

**Christmas in Avondale draws community together**



For the best view, Brogan rides atop Casey Kelley's shoulders, flanked by Cathy McQuade and Carol Chaffin at Christmas in Avondale. For more, read page 50

**White ibis gather by hundreds in local park**



Photo courtesy of Wayne Wood

White ibis seek sanctuary in Riverside Park each night.

Every winter evening hundreds of American white ibis fly into Riverside Park to spend the night on the little island in the middle of the pond. The birds begin coming in around four o'clock and continue arriving until dark, according to Paul Bremer, Riverside resident.

"They fly in small groups and perform incredible maneuvers in the air to land on the island," he said. "By the time it is dark the entire island and the shallow water around it is solid white with birds wing to wing."

Before it gets completely dark you can see them marching in lines through the park probing the ground with their sensitive, curved beaks looking for a last meal of a grub or worm, Bremer said. In the summer they spend the night on little islands closer to their feeding grounds, but when the water gets cold they seek a warmer place to sleep in safety.

Their instinct makes them seek small islands because where they usually roost the surrounding water has alligators in it, which protects the sleeping bird from nocturnal predators like bobcats and raccoons, Bremer noted in a neighborhood watch email.

"It is well worth a special trip to the park and would be a treat for your out-of-town visitors to spend the dusk hour watching this amazing natural event in the middle of our neighborhood," said Bremer.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2016**



**Cupcakes for Charity**  
Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center CEO, and Ju'Coby Pittman, Clara White Mission president, waged a sweet war for United Way.

**Resident** *Community News*  
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Fiercely Local News ... Fiercely Loyal Readers

January 2016, Vol. 9, Issue 01

**North Florida Land Trust makes biggest purchase in nonprofit's history**



*Another agreement awaits raising of funds*

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

The North Florida Land Trust ended 2015 on a high note with the purchase of its largest land acquisition in its 16-year history.

Located in Riverside, the conservation nonprofit closed on 2,551 acres along the Nassau River in late December. This was the largest piece of unprotected land in the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

"This is an incredibly important acquisition to the Land Trust," said Jim McCarthy, executive director of NFLT. "It is important not only because of its size but also because of the environmental benefits and the opportunity to convey it to a long term partner, the National Park Service, to be protected and managed forever."

*Continued on page 16*

Riverfront property owned by Theodore Carey now in hands of North Florida Land Trust

**Debutante Coterie presented at 139th Christmas Ball**

The 2015 Debutante Coterie was presented at The Florida Yacht Club's Annual Christmas Ball on Dec. 19. Debutantes presented were (front) Catherine Elizabeth Barton, Susan Kirby Chaffin, Emma Elizabeth Newton, Ashley Alexandria Mallard Acree, Brooke Randolph Robertson and Sarah Torrey Irving; (rear) Lee Harden Wimberley, Caitlyn Joan Risley, Catherine Childress Lee, Emma Elizabeth McCormack and Allison Poole Boyd.



Photo courtesy of Janet Masterson Photography



*¡Viva España! highlights Spanish influence on Florida*

Gorgeous in gowns and tuxedos, guests at the 39th annual Art & Antiques Show's black-tie Opening Night Party enjoyed tunes from the River Town Band while raising funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital. See more photos on page 26.

Amy and Gilchrist Berg, Julie and Duncan Baker with Catherine and John Simms

**AT A GLANCE**

- Skyway lives to see another day...page 5
- Southbank sinking ship recovered...page 6
- Commercial real estate in demand...page 18
- Get healthy, stay healthy for a better New Year...page 32

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# Publisher's Note

Dear Resident Readers,

As we look back on 2015, we're thankful that our readers were so engaged. In such hurried and busy times, it is nice to know that 'good news' is something each household looks forward to each month.

It's a sign of a thriving, strong community when so much content is shared with our staff that the paper continues to grow. We are happy to accommodate the demand, thanks to our valued advertisers who make it possible.

We also realize that in 2016, interest in developments in Brooklyn and our burgeoning downtown increased our readership. Our distribution team delivers thousands of papers downtown, through Brooklyn, 5 Points, Avondale, Ortega, Ortega Forest, Venetia, all the way down to NAS Jacksonville to fulfill requests for more newspapers. When people love their paper, it shows.

With this in mind, we want to share that love with a contest for our fiercely loyal readers. From now until January 20, submit a photo, poem or short essay about why you love your neighborhood. Prizes will be awarded to the best entry judged by *The Resident* staff. There will be one winner and a runner-up for adults. For the youth (8-18) category, one winner will be announced.

Prizes include \$250 and \$100 in gift cards to select restaurants, including Mossfire Grill, O'Brothers Irish Pub, Sushiko, Black Sheep and a Foxy Lady dinner cruise. And for children, the prize is 10 tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and a \$25 Burger Fi gift card.

We encourage you to show your love by entering the contest and illustrating just how much you love the area in which you live, work and play!

While reflecting upon the past year it's important to mention the fact that *The Resident* launched two new annual publications due to a demand for informative and innovative products.

The 100-page *Historic Life - Neighbors and Newcomers Edition* was introduced in July and serves new residents who have moved into the neighborhoods. A look into regional attractions, art and entertainment venues, news topics to follow and a brief synopsis on the history of each area we cover helps provide a warm up to Northeast Florida and our neighborhoods. Keep an eye out for this publication again this summer with new stories and updated information.

Also making its debut in 2015 was *Circles - Social Datebook and Charity Register 2015-2016*, a magazine that showcases the nonprofit sector, philanthropy and fundraising events in Northeast Florida. Launched in mid-November at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon, the full-color, large format magazine has received rave reviews from philanthropists, advertisers and leaders of charitable organizations alike.

The publication is available by request and can also be found online at [www.circlescharityregister.com](http://www.circlescharityregister.com) where readers can page-turn the magazine online and browse an up-to-date calendar of fundraising events for hundreds of nonprofit organizations. If you don't see your nonprofit or its events online, let us know and we'll gladly add them to the website and next year's publication.

Speaking of an online presence, you can find many of our monthly stories at [www.residentnews.net](http://www.residentnews.net) as well as an online page-turning version of each product, including *Historic Life* and *Circles*. Plus, we've grown our Facebook page, where you'll find fresh content as well as behind-the-scenes photos.

We wish you endless prosperity and happiness in 2016! Thanks for your loyalty and support!

Happy New Year,  
**Pamela and Seth Williams**



A friend of mine recently gave me a copy of your publication *Circles*. The publication is fabulous and your focus on philanthropy is deeply appreciated.

- David L. Pierson, LISC Jacksonville

You did have such an absolutely wonderful job with *Circles*. It's just adorable and the cover couldn't be more perfect for the people who are on it. All the different people in it have been so meaningful for Jacksonville, many who are not even from here but have done masterful things for Jacksonville. It really showcases a beautiful city. What a great gift to everyone, especially to those who have worked so hard and been such good

volunteers.

- Joan Haskell

I took a minute to read the article about Mr. Stein and to flip through a bit, I am so glad we are a part of this! It is beautiful and so well put together, you all did such a great job!

- Julie Blair, Greenwood School

We are so thrilled with the beautiful first issue of *Circles*! What a gorgeous piece, so well done, and a wonderful showcase for all the amazing charitable organizations and donors that we are so blessed to have in our midst. Congratulations - very well done!

- Carol, Fred, Beth and all of us here at Fred Miller Group, Inc.

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Sysco truck parked on Acosta Street at 9:30 a.m. for deliveries to restaurants and bars on Park and King Streets

## Residents desire restrictions on delivery vehicles

By *Kate A. Hallock*  
*Resident Community News*

Homeowners in Riverside and Avondale have reached out to District 14 Councilman Jim Love to help determine what, if anything, can be done about restricting large supply trucks from using neighborhood streets as bases of operations for deliveries to businesses.

The size of the vehicles has grown in the last couple of years, probably due to the increased amount of product they carry and the increased number of stops needed to service the businesses in the area, noted one resident. Others have indicated concerns with pothole problems exacerbated by 18-wheelers, and damage done to tree canopies. “We’ve have several limbs torn off our mulberry tree by these trucks,” another resident shared.

“There is no doubt the heavier the truck (gross weight), the more wear and damage to road surfaces – and corners / curbs of intersections – will occur,” said Kevin Kuzel, Avondale resident and executive assistant to Councilman Love.

One solution may include length and

weight restrictions. “There are cities like Savannah and New Orleans that have length and weight limits on vehicles that come into their historic districts. We should do the same,” said Paul Bremer, a Riverside resident. “Eighteen-wheelers have no place in most of Riverside.”

Such restrictions could force suppliers to make multiple deliveries in smaller vehicles, possibly resulting in higher freight costs for the businesses.

The issue was brought to Love’s attention in October 2015, at which time the councilman contacted John Pappas, deputy director of the city’s Public Works Department, to see if there are regulations currently in effect.

At least one resident feels this is something City Council should legislate for the protection of the historic districts and their residents. “These historic districts are primarily residential areas, thus they deserve protections for its residents,” said Ed Walker, of Avondale.

Love indicated he would arrange for a meeting with the business owners to discuss solutions before taking steps to propose legislation.

# Letter to the Editor

## RIVERKEEPER: St. Johns at critical crossroad

I like to think that when our backs are against the wall, Floridians will rise to the occasion. Over the decades, we’ve come together at times in a bipartisan fashion to help rein in big polluters, enact more protective environmental policies, and stop some ill-advised projects.

The St. Johns River provides proof that citizens can join together to insist that an environmental wrong be fixed. A newspaper article from 1966 said, “Like a gigantic sewer, loaded with human wastes, oil and toxic acids, the St. Johns River pours a flood of corruption into the Atlantic Ocean.” By 1970, the river was so polluted that Governor Claude Kirk said, “If you fall in, you will die of pollution before you drown.” A year later, the Duval County Health Department issued a warning that one could contract 27 different communicable diseases by swimming in the St. Johns.

Since that time, much work has gone into improving the river’s health, including putting an end to the 15 million gallons of raw sewage that once flowed unabated into the St. Johns in Jacksonville. Citizens demanded that the wrong be made right and, with many years of hard work, much progress has been made.

However, the St. Johns continues to face disturbing threats. In the early 1970s only about 1.5 million people lived within the river’s watershed. Today, that number is approaching five million and expected to rapidly rise based on future growth projections. As a result, the cumulative impacts of so many people are taking their toll on the St. Johns. Some of those problems include failing septic tanks, toxic algae outbreaks, the loss of important wetlands, and storm water runoff that washes fertilizers, chemicals, and hydrocarbons into our river.

There are many looming threats, as well. Central Florida is seeking to potentially take up to 160 million gallons per day from the St. Johns and send it to Orlando’s suburbs to water lawns and fuel more sprawl.

In Jacksonville, the proposed dredging project would increase erosion and sedimentation and allow saltwater to move farther up river, likely damaging or destroying hundreds of acres of wetlands, submerged grasses, and trees in parts of the river and its tributaries, such as Julington Creek and the Ortega River. Critical habitat for fisheries and pollution filters for our river will be lost in the process.

Our river is at critical crossroad, and we must act, together. As a result, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER is planning a major journey – the “Save the St Johns Tour” – along the river’s entire 310-mile length, from the headwaters west of Vero Beach to the river’s mouth at the Atlantic Ocean. We’ll be traveling on the river for 13 days from March 22 to April 3. We are getting out on the river to save the river. Along the way, we’ll meet with local citizens, raise awareness about the threats facing the river and the solutions, and invoke an urgent call-to-action.

I hope you will join us as we rally around our river, once again. By working together and speaking up for our river, we citizens can save the St. Johns! If you would like to learn more about the Save the St. Johns Tour, visit [savethestjohns.org](http://savethestjohns.org).

*Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER*

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# JTA Board votes to keep Skyway

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Skyway, a monorail transit system managed by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, will live to see another day and possibly be expanded.

During its Dec. 10 meeting, the JTA Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the Skyway subcommittee's recommendation to continue operating the downtown connector while having staff develop a Skyway Modernization Program, which will include replacing existing vehicles and evaluating future extensions into the adjacent neighborhoods of Brooklyn/Riverside and San Marco as well the sports district near EverBank Field.

The preliminary estimate to replace the vehicles and modernize the infrastructure and operating system is \$74 million, which does not include contingency funding or the cost of extensions, said Brad Thoburn, JTA Vice President of Long-Range Planning and System Development. If JTA finally decides to expand the 2.5 mile bi-directional system, it will have to search for additional city, state and federal funding.

The idea for the Skyway was conceived in the early 1970s as a way to address traffic congestion, air quality and parking issues in downtown Jacksonville. It currently provides service through downtown's inner core and across the river onto the Southbank with eight stations and a 25,000-square foot operations and maintenance facility.

The Skyway operates on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on weekends during select special events. Currently, the Skyway makes 5,000 trips per day and had 1.32 million trips during the fiscal year of 2015, said Thoburn during the meeting.

The total cost of the original system including planning, design, construction, vehicles and equipment was \$185 million. JTA, the City, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration all provided funding for the system.

In early September, JTA chairman Scott McCaleb formed a three-man subcommittee of his board as well as a 15-member advisory group consisting of downtown stakeholders to decide between five options: keep the Skyway as it is by overhauling existing vehicles and infrastructure; keep it as it is but modify the vehicles to be used on the existing system; decommission and tear down the system once it no longer operates safely and replace it with either a streetcar, trolley, bus rapid transit or personal rapid transit system; decommission the system and repurpose it into an elevated bike and pedestrian walkway or extend its routes into the neighboring communities.

Since it was built in the late 1980s, the Skyway system has been heavily criticized as a transportation system "that goes nowhere." However, when presented with the options of keeping the system as is or decommissioning it and tearing it down, an overwhelming majority of residents responded favorably to retaining the Skyway and expanding its routes to take riders to adjacent communities.

During the JTA Board meeting, Thoburn said JTA had received 1,619 responses to its online survey about the Skyway's future. Of those responding, 80 percent favored keeping the Skyway and expanding the system. Nine percent preferred repurposing it to an elevated multi-use path. When asked about potential route extensions for the Skyway, 83 percent of respondents supported having it head to the Sports District and Shipyards while 79 percent



The Skyway, Jacksonville's downtown monorail connector, will soon be modernized and possibly expanded, according to a recent decision made by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

wanted to see a Brooklyn/Riverside extension and 66 percent favored further connecting the system into San Marco.

In a telephone interview after the meeting, Downtown Investment Authority President Aundra Wallace said he was happy with the JTA Board's decision.

"The Skyway is essential for mobility downtown," said Wallace, who favored keeping the system. "I live at San Marco

Place. I can see the Skyway from my balcony. When it arrives at the station I know I have seven minutes between trains. I can get over to the station in seven minutes and then be at my work at City Hall in less than 15 minutes. It was a plus for me when I relocated here from the Midwest. Living close to the Skyway was a great selling point for me. It has to be great for others."

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# Nautical eyesore removed from Southbank

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Thanks to the generosity of a NASCAR racecar driver, the sunken Lady St. Johns, a derelict party boat, is no longer an eyesore on the river landscape in the view of many Southbank residents.

Ray Black, Jr., owner of Blacksmith Marine Corporation – Offshore, supplied a crane pro bono and spent four days raising the Lady St. Johns from its muddy resting place alongside the Southbank Riverwalk near the Chart House Restaurant.

Black began the task of removal on Dec. 11, finally towing the abandoned vessel four days later to an undisclosed location where it will be cleaned up and eventually taken into the ocean to become a reef, said Black's father, Ray Black, Sr., in a telephone interview.

Black Jr., a NASCAR driver who races in the Xfinity series, lives in Flagler Beach and owns the marine salvage company, which he operates during the months when he is not racing the circuit. According to his father, Blacksmith Marine did the work for free after it was contacted by the city.

"The city reached out to us, and we donated our time to the city to clean it up," said the elder Ray Black. "It was a real community effort – a partnership between the city, us and the reef community. The city asked for my son's help, and he did it. We originally thought with the crane it would take a day, but it ended up taking four because there were so many hull holes. The boat was in pretty bad shape," he said. "We honor our word, and we did it. We always do what we say we're going to do, even if it takes us a month," Black, Sr.

said. "You have a really good mayor in Jacksonville. His office reached out to us to solve the problem, and everybody came forward to help."

The TISIRI (Think It, Sink It, Reef It) Corporation of Jacksonville has been contacted about the fate of the craft, said Joe Kistel of TISIRI. "The fate of the vessel has not been determined as of yet," he said. "We have been part of the conversations but have no information we can share as of yet. Perhaps we will have more info early next year."

According to the city spokesperson Marsha Oliver, the Lady St. Johns and Annabelle Lee are the property of River Cruises Inc., a San Marco-based company owned by Dane Lucas, a well-known Jacksonville businessman.

