



## HAE student soars in national program

Ben Helton, Granada resident and Hendricks Avenue Elementary student, won First Place in the Fifth Grade Visual Arts category of the National PTA Reflections Program. To illustrate this year's theme, *Let Your Imagination Fly*, he created a wood carving of a soaring bird.



## Faith-based partnerships

Volunteer help from area churches blesses local public schools. For more turn to page 38

# Resident

Community News

San Jose — San Marco — St. Nicholas



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Fiercely Local News ... Fiercely Loyal Readers

April 2016, Vol. 9, Issue 4

## San Marco Preservation looks to put teeth in neighborhood overlay

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The balance between urban development and preserving the character of an historic neighborhood has always been tricky. In an effort to preserve San Marco as the unique and special historic community it is, the San Marco Preservation Society intends to legislate its neighborhood action plan, San Marco by Design, in order to give it some "teeth" as a guide to future development in North San Marco.

In order to provide guidance to developers and the city's planning commission and department, the preservation society established a set of guidelines to provide a "road map" for smart growth in North San Marco in order "to preserve and improve the quality of life for the people living, working and playing in San Marco."

Once the final revision has been approved by the society, SMPS will submit it to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer for approval by the City Council as an ordinance. SMPS expects to hold a town hall meeting to discuss the final revision in April or May, said San Marco Preservation Society President Andrew Dickson.

"It had broad support when it was drafted originally. When we roll it out again, we will have a panel of original stakeholders there to answer questions from whatever constituency is interested," he said.

The purpose of San Marco by Design is to provide a framework for future decision-making as the physical environment of the community evolves due to changing circumstances and market conditions. Included in its

*continued on page 11*



A rendering of the East San Marco development reveals walkable streetscapes and retail shops along Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue.

## San Marco to welcome Publix

No more will San Marco residents have to leave the neighborhood to go to the grocery store. East San Marco, the mixed-use residential and commercial development at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard, has finally received financing with construction slated to begin later this summer. Anchoring the retail end of the project will be a long awaited Publix, conveniently located in close proximity to St. Nicholas, and several upcoming residential developments on the Southbank. Read more, page 4.

## Lady Gators visit San Jose Episcopal



The Lady Gators joined San Jose Episcopal Day School students in some four-on-four scrimmaging before autographing posters and posing for photos on March 2. Here with Alberta Gator during the University of Florida women's basketball team visit to the school are Caroline Skipper, Avery Turner, Jaden Salameh, Addison Nunley, Reese Edwards, Ellie Frick and Annie Loehle. Read more, page 45.



## Tremendous turnout for Theatre Jacksonville

See more on page 32

Wally Suslak, Ann Moore, Sally Suslak, Alicia Grant, Richard Faulkner, Margaret Purcell with Mary and Lynn Jarrett

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# Southbank's Riverplace Boulevard: Creating a streetscape for the future

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The city of Jacksonville is one step closer to building a better road for its "urban village" on the Southbank. The Downtown Development Review Board approved a plan Feb. 18 to reconfigure the lanes on Riverplace Boulevard so it can become more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly.

Public meetings to discuss the Riverplace road diet project took place in September and December at the Lexington Hotel. The December meeting gave residents the opportunity to review three different road design options, and city officials subsequently have selected Option C.

Working on the plan were Nicholas Mousa of JBC Planning and Engineering, Pete Sechler of Community Solutions of Orlando, Ruth Perry of GAI Consultants and Lara Diettrich of Diettrich Planning. With the DDRB's approval, the project is now at the engineering stage and has been put out for bids, said Guy Parola of the Downtown Investment Authority. Construction is expected to begin in early 2017 and should take nine months to complete, he said.

The goal of the "road diet" is to reduce Riverplace Boulevard from its existing condition as a five-lane expressway intended to evacuate the city at 5 p.m. to a street that will better serve diverse groups of people with different needs.

Some objectives transportation planners put into the final plan were to reduce the travel lanes in order to initiate traffic calming; landscape the corridor for a more attractive streetscape; make bicycle and pedestrian improvements such as safer crosswalks and delineated bike lanes; create a better connection to access the Southbank Riverwalk; and make accommodations for public transit.

