)

## Storytime in San Marco

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m., Balis Park Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner will be the featured reading.

## Godspell

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 19 and 20, 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, 2 p.m. The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, 4455 Atlantic Blvd.

Upper School performing artists present the musical that presents the Gospel of Matthew in a modern context. Ticket information is at [www.esj.org/arts/tickets-to-performances](http://www.esj.org/arts/tickets-to-performances) or by calling (904) 396-5751.

## Pop-up Flower Market

Friday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Balis Park in San Marco. Design, holiday garlands, wreaths, flower arrangements and more.

## Christmas Craft Market

Saturday, Nov. 21, noon to 4 p.m., Southside United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 3120 Hendricks Ave. Handmade items and goodies will be available for sale. The public is welcome at this free event.

## Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m., Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, 4001 Hendricks Ave. Join the congregations of Hendricks Avenue Baptist, Southside Baptist, South Jacksonville Presbyterian and Southside Assembly of God in celebrating the season with worship, a combined choir and dessert fellowship following the service.

## Christmas Tree Sale

Friday, Nov. 27 through Friday, Dec. 18, weekdays 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., weekends, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, 3400 Hendricks Avenue, San Marco. The fifth-grade ambassadors are selling Christmas trees to support their trip to Washington D.C. this spring.

## Santa Paws – Photos with Santa

Sunday, Nov. 29, 3-6 p.m., St. Francis Animal Hospital, 2107 Mango Place. Bring your pets or your entire family for photos with Santa. Proceeds will go to San Marco nonprofit St. Francis Animal Hospital to help family pets in need of medical care. For more information, visit [www.SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org](http://www.SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org).

## Gingerbread House Extravaganza

Wednesday, Dec. 2 – Wednesday, Dec. 23, Weekdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Old St. Andrews, Jacksonville Historical Society, 317 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard. In celebration of the Christmas season on display will be dozens of gingerbread house confections and themed Christmas trees created by the Junior League of Jacksonville Sustainers. Also featured for the 17th straight year will be an angel tree owned by Betsy Lovett. Special Gingerbread House Extravaganza activities and field trips will be available for school children, seniors and other groups.

## Pop-up Flower Market

Friday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Balis Park in San Marco. Local florists display holiday décor, wreaths and fresh flowers

## Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m. Balis Park, San Marco. Local scholastic choirs and jazz ensembles will perform. District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer will be on hand to light the tree.

## San Marco's Holiday Cocktail Reception

Friday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Stellers Gallery, 1409 Atlantic Blvd., San Marco. One night only art sale with partial proceeds to benefit ongoing programming in Balis Park and beautification of San Marco. Tickets cost \$75 and are limited; go to [www.mysanmarco.com](http://www.mysanmarco.com) to order.

## Christmas Concert

Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m., at St. John's Cathedral, 256 E. Church St. Episcopal School of Jacksonville's honors and concert chorale, vocal ensemble and instrumental ensemble. Free, open to the public.

## Festival of Lights 5K and Family Run Run

Saturday, Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m., San Marco Square. Get in the holiday spirit as San Marco lights up with luminaries and participants walk/run to raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network. Families can enjoy sleigh rides, a petting zoo and a visit from Santa. [cmnjax.com](http://cmnjax.com)

## Holiday Gift Wrapping in San Marco Square

Saturday, Dec. 5, 12, and 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, 1-5 p.m., 1996 San Marco Blvd. (in front of the San Marco Theater) Take the stress out of your holidays and help a great cause at the same time. Donations from the gift wrapping will go to San Marco nonprofit St. Francis Animal Hospital to help family pets in need of medical care. For more information, visit [www.SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org](http://www.SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org)

## Holiday Magic Road Race

Friday, Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m. 1 mile fun run; 6 p.m. 5 K road race; Balis Park, San Marco. Sponsored by First Place Sports. Children can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Petting zoo, children's games, hayride and more.

## Free Holiday Concert

Sunday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 4171 Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville University Choirs and Brass ensembles Annual Holiday Concert will feature Dr. Timothy Snyder conducting a tapestry of seasonal music from around the world. Also featured will be a Christmas carol sing-a-long and a reception featuring music from the All Saints Hand Bell Ensemble.

## Women's Christmas Brunch

Monday, Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Southside UMC Church, 3120 Hendricks Ave. Keynote speaker will be Sally Burke, president of Moms In Prayer International.

## Jolly Christmas in St. Nicholas

Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Train Station Park, 2564 Atlantic Blvd. Join Santa and enjoy holiday music, hot cocoa, cookies and giveaways at this free event.

## Ugly Sweater Holiday Party

Thursday, Dec. 10, 6-9 p.m. Aardwolf Brewing Company, 1461 Hendricks Ave. Sponsored by the Red Shoe Crew at Ronald McDonald House

## Storytime

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m., Balis Park, San Marco. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss will be the featured reading; Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to greet children and pose for photos.

## Arm Wrestling Championship

Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. Mudville Grille, 3105 Beach Blvd. Watch famous arm wrestlers battle during the 18th Annual Florida State Arm Wrestling Championship. Free, open to the public.

## San Marco Chamber Music

Sunday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. For more information contact Ellen or Eric Olson at (904) 731-1310 or email [info@sanmarcochambermusic.org](mailto:info@sanmarcochambermusic.org)

## San Marco Chamber Music

Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. For more information contact Ellen or Eric Olson at (904) 731-1310 or email [info@sanmarcochambermusic.org](mailto:info@sanmarcochambermusic.org)



# If you had \$1,000 to give to someone in need, to whom would you give it and why?

Compiled by Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

Homeless people, homeless pets, children less fortunate than themselves “all recipients” of an imaginary largesse from boys and girls put on the spot by *The Resident*, who asked the thousand-dollar question, “Who would you give it to and why?”