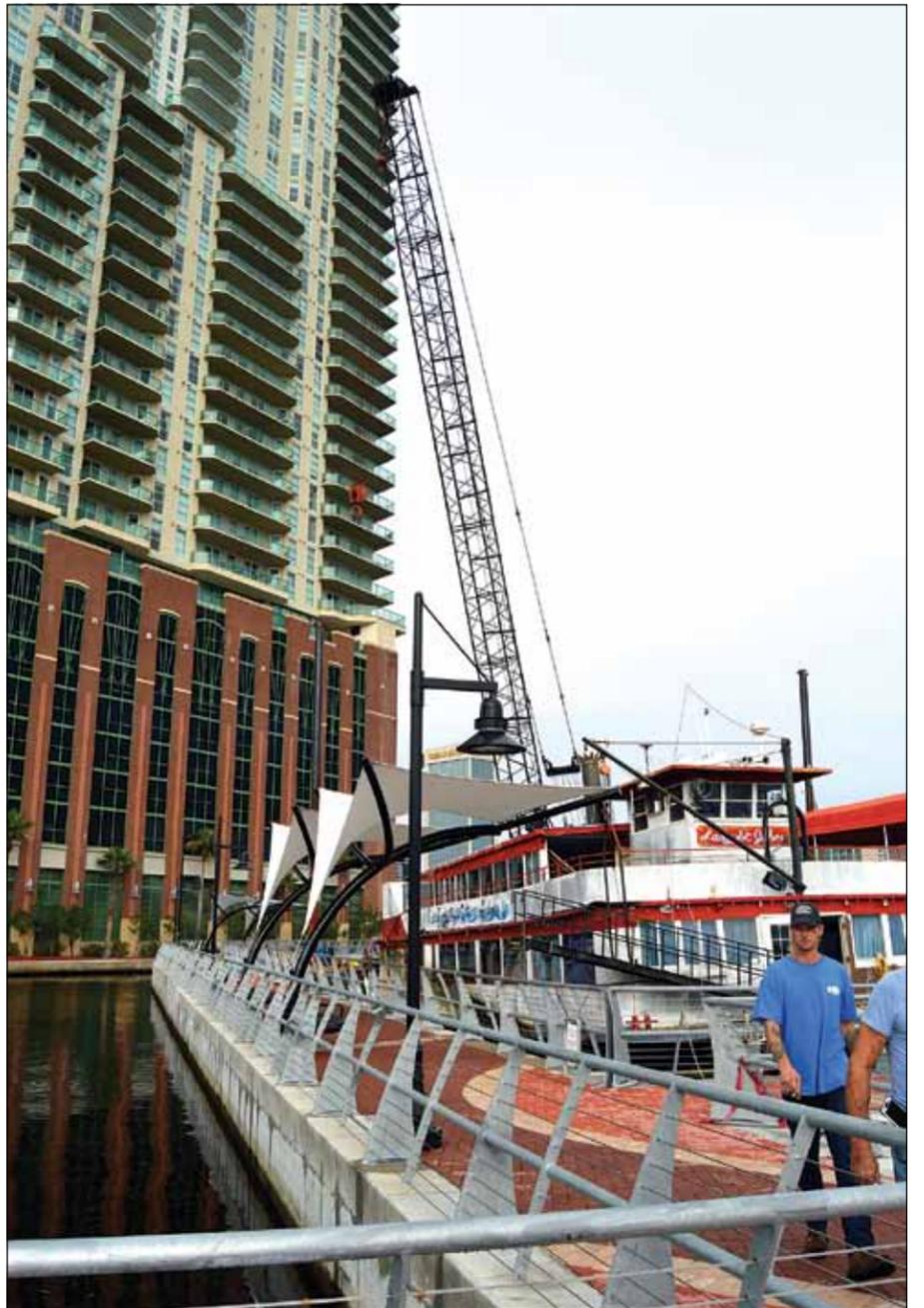
In a telephone interview, Lucas said he had River Cruises, Inc. for 30 years but sold the business on a lease-to-own basis some time ago. His tenant neglected the boats, and when he stopped paying rent, Lucas was forced to take the business and the boats back. He has subsequently "closed" the business. The Lady St. Johns sank after Lucas took back the business, he said.

Dock rental for each boat to be tied up at the Southbank Riverwalk city dock is \$800 per month, said Tia Ford, a spokesperson for the city. "The monthly rent is paid in full through June 2015 with River Cruises Inc. currently owing \$9,600 in docking fees to the City of Jacksonville for both boats," she wrote in an email.

Oliver said the city expects Lucas, as the current owner of record, to pay for the outstanding fees. The Annabelle Lee is still tied up to the city dock and is still accruing fees, she said. The dock rental bill was sent out Dec. 17, Oliver said.



The Lady St. Johns, a party boat owned by River Cruises, Inc., lies half submerged near the Peninsula building and the Chart House Restaurant on the Southbank in early December.



A crane owned by Blacksmith Marine Corporation – Offshore stands in the background after raising the Lady St. Johns, a derelict party boat owned by River Cruises, Inc., from the muddy river bottom Dec. 11.

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# Residents push for Willow Branch Creek clean up

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Unlike Willow Branch Creek, the push to get it cleaned up is not at a standstill.

Riverside resident Cathleen Murphy, whose home sits adjacent to the tidal creek, had started a petition last fall to address the cleanup remaining from a bridge project on Riverside Avenue. After receiving 524 signatures, Murphy contacted City Council in late October requesting a follow-up with the city's Environmental Quality Division.

"I heard back from Jeneen Sanders in Councilwoman [Anna] Brosche's office and she was very helpful," said Murphy. "Jeneen did some research and referred me to Jodi Brooks in the Office of General Counsel. Due to the pending litigation, Jodi wasn't able to share much information, but she listened to my concerns and suggested maybe it should be brought to Sam Mousa's attention."

Mousa, Chief Administrative Officer to Mayor Lenny Curry, is known for getting things done, and that's what Murphy hopes will happen for Willow Branch Creek.

"I look forward to the day when the entire creek is finally clean so everyone can enjoy it, and the marine life and birds, who depend on the creek for food, can thrive," said Murphy in an email to Councilwoman Brosche, among

others. "Although my current focus is on Willow Branch Creek, it goes far beyond just one waterway and just one neighborhood. Maybe we can create a domino effect and shine some light on other waterways in need. I think every citizen in Jacksonville deserves clean, safe waterways."

Some say the tidal creek leading into the St. Johns River has been a problem for many more years than just the recent few, citing overgrown banks, a crumbling bulkhead and dirty stagnant water.

"The creek has been stagnant for many years due to sedimentation from other sources and excessive growth of vegetation in portions of the creek," said Jimmy Orth, executive director, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. "This reduces

the flow rate of the creek. This is largely observational, since I don't think there is any flow data for the creek. Of course, rising sea levels over the years will only further reduce flow rate."

Whatever the reason, Murphy and others who live nearby would just like to see the creek restored.

"I walked the dogs this morning and the creek was so murky I'm not even sure what color it is anymore," said Murphy. "It's a dark greenish-grayish-brownish stagnant liquid. It's hard to call it 'water' when it looks like it does."

## City working on remedy

Melissa Long, division chief, Environmental Quality Division,

provided a statement from Jason Teal, of the Office of the General Counsel, about the status of the cleanup.

"The City has graciously agreed to step up on behalf of the contractor to put together a remedy that I think all of the parties can live with, while maintaining its ability to pursue a legal action against the contractor, as well as bar the contractor from bidding on any more City work in the future," read the statement. "We are in the process of finalizing the document that will encapsulate the terms of the settlement and the remedy to resolve the sedimentation issue. Because the deal is only agreed upon in principle, I can't comment on its terms at this time."

## Avondale business leader grows brand locally

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

First Coast Energy boasts having more than 170 Shell gas stations in Florida and 25 in Northeast Florida alone. When the doors of its new Daily's station on Atlantic Boulevard in San Marco open in mid-January, company CEO and co-founder Aubrey Edge of Avondale said his newest venture will be more of a neighborhood gas station than impersonal member of a large franchise.

"We've worked very diligently with the neighborhood association to not only fit in with the neighborhood but to become a part of the neighborhood," Edge said in an interview at his newest location.

First Coast Energy expects to hold its grand opening in mid-January with a ribbon cutting and much fanfare. It will be the 13th location in Florida to offer Dash fast-casual food.

Embodying the slogan, "It's nicer here," Daily's has always been a community player, Edge said. "We've always felt it's important to give back to the community," he said, noting nearly all of the charitable work the company underwrites benefits children.

Joining forces with St. Vincent's Health System, Daily's supports the



First Coast Energy CEO and Company Co-founder Aubrey Edge is overseeing the installation of a new Daily's gas station on Atlantic Boulevard in San Marco.

hospital's Mobile Outreach Ministry and has sponsored an annual charity golf tournament, which over the past six years has netted \$2.4 million, including \$450,000 last year alone.

One recent way Daily's gave back to the community was through its "Name Your Own Price and Give Back" promotion on Dec. 18, when customers were allowed to decide what they would pay for food, from 50 cents to \$500 from its Dash concessions. The company donated all the proceeds earned that day to the St. Vincent's Mobile Outreach Ministry.

The company's heart is in supporting underprivileged children in Northeast Florida. Daily's believes in giving financial assistance to local organizations including the Boselli Foundation, Birdies for the Brave, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School's Scholarship program and Angels for Allison. In the past, it has been the title sponsor for the Ortega River Run, and this year will support Riverside Presbyterian Day School's new Fit-4-Life program, becoming the new title sponsor for the program's duathlon event (biking and running), which is designed to promote healthy exercise and activities for children.

Daily's also consistently contributes to local schools and community sports in the region. In fact, its convenience stores give free ICEEs to any child under age 12 who comes into the store wearing any type of uniform be it sports, band, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, among others.

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## RAP calls for annual award nominations

Riverside Avondale Preservation is currently accepting nominations for the RAP Annual Preservation Awards. Each year, at its annual meeting, RAP recognizes outstanding renovations, new construction, and service to the neighborhood through its Preservation Awards.

Award categories include Outstanding Home Renovation, Outstanding Business Renovation, Outstanding Site Improvements, Outstanding Historically Compatible New Construction, Neighborhood Friendly/Contributing Business, Outstanding Neighborhood Architect, Outstanding Neighborhood Advocate.

Submit nominee's name, contact information (along with your own), the property address and a brief statement why the project/yard/rehabilitation/person should win an award to [info@riversideavondale.org](mailto:info@riversideavondale.org). If available, submit before and after photos.

## You asked for it!

A reader noticed equipment at St. Johns and Edgewood avenues in late November and wondered what data was being collected and why. *The Resident* contacted the Florida Department of Transportation for the answer.

Miovision cameras were set up on St. Johns Avenue at Edgewood Avenue and Willow Branch Avenue for a study requested by District 14 Councilman

Jim Love on behalf of residents in the area to determine if mid-block crossings are needed. According to Ron Tittle, FDOT public information officer, pedestrian volume was collected for three consecutive days. "Typically, it takes 60 days to complete the study traffic operations anticipates results mid-January 2016," said Tittle.



## RAP, JTA in discussion about expanding night trolley



The Riverside Avondale Night Trolley had its highest ridership in August 2014, eight months in to the experimental once-a-month service.

By *Kate A. Hallock*  
*Resident Community News*

Although business owners and members of the community are interested in expanding the Riverside Avondale Night Trolley from the first weekend of each month to every weekend, an agreement is not in place to make that expansion, according to a statement by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

"Our desire is to leverage a partnership to operate the trolley every Friday and increase ridership," stated Leigh Ann Rassler, JTA public relations manager. "However, the operating costs must be covered by sponsorships before we can move forward with an agreement to expand the service hours."

The night trolley, running 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. every first Friday and Saturday of the month through the streets of Riverside and Avondale, averaged 755 to 1,408 trips in its six-month pilot run in early 2014.

The trolley has made 7,200 passenger trips or an average of 400 trips per month in the last 18 months since the JTA Board approved the permanent monthly service beginning in July 2014. Unfortunately, ridership is trending down. In the last six months, there have been 1,237 passenger trips for an average of 206 trips per month.

Rassler stated that a meeting between JTA staff and Riverside Avondale Preservation representatives Dylan Phillips and Allan DeVault this month will continue the conversation regarding operating and feasibility costs for service every weekend.

## Downtown parklet program aims to "make places out of spaces"

Jacksonville community development groups are joining forces to make places out of spaces with the Downtown Jacksonville Public Parklet Program.

In early October the Urban Land Institute of North Florida was awarded a \$15,000 Innovation Grant for Building Healthy Places to help develop the process for creating parklets that will bolster small businesses and their surrounding public spaces in Downtown Jacksonville.

"Across the country, parklets have proven to be a cost-effective method for improving a downtown's environment," said Jacksonville City Council President Greg Anderson, an Ortega resident. "The

Downtown Jacksonville Public Parklet Program supports the CRA (Community Redevelopment Area) Plans and Business Investment Development (BID) Strategy by assisting in the creation and promotion of healthy living downtown set forth through our DIA (Downtown Investment Authority)."

Downtown Vision, Inc., the Business Improvement District for Downtown Jacksonville, will match \$15,000 and together with the ULI North Florida District Council and the City of Jacksonville's Downtown Investment Authority, the trio plans to work with a consultant to develop the policies, processes

and guidelines for creating parklets in the city's public right-of-way. Parklets are generally seating platforms constructed in the footprint of one or two parallel on-street parking spaces that effectively extend the sidewalks.

"Parklets will create new community experiences and foster walkability and bikeability in our urban core," said Jake Gordon, CEO, Downtown Vision, Inc.

The grant will also help to identify potential parklet locations, suggest design guidelines, promote the parklets concept to area stakeholders, and assist in identifying any regulatory challenges, which may exist to implementing the program.

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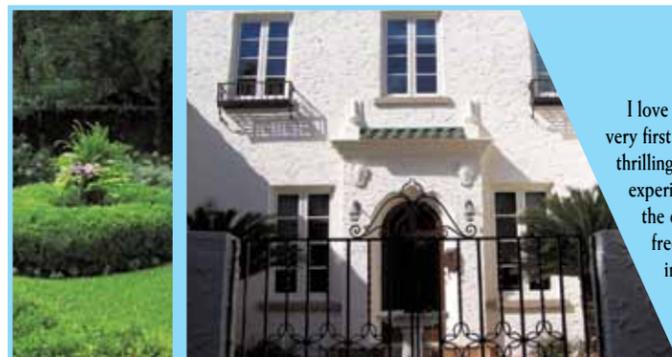
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## Happy New Year 2016

The magic of a new year is thick in the air. Plans are being concocted and goals are being laid on the road to success. New-ness is in the air, a sort of nervous energy bound with confidence. Neighbors waive as they tear out of the driveway heading towards victory. Kids trot off to school with auras of pride wearing the afterglow of Santa's visit. We marvel that another year is down and a new one is here.

My cellphone ringtone is a doorbell because every time it rings, I am reminded that I am opening

a door. When you ring and begin telling me your story, you fill the blank page on my desk with your goals. In my mind I begin to organize your story into what will become a real estate transaction. Keep ringing, keep filling my pages. I welcome your unique stories. Allow me to be your Realtor. I love what I do because of you and your beautiful homes. Happy New Year!

—Anne Rain



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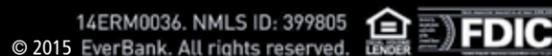
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# New community name reflects Southbank's healthy ambition

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

After much scrutiny over four months, San Marco developers Peter Rummell and Michael Balanky and their partner Michael Munz have finally selected "The District – Life Well Lived – Jacksonville" as the official name of their proposed "healthy-concept" urban resort on the Southbank.

The trio, which formerly used the working moniker "Healthy Town" to describe the project, sought to select a name that would embody the new community

"as a place where you can live healthily in a cool mixed-use urban setting with multi-generations."

"Places in which people live, work and play affect their mental and physical well-being. When a community is designed to go beyond the requisite bike paths and fitness centers and instead integrates the natural and virtual environments, positive results are sure to emerge," said Balanky. "Whether you call The District home or visit to dine, shop or take advantage of the array of riverfront activities, you will know you are in a unique and special destination."

More than 1,000 entries were submitted to the Healthy Town website resulting in five winners, all of whom used a version of the word "district" in their suggestion.

The District's development team has yet to release the names of the winners, however, each is being contacted and will receive a year's free membership in "Base Camp," the new resort's "alternative to the traditional clubhouse or town center that will be a focal point where hardware and software integrate within The District."

The winners' names will also be listed on the community cornerstone, which will be

unveiled along with other public art pieces displayed throughout the development.

"The enormous level of interest that Jacksonville residents and the development community have shown for the project has reaffirmed that we are creating a model for future multi-generational lifestyle living that starts in Jacksonville," said Rummell. "As a team that cares about the community we call home, we are tremendously proud to be bringing 30-acres of prime river-front land in the heart of our city to life and creating The District – Life Well Lived – Jacksonville."

## New name for Healthy Town – love it or leave it?

Jacksonville developers Mike Balanky and Peter Rummell changed the name of their proposed Southbank development from Healthy Town to *The District – Life Well Lived – Jacksonville*.  
The Resident asked, "What do you think of the new name?"



**Andrew Bilello**  
Riverside

Coming from Gainesville, there's The District everywhere with all the apartment complexes. The name could be better. Every college or university has a District. I think The District is a name for cheap apartments for college kids. It will just be referred to as The District, which is kind of a common name.



**Shannon Crosby**  
Ortega Forest

It doesn't fit with the other neighborhoods in Jacksonville. We have Avondale, Ortega, Riverside, San Marco, San Jose, 5 Points and St. Nicholas. The District sounds hard. It doesn't sound like a neighborhood. The Beaches, Nocotee, they all blend. The District sounds strange.



**Dick Jackson**  
Lakeside

In my own mind it will be known as The District. People aren't going to spell out the whole thing. I don't doubt the work that went into picking a name, one of the 1,000 of which was a name I suggested – Nurbana – as in Nirvana, only with the word urban in the middle.



**Walton Crosby**  
Ortega Forest

It sounds Orwellian. The District. It sounds dystopian. I think of the Hunger Games – kind of like a prison. I like what they are trying to do, but the name doesn't seem like a neighborhood. It seems very communal, like a compound, like it's separate from everyone else.



**Lou Velez**  
Riverside

It doesn't resonate with me at all. Healthy Town does not resonate. The District – Life Well Lived is okay. It's descriptive of the lifestyle people will want to take advantage of.



**Rachel Baron**  
Riverside

It's okay, I guess. It kind of sounds like a retirement home.



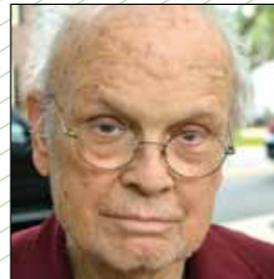
**Carl Rosen**  
Riverside

It sounds contrived. It sounds like it's trying to appeal to another southern demographic. It sounds like someone is trying to sell us a bag of goods.



**Maureen McDonald**  
Riverside

I think it is all right. It's a little longer to remember. People will continue to call it Healthy Town. I wouldn't have renamed it at all.



**Dr. Rupert Bliss**  
Avondale

I think it's a great name. It describes the property or the plan. What else do you need than a life well lived and we need all the help we can get.



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# Great green neighborhood spaces offer something for everyone

By *Kate A. Hallock*  
*Resident Community News*

From riverfront parks to one dedicated just for dogs and another for those with green thumbs, green spaces are abundant in Riverside and Avondale, where renovations and new park construction that began in 2015 will see completion this year.

In 5 Points, the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park is edging closer to reality. After receiving approvals from the City of Jacksonville and the Florida Department of Transportation, Hager Construction Company put up a silt fence in December, beginning the long-awaited project to provide a safe place for residents' dogs to enjoy leash-free exercise.