In a PowerPoint presentation developed by the Downtown Investment Authority,



Existing photograph of "Big Bend" on Riverplace Boulevard as it exists today before the lanes are reconfigured to make the area more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.



Rendering of the newly approved plan to transform Riverplace Boulevard to make the Southbank thoroughfare a more walkable, bike-friendly neighborhood.

DDRB officials reviewed "Option C," a model that would reduce Riverplace Boulevard's five lanes to three, and work into its 105 feet of roadway pedestrian sidewalks, dedicated protected bike lanes, on-street parking, "feature furnishings" such as lighting, banner graphics, sidewalk seating, and landscaping that will allow for a tree canopy to provide shade within its urban corridor.

Because the existing boulevard narrows from 105 feet near Main Street to 84 feet near Prudential Drive, the roadway designers had to develop a plan that would separate cyclists from the pedestrians while protecting them from open car doors from vehicles parked on the street and allow the designated bike lanes to align at both ends of the road. The designers also had to come up with a way to navigate the "Big Bend" in the boulevard with its numerous driveways and still accommodate left turns.

The ingenious plan they presented incorporates all the elements, including 36 on-street parking spaces, which are necessary to transform the roadway into a place that is more environmentally and physically healthy.

At the Main Street end of Riverplace Boulevard, where the road spans 105 feet, an eight-foot pedestrian walkway will line both sides. An eight-foot greenspace divides the sidewalk from a five-foot dedicated bike path. A three-foot border then protects the bikers from 7.5 feet of on-street parking. In the middle, two 11-foot traffic lanes will be divided by a 12-foot dedicated turn lane.

To accommodate a 13-foot transit stop for JTA buses on each side of the road further down toward the curve, the designers eliminated a stretch of on-street parking and changed the widths of the greenspace on one side of the road to six feet.

In the narrowed section after "Big Bend" near The Peninsula, the widths of

the greenspace is reduced on both sides of the street, measuring five feet on one and three feet on the other, and on-street parking lines only one side.

To make the bend area more user-friendly, in the plan are a large marked pedestrian crossing and Riverwalk access signage as well as tightened driveways, lighting and banner graphics, "furnishing" zones for pedestrian seating as well as opportunities for an outdoor dining plaza opening to a streetscape trail.

"We're working on setting up the infrastructure for long-term success on the Southbank Riverfront," Sechler said during the December public meeting.

"We need to build a street to support what we think the future is," he said.

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# Plans materialize for East San Marco

## Long awaited mixed-use project coming to fruition

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

After several attempts to finance and bring one of the largest projects in San Marco's history to fruition, its time has come.

East San Marco, planned for several vacant lots on Atlantic Boulevard at the intersections of Hendricks Avenue and Mango Place just a block east of San Marco Square, is finally going to be developed.

Financing for the project, which has seen many false starts over more than a decade, has finally been secured, and the lonely 4.33 acres will soon be home to 46,000 square feet of retail space topped with 239 apartments and a parking garage.

Construction is set for late summer, with an opening planned for the end of 2018.

"This hole in the doughnut is truly

the only undeveloped piece of property left in San Marco," said G. John Carey, a partner in Whitehall Realty Partners, a co-developer of the project. "There is a need to finish it off with this project. This will be a tremendous plus for the area and will take San Marco to the next level," Carey said.

Actually, it is very convenient that Whitehall Realty Partners LLC has recent established its headquarters in a newly renovated building down the street from East San Marco on Atlantic Boulevard. Carey has long been involved with the project and will be responsible for keeping a close eye the \$60 million retail and residential project as it progresses.

"It's been a labor of love on our part," said Carey. "We've worked on this project for six years, and we've been stubborn and stuck with it."

The retail space will include five to seven shops, a restaurant and a 32,000-square-foot Publix, which is, perhaps, the crown jewel of the development.

"Having Publix as our anchor will enable



A map showing the layout of the new East San Marco residential and commercial development slated to be built at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard.

us to bring in the right merchandising mix that will really reflect the lifestyles and interests of the surrounding area," said Jim Thompson, Executive Vice President of Operations for Regency Centers, a partner in the project. "They are extremely well-respected for their quality of operations, and we couldn't be more proud to have them as involved as they have been," he said.