**Ally Smith, 13, Assumption School**

I'd give to Ronald McDonald House. I've helped people there before. They need hope, and it's so sweet to see the kids there. All they want to do is play and have fun. For them to play on the playground, it's as if they have won the lottery. Doing the little things we do every day that we don't think about, they love. They really appreciate it.



**Atticus Dickson, 11, San Marco**

I'd give it to an animal shelter because, quite frankly, in America I think animals need more help than people do.



**Liza Rose Dickson, 6, San Marco**

"I would give it to my brother Atticus because he is nice to me and he would give it to an animal shelter."



**Piper Sherman, 5, San Jose**

Somebody that doesn't have any money because they don't have money at all. My friend Leighton.



**Nola Ricci, 3, San Marco**

Stella, my friend who lives down the street because she loves me.



**Madelyn Debski, 13, St. Nicholas**

I'd give to the Meals on Wheels Foundation because I have worked with them during the Christmas season by giving them robes and pajamas and things they don't have. They are so thankful for the things that we do for them.



**Christopher Gardner, 14, St. Nicholas**

I'd give to Ronald McDonald House because they help cancer patients. My grandfather has cancer, and one of my friend's aunt – Joy Pichardo – our class has been praying for her. She teaches at Bishop Snyder, and she would like this.



**Timber Abinsay, 13, St. Nicholas**

I'd give it to Dreams Come True because they help kids who are fighting a disease or some kind of disability and can't do a lot of stuff. The Dreams Come True organization helps them.



**Shali Chithriki, 14, The Bolles School**

Probably just the people on the street because they have nowhere to live and no job so they probably just don't have money and they are going street to street trying to earn money.



**Lucas Setser, 7½, San Marco**

Someone poor. Maybe someone on the street who doesn't have any money. Maybe they need food or maybe they need clothing. It's good to share.



**Madison Alligood, 13, St. Nicholas**

Probably Dreams Come True. I know a couple of kids in Dreams Come True. They are able to go to Disney World and that puts a smile on their face. It's the happiest feeling.



**Emma Nestor, 12, Julia Landon College Preparatory School**

The Children's Home Society because my dad is on the board. I want to give to them because I'm so lucky to have a nice home and shelter and food and I feel they should have the same opportunity.



**Claire Cywes, 15, The Bolles School**

I'd go downtown and give \$100 to 10 homeless people around the Hubbard House, specifically people with kids because they deserve better than what they have.

# San Jose philanthropist brings Live Opera to Douglas Anderson

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Thanks to a very generous Epping Forest philanthropist, the theater at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts is sporting a new name.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in the school courtyard at Douglas Anderson Oct. 3 to commemorate the newly refurbished Lawrence J. DuBow Theatre. The auditorium has been refurbished with a \$200,000 upgrade in high-definition technology including 20 speakers, a 20,000-lumen high definition projector, a 30-foot wide retractable electric projection screen, two new satellite dishes, a digital mixer and two new sound boards.

After the ceremony, students and dignitaries poured into the 640-repurposed the-

ater to watch a live high-definition broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's production of "Il Trovatore" by Giuseppe Verdi.

An opera lover, DuBow spearheaded the effort to bring live broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera to 3,000 public school students throughout the year. Because of his efforts, funding has been secured so that the school will be able to broadcast five live operas from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Future Saturday broadcasts include: "Otello," by Verdi, Dec. 5; "The Magic Flute," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jan. 9; "Turandot," by Giacomo Puccini, Jan. 30; "Madame Butterfly," by Puccini, April 2; and "Elektra," by Richard Strauss, April 30. The broadcasts include subtitles and English translations.

DuBow, who was formerly part owner of the Jaguars, became a long-time



Jillian Leigh, Executive Director of Opera Jacksonville, Lawrence DuBow of San Jose and Mark Shorstein were a few of the visiting VIPs that attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new wing at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in September.

friend to the Jacksonville Arts magnet school after he attended its Extravaganza production in the Moran Theatre at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts a few years ago. Extravaganza, which is usually scheduled in February, is the annual show where DA's students share their creative talents with the greater Jacksonville community.

"Laurie was blown away by what he saw the kids doing on stage," Cornelius said. Soon after, DuBow sponsored Pizza

with the Players, a program, which allows DA music majors to meet and eat with the musicians after attending the Jacksonville Symphony. Later the DuBow Family Foundation began underwriting a substantial number of summer scholarships so DA students with financial needs can pursue their arts passions during summer at prestigious locals such as Julliard, Oxford University, Eastman School of Music or the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine.

## St. Mark's Lutheran commits a Sunday to community service

Wearing bright yellow T-shirts with the words "God's Work, Our Hands" emblazoned across the front, members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church committed several hours to serving the greater community in mid-September.

Throughout the day, members picked up trash along Hendricks Avenue, trimmed trees, painted window frames and did yard work for the United Community Outreach Ministries (UCOM) on St. Augustine Road and assembled hygiene kits for homeless UCOM clients.



Eric and Gina Olson pick up trash on Hendricks Avenue.



Volunteers from St. Mark's Lutheran Church assemble Hygiene Kits for the homeless clients at United Community Outreach Ministries (UCOM) on St. Augustine Road.

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# The Way We Were - Bruce Terry

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

When your family has lived in the St. Nicholas area for over 100 years, telling their history takes time. Bruce Terry, 67, said preserving history is as important as getting the recognition for St. Nicholas he believes is overdue. St. Nicholas is located where Atlantic and Beach Boulevards intersect, east of San Marco and I-95.

“The true St. Nicholas historic area is much larger than the present boundaries. It’s as important as San Marco or Avondale,” said Terry.

The area, one of two Spanish Land Grants, originally covered 300 acres. St. Nicholas’ history resembles Fort Caroline’s because the Spanish Fort San Nicolas was built in the 1780s where Bishop Kenny now stands (later Fort St. Nicholas). A Florida East Coast Railroad Depot was established here in the 1720s.