"The construction work on the dog park has begun, and will pick up steam over the next couple of weeks. We are looking at doing a ceremonial groundbreaking in January, but don't have anything formally scheduled yet," said Trey Csar, Riverside Avondale Preservation project chair. "We're anticipating an opening in the spring, probably in March."

Also in Riverside, just six blocks to the east, the Memorial Park Association's Construction Task Force Committee began working on its next project, following the recent completion of the restoration of Life statue and fountain. Michael Blackstone and Patricia Houlihan are co-chairs for the lighting project at the statue, which includes the eagles that grace the entrance to the fountain area, as well as the drainage and irrigation to the center field project. They hope to have both projects completed by May 2016.

In the meantime, Riverside Avondale Preservation and local gardeners are busy turning the former Willow Branch Rose Garden Park into a community



Allison Steilberg enjoys the spinner bowl, one of the possible playground upgrades for Boone Park South. (Photo by Kim Clontz)



The Memorial Park Association's Construction Task Force Committee, co-chaired by Patricia Houlihan and Holly Keris, signed off on the completed restoration of the Life statue and fountain in December. (Photo by Robin Patton)

garden. Work began in October, with completion estimated later this month in time for the growing season. The 34-plot garden will incorporate roses in the design, as tribute to the original Rose Garden established in 1955.

Visitors to the newest park in the neighborhood, Van Wert Park, will soon see a new sign with park rules, being developed by Kim Clontz and Kristen Surface under guidance by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. What visitors won't see is the old chain-link fence and the wooden fence, which

separated the 60- by 435-foot right-of-way from the adjacent residential property. Those fences were torn down shortly before Thanksgiving, and at some point in the future a privacy wall will be erected by the property owners, John and Kristen Surface.

For Boone Park, one of the area's oldest parks, Friends of Jacksonville Parks is one sixth of the way towards its \$180,000 goal to revamp the playground at Boone Park South, according to Clontz, who has set April 1 as a goal to raise \$90,000 from private and community funds. At that

time the group hopes to send the project to City Council to request public funds for the balance.

To demonstrate some of the new Kompan playground equipment proposed for the park, during Christmas in Avondale, a spinner bowl was set up at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. "It was hugely popular, even among adults," said Clontz. The spinner bowl provides the physical benefits of vestibular stimulation and excellent balance training.

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# Social connection prompts dining out over eating in

## Millennials boost the rise

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Last year a Bloomberg report noted that in March 2015, for the first time ever, Americans spent more money dining out than buying groceries and eating in. Sales at restaurants and bars surpassed those at grocery stores for the first time since the Commerce Department began collecting data in 1992. Contributing to the rise are the Millennials (age 18 to 34) who view dining out as a social event and a chance to connect with each other often.

“Eating out is a ritual for my husband and me,” said Murray Hill resident Katherine Hardwick, 33. “For us it’s about connection with each other and our friends, and also about supporting local businesses, and enjoying an active lifestyle.”

For others, like Joshua Garrett, 29, who works out of his home, eating out gets him out of the house. “As a ‘solo-prenuer’ I’m always working. Going out is a business/networking opportunity,” said Garrett, of Avondale. “I’ve met many new people and made many new business relationships while eating out. Going out is one of the more enjoyable aspects to my work. The act of eating isn’t necessarily the reason I go out anymore, it’s just something that happens along the way.”

Allan DeVault, managing partner for Black Sheep Restaurant, said while everyone is eating out more often in general, Millennials eat out at least once a day.

“There are fewer hours at home to cook, and there are so many options for

*“There are fewer hours at home to cook, and there are so many options for good, fresh food served relatively fast. It’s also one of the few things you can’t get online.”*

*Allan DeVault, Black Sheep Restaurant*

good, fresh food served relatively fast,” said DeVault. “It’s also one of the few things you can’t get online.”

DeVault stated the restaurant business as a whole is growing, as is the population of people choosing to dine out. “The proliferation of social media shows you that Millennials like to eat out, and they like to take pictures of it,” he said, noting that the average age of diners at Black Sheep lowers by 50 percent during the weekend. “Brunch is a big deal for the Millennial; it’s an opportunity to go out for a nice meal relatively inexpensively.”

### What’s cooking

Regardless of age, there’s no lack of new dining choices or old favorites in Jacksonville’s Historic Districts. Established restaurants like The Brick, Bluefish Restaurant and Oyster Bar and Biscottis continue to seat loyal patrons, while newer restaurants such as Mellow Mushroom, Sushiko and Il Desco are gaining their share of satisfied customers in Riverside and Avondale. Mid-summer, visitors to South Kitchen

& Spirits on Park Street will find a blend of indoor and outdoor seating options in the 200-seat restaurant, said Brian Siebenschuh, executive chef and managing partner.

In 5 Points, crowd favorites Mossfire Grill, O’Brothers Irish Pub, and Black Sheep have been joined in the past year by Hawker’s Asian Street Fare, Corner Taco and M Shack. This month, Timoti’s Seafood Shak, plans to open between Raindogs and Peterson’s 5 & Dime.

Hoptinger Bier Garden and Sausage House began construction last month, after winning a battle with the Historic Planning Commission to retain the façade design as originally proposed and approved by the commission. The

restaurant owners are aiming for a summer 2016 opening, according to Steve Williams, owner of Peterson’s 5 & Dime building. Williams also said there will be a rooftop element, but as of press time could not share details.

Just north of 5 Points, at 220 Riverside, diners are trying out the newly opened Hobnob Restaurant and Sbraga & Company, which will be joined by Brixx Wood Fired Pizza, scheduled to open this summer. At Brooklyn Station on Riverside, the Corner Bakery Café, Burger Fi, and Zoe’s Kitchen opened last year, and Burrito Gallery is opening this month.

Black Sheep Restaurant, a popular 5 Points meeting and eating place, is taking its popularity downtown with the early summer 2016 opening of another location. Initially only open for lunch, owners Allan DeVault and Jon Insetta have plans to expand to dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 100 N. Laura St., while in Hemming Park they will open a kiosk, also expected to be open for lunch crowds in the spring.

“At 320 square feet the buildout [of the kiosk] is ridiculously high, but we have to put in a restroom and hook into all the utilities,” said DeVault. “But we see it as a natural extension of our brand, and it will be great for the community. It won’t be a big money maker or loser; the justification to do this comes from the benefit to Hemming Park and downtown.”

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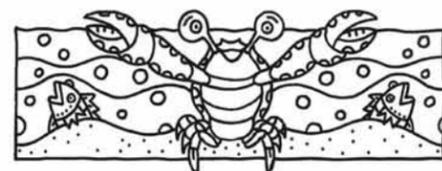
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# New law boosts funding for arts education

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Arts education received a boost last month, thanks to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) signed by President Barack Obama on Dec. 10, 2015, and local art teachers couldn't be happier.

"The signing of the Every Student Succeeds Act comes at the perfect time for the arts education programs in Duval County Public Schools. We currently have incredible support in place with a superintendent and board who value and support the arts in DCPS," said Terry Woodlief, Central Riverside Elementary art teacher. "They have proved this by maintaining full-time arts programs in all schools. They recognize the value of adding the "A" for the arts back into STEAM programs, which pave the way for innovators and creative thinkers in the 21st century."

Although the Duval County School Board already supports arts education, ESSA strengthens the program by including art and music in the definition of a "well-rounded education" and specifying the subjects as eligible uses for new, state-administered grants.

"Adding the arts to the STEM program provides the missing piece of the puzzle. At long last, the arts have gained their rightful and equal place alongside academics. Full STEAM ahead!" said



Cecelia Futo and Claire Futo, Fishweir Elementary School dance and drama directors.

ESSA is touted as the fix to No Child Left Behind, which defined core academic subjects as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The new act reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) established by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

For Cathedral Arts Project president



Cathedral Arts Project students benefit from federally-funded arts education programs.

and CEO Kimberly Hyatt, ESSA is particularly encouraging. Prior to this, the STEM program left little room for the arts in the public schools. The inclusion of arts – putting the A in STEM – as essential to a well-rounded education is a huge national win for communities, students and families, according to Hyatt.

"I always tell people if they care about public education, then they need to care about arts education. The most lasting way to enrich our quality of life and secure our young people's future is by unleashing their capacity for innovative thinking, preparing them to be problem solvers in the 21st century," said Hyatt. "Arts education being included in the definition of a well-rounded education in the Every Student Succeeds Act reinforces what numerous studies have shown – when students experience information by engaging in the arts, it

takes hold in their minds."

Under ESSA, it will be a priority for states to invest in new learning standards and resourcing of arts education so we can encourage creativity in our classrooms, which hold the future of our workforce, Hyatt noted.

CAP Board member Steve Williams, CEO, Harbinger Sign, is well known within Jacksonville's cultural community and applauds the inclusion of arts in the new law.

"As an artist, business owner and entrepreneur, I strongly believe all children deserve access to a quality education, and the arts are an important part of that," said Williams, of Avondale. "With the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, we hope more and more attention will be paid to making sure students receive a well-rounded, arts-rich education."

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# Land Trust

continued from page 1

The land trust purchased the property for \$750,000 from the estate of Theodore Carey, who died in 2014, and is currently in negotiations to sell the land to the National Park Service. The property is located along an 11-mile stretch from Interstate 95 to the Nassau Sound, in both Duval and Nassau counties.

## NFLT seeks to buy fort

Earlier in the fall, the NFLT also reached an agreement to purchase an 1898 Spanish American War Fort from its current owner, who had planned to build a house on the site. It was one of four forts on St. Johns Bluff that acted in defense of the river and is the only one that still remains.

NFLT will be the acquisition and fundraising partner of the National Park

*“It is important not only because of its size but also because of the environmental benefits and the opportunity to convey it to a long term partner, the National Park Service, to be protected and managed forever.” Jim McCarthy, Executive Director of NFLT*

Service on this project and must raise \$400,000 to acquire the property.

The purchase means the only real fort in Duval County will remain intact. The property will be added to the National Park Service’s Ft. Caroline National Monument as a public access park and will be a critical addition to its interpretive and community education outreach programs.

Those interested in contributing to preserve the Spanish American War Fort should send their donation marked for the “Fort” to NFLT, 2038 Gilmore St., Jacksonville, FL 32204. For further information, contact Jim McCarthy at [jmccarthy@northfloridalandtrust.org](mailto:jmccarthy@northfloridalandtrust.org) or call (904) 479-1967.

A second donation in July, \$210,000 from David and Robin Donoho, assisted in the late December purchase of the Nassau River property.

In addition, NFLT purchased 640 acres on Big Talbot Island from CSX, whose predecessor had acquired the square-mile property in the mid-19th century under a railroad grant from the Florida legislature.

North Florida Land Trust also closed on a 1.5-acre property and house known as Harrington House on Big Talbot Island in March 2015. The purchase was made possible by the Robert and Merrill Milam Trust. NFLT will preserve the property and ensure it will not be redeveloped in a manner conflicting with the management of Big Talbot Island Park and the scenic view from Kingsley Plantation.

The CSX acquisition and the Harrington House purchase are final pieces needed to ensure Big Talbot Island will be more than 99 percent preserved forever.

## Grant to help acquire more property

In July 2015 the land trust was approved for a Florida Communities Trust grant to acquire Bogey Creek Preserve, the 85-acre property on Clapboard and Bogey Creeks, neighboring Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park and the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

For the property, appraised at \$2 million, 80 percent of the cost would be covered by the grant. The estimated remaining \$400,000 needed to purchase the preserve received a \$100,000 boost from the Edward F. Hicks family, who donated the gift to NFLT last year.

# Cell phone robbery alert

Officer Sean Lindsey, from the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit, sent an alert to residents in Zone 4, which includes Riverside, Avondale, Murray Hill and Ortega.

“Zone 4 area has been experiencing a crime trend involving robberies occurring to students between the ages of 12-17, usually enroute to or leaving from the bus

stop. Cell phones are being targeted,” said Lindsey.

Officer Lindsey offered these recommendations to help reduce the opportunity for such crimes:

Have students stay in numbers while walking; a group is less likely to be targeted than a single individual.

If possible, have parents/adults transport kids to/from the bus stop and stand by with the kids until the bus

picks them up.

Ask students not to have portable electronics visible while walking to or waiting for the bus.

Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office immediately at (904) 630-0500.

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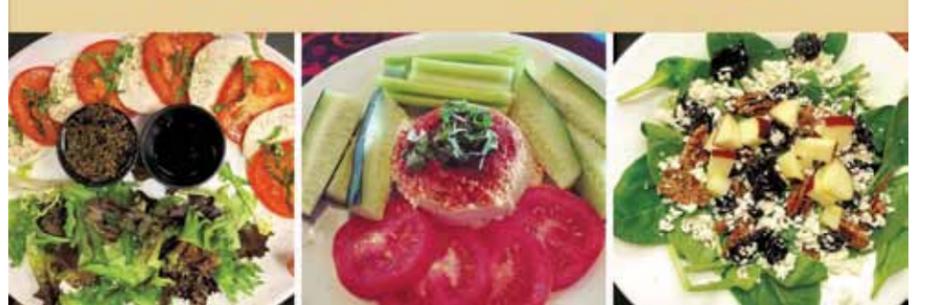
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# Cummer Museum challenged to raise \$1.5 million for grant

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant totaling \$500,000, to support the establishment of a Humanities Program Endowment at the Museum.

In order to receive the full amount of the Challenge Grant, the Museum must raise \$1.5 million in matching funds. The resulting \$2 million will form an endowment to support humanities-based public programming at the Museum in perpetuity, connecting diverse audiences to a variety of themes explored through Museum exhibitions and initiatives.

“This grant will allow us to continue to create powerful partnerships with the goal of creating a more beautiful, intellectually engaged, diverse community,” said Cummer Museum Director Hope McMath.



Director Hope McMath introducing a lecture with Cindy Edelman on the art of the Holocaust period, during *One Family: Photographs by Vardi Kahana*.



Visitor spending time with *Reflections: Artful Perspectives on the St. Johns River* after a panel discussion.



Chief Curator Holly Keris speaking to the Cummer Museum Junior Docents about the photographs in *One Family: Photographs by Vardi Kahana*.

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**2884 Olga Place**

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**4561 Prunty Avenue**

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# Hot demand for commercial real estate in 'hip' historic districts

By Lorrie DeFrank  
Resident Community News

Commercial real estate in Jacksonville's historic districts is in demand— and hard to find.

Merchants, restaurateurs and other business people looking for space face challenges. Vacancies are scarce in the long-established neighborhoods of San Marco, Riverside and Avondale as well as in new developments such as Brooklyn Station and 220 Riverside.

"Commercial follows residential, and residential is as hot as it's been there in seven or eight years," said Robert Warren, president and broker, Warren & Company. "There's a movement around the country to come back to the central core. People want to live where there is life and activity and restaurants to walk to."

In addition, Warren said a continually improving economy coupled with low interest rates are encouraging people—many who are experienced baby boomers wanting to work for themselves—to open businesses. "These areas have become some of the best in Jacksonville, particularly the last 12 months," he said. "Demand for commercial real estate in cool hip little areas like San Marco, Riverside, 5 Points and Brooklyn increased significantly."

Although the majority of businesses

*"Commercial follows residential, and residential is as hot as it's been there in seven or eight years."*

*Robert Warren, President and Broker,  
Warren and Company*

in the Historic Districts are locally owned and strongly supported by the locals who frequent them, some national chains—such as the Hair Cuttery and Corner Bakery Cafe at Brooklyn Station—offer diverse products and services.

"Supporting local business is something we like to do," said Brooklyn Station spokesman Eric Davidson, communication manager, Regency Centers. "We like to do a strong mix. Each enhances the other based on needs."

That Unity Plaza has no weekend rentals available from March through Memorial Day indicates how nonprofits,

too, energize the district and support its commercial establishments. Since its fall opening, the urban park and amphitheater, a public-private partnership, has hosted monthly festivals as well as activities sponsored by local nonprofits to raise awareness of their missions.

"We are completely coming alive, surrounded by food and beverage," said Jennifer Jones Murray, executive director of Unity Plaza, praising Sbraga & Co. and Hobnob, new restaurants at the adjacent 200 Riverside. "In the Historic District and Urban Core, relationships drive a highly individualized and very artistic experience. Jacksonville

is on fire with talent and we see this individualized style, especially in food and beverage in Brooklyn."

### Steady growth

In contrast to the commercial explosion in Brooklyn, which underwent a dramatic transformation from one of the city's most impoverished neighborhoods, San Marco's business district has been growing steadily for decades.

"San Marco is one of the original shopping districts in Jacksonville, evolving from gas stations and grocery stores to upscale restaurants, bars, theaters and fabulous boutiques. San Marco Bookstore and San Marco Theatre have been there for years," said Anita Vining, president, San Marco Merchants Association, and Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. "It brings people from all points of Jacksonville in large part because of independent boutiques that offer more upscale merchandise and personal service."

She said the thriving business corridors that extend from San Marco Boulevard to Hendricks Avenue all the way to Lakewood are filling up. Particularly in San Marco Square, vacancies are rare.

"You can't find anything in San Marco

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Square unless somebody moves out,” agreed Warren Tyre, broker principal, Commercial Real Estate Solutions, and a San Marco resident. “It’s still a seller’s market, or owner’s market, because if you’ve got something precious, it costs more.”

Tyre said the lure is all about the aura—“the friendliness, the acceptance, being able to get whatever you want, good food, interesting clothing, places to pick up this and that, and still be close to home. And it’s safe.”

**No empty storefronts**

Likewise at Park and King, empty buildings are scarce. District 14 Councilman Jim Love, president of the Park and King Merchants Association, credits the city’s multi-million dollar Town Center Initiative in 2005 with turning the decaying area around. The project that included upgrading drainage, streets and landscaping enhanced a business district that continues to thrive.

Examples include Kickbacks Gastropub’s expansion a few years ago, Burger King’s recent remodeling and Il Desco, a locally owned Italian restaurant that opened in the former Pele’s Wood Fire location at Park and King streets.

“The attraction is the vibrancy of the walkable neighborhood,” said Love. “You can window shop, get a tattoo or a hamburger...and Kickbacks has the most variety of beer in Northeast Florida.” Love sees that commercial momentum on Stockton Street, too.

You won’t find empty storefronts in Avondale, either. “As soon as

something goes, something else moves in,” said Dianne Garcia, president of the Shoppes of Avondale Merchants Association and co-owner of jAshley Boutique with her daughter, Ashley Holt, for nearly 15 years.