A privately owned grocery chain, Publix has long desired to get a foothold in the San Marco community, said Dwaine Stevens, a spokesman for the store. "We are excited about this project and for our loyal Publix customers. We've been committed to this site since 2006 and look forward to serving the beautiful San Marco community," he said.

After three or four false starts to get the property developed, the deal finally came to fruition when Regency Centers, a national owner, operator, and developer of grocery-anchored shopping centers, announced its partnership with Whitehall Realty Partners, ArchCo Residential and Bluerock Residential Growth REIT, INC.

Whitehall Realty Partners and ArchCo Residential will co-develop the project, with Whitehall, which has led local efforts, acting as the boots-on-the-ground partner overseeing the construction. No contractor has been announced as yet, but one should be

selected by late spring or early summer, said Eric Davidson, a spokesman for Regency Centers.

"We actually brought the group in that provided the financing," said Carey of Whitehall's role in the transaction. "We introduced Bluerock to the deal, and Bluerock had a relationship with ArchCo Residential. It's been a collaborative effort between our team," he said, referring all four players.

Upon completion, ArchCo and Bluerock will own and manage the residential portion of East San Marco, while Regency will own and operate the retail elements of the complex.

"Tenant-wise, we are looking for unique restaurant and surface-level tenants, things that will enhance the culture and color that already exists in San Marco," said Davidson.

According to Jason Jacobson of ArchCo Residential, the 239 apartments will comprise 18 studios, 141 one-bedroom, 76 two-bedroom, and four three-bedroom units. Noting that rental rates are typically set 60 to 90 days prior to occupancy, Jacobson said he expects a single bedroom unit to run around \$1,200 to \$1,500 a month, a two-bedroom unit to start around \$1,800 to \$2,000.

The residential units will feature nine-foot ceilings (10-foot on the top floor),

*continued on page 5 >>>*



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solid surface countertops, stainless steel appliances, ceiling fans and state-of-the-art telecommunications, including USB charging ports, and choices in service for cable, Internet and phone, Jacobson said.

Other residential amenities in the plans include an expansive outdoor courtyard with swimming pool and an outdoor social area that will include a gourmet kitchen, 24-hour fitness center, business center, club room and roof-top patio with water views. Residents will find the building has plenty of security, with a dedicated and secure garage and an automated package storage system.

**Third time's the charm**

The East San Marco Development has been a long time coming. Initial discussions on the plan to possibly bring Publix to the site began in 2002, and in 2006 the strategy was to build 147 townhomes and condominiums above 55,000 square feet of retail space that included a 30,000 square-foot Publix supermarket on the mixed-use site. At that time, a full block of buildings was torn down to make way for the new development, and East San Marco's doors were expected to open in 2009.

But the 2008 housing crash put a crimp in the works, and the project was shelved with the recession.

In the very first issue of the San Marco edition of *The Resident*, which was published in March 2008, a front-page story entitled, "Residential market slump stalls supermarket" quoted Tom Fleming, vice president of Investments for Regency Centers as saying the project was "vertically integrated" with retail on the bottom and residential stacked above. "There is no practical way to build one without the other, even though retail is still viable today," he said.

In 2013, Carey's firm sought to buy and develop the property with an eye to selling the retail portion to Regency. At that time, the area was rezoned for apartments instead of condos, and in March 2014, City Council passed

*"Our project will enhance and play off the current retail 'gravity' centered on the square. The addition of our Publix anchor will continue to define this area as the shopping, dining and gathering place for San Marco."*

— Jim Thompson,  
Executive Vice President  
of Operations for  
Regency Centers

ordinances allowing for 280 apartments and up to 63,000 square feet of commercial space, including a Publix, to be built on the site. However, a month later, Whitehall withdrew from the deal saying it could not finance the project.

**A boost to the community**

Coinciding with other residential building projects on the nearby Southbank, East San Marco is expected to boost the economy of the San Marco community.

"I think it's going to be fantastic overall for the area," said Michael Balanky, developer of The District – Life Well Lived. "It will create a lot of energy for San Marco."