“We need a Greater St. Nicholas Historic Association that includes the entire area, not just part,” said Terry. “That’s the problem with St. Nicholas Area Preservation (SNAP). There was an opportunity before the I-95 flyover cut through our neighborhoods, when everyone agreed about what area should be included in a St. Nicholas preservation group... but in the end that did not happen.”

Terry’s father, H. Ross Terry, was born in 1919 in a Kenneth Street home in front of St. Nicholas Park Christian Church. He was the son of Edward Dudley Terry, who worked on St. Johns riverboats in the late 1800s, and Laura Idella Lundgren. Laura, whose family was from Sweden, was born on a St. Johns River landing in 1871.

H. Ross was the youngest of nine children. He told Bruce his brothers herded cattle where Southgate Shopping Center is now located on Beach Boulevard. H. Ross attended Landon High School, served in World War II and was an engineer for Fire Station #12 in San Marco.

Terry’s mother, Priscilla (Hubbard) Terry, lived on Hubbard Street in Springfield. She attended Andrew Jackson High School and was a member of the pep squad. After high school Priscilla worked for the *Florida Times-Union* as manager of the classifieds department. The couple met on a blind date after H. Ross was discharged from the military and returned to Jacksonville.



Lifelong St. Nicholas resident Bruce Terry and Mr. Beauregard “Bodey” – his 165-pound Great Dane rescue.



The Landonian yearbook staff, 1964-1965. Bruce Terry is seated at left.

Terry’s parents were married in 1946 by Pastor Lavern Preston in the original Southside Christian Church, a member of the Disciples of Christ denomination. The wooden church, circa 1925, is located on Beach Boulevard at Kenneth Street, where the church’s fellowship hall now stands. Terry’s grandmother Laura was a charter member of the church founded in 1920 by families who first gathered in a tent to worship. His father, H. Ross, was baptized in Miller’s Creek, which was at the edge of the city limits until the city/county consolidation in 1968, Terry said.

The church’s name was later changed to St. Nicholas Park Christian Church and its sister church, Southside Christian (both Disciples of Christ), is located on Atlantic Blvd. The original St. Nicholas Park Christian Church building was sold to a plumbing company that cut it in half and moved it down Beach Boulevard near Leon Road for use as their office.

The church’s current Mission-style sanctuary was completed in 1953 and still has a small congregation. Recalling his childhood, Terry remembers Pastor Preston, Pastor William Travis, and Mrs. Tyler, who was the organist, as well as a large congregation and youth group.

Terry was born in 1948 at St. Vincent’s Hospital and had a younger sister, Debra. He remembers his family lived in a house on Glen Mawr Road that neighbors believed was haunted.

“They told ghost stories about that house and some weird things happened there,” he said. “Once when I was little, mom and dad were hanging drapes...I got some of the metal drapery hooks and tried to swallow them...my dad grabbed me up, turned me over and shook the daylight out of me...out they popped. I say ghosts made me do it!”

Terry’s friends liked to play in the St. Nicholas Cemetery and scare each other. Nancy Chappell of Holmesdale Road was a school friend and Kathline Winters, another friend, lived right across from the cemetery. One day they were exploring the graveyard, telling ghost stories and looking at the headstones from the 1700s. Suddenly the ground where Kathline was standing caved in and she fell straight down into the ground, scaring them to death, he said.

Terry was part of the first group of seniors to graduate from Wolfson High School in 1966. Another friend and school classmate was Jean Hudnall, whose family owned properties in the St. Nicholas area. Terry, Hudnall and their buddy Stuart Hecht (Hecht Rubber Company family) had Latin class together and Terry isn’t sure any of them learned much Latin.

“We always played tricks on each other. When we were together at Landon (8th - 11th) and at Wolfson (12th) it was one practical joke after another,” he recalled. “Bobby Tebow, Tim Tebow’s dad, was my

best friend. We were in the Hi-Y service club, and we registered for the draft together in January 1966.”

Terry studied architecture for three years at Clemson, was in ROTC and headed for the military. A serious car accident prevented him from becoming a U.S. Air Force officer and military pilot.

When he recovered from the accident he accepted a job in Jacksonville with Reynolds, Smith and Hill Architecture & Engineering. The prominent firm designed many Jacksonville buildings, Terry said.

His most unusual job was in the architectural design department of Offshore Power Systems (OPS), a 1970 joint venture between Westinghouse Electric Company & Tenneco. OPS planned to design and build floating nuclear power plants offshore of Jacksonville. The plants would sit on man-made islands of solid steel surrounded and protected by a massive concrete breakwater.

“Two were to be completed in 1976, but the 1973 oil and economic crisis and recession that followed killed the projects,” he said. “One of my best OPS friends was a nuclear physicist who had grown up in Englewood, Marvin Lockey.”

After OPS closed, Terry’s life changed dramatically. At the age of 27 he contracted meningococcal meningitis, spent 19 days in a coma at Riverside Hospital and his parents were told he wouldn’t live. If not for Chief of Internal Medicine Dr. John Christie and neurosurgeon Dr. David Scales, Terry believes he would be dead.

“They told me my heart stopped and I died but somehow they got me back...I woke up two days before Christmas 1975, knowing it was another miracle in my life,” he said.

These days Terry enjoys remodeling his St. Nicholas home, cooking or spending hours gardening. He kicks back with his “little puppy” Mr. Beauregard.

“I love Great Danes. My third rescue Dane, Mr. Beauregard, or Bodey as I call him, is a charcoal gray and white Harlequin, weighs 165 pounds and takes home security very seriously!” he said.

Terry, who never married, said he hasn’t decided what he wants to be when he grows up yet. He believes he has an understanding with God.

“My family members on both sides lived into their 90s or 100s, so I kind of feel like if I just keep doing my part, then God will do His,” he said.

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# Episcopal senior wins grant to do research at Mayo Clinic

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Alice Choi, a senior at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, has been selected by a panel of doctors from the nearby Mayo Clinic to receive a \$5,000 scholarship from money given to her school by the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation.