“The majority of shoppers are local, but a good percentage is from out of town,” she said. “When you go to a new city, you want to go somewhere that is unique and you look up the historic areas. We get a lot of that.”

“The past few years have been great here. There are not a lot of vacancies,” concurred Allan DeVault, speaking of Riverside’s trendy 5 Points area. “There’s a lot of demand to be in the neighborhood. People come from Fernandina Beach to our restaurants.”

*“We will see creative things with more distressed buildings that have been vacant for years. People are going to figure out how to make them work.”*

*Traci Jenks, Cushman & Wakefield*

A managing partner of Black Sheep Restaurant, DeVault is a member and past president of 5 Points Merchants Association. He attributes 5 Points’ popularity largely to its diversity of local and national businesses and its strong neighborhood advocacy groups such as Riverside Avondale Preservation.

“And Brooklyn, a healthy walk away, can only make it busier for us,” he said.

The commercial spots at Brooklyn’s 220 Riverside residential/retail complex are filled with Sbraga & Co., Hobnob and Brixx, according to David Auchter, executive vice president and COO of NAI Hallmark Partners, one of several parties that executed the community plan to redevelop Brooklyn. “This is just the tip of the iceberg,” he said of

the current new activity plus what’s in the works, including the new YMCA, a Gate station and a hotel. “We see Forest Street as the new gateway to downtown Jacksonville.”

**‘New urbanism’**

From Riverside to San Marco, AccuBuild has been involved in at least 25 historic preservation and/or commercial projects. “We feel we are pioneers there,” said founder Mark Rubin who sees the focus moving more toward local businesses. Currently, AccuBuild is working on local projects at Stockton and Oak streets and at LaSalle Street and San Marco Boulevard.

“There’s been a lot of pent-up demand from people wanting to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams but capital markets have been closed, so people had to defer their dreams,” Rubin said. “Now we see them coming on line.”

Traci Jenks, senior director, Cushman & Wakefield, sees “new urbanism” at play in the commercial excitement. “It’s not technically downtown, but neighborhood people can walk to shops and restaurants where they work, live and play. Not a big mall, it’s more a hometown kind of feel. People really want to embrace those local operators.”

With few vacancies throughout the Historic District and with Riverside Avenue filling up, Jenks predicts that older buildings on Park Street will be renovated. “We will see creative things with more distressed buildings that have been vacant for years,” she said. “People are going to figure out how to make them work.”



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Dr. Schumacher and his team continually upgrade their skills to meet the rapidly changing world of dentistry, and recently integrated a new imaging system for a three dimensional X-ray, the Galileos. "Being able to look at the patient's X-ray in 3-D versus the conventional X-ray allows us to see cracks, abscesses and infections. We can even see small tumors," explained Dr. Schumacher. "Another advantage to this new image is that it is precise, more accurate with a minimal radiation exposure."

Dr. Schumacher also offers the latest technology for teeth restorations reflecting the great advances that have been made for procedures such as crowns and implants.

"Now we do a CEREC digital scan with the latest technology where we use a video capture of the area, which takes an incredibly accurate scan of the teeth. Then, the video is emailed to the lab where they make a model and fabricate a crown. Or we can send the scan to the 3-D printer in our office, and literally make the CEREC crown the same day, so patients don't have to wear a temporary crown."

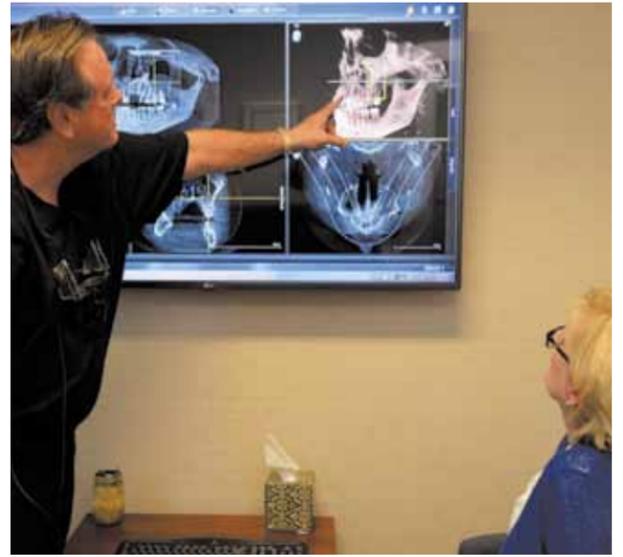
This type of imagery also means the patient will have only one office visit and will not have to undergo additional numbing, Dr. Schumacher explained. "Sometimes you still have to make a crown the old-fashioned way, but this new method can be used in about 50 percent of the cases," he said.

"The digital scan and the 3-D imaging also work together. For example, if you have a tooth that is missing and needs a dental implant, the 3-D image will show where to place the implant, and the scan will provide a guide to precisely put the implant in place," he said.

Dr. Schumacher also uses a dental tool called Waterlase, so many of his patients no longer have to endure the infamous, high-pitched sound of the dental drill. Waterlase dentistry combines laser-light energy with a spray of water in a process called HydroPhotonics™. The tool can be used to minimize the use of the traditional drill and generates less heat and less vibration on the tooth.

"I like using all of our technology for the quality of the work, but it also makes a trip to the dentist easier for the patient," said Dr. Schumacher. "However, all the latest technology does not take the place of good judgment and the skill of the practitioner."

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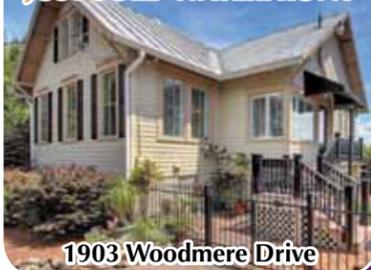


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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Local broker celebrates 30 years



Deborah Travis, Bart Colbert, Dixie Hardman, Cathleen Lee, Randy Brown, Lee Norville, David Taylor, Toy Scott, Winfield Duss, Linda Shepherd. Not pictured: Brenda Brown, Laura McLaughlin, Lisa Anthony Tucker

Cumulative knowledge and experience worth nearly 300 years in real estate has stood Norville Realty, Inc. in good stead for three decades. Lee Norville founded the agency 30 years ago this month to serve the residential real estate market. Following nearly five years with another agency, Norville was leaning toward development, but said he didn't know what else to do but residential real estate and it blossomed from there.

Co-workers attribute his kindness and generosity as keys to his success, although Norville takes a more modest view.

"We've been a very stable, small to medium-sized company and

have always tried to give back to the community," said Norville. "We have, over the years, donated to food pantries and food shelters, sponsored local events like runs and Little League teams."

"Lee is the most honest real estate broker in this city," said Bart Colbert, who has been in real estate for 31 years, seven of those with Norville. Toy Scott has been with the agency for 17 of her 20 years in the business, earning her the title of Norville's most senior employee.

A graduate of St. Johns Country Day School, Norville attended the University of Florida.

## AA marks 75th anniversary



The first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in Florida was held Jan. 6, 1941 at 2747 Riverside Ave.

Just four and half years after Alcoholics Anonymous had its beginning in Akron, Ohio, Jacksonville held the Florida AA meeting at 2747 Riverside Ave.

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrating this monumental event 75 years later on Jan. 16, 2016, 2-4 p.m., at the San Marco Club, 1423 San Marco Blvd., where AA moved in 1953. There will be speakers, displays and light refreshments at the anniversary event.

## 'Dragon' boat wins grand prize

Jacqueline Welti, of the St. Johns Quarter, needed no magic to win Grand Overall for her entry, Puff the Christmas Dragon, in the 31st annual Light Boat Parade, sponsored by Community First Credit Union. Technology, engineering, and creativity were the tools that transformed Kara Vela, her 40-foot ketch, into a crowd-pleaser.

Nearly 70 vessels, both sail and motor, circled the city harbor twice to the delight of thousands gathered on both banks of the St. Johns River before the show ended with fireworks displays from two barges and both the Main Street and Acosta bridges.

Lakeside was well represented in the winners' circle, too, with three boats docked at The Marina at Ortega Landing winning prizes. First place for private individual in boats over 30 feet was The Aries Star, Captain Travis Guthrie, "Minion Christmas." In the sailboat category, first place was given to Now & Zen, Captain



Puff the Christmas Dragoon

Leslie Jones, "Find Your Peace," and second place went to At Last, Captain Richard Ortis, "It's Frageelee!"

## River activist wins advocacy award

The Jacksonville-based Bob and Carol Grimes Foundation for the Environment presented St. Johns River activist Jim Alabiso, of Riverside, with its 2015 Environmental Advocacy Award on Dec. 11.

Alabiso advocates for the river through long-distance group swims, including the annual "Up the River Down 5K" swim from Jacksonville University to the Riverside Arts Market in late summer, organized by his nonprofit, JumpingFish. In addition, Alabiso's play, "To the Sea," was performed in August 2015 at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.



Jim Alabiso

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Weavers continue fight against breast cancer for fifth year



J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, center, pose with runners in the 2015 26.2 with DONNA. Each year, the Weavers are present on the beach to cheer on the race participants, and they plan to be there once again in 2016 to greet the finishers.

For the fifth year in a row, 26.2 with DONNA fundraisers will receive a \$100,000 match from J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver for \$200,000 raised. The Weavers' annual challenge is a call to action to encourage fundraisers. The Weavers, of Riverside, have donated \$400,000 to 26.2 with DONNA, which in turn has generated more than \$1.2 million for this important effort since the inception of the program.

All money procured by fundraisers and the Weavers is allocated to developing and maintaining the Mayo

Clinic Breast Cancer Translational Genomics Program.

"Finishing breast cancer will take the effort of all of us, and Wayne and I hope that this challenge will motivate even more support for this critical work," said Delores Barr Weaver. "We want to encourage everyone to contribute to 26.2 with DONNA so that we can support those living with this terrible disease and accelerate the research that will eradicate it."

DONNA Marathon Weekend will be held Feb. 12-14, 2016.

## Murray Hill man named library assistant director

Chris Boivin, of Murray Hill, is the new assistant director of community relations and marketing for the Jacksonville Public Library. A former senior vice president of business development and communications at State Employees Credit Union, Boivin founded the Jacksonville chapter of the American Marketing Association in 2009. "The world of non-profit, professional, member-driven organizations has been a passion of mine ever since," said Boivin.

At the Jacksonville Library, Boivin has a team of six to support his responsibilities for public relations, community relations, marketing and communications. "I look forward to continuing the work of my predecessor by finding new and innovative ways to connect Jacksonville's residents with all the free materials, resources, programs and ideas the library has to offer," Boivin said.



Chris Boivin

## Local resident appointed to JTA board



Jeanne Miller

Jeanne Miller, of Riverside, was appointed to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's Board of Directors, replacing Allison Korman Shelton, of San Marco, who is currently serving as director of intergovernmental affairs for the City of Jacksonville.

Miller is executive director of Jacksonville Civic Council, a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville and Leadership Florida, and serves on the boards of Community Connections, Goodwill Industries of North Florida and the Metro YMCA of Northeast Florida. She previously worked at City Hall as legislative affairs chief, and also on the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission, before serving as general counsel and vice president of strategic initiatives at Florida State College until 2013.

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## Yacht club designated 'clean marina'

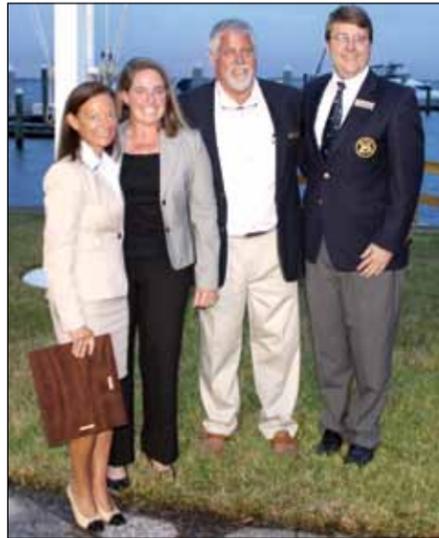


Commodore Palmer Clarkson receives the Clean Marina designation from Greg Strong, director for the Northeast District of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Florida Yacht Club joined the ranks of nearly 300 designated Clean Marinas in Florida when it received its official designation Nov. 18 as the state's 292nd. The club implemented a set of environmental measures designed to protect Florida waterways.

"Florida Yacht Club Members are proud to be a part of this program and to represent the environmental stewardship is a top priority and this facility gives boaters a recognizable environmentally sound choice," said FYC Commodore Palmer Clarkson.

The Florida Yacht Club has a long-term commitment to environmental stewardship with members being active in leadership roles with many organizations focused on such stewardship.



Carol Edell, general manager, Jodi Weinbecker, waterfront director, William Nicely, marina manager, and William Allen IV, fleet captain

## Riverside artist represents state in annual national park display



Sarah Crooks Flaire

Riverside artist Sarah Crooks Flaire is part of White House history, chosen to represent Florida in a Washington, D.C. park south of the White House. Crooks Flaire created 12 ornaments that highlight the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Each grapefruit-sized plastic globe is a mini-biosphere, six of which contain oysters, a keystone species of the St. John's River estuary.

Artists were selected from each state, U.S. Territory and the District of Columbia to decorate one of 56 evergreens surrounding the National Christmas Tree. The National Park Service celebrates its centennial in 2016.

## Local residents among honorees of 2016 Humanitarian Awards



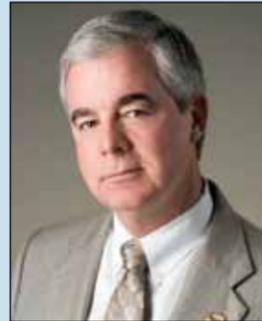
Alton W. Yates



Harry Frisch



Hope McMath



Michael Boylan



Kevin Gay



Susan Greene

The OneJax Institute at the University of North Florida announced the recipients of its 2016 Humanitarian Awards, honoring individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of personal and professional integrity, given generously and extensively to the community and have been dedicated to the improvement of human relations among diverse groups in the community.

Alton W. Yates, aerospace and civil rights pioneer, is the recipient of the 2016 Gold Medallion for Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing those who have had an extraordinary impact on and have given back generously to their communities through exceptional commitment to the OneJax mission of promoting the dignity and respect of all people.

Riverside resident Hope McMath,

director of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, is the recipient of the President's Citation Award, bestowed periodically to a leader whose efforts and vision have resulted in substantial, positive, local and national changes in one or more areas

The 2016 Silver Medallions, given in recognition of their outstanding dedication and community service, will be awarded to Michael T. Boylan, president and CEO, WJCT Public Broadcasting; San Jose resident Harry Frisch, founder, Beaver Street Fisheries; Kevin T. Gay, founder and CEO, Operation New Hope - Ready4Work Jacksonville; and Susan Greene, community volunteer, and San Jose resident.

The honorees will be publically recognized during a special ceremony at 6 p.m., April 14, 2016, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

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# Sinners do good for others



Members of The Sinners, Jacksonville Women's Rugby Club, with donations for JASMYN.

By *Kate A. Hallock*  
*Resident Community News*

Local nonprofits, including JASMYN (Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network), have Sinners to thank this past Christmas.

Acting more like saints, the Sinners, a competitive women's rugby club established in 2006 by Melissa "Mamma Mel" Newkirk, held a food drive in November for JASMYN.

"During the holidays many look to larger organizations for food drives. We wanted to support a small, local non-profit that may not get as many donations," said player Laura Ferrara, aka Unicorn, of Riverside. "The volunteers at JASMYN were so excited to receive the food and toiletry items we collected. It's great to support such a wonderful cause right here in our own community."

This is the first time the team has done a food drive, but not the first time it has been involved in other nonprofit activities.

"We get involved with Girls on the Run multiple times a year to help with their biannual 5Ks," said Newkirk, team president. The women have also helped with fundraisers for Team Kate, a young girl who came down with a rare form of cancer; Newkirk stated she has recently gone into remission.

The team is composed of about 30 women and two coaches. Although Newkirk was not initially thrilled with the proposed team name, once she saw the logo she said she was won over.

The Sinners includes students, military, teachers, professionals, some who are residents in Riverside, Ortega and San Jose; the majority live in Arlington, the Southside and the Beaches. They practice every Tuesday and Thursday nights 7-9 p.m. at 9A/Baymeadows Regional Park and home games are played at Huffman Park.

"We compete against women's and collegiate rugby clubs all over the Southeast," said Newkirk. This season the team's record was 4-1.

# Red Shoes, ugly sweaters support Ronald McDonald House

The Red Shoe Crew, the young professionals group which supports Ronald McDonald House, ended the 2015 season with its traditional Ugly Sweater Party. The event was held Dec. 10 at Aardwolf Brewing Company with food by Son of a Butcher food truck. Raffle items included gift cards for V Pizza, Hightide Burrito Company, Firehouse Subs, Maple Street Biscuit Company, Painting with a Twist and golf for four at the Blue Sky Golf Club.



Claudia Radke, Jen Feber, Marie O'Keefe



Britney Caldwell and Keifer O'Connor, Matt Lindberg, Laura and Kevin Tuck, and Kelli Barbour



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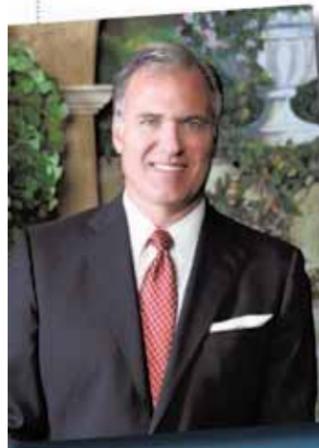


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Classes for Children – 5 yrs. – 5th Grade. (All children's classes are \$35.00 per class with additional classes and/or students within the same immediate family being an additional \$20.00)

### 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. Classes

**5:00 p.m. – Handbells for 3rd-5th Graders** – Learn to play handbells in a fun setting. No previous musical experience required. Children must be available for a few performances during the year. No Charge

**5:00 p.m. – Christian Karate** – Instruction provided by United Martial Arts – Karate moves are taught in a safe, respectful Christian environment. Ages 5 and up. Students have the opportunity to earn belts as they learn. No uniforms required.