Strategically located on Atlantic Boulevard near where the new I-95 exit is planned to be built, shoppers will find easy access not only to East San Marco's new retail outlets, but to new commercial properties going in on Kings Avenue as well as the merchants in San Marco Square, Balanky said.

Thompson from Regency agrees. "We believe our project will enhance and play off the current retail 'gravity' centered on

the square," said Thompson. "The addition of our Publix anchor will continue to define this area as the shopping, dining and gathering space for San Marco."

Having Publix close by on the south side of the river will be a boon to new residents settling in The District – Life Well Lived and other new apartment developments on the Southbank, said Balanky. "This is one more feather in San Marco's cap that will be good for The District as well," he said, noting people interested in moving to The District have often questioned where they would buy their groceries. "We've told them this was on the radar, but now that it is happening. It is going to be big," he said.

"San Marco is the center of the universe

for Jacksonville," Balanky continued. "This is the most convenient part of the city to live in. Having the Publix nearby will make it super, super convenient," he said. "Finally we are getting the resources we need to be self-contained so we won't have to go to other neighborhoods to get what we need."

Anita Vining, president of the San Marco Merchants Association said she was excited about the project. "I can think of it being nothing but positive, positive, positive," she said. "We've been waiting on Publix for a long time, and there is a need for more upscale rentals in San Marco. It's going to bring more opportunities to the area because there is not a lot of land available between here and the railroad tracks."

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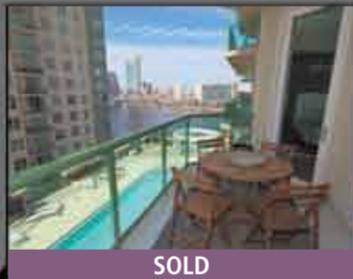
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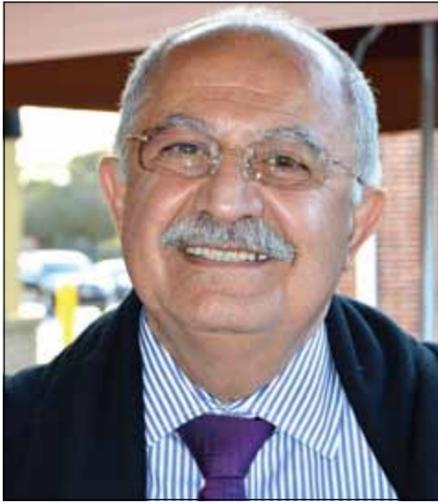


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# Hendricks Avenue development to combine past, present and future



Real estate developer Ed Ashurian, owner of Ashco, Inc.



Land has been cleared to build a glass hexagon-shaped building on the plaza at 1440 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco. Although negotiations with possible tenants are ongoing, the building will most likely house an ice cream business or a jewelry store or possibly both.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Expect a convergence of past, present and future when Ed Ashurian (who also goes by Ash) finishes the renovation of his property at 1440 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco.

The “past” portion of the project entails the renovation of the 110-year-old JEA Utility Building, which was built when South Jacksonville was a city separate from Jacksonville. The building, which also has served as a union hall, is commonly referred to as the San Marco Train Station, because of its proximity to the railroad tracks, although the building was never used for that purpose or owned by a railroad company.

Once renovations are finished to the 5,246 square-foot historic building, an “upscale casual” Mexican restaurant, Puerta Vallarta, owned by La Nopalera, will find its home there, said Ash.

“It will be an upscale restaurant in both look and cuisine,” said Ash. “It’s going to look smashingly.”

La Nopalera, which currently operates a restaurant at 1631 Hendricks, will move its operations to the new location and raise up its brand, said Lisa Thomas, who works for

Ash at his real estate development company, Ashco, Inc. “They will have a completely different layout and design. It will be a new brand. They are going to the next level,” Thomas said.

The original La Nopalera will cease to exist, Thomas said, noting that its building has sported a “For Lease” sign for many months.

Puerta Vallarta restaurant will occupy a 3,000-square-foot space in the building on the first floor and part of the second.

The remaining portion in the rear of the old building will become an upscale bar and cocktail lounge, said Thomas, noting serious negotiations with a possible tenant are underway.