Choi, who lives with her best friend, Camille Henley, and Henley's family in San Jose, is an exchange student from Korea.

Choi's award is part of a \$20,000 grant the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation gave to the school over four years. Each year for the next three years, the student or team of students in Marion Zeiner's Honors Science Seminar who write a winning proposal connected with discovering an early way to detect kidney cancer will receive \$5,000 to forward their research.

"This grant means a lot to me. Last year I did research on parabens (a type of preservatives), and I conducted experiments at the school laboratory by myself," Choi said in an email. "This grant will allow me to challenge myself with a deeper subject and to conduct experiments at a professional lab with the help from mentors. I am really looking forward to that."

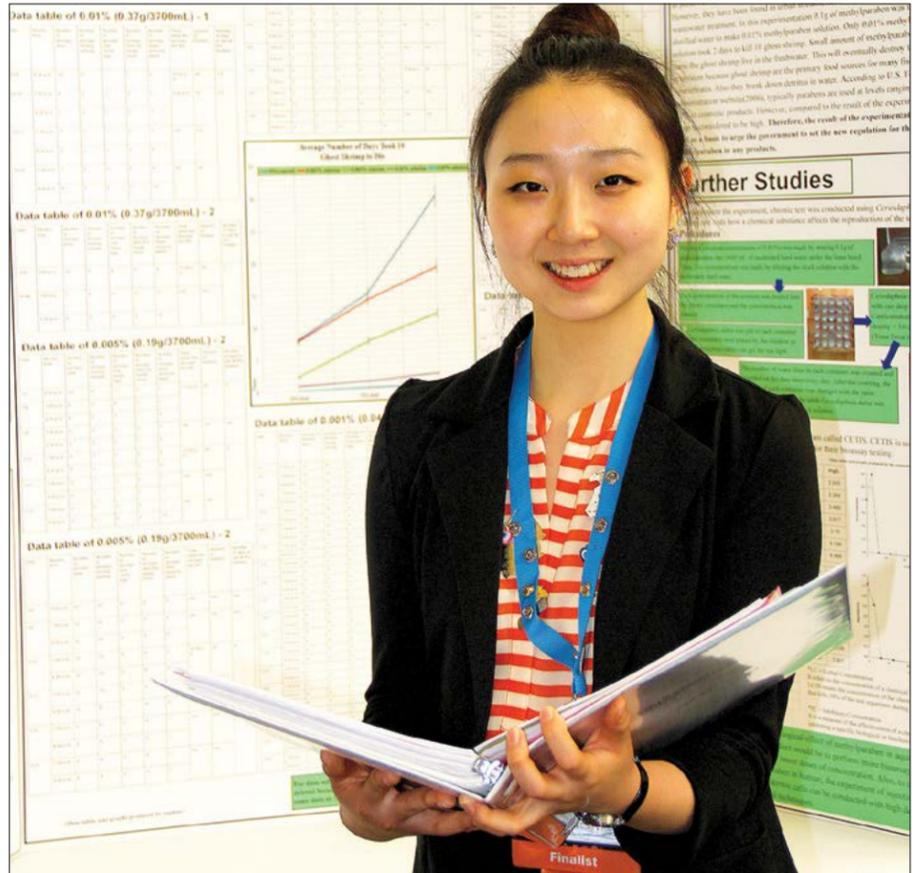
Choi's project involves the study of the relationship between concentrations of cell metabolites and the development of kidney cancer. She will use the money for supplies and – because she doesn't drive – transportation to the Mayo Clinic, where she will conduct her research, she said.

Choi competed against four classmates for the money and was selected because the focus of her proposed investigation was most closely related to the work being done by Mayo researchers, said Zeiner, noting she is not officially enrolled in the class this year but is working with the other research students as an extra-curricular activity.

"Alice has demonstrated the desire, the scientific knowledge and the skills necessary to design and conduct extraordinary science investigations," said Zeiner. "Working with world-class researchers at the Mayo Clinic will give her additional tools to delve deeper and deeper into the world of scientific discovery. The school is pleased that

***"This grant will allow me to challenge myself with a deeper subject and to conduct experiments at a professional lab with the help from mentors. I am really looking forward to that."***

— Alice Choi



Episcopal's Alice Choi at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Alice has been chosen as the grant recipient, and we expect that she will enthusiastically share her experiences and new knowledge with her classmates in the coming months," she said.

Last year, as a student in the class, Choi won her category at the Florida State Science Fair and was a finalist at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Penn., with a project on the effects of methylparaben, a food preservative, on ghost shrimp.

"Fortunately, although my project was quite simple, I had the honor to be a ISEF finalist, but I still wanted to do more improved research," she said.

Although she is not currently seeking to become a medical doctor, Choi said she is interested in being a professional researcher. This year she plans to apply to Cornell, Notre Dame, University of Southern California, University of Michigan, Purdue, University of Miami, Georgia Tech, UCLA, UC Berkley and UC Davis.

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## RIVER GARDEN REHAB... WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE?

# Bolles' Corky Rogers named 'Greatest Football Coach in Florida'

*Victory secondary to teaching athletes to work and to win the right way*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

To hear Bolles football coach Corky Rogers talk, you wouldn't think the W's mattered much.

"I'm not in it for the record," said the 71-year-old coach. "If you're in it for that, you're in it for the wrong reasons."

But oh, what a record it is.

Over the past 43 years overseeing football teams at both Robert E. Lee High School and The Bolles School, Rogers has racked up a 452-81-1 coaching record. Over 16 years at Lee, his record was 141-39-1. Over 27 years at Bolles he's tallied 311 wins, 42 losses, as well as 10 state championships.

Rogers ranks fifth nationally in career wins among active coaches. He is the eighth coach in the history of high school football throughout the United States to reach 400 wins and was named National High School Football Coach of the Year for 2004-05 by the National High School Coaches Association.