**5:00 p.m. – Dance (Ballet and Tap)** – Professional Instructor, Karen Pfeiffer – Ballet and Tap – Ages 3 and up. Minimum of 6 students required

**5:30 p.m. – Beginning Violin** – Professional instructor – Stephanie Lindsay of the Jacksonville Symphony. Mrs. Lindsay's teaching background is in the Suzuki/Indiana School style and she has taught with Jumpstart Strings in the DCPS. Mrs. Lindsay is also a mother of two and works well with children of all ages. Information about violin rental is available at registration.

### 6:30 p.m. Classes

**Martial Arts for Self-Defense** – Instruction provided by United Martial Arts. This class will be open to both children and adults and will focus on a more mature use of Karate for the adults but still appropriate for children.

**Children's Art** – Emma Cahill Johns, certified Art instructor with DCPS. Mrs. Johns teaches at John Stockton Elem. School and is experienced with all ages. Children have fun while learning important art concepts. Some projects are completed each week and others last over several weeks.

## For Adults & Youth

### 5:00 p.m. Class

**Yoga** – CYT Instructor – Jayne Parker – Beginner to intermediate Vinyasa Yoga. Move through postures that will invigorate and help you tap into a more abundant life. Vinyasa means flow and the postures are linked with movement. Students are encouraged to move at their own pace as they breathe. \$40.00

### 6:30 p.m. Classes

**Gentle Yoga** – Instructor Jill Pagan – This class offers gentle movement of breath and body. Motion is lotion. This class will focus on breathing with an introduction to simple modified poses. Class suitable for all levels. Jill Pagan trained in Kripalu Yoga at Discovery Yoga in St. Augustine. \$40.00

**Line Dancing** – Professional Instructor – LouAnn Simpson – \$40.00. A slower, easier way to exercise but lots of fun and fellowship. The latest dances and no partner needed because lines of them are provided. \$40.00

**Guitar** – Professional Artist/Instructor Arvid Smith – For beginners and intermediates. A warm, fun learning environment where both the instructor and the more experienced students willingly help novices. A guitar is required – acoustic or electric. \$40.00

**Quilt and Crochet** – Instructor – Shirley Davis – Learn the fine art of hand sewing, also beginning crocheting – making simple projects. Bring your own fabric and threads or use donated supplies we have on hand. Learn and practice both skills or focus on one. Great fellowship time. \$20.00

**Martial Arts for Self Defense** – Instruction provided by United Martial Arts. This class will be open to both older children and adults. It will focus on the use of Karate for self-defense, coordination, exercise and to improve balance. Both instructional and fun. \$35.00

**Faith Discovery – "Created For Happiness"** – Understanding your Life in God. This is a class participation study. Discussion on how the media today affects our happiness and what we need to do to live the life God created for us. \$5.00 (no discount) Study book recommended and available for \$10.00 and an e-book can purchased, but not necessary. Details at registration.

**Gardening** – Winter training for spring vegetable gardening! Must be willing to get dirt under the fingernails. Learn how to plant a seed and take it through transplant process. Interested in the bugs that eat your hard earned produce? We will show you the good guys and the bad guys. Jacksonville Master Gardeners will be available during portions of the class. We will talk about and demonstrate how to build a raised bed and for those that don't have yard space...container gardening. \$20.00

**Relationship Recovery-"Rebuilding Your Life from the Inside Out"** – Facilitator, Pastor Chris McNeil – For those who have experienced a break-up, are separated, newly divorced, have been divorced for a long time, or have family discord – anyone going through grief with any relationship. This facilitated (not taught, per se) faith-based course will explore reconstructing your life, managing anger and grief, building back self-esteem, creating healthy boundaries, the process of forgiveness, building highly effective relationships, and looking at the fruits of the Spirit in healthier relationships in the future." \$40.00 includes any needed materials. Minimum of 6 students required.

**Introduction to Vegan Lifestyle** – Experts in the area of the Vegan lifestyle will share their knowledge and experience. Learn about this healthy lifestyle and sample vegan recipes prepared each week. Taught by Jonathon Addington, a local vegan chef and environmental activist, with guest speakers Heather Borders, Plant Based Nutritional Educator, and others. "Alumni" of previous vegan sessions are invited to attend one class without any charge and can join remaining classes at a prorated cost. Coordinated by Cynthia Round. \$40



Clancy and Carolyn Houston with Sims and Muffet Rhyne



Julie and Grier Wells



Peggy Allcorn, Joanne Purdy, Jerry Ferguson, Mardee Morris, Julie Ferguson and Judge Emmet Ferguson



Wycke and Darlene Hampton with Wade Hampton



Emily Magevney and Caroline Graham



Heather Houston with Mary Love Strum



Susan and Glen Feeley

# SOCIAL R

## Antiques, Art and Spanish influence at 2015 Gala

The Art & Antiques Show gala, presented by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, rolled out the red carpet and invited guests to ¡Viva España!, Dec. 4. The intriguing evening, a high point for the social season, is highlighted by antique furnishings, decorative accessories, fine art, collectibles, rugs and jewelry from top antiques dealers from around the country.

The four-day event, held annually at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, begins with a black tie Benefactor Preview Reception followed by the Opening

Night Party. The remainder of the weekend features lectures from nationally-renowned interior designers, event and floral designers. The Children's Fashion Show, featuring current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital, is a crowd pleaser each year as well.

For the past 38 years, the mission of increasing awareness and raising funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital has grown to reach women across the First Coast. With approximately 400 members, The Women's Board has raised more than \$26 million for facilities, equipment and programs.



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Chris Folds and Lauren Davidson



Eddie McCormick, Courtney McCormick with Lauren and Jason Purdy



Jaguars Kicker Carson Tinker and Annie Tinker, Mary Dudley, Christy and Clayton Bromberg

## Local designer hosts trunk show at Underwood's

Underwood's Jewelers hosted a private party for a group of special guests, Jacksonville Jaguar notables and friends of jewelry designer Priyanka Murthy at their Avondale location. Murthy, an Ortega resident, now adorns celebrities and other sports figures with her Arya Esha line of jewelry.

The trunk show, held on Dec. 15, arrived just in time for the holidays where locals got the chance to

partake in purchases from her lineup of earrings, bracelets pendants and other accessory items. Ten percent of the proceeds from the evening's event will go toward Jaguar long snapper Carson Tinker and his wife Annie's *Be a Blessing Foundation*. The funds will help Habijax to build and furnish a home for a deserving family in need



Annie Tinker, Emily Pepper and Priyanka Murthy

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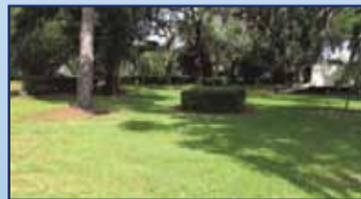
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It's wonderful to see the children of the Eureka Gardens neighborhood finally have a place to play. A new playground was built for the hundreds of children who live there, thanks to donations from all around the community. Pajcic & Pajcic was honored to be a major contributor, donating \$50,000 to the effort. We applaud Pastor Mark Griffin of Wayman Ministries for leading the fundraising and making the playground project a reality.



Since service is so important at Pajcic & Pajcic, we are proud when our employees participate in activities that benefit the community. Every year our own Antonio Kirkland volunteers at the City Rescue Mission for Thanksgiving and Christmas to set up and serve food to those in need. He's also involved in a Toys for Tots program. Antonio does this with his club, "Aftermath Riders". It's an organization of motorcycle enthusiasts who share a love of riding. Their goal is to promote a positive image of bikers. They all commit to at least 10 hours of community service a year.



Pajcic & Pajcic is always happy to support the Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center, a school for students who are mentally and physically exceptional. Curry Pajcic presented them with a check as they were getting ready to perform at the Jacksonville Landing for the holiday season. The funds will go toward supporting the school's annual prom and other activities. Palm Avenue provides important educational experiences and challenges every student to use their knowledge and skills to become independent members of the community.



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



# Local lawyer makes holiday brighter for area children

John and Angela Phillips, of Ortega, hosted the 4th Annual Toys for Tots Party at Phillips' law firm on Dec. 11, and were joined by Jaxson De Ville, the Jaguars mascot. The Winter Wonderland-themed event held a few surprises, including over 20 tons of snow.

Guests were invited to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots, sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. The program collects new, unwrapped toys from the community

through events such as Phillips' holiday party, and distributes them a few days prior to Christmas.

"We were told that last year we had the single largest toy donation picked up by Toys for Tots," said Phillips, who hoped to surpass that number this year.

Children attending, many who have never seen snow, were delighted to try out toboggans on the man-made hill, whisper Christmas wishes into Santa's ear and enjoy the antics of Jaxson De Ville.



John Phillips with sons Weston (in his arm) and Bennett



Sergeant Nathan Ihrig and Staff Sergeant Phillip Greer, coordinator for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots collections



Jessie Wainwright and Kat Brewer



Janine and Matthew Hunt with sons Isaiah and Carter



Thomas and Susan Danese with Crosby

## Giving to others one way to 'do good'

Ortega-based toy manufacturer HeroMe participated in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that encourages philanthropy. For each custom superhero action figure purchased on the company's website on Dec. 1, HeroMe pledged to donate one to patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital. As a result of the event, the company will donate more than 40 superheroes, customized and delivered to the patients in residence.

"#GivingTuesday is a perfect opportunity to bring the focus to giving this holiday season," said Josh Bryan, president of HeroMe, LLC. When Bryan began development of the superhero, he coined the phrase "do good" to teach children positive behaviors. "We have partnered with Jacksonville children's hospitals in the past and are always looking for new ways to give back"

Pat Kirkland, manager of family support services at Wolfson Children's



A young patient at Wolfson Children's Hospital holds a HeroMe action toy donated by Josh and Annie Bryan.

Hospital, stated the HeroMe action figures help the little patients cope successfully with procedures in the hospital. "HeroMe has been an incredible addition to our resources to make the hospital stay easier for the kids," said Kirkland.



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# Local church sends mission team to Honduras



Kathryn Hill, and Susan Geiger, kneeling, with Honduran dancers after a worship service



Front: Pastor Robert Kinley, Sarah Knight, Barbara Wittwer, Kathryn Hill, Ruth Johnson, Jerry Johnson; back: Rusty White, Gretchen White, Sheri Winegart, Dwane Tyson, Susan Geiger, Cheryl Steele



Susan Geiger helps conduct physicals during a mission trip to Honduras.

Trinity Lutheran Church, celebrating its 90th birthday in 2016, is sending a team for the eighth year to Tegucigalpa, Honduras for a week-long mission trip. The medical/evangelistic mission trip is organized through World Gospel Outreach.

While in Honduras the members work at brigades (medical, dental, evangelism, and optical) during the week. A team will also lay concrete floors in two houses.

“Every missionary works with a

Honduran who translates for us,” said member Susan Geiger. “We share a time of fellowship with the Honduran workers (members of the church and translators) every morning and at the conclusion of the work day, through song and prayer.”

Geiger said the culture is very welcoming, friendly, and grateful for Trinity’s work there. “The Hondurans will line up very early in the morning (before sunrise) to be seen at the brigade sites. The

line is always very overwhelming when our bus arrives at the site,” she said.

The team brings supplies of toothbrushes, travel toothpaste, adult and children’s vitamins (no gummies), Tylenol and Motrin (adult and children’s) and graciously accepts donations at the church Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. “We also take bows and ribbons for girls’ hair and there is a desperate need for lice shampoo,”

said Geiger. “We will also accept any unexpired medications, medical supplies, scrub tops or pants.”

To raise funds for the mission team, the Jorge Peña family will hold a free concert at the church on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 3 p.m. followed by a chili cook-off and silent auction at 5:30 p.m. Peña and his wife, Jin Kim, are members of the Jacksonville Symphony. The church is located at 1415 McDuff Avenue at Park Street.

## 5 Points swept in Operation Clean Sweep



Rev. Chris McNeill, pastor at Riverside Park United Methodist Church, helps pick up trash in 5 Points.



Stephen Schwartz was one of 26 trash-pickers in 5 Points.



Riverside Park United Methodist Church members pose with bags of trash picked up in the 5 Points neighborhood.

Members of Riverside Park United Methodist Church gathered on Dec. 12 for Operation Clean Sweep in 5 Points. The 26 men and women used rakes, brooms and blowers to gather up trash and bag it up. They moved from the church at 819 Park Street to Riverside Ave. and cleaned both sides of the street, and also caught part of Lomax and Oak Streets around to the side and back of the main area.

After the work, which took about an hour and a half, the workers were treated to a pancake breakfast back at the church. It was the 125-year-old congregation’s way of saying Merry Christmas to all of 5 Points and “Thank You” to the area merchants who helped sponsor the annual charity golf tournament the United Methodist Men hold every year.



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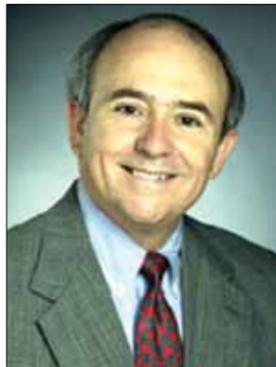
Local medical professionals share their best tips – no co-pay needed – to help residents make and keep resolutions for a healthier lifestyle in 2016.



**Joel Garrison**

D.O., St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center

“Be cognizant of your dietary choices – eat fresh, non-processed foods in smaller portion sizes, and stay physically active every day – keep your body in motion!”



**Dr. James Lanier**

Drs. Lanier, Bowman and Associates

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**Dr. Saumil Oza**

Cardiac electrophysiologist & Chief of Cardiology, St. Vincent's Riverside

“Eat more fruits and vegetables, especially a wide variety of green leafy vegetables, which are high in antioxidants and phytonutrients that are protective of many chronic diseases.”



**Dr. Benjamin O'Connell**

St. Vincent's Primary Care

The trick to staying youthful is activity, activity, activity. The more active you are, the more you prevent muscle and bone loss that is normally associated with aging. The more you exercise, the more youthful you will look and feel. Try to come up with at least one way you could incorporate more exercise into your lifestyle. Consider joining a fitness class, get a group of friends and start a bicycling group, start swimming at a local heated pool, or just start with taking a walk each day. Getting a pedometer has been shown to help motivate you to walk more with time and can make exercise more fun. Try to walk 10,000 steps daily, and it will help promote weight loss and help you get to your new healthier self. Again, the trick to youthfulness is staying active!”



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Continued on page 33

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**Dr. Wesley Mills**

St. Vincent's Primary Care

"Make sure to set aside 30 to 45 minutes to exercise four to five times per week. This will help improve your physical and mental wellbeing and enhance overall health!"



**Dr. Eric Sauvageau**

Neurovascular Surgeon, Lyerly Neurosurgery/  
Baptist Health, Director, Stroke & Cerebrovascular  
Center at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville

"Grateful individuals are happier, have stronger relationships and sleep better among other things. By adopting a grateful attitude people take better care of themselves by adopting healthier habits like exercising regularly and eating healthier food."



**Dr. Jennifer Fulton**

Pulmonologist and Director  
of Critical Care for Baptist  
Medical Center Jacksonville  
Pulmonary, Critical Care and  
Sleep Medicine Associates

"Having a positive attitude about your health can make all the difference. I see this every day in my practice. Often, when giving someone a new diagnosis and discussing therapy we can see from the start who is going to do well with treatment. Those patients who attack their health care problems with a 'can-do' attitude and find the positives even in a terrible situation start off ahead."

"As a health care provider, I find not only do these patients frequently become an important part of team, but they also become an invaluable asset to their own recovery. For example, when running into side-effect issues from medications these patients will frequently work with the team to find solutions rather than simply stopping treatment."

"Getting better is hard work; you will only get as far as you believe you can."



**Dr. Richard Moore**

St. Vincent's Primary Care

"My number one health tip for patients to enjoy a happier and healthier New Year is to not forget about their emotional and spiritual health. We're living in a time centered on New Year's resolutions ranging from fad diets, exercise programs, gym memberships. The stress we put on ourselves to succeed with a vision of immediate results before the end of the month of January is enormous. When this fails, people often quit early and put off health until yet another year. Patients forget their emotional health drives a large part of their medical health and physical well-being."

"Remember to DE-STRESS and keep a positive outlook for yourself and your surroundings. Have Faith! Being mindful of your emotional and spiritual health and that will allow you to succeed at your New Year's goals without feeling like they are a burden. Remember, this is a marathon of life and not a single race; often times the short term gains are not as encouraging, but living a healthier life and being happier doing so will result in a much longer term success on your health and well-being."



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# Vintage Players bring laughter to thousands

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

The members of Vintage Players, the only senior acting troupe in Jacksonville, have a wide range of acting experience and professional credits, but what narrows the focus for all is the love of laughter.

“We feel that laughter is very spiritual and we don’t laugh enough,” said Bill Dunford, of San Jose.

The troupe began in 1994 and some of the current actors are charter members, including Mary Allman Clark, a 1956 graduate of Landon High School, and Beatrice Gilliard, 94, of the Westside. “This helps me to stay alive,” said Gilliard, who moved to Jacksonville in 1959 from Key West.

The Vintage Players put on shows with skits, short plays and monologues twice a month at local churches, senior centers and nursing homes. Over the years, Dunford estimates they have appeared before thousands of people.

“Our skits are brief because of the attention span of many in the audience,” said Dunford, who noted they have a large repertoire, often altering them for the type of group to which they play. “Every show is completely different. We share roles as assistant director, producer, stage manager, principal actors, etc.”

The troupe does have a professional artistic director, Gary Baker, who has



Mary Metzler plays a cantankerous parrot in a two-person skit



Mary Allman Clark and Beatrice Gilliard, two of the early Vintage Players

an extensive resume both locally and in places like Second City in Chicago. Baker graduated from Jacksonville University in 2006 with a Bachelor’s degree in theatre and performance.

“He’s very young to have done so much. He teaches children’s theater, also, and so he knows how to treat us,” joked Dunford. “Everything we do is very professional and

we’ve been invited back to places for years. We are booked through 2016 already.”

Members can often be seen in local theatre productions. They have appeared in movie and television productions in Jacksonville, and in local and national television commercials.

Vintage Players is seeking new members, especially men, but the

qualification for joining is an easy one. “You must admit to being at least 50 years old,” Dunford said. “Gary will do the rest. He is a miracle worker.”

If you have a lifelong desire to slap on some grease paint and a costume and put yourself in front of an audience, Dunford encourages you to call (904) 616-1568 or email [vintageplayers2012@yahoo.com](mailto:vintageplayers2012@yahoo.com).