In the plans for the exterior of the old utility building is preservation of its historic character, said Thomas. “Mr. Ash will leave everything as it was originally but will tweak it for code, she said. “Everything we’re doing will still complement the original structure of the building.”

Four inches of insulation will be added to the already-solid building, so no sounds from the train can disturb diners, she said. Ash has also installed a new roof and restored the building’s

skylights, as well as the original brick and iron work in the interior.

The future portion of the new development will consist of an octagonal building entirely made of glass, which will sit on the paver-lined patio in front of the utility building. Although by press time no tenants have signed to take over the new space, a frozen treat store has expressed serious interest, as has a jewelry store, Thomas said. A single tenant may take over the space, or potentially the building may be split in two to accommodate two businesses, she said.

“The hexagon building is the most difficult to build, but it’s going to be spectacular in visibility and signage,” Thomas said.

“It’s cool. It will be a new landmark sitting next to the old landmark of the train station,” she said.

Encompassing the present portion of the property is Panera Bread, a 4,000-square-foot restaurant that sits adjacent to the renovations, which Ashco, Inc. developed in 2013.

All three buildings will share the 80-space parking lot that lies behind Panera Bread, Thomas said. Customers can also use the 45 off-street parking spaces surrounding the property as well as a public parking garage nearby, she said.

The new development is part of the vision Ash had when he bought the property, and now it’s coming to fruition, Thomas said.

“Mr. Ash doesn’t want to compromise integrity. First and foremost for him is preserving the integrity of the neighborhood and all of his structures in the area within it.”

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# Native Sun installs EV charging stations at two locations

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

In an effort to increase environmental awareness, Native Sun Natural Foods Market installed electric vehicle charging stations at its store locations in Mandarin and Southside in early March.

The charging stations are part of the ChargeWell program and were made possible through grants made available through the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).

The goal of the ChargeWell program is to create an expanded network of charging stations that offer electric vehicle drivers more opportunities to charge up in the Jacksonville area. As part of its Regional Alternative Fuels Master Plan, the TPO provided \$300,000 in funding from its Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to purchase and install ChargeWell-branded charging stations in partnership with JEA in its service territory.

As of Feb. 16, ChargeWell stations have been installed in 21 locations of 25 possible stations in Duval County including several in the San Marco and Riverside areas: Museum of Science and History, 1025 Museum Dr.; JTA Kings Avenue Garage, 1003 Kings St.; the Cummer Museum, 854 Riverside Ave.; Bold City Brewery, 2670-7 Rosselle St.; Fidelity Black Knight, 601 Riverside Ave., Building 5; Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, 3599 University Blvd.; and Whole Foods Market, 10601 San Jose Blvd.



The new EV charging station in the corner of Southside Baptist Church's parking lot in San Marco.



The San Marco Merchants Association has also been awarded a grant to install a station in the back corner of the Southside Baptist Church parking lot behind Firehouse Subs near San Marco Square. The installation of this station has been delayed due to "approval processes," said Marci Larson, Public Affairs Manager at North Florida TPO.

According to Will Rigsby of Novacharge, the company entrusted with installing the EV charging stations, the equipment is in place near San Marco Square, and Novacharge is waiting on the meter. "Once the meter is

installed, we can power on the unit and then it will be ready for use," said Rigsby.

For Native Sun, the ChargeWell stations are part of the company's continued efforts to support meaningful sustainability initiatives in the Jacksonville area. To raise awareness and to support the purchase of electric vehicles, Native Sun has committed to offering the charging stations at no cost to customers for the first year.

"The charging stations represent an opportunity for us to increase environmental awareness while supporting those who

have already made the decision to purchase an electric vehicle," said Meghan Fiveash, community relations manager at Native Sun. "We love that we're able to offer free charging for the next year and hope to see an increase in the number of electric vehicles in the area as the network of ChargeWell stations continues to expand."

If the TPO decides in the future to award grants to other energy companies such as Beaches Energy, Native Sun may choose to install a third EV charging station at its Jacksonville Beach location.



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### Public meeting for new cancer center on April 4

Conceptual designs of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center building will be on display for a community meeting, Monday, April 4, at Southside Baptist Church.