Rogers is also a member of the National High School Hall of Fame (2015), the Florida Sports Hall of Fame (2013),



Corky Rogers

the Robert E. Lee High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame (2013), the Gator Bowl Hall of Fame (2012), the Florida High School Athletic Hall of Fame (2005), the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) Hall of Fame (2002) and the FACA Life Membership Award winner for outstanding contribution to high school athletics and the coaching profession.

Rogers latest accolade is to land on top of a field of 28 high school, college and NFL head coaches in the "Greatest Football Coach in Florida" bracket set up by the *Orlando Sentinel*. The former

Murray Hill resident advanced through three rounds of fan voting in the high school coaches category to land in an all-level final four with Bobby Bowden of Florida State, Steve Spurrier of the University of Florida and Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins. To gain the title, Rogers won a head-to-head match-up against Spurrier and received more votes than Shula in the final round. *The Sentinel* announced Rogers the winner in an article printed Aug. 26.

### It's how you play the game

This winningest football coach, who holds the state record for state titles among Florida coaches with 10 and play-off victories with 79, said he almost never talks about wins and losses. "That's not what it's about," said Rogers.

Instead Rogers focuses on infusing players with the character-building skills necessary to win at both football and life.

"For 95 percent of the kids, most of their playing is over when they are done playing with you," said Rogers, noting he is always very happy to visit with former players who have families of their own and have done well in business. "Almost to the person we never talk about the state championship," he said. "They usually say that more than anything they learned to work and work the right way through our program."

Coaching at Bolles, which is known primarily as a rigorous academic institution, creates additional challenges for a football coach. Rogers said his players are smart – "smarter than I am" – but often do not match up in physique to the much larger players from opposing teams. To win, he tries to capitalize on his player's individual strengths. "I tell them they don't need to be a perfect football player, you just need to do what you're capable of doing," he said.

Rogers credits his coaching staff, many who have coached alongside him for years, with his success. His right-hand man, Wayne Belger, a San Jose resident who grew up in Lakawanna, played quarterback on his first football squad at Lee and returned to coach with him at Lee after graduating from Gardner-Webb College in North Carolina. When Rogers took the top job at Bolles in 1989, Belger moved with him.

"Continuity of staff is a major reason

for my success," Roger said, noting he expects his colleagues to lead his players by example. "It's very important to the kids who are here every day, when you ask them to do their best," he said. "You can't kid young people. They know if you're doing your best and working hard."

### Blessed by good coaches

For his training as a coach, Rogers credits his father, who also played football at Lee High School and the University of Florida, as well as his coaches at Lee High School, Florida Military Academy and Georgia Tech.

"I was around good coaches. I was blessed to be on good teams that were well coached. If you are around people like that you pick up different traits," Rogers said. "I learned a lot from him (his father) about competing and how to compete the right way. You want to win, but not at all costs. You want to learn to win the right way. Many of my coaches had this same trait, but a lot of it is being lucky, too, if I'm being honest with you."

"Tough but fair," is how Steve Hyers, of San Marco, describes the man he played for when he was a student at Lee High School. "On the field he was regimented and you knew exactly what he wanted you to do," he said, noting Rogers would walk up and down the practice field with his arms crossed looking like he "would kick you in the ass." However, after practice, he was different.

"Off the field he would listen to you. He was approachable. He'd give you a listen, but his was not always the answer that you wanted," he said, adding that Rogers was instrumental in getting him a full ride to the University of Tennessee–Martin. "He was a stern guy, but if he could find an opportunity to help you, he would and he wouldn't tell you about it," Hyers said.

"Corky comes across honest with no BS," said Harmon Wages of Riverside. Wages played alongside Rogers at Lee High School and later had a career as an NFL running back. "He has earned the respect and trust of all around him: players, coaches, whoever."

Rogers, who turns 72 in December, often thinks of retirement. "Every day I think about it, and when I think retirement somebody says, 'Let's stay one more year.' I don't want to let other people down. I could have gotten out seven years ago, but I'm not in it for the record," he said.



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# “In the ‘hood, doing good”

The Bolles Class of 2019 spent the day giving back to the community Oct. 14 during the school’s annual Make A Difference Day. The students volunteered at more than 10 local nonprofit organizations and heard insightful presentations from current students and alumni on the importance of putting others before themselves.

After a greeting from Bolles President and Head of School David Farace of San Jose, the students and faculty broke into groups of 10-20 to be transported to locations throughout Northeast Florida.

As part of the day’s events, approximately 21 freshman joined Jenny Busey, the St. Johns Riverkeeper education director, in working to maintain the bioswale and the area surrounding the San Marco Public Library. The students cleaned out the beds and re-mulched the bioswale, and later picked up trash in Southside Park, the Aardwolf Parking lot as well the area along Minerva Street, Thacker Avenue and Hendricks Avenue.

The group also installed a new sign in front of the library explaining the bioswale and its importance to the environment.

Busey provided environmental information to the students as they worked, and Bolles faculty member Andrew Dickson of San Marco said the school would adopt the bioswale as an annual clean-up project.

“It’s fun to keep these guys in the ‘hood doing good,” Busey said.

Other nonprofits, which were visited by the balance of the Bolles’ freshman class included Sanctuary on 8th Street, Feeding Northeast Florida, Lutheran Social Services, Hanna Park in Atlantic Beach, two locations of Taylor Residences in San Jose, Pine Castle, MARC at Portside and Northeast Florida School of Special Education.

After lunch the students heard presentations from Bolles’ alumni Jeremy Schurke and Monique Trainer as well as Senior Class President Diarra Samb, who discussed the importance of making a difference in the lives of others.