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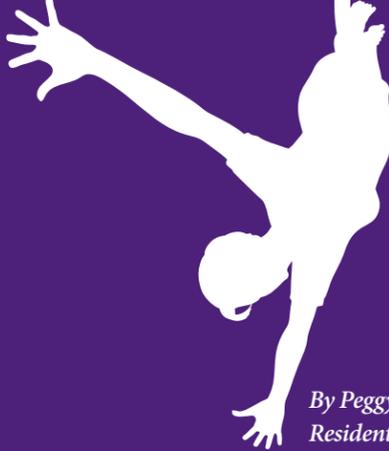
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# You're never too old to...

Thanks to healthier lifestyles many seniors have the energy to explore new activities and hobbies, often taking up something secretly yearned for earlier in life. You're Never Too Old takes a look at senior residents who are thinking out of the box and stepping out of their comfort zones. If you know someone who has a similar story to share, send information to editor@residentnews.net.



By Peggy Harrell Jennings  
Resident Community News

## Taking up music later in life good for mind and body

"Mature" violin student Laverne Stearns of Fairfax Manor is hoping meet an equally mature drummer.

"We could get together, find a couple of other musicians and form a group – play for the veterans or for people older than us," Stearns said with a laugh, but with some seriousness.

Lisa Kirkwood of Clark's Music Center said Stearns is part of a trend of adults who are taking music lessons in their mature years.

"Many of them played as children then got busy with having families or working, and life circumstances got in the way. Now they are retired, have more open schedules and realize that there is a scientific basis for playing an instrument; it helps one maintain dexterity and balance and improves memory," explained Kirkwood.

"Some of the students want to play instruments they inherited. It's a time for focusing on what they want to do instead of have to do," she said.

"I was a nurse for over 40 years. It's amazing how quickly time passes as we get older," said Stearns. "I just kept putting off taking lessons, making excuses – I couldn't afford it, I was too busy, all of that."

Stearns had played when she was in the 7th and 8th grades and loved it so she bought a violin in 2011. It wasn't until February 2015 that she finally had her first lesson with Mike Kelly at Clark's.

"He is so easy going, I was putting too much pressure on myself. I felt like I should be able to pick up where I left off all those years ago," said Stearns. "I'm sure they all thought I'd give up, but I am determined to be as good as I can be. I practice about an hour a day and am working on hymns and Christmas music now."

Also taking lessons at Clark's is an 80-year-old drum student who had never played before. She is shy about revealing her new interest, and her name, said Kirkwood. The woman had inquired at other places about lessons but said it felt like they were patting her on the head with an "aren't you cute" attitude. She came to Clark's and is faithful



Violin student Laverne Stearns



Laverne Stearns with instructor Mike Kelly

to her commitment to learn, Kirkwood said.

Stearns recently kept a friend who was having physical therapy entertained by playing for her during the sessions. "I have a group of friends who seem to enjoy my playing and my daughter is very supportive and encouraging and gives me little hand claps," she said. "One of my goals is to enjoy life more, to have more fun and be able to fiddle for the veterans at the VA Hospital to cheer them."

Joking with her teacher, as they "fiddled" together, Stearns commented, "We'll be playing Carnegie Hall before long."



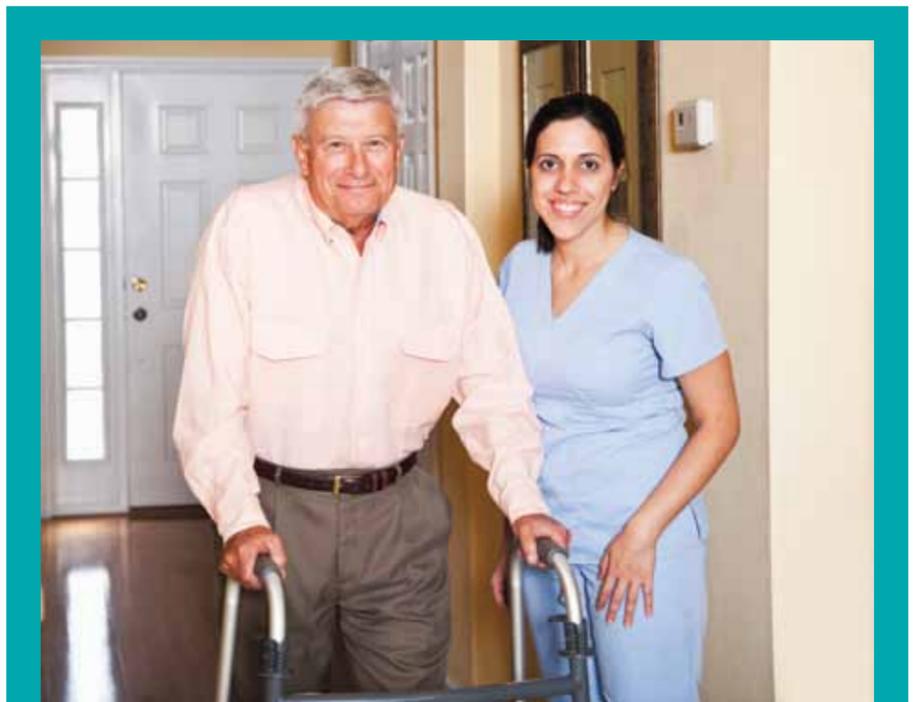
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# The Way We Were – Delcia Franke

By Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Resident Community News

Delcia Franke of Ortega matter-of-factly declares that “being nearly 91 means I get to talk back” – something she does frequently and with endless humor. A 15-year breast cancer survivor, Franke celebrates her 91st birthday on Jan. 5 in good health. Her goal is to reach her 100th birthday as did her mother, Beulah “Bobo” Shubert.

Franke grew up in Georgia, and attended Brenau University in Georgia when she met Georgia Tech student Steve Aichel of Ortega. Aichel grew up in his family home on McGirts Boulevard and was a Lee High School graduate. After his college graduation, he worked for Aichel Steel & Supply Company on Edison Avenue, founded by his father, Lewis Aichel.

The couple married in 1943 and had two children, Stephanie and Walter.

“In 1946 we bought a home for \$7,000 in Splinterville on Lakeshore Boulevard at Pinewood. Splinterville was very wooded with huge trees and many people had chickens,” she said. “Our two-bedroom home had a gas furnace and the gas hot water heater was installed in the kitchen. It even had a garage.”

In 1951, needing more space, the Aichels bought a brick bungalow on



Stephen and Delcia Aichel, May 1943



Delcia and her daughter, Stephanie, in Sevilla, Spain, 1965

Baltic Street, which was the family’s home for the next 14 years.

Franke’s adult life centered in and around Ortega and “The Forest” (Ortega Forest), which she calls a compound, comparing it to the Kennedy Family Compound in Hyannis Port, Mass. She

said Ortega even had its own social writer who published articles in the newspaper once a week.

“Alice Whitney was our social writer and she knew everyone. She always had plenty to write about, and during Ye Mystic Revellers she wrote articles every

day. Revellers news took up space in the paper like war news!” said Franke, adding that Ye Mystic Revellers is North Florida’s oldest Mardi Gras social organization.

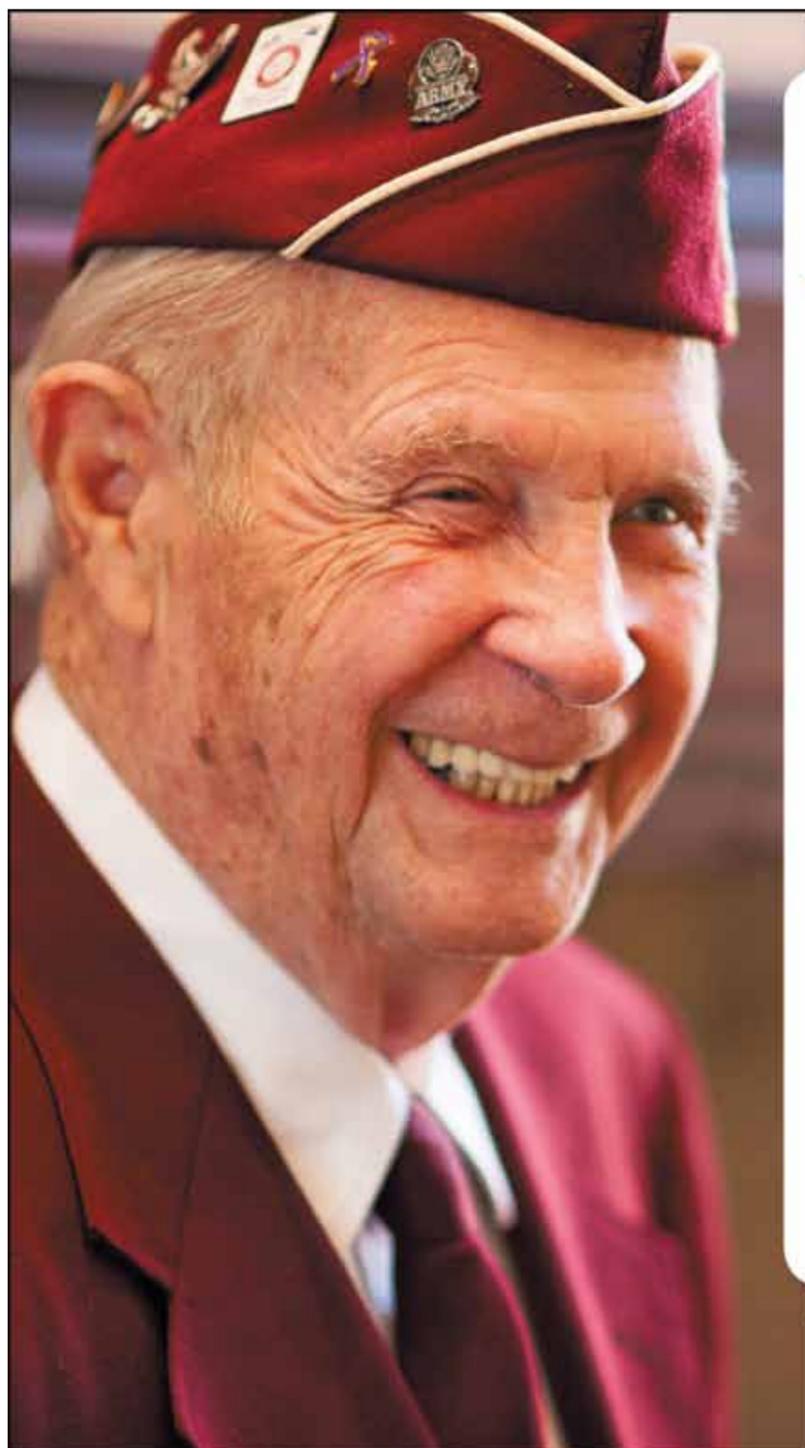
Franke recalled one day when her son, Walter, came home from Ortega Elementary School, concerned about her status as an Ortega outsider.

“Mom! Do not tell anyone that you were born in the Philippines! I won’t be invited to any of the birthday parties!” her son said.

Even at a young age, neighborhood children knew it was best to be “from” Ortega and nowhere else. Franke’s father, Oscar Shubert, served in the U.S. Army and his family was stationed in the Philippines, where she was born.

Most women Franke knew did not work outside the home. Like her, they managed the household, raised their children and participated in volunteer activities. Franke volunteered for the PTA, charity projects at Riverside Park United Methodist Church and with the Pink Ladies at Duval Medical Center, later renamed University Hospital.

“The Pink Ladies volunteered in support of the hospital. There was no cafeteria so we prepared sandwiches and took food on carts to all the patients’ rooms and to their families,” she said. “When there was a shortage of beds



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Commander J.D. "Jake" Hogue



Delcia and her son, Walter Aichel, 1988



Ortega residents Margaret and Louis Aichel, Mary and Chuck Aichel, at a holiday party in the early 1950s at the Timuquana Country Club

at Brewster Hospital, we raised funds to buy new ones, but not everyone supported that effort. I wanted to help the patients at Brewster Hospital and had a hard time with those who didn't. It was a world just like in the movies "Driving Miss Daisy" or "The Help."

Brewster Hospital served black patients from 1901 to 1966. It re-opened as Methodist Hospital in 1967. The original Brewster Hospital structure has been preserved, relocated to West Monroe Street and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Aichels divorced in 1957 and in 1961 Franke married the late U.S. Navy Commander J.D. "Jake" Hogue, a decorated WWII naval aviator and war hero. For five years they traveled the world, ending up in Africa. Hogue died at the age of 46 of complications following surgery, and Franke lost the man she quietly referred to as "the love of my life."

Franke and her children returned to Jacksonville in 1966, only stopping for Hogue's burial with honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Their home on Baltic Street was waiting, their furniture still inside. Her parents had been living in the home and with the return of their daughter and grandchildren they moved

to a house on Baltic Circle.

In 1967, Franke met the late Bob Franke, a U.S. Naval Officer and Vietnam veteran, who was raising his two young children. She married him in 1969. The couple divorced in 1979 and in 1984 Franke bought another Baltic Street home where she currently resides with her daughter Stephanie Harjung, and her Maltese-Yorkie, Coco. Her son, Walter, died of cancer in 2003.

"I'm the wealthiest person anywhere with good friends, my loving family. Favorite activities have been traveling, cruises, supporting cultural and performing arts. My Christian faith and my church, Ortega United Methodist, are very important to me. I'm a longtime member of the Garden Club/Formosa Circle and the NAS Retired Officers' Wives Club. I support Community Hospice and enjoy seeing my 'breakfast friends' at the San Juan Krystal's," Franke said.

"Mom is known as the lady who always wears a hat and a smile...she is one of the most positive people you could ever meet, despite all that she has gone through in her life," Harjung said. "Somehow she stays full of life and energy and gives God the glory for her strong faith."



Delcia Franke and her daughter, Stephanie Harjung

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# In Memoriam

## Sidney J. Gefen

April 21, 1920 – December 12, 2015

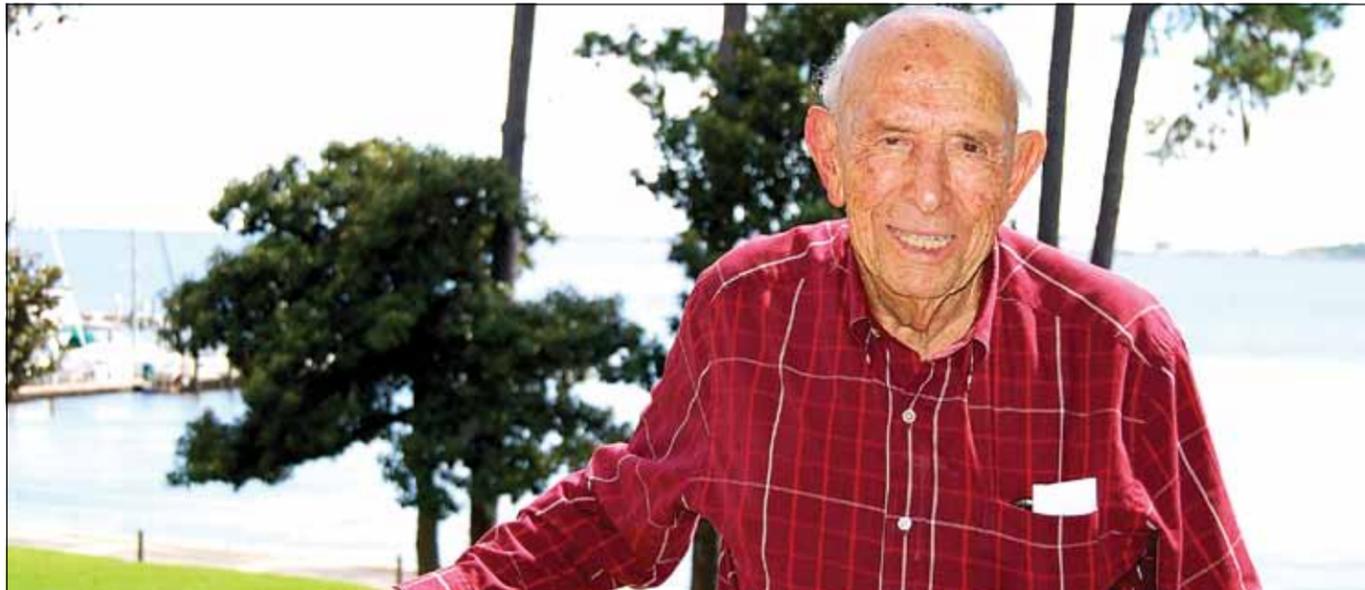
Sidney Josef Gefen, affectionately called Sid, loved Jacksonville. A New Yorker by birth, from the age of 21 Gefen called Jacksonville home and invested in its success.

"I love working on things to help bring Jacksonville alive," Gefen told *The Resident* two years ago. "The city has to have a purpose."

Known and respected as an astute businessman, Gefen enjoyed a series of profitable careers, beginning with aircraft repair at NAS Jax, moving into boats, automobiles, electronics, and eventually into advertising and tourism. His company, International Productions, one of the largest staging and trade show production companies of its kind, annually showcased Florida tourism and, for that contribution, Gefen was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 from the University of Florida.

An active, lifelong member of Congregation Ahavath Chesed, Gefen also belonged to the United Way Tocqueville Society and the Masonic Ionic Lodge, was a member of Morocco Shrine and a founding member of Beauclerc Country Club.

At the time of his death, Gefen was the chairman of the Eric Friedheim Foundation, which awards scholarships to University of Florida students attending the Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute, one of only six



partner organizations in the U.S. recognized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Somewhere along the way Gefen found time to dabble in politics, working in 2004 for George W. Bush's second election. He shared with *The Resident* a handwritten thank-you note from President Bush.

"Thank you for your great help on my campaign in Florida. Your state played a critical role in this election, and the vice president and I were fortunate to have your help in campaigning in Florida," wrote

President George W. Bush, in the note dated Dec. 21, 2004.

When he passed away Dec. 12 at age 95, Gefen was still looking for the next best tourist attraction to bring visitors to his city. According to his daughter, Barbara Jaffe, he was considering a Ferris wheel, to be the tallest one in the country, located near the Riverside YMCA.