HKS Architects, an international company with an office in Orlando, has been hired by Baptist Health to draft plans for the new facility. HKS recently designed an expansion of the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Partnering with HKS Architects on the overall design plan of the new facility will be Freeman White, a subsidiary of Haskell Company. Both firms have extensive experience in the design of health care facilities, and the two firms collectively have designed nearly 140 cancer centers.

Planned Urban Development Ordinance 2016-210 has been filed with the city and is currently being studied by members of the San Marco Preservation Society.

Pending a successful by the Jacksonville City Council on Tuesday, May 10, Baptist Health hopes to start construction sometime in June. The new building, if approved, is projected to open in 2018 on a two-block tract between San Marco Boulevard and Palm Avenue adjacent to the current Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, in San Marco's Hospital District.

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# Speeding through school zones an ongoing concern

By *Monica Gutos*  
Resident Community News

A week doesn't pass by without Jen Kent noticing drivers speeding through school zones along Herschel Street in front of Fishweir Elementary School and on Cherry Street behind West Riverside Elementary School. Kent, who has children at both schools, wrote to *The Resident* expressing her concerns.

If caught speeding through school zones, drivers can face fines between \$154 and \$454, depending on the speed. Drivers speeding 30 mph or more over the posted speed limit could face a mandatory court appearance. This doesn't seem to deter some drivers from speeding.

Fishweir Elementary School Principal Kimberly Dennis said she notices speeding through the school zones, located on Herschel Street and Boone Park Avenue, on a daily basis, while West Riverside Elementary School Principal Sylvia Johnson said she seldom sees this around her school, which has school zones on Herschel and Park Streets.

According to Florida Statute 316.1895 school zone speed limits are no less than 15 mph except by local regulation and no school zone speed limit can be more than 20 mph in an urbanized area. Speed limits are in force at least 30 minutes before and after school.

Crossing guards can report speeders but have no citation authority. According to Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Public Infor-

mation Officer Christian Hancock, police officers work the areas when complaints are received and as needed. "Patrol and traffic units have the option to work any problem areas utilizing traffic radar or laser when time permits between answering calls for service," said Officer Hancock.

Most private and public schools in Riverside/Avondale and San Marco said there were no issues, but some have concerns on a regular basis.

Jenny Ross Clarke, director of development and marketing at San Jose Episcopal Day School, said cars are constantly speeding through their school zone on San Jose Boulevard. "We are continually aware of this because we hear horns blaring at drivers who do not heed the speed limit," said Clarke.

San Jose Elementary School parents complain on a weekly basis about drivers speeding through their school zone on St. Augustine Road, according to Principal Paula Smith. The school has been without a crossing guard for two months and school staff, including Smith, have been handling the responsibility.

"I have been in touch with JSO multiple times this year about the vacancy for the crossing guard, in addition to the need of traffic officers due to speed and safety," said Smith.

St. Paul's Catholic School Principal Kim Repper receives complaints every other week. "We have not had police in the school zones although we have called to inform

the police of the speeding," she said.

Repper said the lack of flashing school zone lights is the reason why drivers continue to speed through St. Paul's school zones, which are located on Park, Acosta, and Forbes Streets. "Since the city painted the parking lines on Forbes, the speeding is even more dangerous as people are

whipping around parked cars."

"As a community we could do better to look out for the kids coming to and from school," said Kent.

Residents can report speeding incidents to the JSO non-emergency number at (904) 630-0500, or via a crime tip at [www.jaxsheriff.org](http://www.jaxsheriff.org).

## One Spark to run two events in two days

Unlike the prior three years, the 2016 One Spark has been pared down to two days, with two distinct events.

On Wednesday, April 6, One Spark introduces this year's group of creators with a First Wednesday Spark Walk from noon to 10 p.m. The public event will span 15 blocks, with a Creator Showcase running from Adams Street down Laura Street to the Jacksonville Landing.

Art Walk artists and performers will be situated in and around Hemming Park and throughout Downtown businesses, with One Spark creators lining Laura Street and located inside the Landing. Spark Walk will also feature two music stages and a dynamic and eclectic food truck village.