Andrew Dickson, Adam Pooley, Thomas Gelman, Jayson Metzger, Alexander McIntyre, Colby Newman, and Jenny Busey



Priscilla Pacella, Nithya Badarinath, Julia Mascarenhas, Nicole Foster hold up the new sign explaining the importance of the Bioswale, which students from The Bolles School installed Oct. 14 in front of the San Marco Public Library.



Freshmen Alexander McIntyre, Colby Newman, Thomas Gelman, Adam Pooley, Jayson Metzger pick up trash with St. Johns Riverkeeper Education Director Jenny Busey on Minerva Avenue in San Marco as part of Bolles’ Make a Difference Day Oct. 14.



Bolles faculty member Andrew Dickson installs a new sign explaining the importance of the bioswale as St. Johns Riverkeeper Education Director Jenny Busey and students from the school look on.



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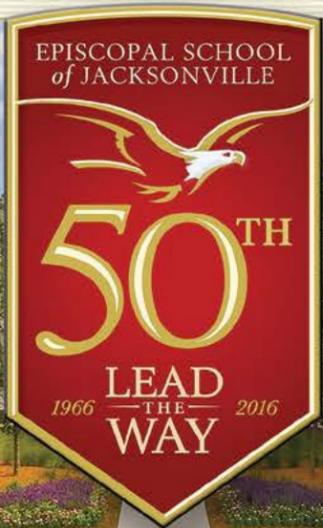
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# Jr. Residents

## Bolles takes second place in Mock Trial tournament



Ramzi Farah, Frank Collier, Ian McCutcheon, Ben Kubrin, Anderson Gronvold, Olivia Morello, Quinn Kelley, Kiera Geraghty, Ari Dixon, Andrew Dickson

Three local residents were part of the Bolles Mock Trial team, which traveled to New Haven, Connecticut to compete in the prestigious Bulldog Invitational Mock Trial Tournament at Yale University Oct 10-11.

Participating in the competition in which Bolles placed second were Ben Kobrin and Ian McCutcheon of San Marco, and Anderson Gronvold of San Jose.

During the mock legal contest, which featured teams from some of the country's leading independent schools, Bolles participated in four three-hour trial simulations during the two-day visit. Twelve teams participated in the event including Choate Rosemary Hall, The Derryfield School and Phillips Exeter Academy.

Bolles' record during the round-robin power-matching event was three to one, with the Bulldogs placing behind Altoona Area High School, the current national champion, and ahead of Exeter, American Heritage, Boca Delray and Choate.

"Our kids did amazing work!" said Bolles' Mock Trial Coach Andrew Dickson, a San Marco resident, who noted his team met outside of school for more than five hours a week, both on

weeknights and weekends. "They worked as a unit and excelled individually, and I couldn't be more proud of them," he said.

Ryan Albaugh of San Marco, who is both a Bolles parent and an attorney, joined Dickson in helping the team rehearse for the event. Albaugh offered his analysis and trial experience to help sharpen their performances, Dickson said.

In addition to Kobrin, McCutcheon, and Gronvold, the Bolles team included Ari Dixon, Kiera Geraghty, Ramzi Farah, Olivia Morello, Frank Collier and Quinn Kelley. Kelley, a sophomore, took home the Top Witness Award as a rookie member of the Bolles team.

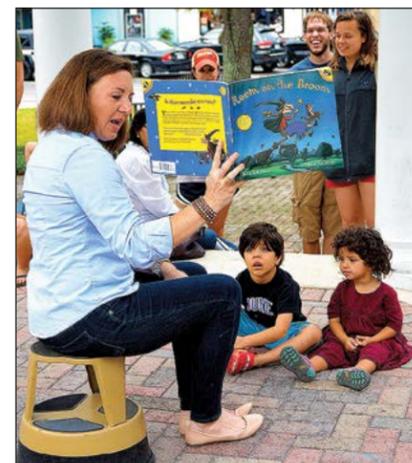
The Yale Mock Trial Association is an undergraduate student organization that hosts a high school tournament once a year on its campus. Each team prepares both sides of the trial, and performs one or the other at a coin toss. Each round simulates an actual trial, with opening statements, direct and cross examinations, closing arguments, objections, and evidence admission. Students play both the lawyers and witnesses, while mastering trial procedure, case law, statutes, rules of evidence, and the fictional fact pattern that the tournament prepares, Dickson explained.

## Children gather in Balis Park for Storytime

The threat of rain did not deter a small group of children and parents from gathering in the gazebo to enjoying a reading of two classic children's books by the author Julia Donaldson, during Storytime at Balis Park Oct. 10.

The event, which was sponsored by San Marco Bookstore owner Desiree Bailey, featured readings of *The Gruffalo* and *Room on a Broom*. A raffle was also included in the event with prizes from Heyday and Peterbrooke Chocolate.

The literary small fry event is held the second Saturday of each month in Balis Park at 10 a.m. November's featured children's story will be *Skippyjon Jones* by Judy Schachner.



Jake Cumber and his sister, Poppy, listen intently as Desiree Bailey of San Marco Books reads Room on the Broom during Storytime at Balis Park Oct. 10.

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## Episcopal's Andrew Boselli named Blue-Grey All American

Andrew Boselli, a senior from The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, will be among eight high school football players selected to play in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016 at noon at EverBank Field.

The annual bowl positions a team of high school standouts from traditional northern states against a team of exceptional athletes from traditional southern states. Blue-Grey Football was established in 1989 to help prep prospects from across the country receive national exposure and increase their chances to secure college scholarships.

Prospects were chosen by the Blue-Grey Football Selection Committee from a talent pool of approximately 8,000 recruits, most of which were scouted during a nationwide series of yearlong Blue-Grey Regional and Super Combines. Other recruits were hand-picked by the Blue-Grey Football Regional Scouting Team.

Prior to the upcoming All-American Bowl in Jacksonville, two other games will be held: East vs. West on Sunday, Dec. 20 at Dallas Cowboy's AT&T Stadium and North vs. South on Saturday, Jan. 9 at Tampa Bay Buccaneers Raymond James Stadium.