"This is where my career took off," reminisced Gefen in his memoir, 'Still Climbing Mountains, Still Planting Trees.' "This is the location of my first riverfront

venture, The Duval Marine Company."

Although local ordinances prevent naming public property after living persons, when Gefen donated the marine's riverfront property to the city, Mayor John Peyton and City Council passed a special ordinance to create a one-time exception. Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park was dedicated three days before his 91st birthday in 2011.

To learn more about the fascinating life of Sidney Gefen, go to residentnews.net, then enter Gefen in the search field to download a PDF of his memoir.

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# In Memoriam

## Colonel Bobby Lee Sanderson

Colonel Bobby Lee Sanderson, a 38-year history and geography teacher at Robert E. Lee High School, passed away Nov. 21, 2015 at age 83.

After retiring from teaching in 1994, Sanderson remained active in education, assisting the Cedar Hills Baptist Christian School. He enjoyed attending Lee High School reunions, where former students enjoyed getting to know him "after class."

Tammy Davis Flynn, Class of 1997, had two classes with Sanderson and said she could not be more thankful for the Colonel. "He truly cared for each of his



Colonel Sanderson

students," she said, recalling that he would tease her about being tall and thin. "The Colonel told me I could not sit sideways in my desk or he could not see me and know I was present. On a windy day, with the windows open, he would pull the Venetian blind cord from the window toward me saying he needed to tie me down so I would not blow out the window."

In 2012, Flynn coordinated the first Marching Generals Band Alumni Reunion, where Sanderson joined the St. John's River cruise. "It was the last time I saw him. My husband and I shared personal time with the Colonel

on the upper deck of the boat in the smoking zone; he did enjoy his cigars," she said. At that event, Flynn said she chastised Sanderson for giving her a D in one of his classes. He responded, "Tammy, I did not GIVE you anything! You earned it."

"I love him for reminding me of that 35-plus years later," Flynn said.

The Robert E. Lee Alumni Association Inc. celebrated the Colonel's life at a mini-reunion Nov. 27 at Lillian's Sports Bar. Donations in the Colonel's name can be given for a scholarship fund at [www.robteleealumni.org/donate.html](http://www.robteleealumni.org/donate.html).

## Woodworkers club makes annual toy donation



John Hamilton, Willow Schlosser, 16 months, Tom May and President Reid Crawshaw. Willow's mother, Tamir Schlosser is Jewish Family & Community Services Asst. Dir of Development and she coordinates their toy distribution.

Members of the Jacksonville Woodworkers Club, volunteers and church members met at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church for the club's annual Christmas Toy Project on Nov. 21. The woodworkers make wooden toys to be donated to approximately 21 charities who distribute them to needy children, according to Club President Reid Crawshaw.

To date the club has made and donated more than 40,000 toys to children. Formed in 1989, the club is open to members from all over Jacksonville, of all skill levels. The men and women meet monthly at St. Catherine's to share woodworking ideas and projects and to work together for their annual community outreach.

The club's mottos are "Wood is Good" and It's Never Too Late To Get Started To Make Kids Happy." For more information, visit [www.Jaxwoodworkers.org](http://www.Jaxwoodworkers.org).

## For 25 years, more than a ribbon

This woman was one of more than 400 guests who remembered their loved ones at the 25th annual Tree of Life celebration Dec. 3 at Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. Towering evergreens holiday lights illuminating hundreds of white satin memorial ribbons adorned with the names of loved ones representing a person whose absence is felt especially during the holidays.

Each ribbon purchased for the Tree of Life supports Community Hospice Foundation, which helps families embrace life, guide them through the journey at life's end and provide comfort and care for all, regardless of age, the illness they face or their ability to pay.



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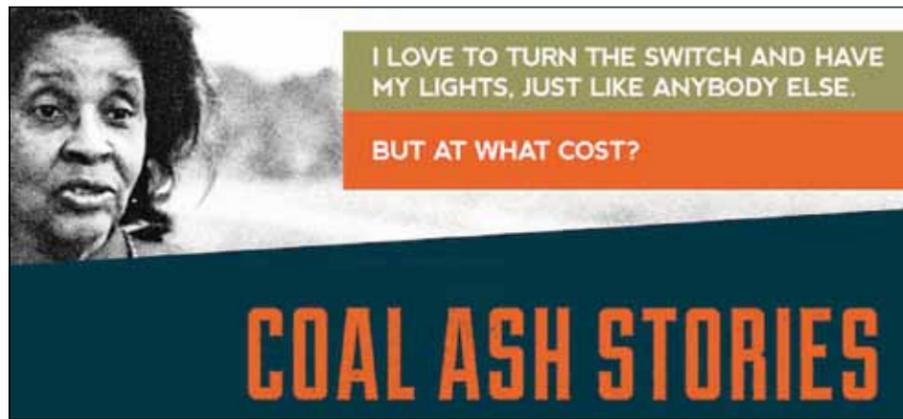
[jaxhealth.com](http://jaxhealth.com)

# Documentary highlights effects of toxic coal ash

Submitted by Shannon Blankinship

Imagine being afraid to drink your water, take a bath, fish, or farm. Toxic coal ash stored across Florida poses exactly these risks. Communities are successfully pushing for clean-up in other southeastern states and, to help in Jacksonville, a special documentary will be shown in 5 Points at Sun-Ray Cinema, Monday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

The St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, in partnership with Northeast Florida Sierra Club, Earthjustice, The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and Working Films



to bring Coal Ash Stories, will host the documentary film Coal Ash Stories, which highlights how coal ash is hurting people and communities.

Four short films are focused on coal ash, public health concerns, related policy, and ways that communities are responding. A panel will follow the presentation that includes the filmmaker and local speakers. Come learn about the issues, talk with your neighbors, and find out how you can help protect your community. Register online for this free event at [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org).

# St. Vincent's seeks nominations for Mary Awards

St. Vincent's Health Care is receiving nominations for the 2nd Annual Mary Awards from now until Tuesday, Feb. 16. The awards honor young women who are high school seniors and are known to be serving God and their neighbors through their faith community.

The Mary Awards were created around St. Vincent's HealthCare's core values: Service of the Poor, Reverence,

Integrity, Wisdom, Creativity and Dedication. Each candidate must be a high school senior in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau or Baker County and must also demonstrate service to God and her faith community; creativity and achievement in one of the four defined fields: academics, athletics, leadership and volunteerism/philanthropy; and

selflessness and service to her neighbors.

Twelve finalists will be selected by a committee representing the diversity of the region. The committee will interview the finalists and choose one award recipient in each of the four categories. The Mary Awards recipients will receive a gift of \$1,000 each. All finalists will attend the awards dinner and ceremony

on April 21, 2016.

"We welcome young women of all faiths to be nominated," said Jill Arnold, Mary Awards Chair. "Last year, it was so difficult to select the finalists and ultimate recipients because of how exceptional all of the young ladies were. We are confident this year will be no different."

Nominations must be received by Feb. 16 and mailed to St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, PO Box 41564, Jacksonville, FL 32203. To learn more about the Mary Awards and the nomination process, visit [www.jaxhealth.com/MaryAwards](http://www.jaxhealth.com/MaryAwards).

# Demolition paves way for April groundbreaking

The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) took the first step in building its new animal shelter when the wrecking claw – ceremonially driven by Denise Deisler, executive director –

created the first hole in the old thrift store at 8328 Beach Blvd. on Dec. 10.

Demolition of the thrift store building is the beginning of preparation for constructing the new 40,000-square-foot animal shelter, as planned in the JHS Campaign for a Compassionate Community. Groundbreaking is planned for April 2016.

The campaign, which has raised \$8 million of its \$15 million goal, began in 2013 with the purpose of generating funds to construct a new Humane Care & Education Center on the campus on Beach Blvd. In 2007, a fire destroyed the shelter buildings on the JHS property. The organization is still operating out of the temporary structures erected after the fire, many of which are in disrepair. The new shelter will provide climate-controlled housing for the animals and include a first-rate pet adoption and education center for the community.



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# Bishop Kenny alumni gather to recognize by-gone baseball players

Alumni from throughout the United States gathered to celebrate more than 60 years of Bishop Kenny High School baseball during a special hall of fame ceremony in the school's waterfront baseball complex Dec. 5.

The event was organized by Bishop Kenny alum Gontran Celerier, who graduated from the school in 1965 and was named to the All-City baseball team during his senior year. Gontran said he spent 15 eight-hour days at the Jacksonville Public Library researching the players who would be honored during the event.

Nearly three dozen Bishop Kenny players dating back to the 1950s were on hand with their families during the special event. Celerier was the keynote speaker. Also speaking

were Principal Todd Orlando, Athletic Director Bob West, current baseball coach Tommy Edwards and assistant coach Jason Pascual. West was a long-time coach of the Crusaders and guided them to a state championship.

The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of a "Honor Roll" Board celebrating the records of former players who earned All-City, All-State, All-American and All-District honors during their tenure as well as those who were drafted into the major and minor leagues. Inducted into the Bishop Kenny Hall of Fame were more than 100 former players, including five that are deceased.

After the event, the former players gathered at the Mudville Grille in St. Nicholas to rehash old times.



Thirty-three members of Bishop Kenny baseball teams dating back 60 years gathered to celebrate the achievements of Crusader teams over the years during a special ceremony Dec. 5 at the school's waterfront baseball complex. (Photo courtesy of With the Wind Productions)

# A book for every child makes Christmas brighter



Jack Milne, Dr. Sylvia Johnson and Jaime Sanborn (center), surrounded by Bolles Library Media Ambassadors who brought books to students at West Riverside Elementary School.

Under the guidance of Bolles Middle School Head Jack Milne, an Avondale resident, and Middle School Librarian Jaime Sanborn, students embarked on a fundraising initiative to purchase a new book for each of the 360 students at West Riverside Elementary School, Milne's alma mater.

Bolles students purchased one book on the wish list of every student, wrapped them and hand delivered the books on Dec. 17. Additionally, donations of about \$1,000 were used to purchase Publix gift cards for Riverside school families' holiday grocery needs.

"You can't possibly understand the impact of this," said Dr. Sylvia Johnson, principal. "We have families in the school who have no printed materials in their homes because the parents can't read. For you to take the time to buy and wrap these books is unbelievable."

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# Nonprofit seeks to find missing children with help from baseball fans

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Former minor league baseball player Dennis Bair has a motto: "More eyes looking mean more children found." Founder of BairFind, a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2010 with the purpose of helping to find missing children, Bair is teaming up with San Marco resident Ellen Sullivan, CEO of BairFind foundation, to revolutionize the search for missing kids nationwide by placing photos and profiles of lost youngsters in minor league stadiums throughout the United States.

"BairFind is revolutionizing the search for missing kids in the United States, and we are making it happen from Jacksonville," said Bair, who formerly played for the Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds and Arizona Diamondbacks organizations.

Bair and Sullivan recently attended the Baseball Winter Meetings in Nashville, Tenn., in order to push for a nationwide program for the 2016 season. Current league partners include the Southern League, Florida State League and the New York - Penn League.

Already, his organization has placed profiles in 40 minor league stadiums including The Jacksonville Suns and aims to cover all 160 stadiums nationwide this year.

The BairFind Foundation was started at the end of 2010 in Pittsburgh and originally licensed in Pennsylvania. Bair also licensed his organization in Florida when he moved



Long-time captive Gina DeJesus and her family with Dennis Bair after a first-pitch ceremony last summer.



Young baseball players gaze at a sign on the concourse of the Jacksonville Suns stadium.

to Jacksonville last year. Presently it has board members in both states including three local members: Angela Campbell, the aunt of Mark Degner, who has been missing since 2005; Kevin Monahan of Small Business Development Center and Guy Cuddihee of San Marco.

"I was honored to be asked to join the BairFind Foundation board," said Cuddihee. "I have known Ellen Sullivan for over 25 years, and it was great to meet Dennis Bair who is the founder of the foundation. Ellen and Dennis have a passion for finding missing children around the country, and I'm looking forward to helping the foundation meet its local,

regional and national goals."

Every year thousands of children go missing. Many are located due to the selfless efforts of law enforcement agencies and other organizations, but still thousands of children remain missing every year. When their profiles fade from the news and flyers, leads helping to locate them quickly dry up, said Sullivan in an email. When the public stops looking, the chance of recovering a missing child decreases substantially, she said, noting Bair spent many years in baseball stadiums and realized the power of these venues in the search for missing kids.

The Jacksonville Suns are participating in the BairFind program and have a concourse

sign. Last August, BairFind and the Suns hosted a first-pitch ceremony for the family of local missing boy Mark Degner to help keep Mark's profile in public awareness.

The Foundation also brought long-time Cleveland kidnapping victim Gina DeJesus and her family to Jacksonville last October to introduce them to Degner's family.

DeJesus' widely publicized rescue in 2013 was a major breakthrough for the foundation, which had featured DeJesus and her fellow captive Amanda Berry on its website and stadium signs for many years. To date a total of 65 of 278 children featured on stadium concourse signs have been successfully located and brought home.

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# Jr. Residents

## Garas wins school community service award

Alexis Garas of Ortega, an eighth grader who attends the Bolles Middle School, was recognized for her community service leadership during the First Quarter President's List awards in Parker Auditorium on the Bolles' Bartram campus Nov. 18.

"The main criterion, besides having all passing grades, is to have been a positive reflection of our school values by making a significant contribution beyond the level of performance expected of a Bolles' student at the school or in the broader community," said Middle School Head Jack Milne of Avondale.

Garas is an active member of Angels for Allison and Kids for Kids clubs on the Bartram campus. Last summer she spent more than 30 hours painting angels and has been a volunteer with the group for the past two years. She volunteered and donated baked goods for the Kids for Kids fundraiser. As the result of her work and that of



Alexis Garas with Bolles President and Head of School David Farace

her peers, the club raised \$1,300 for cancer research for children. She also volunteered at the Wolfson Children's Hospital fashion show and regularly helps out at her church.

## Ortega runner signs to compete at GW

Ortega resident Suzanne Dannheim was among 15 student-athletes honored for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers during a signing ceremony at The Bolles School Nov. 18.

Some students signed official National Letters of Intent with their respective college choice, others have committed to non-scholarship programs, while some have accepted "walk-on" opportunities.

Dannheim will attend George Washington University in Washington D.C. where she will compete on the Women's Track/Cross Country team.



Suzanne Dannheim

## What freedom means is personal for local boy

Ortega Forest resident Parker Robbins, an eighth-grade student at St. Johns Country Day School, was announced the local winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Patriot's Pen Essay Writing Contest. The theme of the annual national contest for 2015-2016 is "What Freedom Means to Me." The contest for middle school students consists of four levels beginning with the local level.

Robbins' essay tells the story of a family member who fled from Cuba for the freedom of America. "From my Cuban family, I am reminded every day of how blessed I am to live in the most free country in the world," said Robbins in his essay.



VFW representative Kathy Wright, Parker Robbins

## Youngsters enjoy breakfast with Santa



Andy Mitchell, Eppie Deguzman, Cooper Hatfield, Brody Cobb and Tessa Rash with Santa Claus

Children at CDO (Child's Day Out) performed during CDO's annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 17. "The children worked very hard rehearsing for this event," said Cindy Lawrence, director. "As we wrap up a great year we look forward to the many more wonderful things to come in the New Year."

## 'Contentious' good word for spelling bee competitor

Congratulations to Ortega Forest resident Grady Gillam, a sixth-grade student who won the Riverside Presbyterian Day School 2015 Spelling Bee. Gillam correctly spelled the word "contentious" in the final round. Fifth graders Joseph Ekrem, of Ortega, and Jianna Lee and Alison Tippins were runners-up in the competition.



Back: Joseph Ekrem, Jianna Lee; front: Alison Tippins, Grady Gillam

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# Toys for tots from toddlers

St. John's Presbyterian Kindergarten & Preschool hosted a two-week toy drive for Trinity Rescue Mission downtown. The toys donated will be set up as a store at the mission, allowing mothers staying at the shelter to "shop" for their children for Christmas. Sharing their many blessings with others are Luke, Olivia, Grayson, Mason and Mallory.



# Art students design winning note cards



Carissa Hogan, Juliet Moody, Audrey Franken

Avondale resident Juliet Moody, a fifth-grade student at St. Johns Country Day School was one of Grades 4, 5, and 6 art students to participate in the Angels for Allison art contest. Moody and classmate Audrey Franken, were winners in the contest; they received gift bags and note cards with their winning designs printed on them.

Since 2013, St. Johns Country Day students, along with 12 other Jacksonville area schools, have submitted art for this competition. The students are tasked with creating originally designed angels that, if chosen, are printed on note cards and sold to raise money for Angels for Allison, the Allison Brudnick Haramis Foundation, which helps fund burial expenses for families who have suffered the loss of a child.

# Resident attends Nobel Prize Week in Sweden

Carly Crump (Episcopal School of Jacksonville Class of 2015 and freshman at the University of Florida) attended the Nobel Prize Week, Dec. 4-12, in Stockholm, Sweden.



Carly Crump, center, with students from South Africa and Australia in a lecture hall. Behind them, a Nobel Laureate is being interviewed.

Crump, of Avondale, was awarded the opportunity to attend all Nobel events as the winner of the Dudley R. Herschbach SIYSS Award presented at the International Science and Engineering Fair, in Pittsburgh in May 2015. Along with a small group of young people from around the world, Crump attended the Opening of the Nobel Creations Exhibition, the Nobel Laureate press conferences and lectures, the Nobel Concert, the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony and the Royal Banquet Dinner at the Royal Palace.

During the Nobel Week, Crump formally presented her scientific findings on the dengue virus to Nobel attendees and local school students and was interviewed on Swedish National Television.

Her work evolved from offering blood meals to mosquitoes to studying the proteins involved in the transmission of the dengue virus. Her most recent research identified 11 proteins that may be involved in the transmission of dengue virus 2 and could set the basis for vaccine development.

# Students spread Christmas joy to seniors

Under the leadership of music teacher Steve Richey, St. Paul Catholic School eighth grade students walked to St. Catherine Labouré Manor to deliver Christmas cheers to the residents, a great experience for students to serve the community. The children had Christmas cards for each resident and filled the halls with the sounds of Christmas carols.



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# Jr. Residents

## Digital Cookie 2.0 helps Girl Scouts earn badges

More than 1,500 local Girl Scouts, volunteers and their families were introduced to Digital Cookie enhancements at a training rally Dec. 13 at EverBank Field. In addition to Digital Cookie, Girl Scouts learned about safety, marketing, goal setting, booth and face-to-face sales, financial literacy, and rewards. Using Digital Cookie helps the girls earn any of 11 badges related to business.