Of the 120 creators chosen to participate from among 190 applications, One Spark Ventures will also pre-select the top projects and invite those creators

to participate in a One Spark Venture Spark Tank event on Thursday, April 7. The private event will allow the selected creators to pitch their ideas in front of capital and angel investors for validation, feedback and guidance, and the chance to win a seat in the upcoming PS27 Ventures Academy/Accelerator Program.

Also on April 7, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, will be Creator Innovation Day, which provides creators and entrepreneurs with information, tools and local resources to move ideas from concept to company.

Sessions include a keynote speaker on entrepreneurship, breakout sessions, a business model workshop, panel discussions, an all-day "hackathon" where student participants solve a real-world local problem, capped with a networking reception and announcement of the winning hackathon team.

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Ask Darrell

Submitted by Darrell McKay owner of Anytime Fitness Lakewood

I am 65-lbs overweight and keep gaining weight each year. How do I begin the process of losing weight and increasing my lean muscle mass?

Begin by requesting to meet with your primary care physician and have a complete physical. Leave your doctor's office with clearance to begin a daily exercise regime of cardiovascular and weight training. The number one ingredient for losing weight – learn to make healthy eating choices. **85%** of your results are based on nutrition and must include a daily food plan. To insure your success, follow these 4 steps to experience your transformation:

**Make over your Kitchen.** The average American consumes 152-lbs of sugar, 146-lbs of white flour per year and 57-lbs of soda. Almost 20% of our daily calories come from sugar-sweetened beverages like soda, sports drinks, sweetened coffees, teas and juices. To expedite your transformation, remove foods that contain sugar from your kitchen. This includes high fructose, honey, sucrose, molasses, maple sugar, coconut sugar and organic cane juice. High fructose is corn syrup that contains up to 75% fructose. This chemical increases obesity, diabetes, fatty liver and heart disease.

**Remove drinks that contain sugar.** This includes fruit juice, sweetened teas, coffees, sports drinks, and energy drinks. Fruit juice is very high in sugar and doesn't have the fiber of eating a whole fruit. Stick to water with lemon juice. Increase the number of ounces of water to 50% of your body weight on a daily basis as a goal.

**Eliminate artificial sweeteners.** This includes aspartame, saccharin, sorbitol, xylitol, and any other chemical sweeteners. If it comes in a blue, pink or yellow package toss it out! Artificial sweeteners have been linked to obesity, diabetes and even change your gut bacteria.

**Remove hydrogenated oils** or refined vegetable oils, like corn or soybean oils. These oils contain inflammatory omega-6-fats, you want to avoid these. Focus on eating healthy fats that include olive oils, extra virgin coconut oil, grass-fed butter or healthy nuts. Coconut oil contains a special type of fat called lauric acid. According to a study by the Journal of Pharmacology, it reduces the waistline by an average of more than one inch in four weeks.

Transforming your life starts in the kitchen & committing to a healthier way of eating. Your reward, you will look great and have more energy!

Darrell McKay served as a Healthcare Executive for 4 Medically based Fitness centers across the USA. He relocated to Jacksonville in 2004 to develop and design Brooks Health and Fitness with Dr. Brooks Brown. His passion is helping others make permanent life style changes that result in optimal health. Email questions: [jacksonville@anytimefitness.com](mailto:jacksonville@anytimefitness.com)

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## Inwood Terrace residents seek artists to paint mural

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

As a preventative measure against future graffiti in the city right-of-way at the end of their street, Inwood Terrace residents are investigating the possibility of having a mural painted on the walls of the bulkhead near the river.

A few weeks ago, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer put Inwood Terrace resident Daryl Gottlieb in touch with Jacksonville Cultural Council Executive Director Tony Allegretti to discuss the possibility of connecting with local artists who might be interested in doing the mural project.

Allegretti went to the site and met with several Inwood Terrace residents including Jason Judge and his wife, Kelly Dyess, Gottlieb's wife, Tessa, and Norma Hagan.

"The goal was to have him be a point of contact with us in order to facilitate a dialogue with artists in the community," Gottlieb said, noting the neighborhood understands there is no public funding for such a project.