Andrew Boselli

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This exhibition and its national tour were developed by The Field Museum, Chicago. © NOAA Photo Library

## Fun and games at Hendricks Avenue Elementary

It was all fun and games at Hendricks Avenue Elementary when the school PTA held its annual Family Fitness Night October 6.

Students and their families had the opportunity to try old and new sports during the evening and munch on sno-cones and other snacks in between events. Some of the sports and games that were offered included martial arts sponsored by Watson Martial Art; Studio K Dance; tumbling with Dance for Joy; a first-aid hands-on CPR demonstration with Self Services First Aid Training; soccer with JFC Storm girls U-17 team; an obstacle course; bowling supported by Southside United Methodist Church youth; tennis with San Jose Country Club Tennis Director Marie Waller; line



Emma Domingo, Vincent Venus, Ella Jenkins, Ryn Rossi, Mac Ryan, Lauren Livingston and Alex Cumbow cooled off with sno-cones, which raised money for the Hendricks Avenue Elementary physical education department.

dancing with Laura Pena; and Just Dance on Wii with support from Hendricks Elementary parents.

Sale of the refreshments served as a fundraiser for the school's physical education department.



Five-year-old Broward "Birdie" Naugle demonstrates how low she can go during a limbo demonstration at Family Fitness Night at Hendricks Elementary School Oct. 6.



Seven-year-old Grady Wilkins of San Marco crawls under an obstacle during Family Fitness Night.

## Jr. Residents

### Acclaimed pianist conducts master class



Sen Veleski, Donal Fox, Viann Yu, Jacob Skiles

Donal Fox, internationally acclaimed composer, pianist, and improviser, conducted a master class on Oct. 2 at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts for 50 students. Featured piano students Sen Veleski, Viann Yu and Jacob Skiles performed for Fox and received instruction and critique. Fox, who has premiered his works at such prestigious venues as Tanglewood, Carnegie Hall, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, is a Guggenheim Fellow and a recent recipient of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Letters Academy Award in Music.

## Supporting breast cancer research, Assumption goes pink

Students at Assumption School supported Breast Cancer Awareness month in a big way with two "Pink Out" events in October.

On Oct. 8, the school held special "Pink Out" basketball games where players, coaches and cheerleaders wore special pink uniforms or colored their hair with pink highlights. During the event, a bake sale was held where students sold pins and ribbons for breast cancer awareness.

The following day, students were allowed to wear pink during classes at school if they brought in a donation. During both events, the student body collected \$1,100, which was donated to the Donna Deegan Foundation.



Cheerleaders Taylor Hassan, Riley Bowman, Julia Fannin, Mary Schmidt, Kennedy Bowman, and Sophia Parry show their pink spirit at the Assumption Oct. 8.



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# Red Cross Club president seeks to turn compassion into action

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

When Maria Muzaurieta, of San Jose, started the Red Cross Club at Bolles School two years ago, she saw it as a way to combine her personal interest in medicine, her entrepreneurial spirit, and her desire to “turn compassion into action.”

“Charitable work represents helping others in need, which is what life is about,” she said. “I’ve always been an entrepreneurial spirit, always starting businesses as a kid or having lemonade sales, so this is a way to channel that spirit into donating to disaster relief and preparedness,” she said. “I chose the Red Cross because they directly alleviate human suffering of people who go through disasters, and prepare people. This way, by using my time, I feel like I’m making a change locally in my community.”

Muzaurieta first learned about American Red Cross youth organizations when

Red Cross Volunteer Manager Meghan Hotchkiss spoke about the organization during a leadership class at her school.

Muzaurieta said she was attracted to everything about the organization: its core value of helping so those in need won’t be alone, its global presence, and its many avenues of service – disaster relief, lifesaving blood drives, training and certification and assisting military families.

Soon she and a few friends started the club at Bolles and began fundraising eventually donating \$1,000 to the American Red Cross at the end of last year.

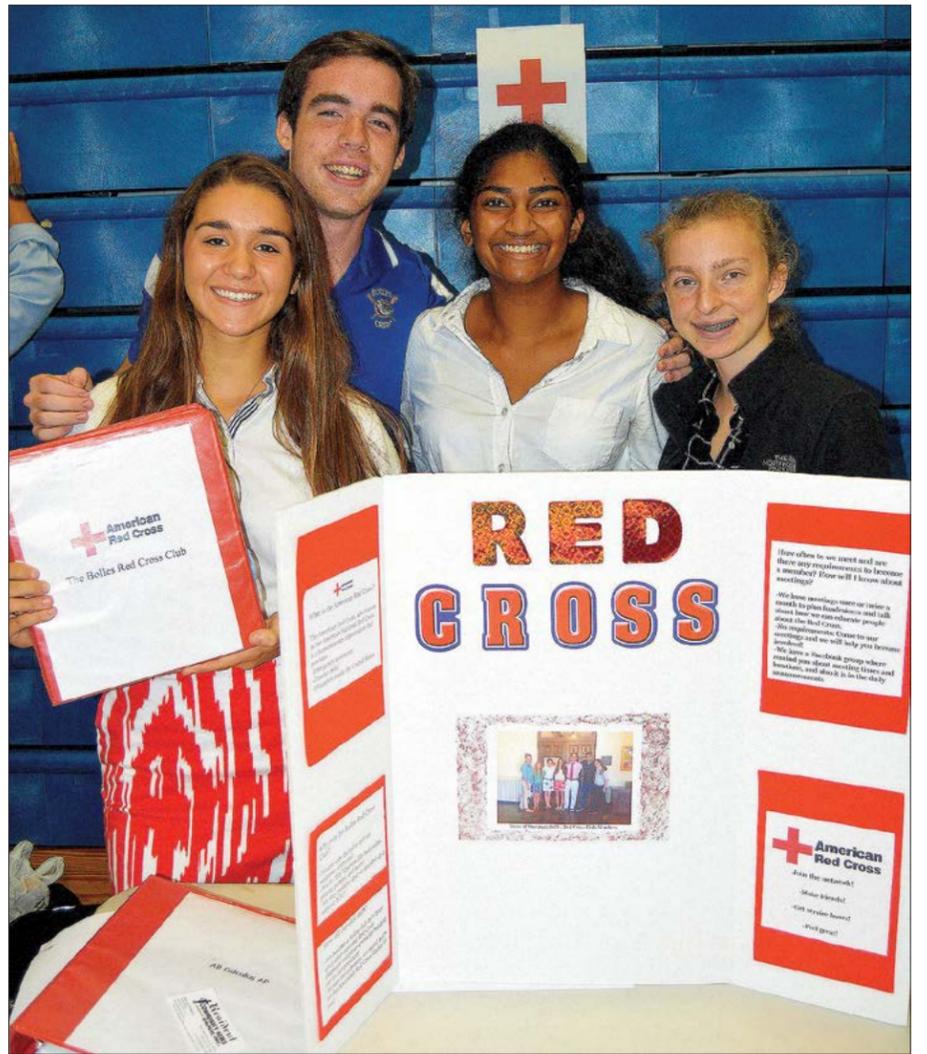
Now a senior, Muzaurieta is president of a club that boasts nearly 60 members and was named Bolles’ Club of the Year last spring.