Last year, 604 local Girl Scouts sold nearly 13,600 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies combined through the Digital Cookie platform. This year, an anticipated 20 percent increase in the number of Girl Scouts from the Gateway Council are expected to participate, demonstrating the excitement surrounding Digital Cookie 2.0's more robust, hands-on and entertaining learning experience. Local Girl Scouts will begin taking cookie orders this month, with booth sales occurring from mid-February through March 13.

Now in its second year, Digital Cookie 2.0 features design enhancements built upon the "science of play" to expand girls' understanding of the business cycle, online marketing, e-commerce and website customization, in addition to the five essential skills girls learn through



Three Daisies took some time out from their cookie boss training to have a little fun together.



Jaxson de Ville was a popular visitor to the 2015 Cookie Kickoff as Girl Scouts of all ages had their photos taken with the "NFL's #1 mascot." After the rally, Girl Scouts and their families cheered the Jaguars to a big win over the Indianapolis Colts.



Near the close of the Cookie Kickoff, members of The Roar visited Girl Scouts and their families at EverBank Field. This is the second year Girl Scouts of Gateway Council has partnered with the Jacksonville Jaguars for the annual cookie rally, designed to prepare girls for cookie season. After the rally, more than 1,500 Girl Scouts and their families attended the Jaguars game.

the annual cookie program (goal setting, decision-making, money management, people skills and business ethics).

"With this new engaging technology, girls who participate will learn skills to help put them ahead of the curve when entering the workforce, and customers can feel good about supporting girls' STEM education while purchasing their favorite Girl Scout Cookies," said Mary Anne Jacobs, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council CEO.



Girl Scout cookies Savannah Smiles, Do-Si-Dos, Thin Mints and Tagalongs took to the stage dancing to the Girl Scout version of Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off."

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# Assumption Health Fair serves as on-campus field trip

With the help of Black Hog Farm, Assumption School in St. Nicholas promoted its "Farmtacular Veggie Program" during its annual Health Fair for Healthy Mind; Body; Spirit and Earth Nov. 18.

All grades at the school enjoyed what ended up as an "on-campus field trip," said fair organizer Laddy Monahan of Ortega. During the school day, five vendors – Black Hog Farm, Jacksonville Beekeepers, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, Florida Yacht Club and David "the Plant Man" Korlacki – set up booths, which each class visited as it rotated through the fair.

"The focus of the fair was to promote eating real food and enjoying the outdoors," Monahan said. "We were trying to have it be fun and to celebrate eating real food," she said, noting the children not only learned how apple cider was made, but also about the life cycle of the St. Johns River and how to plant a garden in the Assumption courtyard.

After school, more vendors joined the fair, which remained open to the students, their parents and friends.

Participating in the afterschool fair were Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute; Stacy Lewis, a parent who had a booth about germs; a flavored water booth; Sweetgrass Dairy; Tootie Fruitty booth; Shannon Miller Lifestyle, Wolfson Children's Hospital, San Marco Books,



Jennie Busey, Education Director for the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, talks to the students.



Mary Katherine Monahan and her mother, fair organizer, Laddy Monahan ran the Tootie Fruitty booth, which gave Assumption students a taste of more unusual fruits such as pomelos, pomegranates and persimmons.

Flying Dragon Citrus; The First Tee; The Brick of Avondale; Watson Martial Arts; 1st Place Sports and Sister Servants of the Home of the Mother, a group of nuns who work at Assumption School that provided a juggling demonstration and sold religious articles.

Lion Fish expert Meaghan Faletti of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission was also scheduled to appear to educate the children on the peril to the river of invasive fish, but canceled at the last minute due to illness.



Jenn Soroka with Bridget Monahan stand behind Dave "the Plant Man's" booth at the Assumption Fair.



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# “True to the Dream” a collaborative tribute to Episcopal’s founders

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Will Ketchum said he was the spark, but acknowledged “it’s a bigger story than me.”  
The story – *Episcopal School of Jacksonville: True to the Dream* – was a 15-year undertaking and collaboration with nearly two dozen men and women who are part of the school’s 50-year history.

Ketchum, of Avondale, is president and CEO of Burdette Ketchum, a marketing firm in San Marco’s new Kings Avenue Creative Corridor. He is also an alumnus – Class

of ’84 – of Episcopal and an advocate for a liberal arts education.

“I have an admiration for what they did, for their vision, their perseverance and their accomplishment,” he said, speaking of the founders and the early leaders of a school built on rigorous academics, Christian education and a strong sports program.

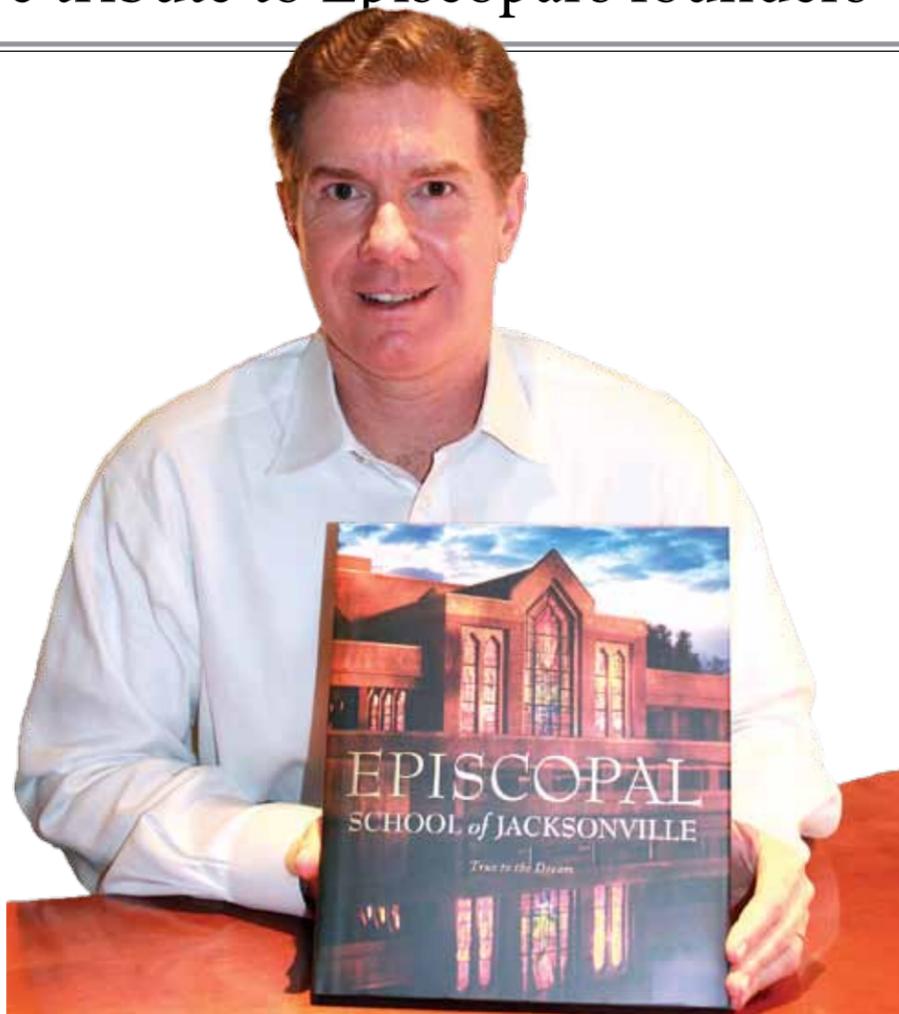
In fact, this 50th anniversary coffee-table book notes that Lucius Buck, a tax attorney and primary author of *The Report of the Planning Group for Episcopal High School of Jacksonville, Florida (1966)*, wanted students to be “muscular Episcopalians” in both intellectual and physical accomplishments.

The real heroes are inside the book, according to Ketchum, whose objective was to capture the story while the founders and planners were still around. It was fortunate he had such foresight as seven or eight of those interviewed have since passed away.

Ketchum wrote a letter to Head of School Charley Zimmer in 2000, offering to spearhead the project. “Over time we developed a team of writers and researchers as history unfolded,” he said. “At that time we were telling a 35-year story and then we had to bring it up to last year.”

The book was developed in phases. “By 2009, we had nailed down the founding – that was the hardest part because we had to stitch it together. From 2009 to the present we began to write as the history unfolded,” Ketchum said.

“The interviews were such fun, to sit down with the early founders. There were some



Will Ketchum, Episcopal School of Jacksonville Class of '84

real pioneers in those first years,” he noted. “[The Rev.] Bob Parks inspired people to take this on, envisioning the school, putting together the leadership and hiring faculty. He was a real star in the Episcopal Church so it was a real honor to sit with him.”

The school’s first headmaster, Horton Reed, now deceased, shared with Ketchum a story about early school discipline. The strict dress code mandated coat, tie and haircuts of a certain length. “In the late 1960s, there was a temptation on the boys’ part to grow their hair longer, in the style of the Beatles,” said Ketchum. “Reed brought a barber to his office and would go around campus pulling boys into his office for a haircut. He believed he had to set the tone for discipline early on.”

Others who contributed to the book include William Barnett, John Corse, David Foerster, Michael and Beth Kirwan, Wendy Dickinson LaPrade, Eric Rousseau, Meg Scheu Sacks, Victoria Register-Freeman, James Winston and Charles Zimmer.

An Ortega resident at the time, Ketchum attended Episcopal from 1978-1984, serving as student body president during his senior year. He credits his education as the foundation and motivation for his career in communications.

“It was a true liberal arts experience. The school is excellent in writing training and that became a clue,” he said. “I began to enjoy the writing and benefit from the rigor of the training and gave me a clue I might like to be in communications.”

Now, more than 30 years later, Ketchum has found a way to express his gratitude.

“The place brought together knowledge, work ethic and faith in a way that was very instructive to me in the formative years,” said Ketchum. “I loved my experience and learned a great deal from it, and I felt inspired to make sure we captured the story of what to me – and to the thousands who have graduated from it – is a very special place.”

“This is all a debt of gratitude,” he said.

*Episcopal School of Jacksonville: True to the Dream* can be purchased at the school’s campus store, 4455 Atlantic Blvd.; at St. Mark’s Episcopal Bookstore, 4149 Oxford Ave.; the San Marco Bookstore, 1971 San Marco Blvd., or online at [www.esj.org/50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-book](http://www.esj.org/50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-book) for \$40.

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# Longtime Bishop Kenny coach and administrator to retire

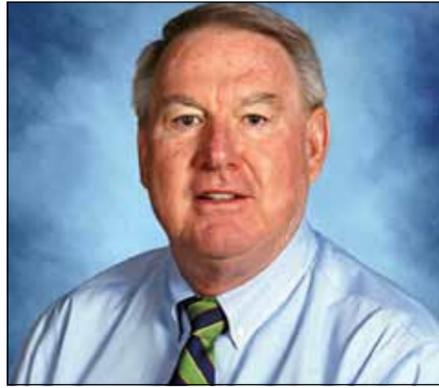
Bishop Kenny High School Vice Principal and Athletic Director Bob West has announced plans to retire at the end of this school year.

West, who will complete 39 years of service in June, has served the school in multiple roles over the course of his career including science teacher, Dean of Students, Director of Athletics and Vice Principal of Operations.

West is best known for his 23 years as head coach of the Bishop Kenny's baseball team. Under West's leadership, the Crusaders amassed an impressive 532-129 record, including 16 district championships, 10 trips to the final four and the 2002 State Championship. Seven of West's baseball teams were nationally ranked.

As athletic director West played a key role in expanding the school's program by adding many sports to the school's roster including volleyball; boys' and girls' soccer; boys' and girls' golf; and boys' and girls' tennis. During his tenure, Bishop Kenny won 25 individual or team state championships.

West also initiated Bishop Kenny's sports medicine program, which has been used as a model throughout Florida. His other accomplishments include the establishment of incentive and award programs to encourage athletes to excel in academics and programs to encourage "non-athletes" to support athletics, through sports information, athletic training, and live



Coach Bob West

streaming of athletic events.

In 2013, the Florida High School Activities Association unanimously selected West to be its President-Elect for 2012-2013, and he took over as President the next year. The FHSAA has 780 member schools representing over 800,000 student-athletes. FHSAA recognized West for doing what is right in high school interscholastic sports.

"The time is right for my wife Mary and I to enjoy our children and grandchildren together," said West. "We are blessed with good health and look forward to being able to travel and enjoy our retirement for many years. It has been my good fortune and my honor to have spent 39 years doing what I love to do. It is my hope the Bishop Kenny Community has gotten as much from my years of service as I have taken from the experience," he said.

# Poll indicates support for small tax increase for public education

By *Kate A. Hallock*  
*Resident Community News*

Public support for a tax increase for public schools is growing, with 70 percent of those polled agreeable, rising to 79 percent for residents in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and San Marco, according to the annual Public Education Perceptions poll sponsored, funded and analyzed by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF).

"Folks who live in these areas tend to be very community-minded, and they understand the importance of public education to their community regardless of where they decide to send their children for school," said Trey Csar, president of JPEF.

To close perception gaps, the Discover Duval Schools program takes residents on tours of public schools in Duval County, and there are concerted efforts by partners such as JPEF to help narrow the gap.

"We would encourage everyone who cares about public education – regardless of whether you have a direct connection to schools – to attend the ONE by ONE Convention on Saturday, Jan. 23," said Csar. "There, you can connect with diverse public education advocates from all over our city to talk about progress over the last year and move to action in 2106."

The convention registration page can

be found at [jaxpef.org/convention](http://jaxpef.org/convention).

Additionally, the poll indicated a young adult's future success will require, at minimum, a two- or four-year college degree.

Nearly 60 percent of those who responded to the poll believe that a high school diploma will not be enough for the Class of 2020. That is borne out by a report on job growth and education requirements conducted in 2014 by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, which indicates 65 percent of jobs require some postsecondary training.

To prepare young adults for college, Duval County Public Schools raised graduation standards beyond state requirements, and increased by 50 percent both enrollment in career and technical programs, according to a brief released nearly four years ago by the JPEF.

The poll was sponsored, funded, and analyzed by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, and conducted by the Public Opinion Research Laboratory at the University of North Florida in early November. The sample of 534 adults was selected from the target population of Duval County adults (18 years or older) through the use of Random-Digit-Dialing methodology for both landlines and cell phones. The margin of sampling error for this survey was +/- 4.24 percent.



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## Admission Coffee

Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School  
Media Center

Join us for morning coffee,  
a discussion about our school  
and a tour of our classrooms.

### Questions?

Please contact the Admission Office  
at 904-353-3459 or [admission@rpds.com](mailto:admission@rpds.com).

Child care will be provided.





# Murray Hill shares Christmas cheer

Four Corners Park was the venue for the 4th annual Very Murray Christmas, sponsored by Murray Hill Preservation Association and Vagabond Coffee. Activities included ornament painting, a Christmas tree toss won by Chase Fowler, a soup/stew/chili cook-off, citrus swap, a holiday movie, and a supply drive for Ruth N. Upson Elementary School.



Rick Knight and Zoe



Meg (standing), Mina and James Cooke



Soren and Shay Dillinger pose with her pot of gluten-free vegan chili

# Clara White Mission takes prize again in Cupcake War

The Clara White Mission and The Sulzbacher Center again collaborated in the 2nd Annual Cupcake War to raise funds in support of United Way of Northeast Florida's Community Impact Fund. Six judges tasted their way through sugary confections, declaring Clara White Mission the winner for a second year.



Front: Corey Gros, Shanna Murphy, Michelle Braun; back: Frank Denton, winning Clara White chef Stefany Lovett, Dave Cогnetta, Adam Burnett



Team Clara White



Sulzbacher Center's Shelly Szada-Smith, Mattie Laney-Fords

# It's not Christmas without gingerbread houses

Fifty sugary confections were on display at the annual Gingerbread House Extravaganza amidst a forest of glittering themed Christmas trees created by the Junior League of Jacksonville sustainers. Included was an angel tree comprised of ornaments owned by Betsy Lovett of Ortega, who has sponsored a tree for the past 18 years.



First time gingerbread house builder Michelle Krueger, who teaches art at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, poses by her creation entitled Historic Acosta House.



Florida Blue was among the first-time builders who constructed "Christmas at Blue Cross," a gingerbread creation built by Himanshu Mehta, Debbie Gauvin, Cheryl Brinson, Anthony Frecona, Hannah McKinlay, Jennifer Nova, Kinman Patel, and Sridev Prakash.

# Best party in the Historic District

Merchants in the Shoppes of Avondale went all out this year for their annual gift to the community - Christmas in Avondale. It truly was fun for all ages as shops and businesses sponsored everything from movies, music and dancers to photos with Santa, and more.



Caroline Keeney, Chrissy Pattison, Charlie York and Jay Keeney



Stacy Brunell and Eleanor Pendley



Cecelia and Peggy Kennon



Camp Davis, Sarah Dunn, April Young, Katherine Brewer and Jessie Wainwright

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# What Story Would You Tell?



IN MEMORIAM  
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WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE WORLD WAR  
1914 — 1918

## Why I my neighborhood

Judging by the amount of shared news, it's clear our readers love the neighborhoods in which they live, play and work. Next month we want to celebrate Valentine's Day and share that love with a contest. From now until January 20, submit a PHOTO, POEM or SHORT ESSAY about why you  your neighborhood and WIN!

Send photo, with 50-word explanation, or a poem or short essay not to exceed 450 words, to [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net)

### First Place Winner

\$250 in dining gift cards to Foxy Lady Dinner cruise, Black Sheep, and Toscana Little Italy

### Runner Up

\$100 in Dining Gift Card to Taverna

### Junior Resident Winner

10 tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens & a \$25 Pizza Palace gift card

All winners will be published in the February Edition of The Resident Community News

**Rules:** All submissions must be original. By submitting, you agree to allow your entry, along with your name and neighborhood, to be published in the February 2016 edition of The Resident News. The staff of The Resident News shall determine the winners. Poems and essays cannot exceed 450 words. Photos must be 4x6 minimum; electronic format must be .jpg with a resolution of 300 dpi. Photos taken with a camera phone must be transmitted in original (largest) size.



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