Her efforts have not gone unrecognized by the regional chapter. Muzaurieta was named Northeast Florida’s Red Cross Youth volunteer of the year, not only for her efforts at Bolles but also for work she has done outside of school in conjunction with the local chapter based in Riverside.

“Maria is a combination of grit, determination and a lively personality,” said Hotchkiss. “She’s got all the qualities you look for in the future generation. She is very personable and hardworking. When additional leadership opportunities present themselves, she always steps up to the plate.”

Under Muzaurieta’s leadership, Red Cross club members at Bolles can be seen seeking donations through the Mother’s Day Cards fundraiser, the Spirit Day and Jeans Day fundraiser, Halloween Candy Grams, bake sales, carnation flower sales, and her personal favorite, the Piñata Party fundraiser, when the club tied a piñata to a tree on campus and offered people a chance to hit it for a small donation.

This year she hopes to have club members teach Red Cross “pillowcase”



Bolles’ Red Cross Club President Maria Muzaurieta with Roland Johnson, Natasha Pillai, Journey Wise



Maria Muzaurieta, Bolles’ Red Cross Club President

training to third, fourth and fifth graders on Bolles Whitehurst campus and perhaps at other schools within the San Marco community. The program teaches family preparedness, local hazards, and basic coping skills needed in a crisis and encourages elementary school students to build their own emergency supplies kit.

“We strive to help people learn how to sell products and create the maximum amount of opportunities for anyone to get involved,” she said. “Because our activities do not require any specific skills, anyone is able to get involved, get (community service) hours and have fun,” she said. “We put the fun in fundraising, for sure.”

## Inspired by Works of Mercy, Assumption students find happiness through giving

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Patterning their efforts on the Corporal Works of Mercy, five officers of the National Honor Society at Assumption School are in charge of leading their classmates in monthly good works.

Timber Abinsay, Madison Alligood, Madelyn Debski, Christopher Gardner and Ally Smith are spending the school year raising money and other items for Catholic Charities and Ronald McDonald House. In early October they conducted a book drive, collecting 1,803 books, which they donated to Catholic Charities.

“They will give them to children who do not have resources,” explained Debski. “All the books will go to people who need them and can’t afford to buy good books.”

In order to become leaders in the National Honor Society, the students, who all with the exception of Smith reside in St. Nicholas, ran for office and are A-B students with perfect behavior. Their job, when they are not studying, is to inspire 60 seventh and eighth graders to think beyond

themselves by raising money for charity.

“We make the environment better through the Society in our school,” Debski said.

In addition to books, this year the group has collected more than \$500 through a bake sale to support children with cancer. Students who donated money were allowed to wear “spirit” T-shirts to class or gold ribbons on their shirts.

Other charitable activities the five have planned is a food drive for Catholic Charities, and the collection of supplies such as detergent and toothpaste, which will comprise “Angel Kits” for the children staying at Ronald McDonald House in San Marco. “Every grade in Assumption School is responsible for an item and the eighth grade will put the baskets together for Ronald McDonald House,” said Debski.

The group intends to organize a big project every month based on the Corporal Works of Mercy, which they study in school, said Abinsay. “There is a list of seven and we choose from them ways to help other people.”

The Corporal Ways of Mercy are feed the



Assumption School eighth graders Madison Alligood, Ally Smith, Christopher Gardner, Timber Abinsay and Madelyn Debski

hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead.

“I feel great that we can help out people who don’t have as much as we do,” said Abinsay. “We are lucky to go to Catholic School and get a good education. It makes me feel nice.”

Gardner agreed. “It’s just a good feeling to help out our community,” he said. “It’s pretty fun. Learning to help others is the most important thing.”

For Alligood, serving others is a spiritual

experience. “It makes me grow closer to Christ as a person,” she said. “Because we are helping others that aren’t as fortunate as us. We have what we need, others don’t.”

Yet, for Smith and Debski, serving others is about spreading happiness. “I love putting a smile on other people’s faces. It makes you feel good that you’ve done something important for them, and it can change people’s lives,” said Smith.

“It’s amazing to see that doing little things can make a person happy,” said Debski. “I love to see the joy in them.”

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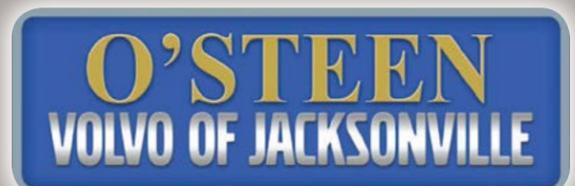
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