The residents are hoping to learn of artists who might want to use the bulkhead for their canvas as a way to contribute to the community, said Hagan. Also discussed was the possibility of asking the Florida State University student who painted the one existing mural on the site to get out her paintbrush again, Hagan said.

During the week of March 21 through 25, Gottlieb met with two artists who had been recommended by Allegretti to discuss the project. "I hope that whatever supplies are needed will be donated by a local paint store or merchant," he said, adding if it comes down to needing funds to pay for supplies or an artist said he plans to set up a GoFundMe account.

Hagan, who owns a riverfront property adjacent to the city right-of-way, has given her blessing to have some vines planted on the city's property near her fence as a way to discourage graffiti. Gottlieb said he hopes local nurseries might be persuaded to donate some seedlings so the fence may become a greenscape.

## First Florida Credit Union seeks merger with Florida Baptist Credit Union

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville-based First Florida Credit Union is seeking to partner with Florida Baptist Credit Union.

If approved, the partnership would mark First Florida's second merger within two years and provide Florida Baptist Credit Union members, who have a branch at 1320 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco, with access to the resources of one of the state's largest and fastest-growing member-owned financial institutions.

First Florida, which has a location at 4530 St. Johns Avenue, and Florida Baptist Credit Union recently signed an intent to merge agreement. The proposed merger requires approval from the Office of Financial Regulation, the National Credit Union Administration and the members of Florida Baptist Credit Union, which held its annual meeting March 17, introducing the potential agreement to its members.

The membership vote is tentatively scheduled for April, and credit union leadership anticipates finalizing the merger in May. If approved, the partnership would create an institution ranked third in Northeast Florida and among the top 18 Florida-based credit unions with upwards of 56,000 members and more than \$740 million in assets.

The combined credit union would operate under the First Florida Credit Union name and be led by First Florida Chief Executive Officer Brent E. Lister and the First Florida board of directors. Florida Baptist Credit Union employees will be welcomed to the First Florida team.

If the merger is approved, the combined credit union will serve residents in Baker, Bradford, Broward,

Clay, Duval, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Orange, Seminole, St. Johns, Taylor, Wakulla and Union Counties. Select employee and membership groups will also be available for membership, including state of Florida and CSX Transportation employees and their immediate families as well as members of Florida-based Southern Baptist churches and their immediate families.

According to 2015 data from the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), the number of such credit union mergers is anticipated to increase over the next few years due to greater regulatory compliance burdens from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which poses greater challenges for smaller credit unions. During the first quarter of 2015, there were 89 fewer credit unions nationwide, which is the most rapid decline since the first quarter of 2002.

Aside from relief from regulatory pressures, Florida Baptist Credit Union leaders say the proposed merger would bring many new benefits for its 2,066 members. "I am extremely excited about the added services and branches the merger will provide our members," said Florida Baptist Credit Union Board Member Troy McGee. "This is definitely a win-win for everyone."

The merger would provide Florida Baptist Credit Union members with access to First Florida's statewide network of branches as well as improved online and mobile banking services. Expanded loan products, opportunities for additional community outreach and the capacity for larger church loans would also result.

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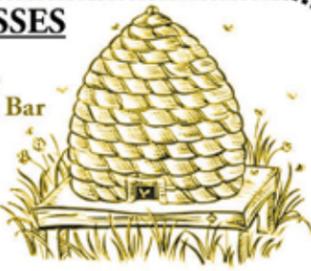
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# Overlay

*continued from page 1*

composition are recommended changes to regulatory structures, alternative procedures for development and approval, development incentives, as well as programming for public investment and other innovative or creative community development techniques.

San Marco by Design separates the North San Marco area into 12 districts based on geography, existing use and building heights. The plan covers all of San Marco north of Mitchell Avenue and is bounded by I-95, the St. Johns River, San Marco Boulevard and San Marco Square. It also identifies the existing business corridors of Atlantic Boulevard, Hendricks Avenue, Kings Avenue, San Marco Boulevard, and San Marco Square.

“We made recommendations for what the future development should look like based on what was already there,” said Dickson. “This is a balance between growth and the current neighborhood scale and allows for changes while preserving the neighborhood feel.”

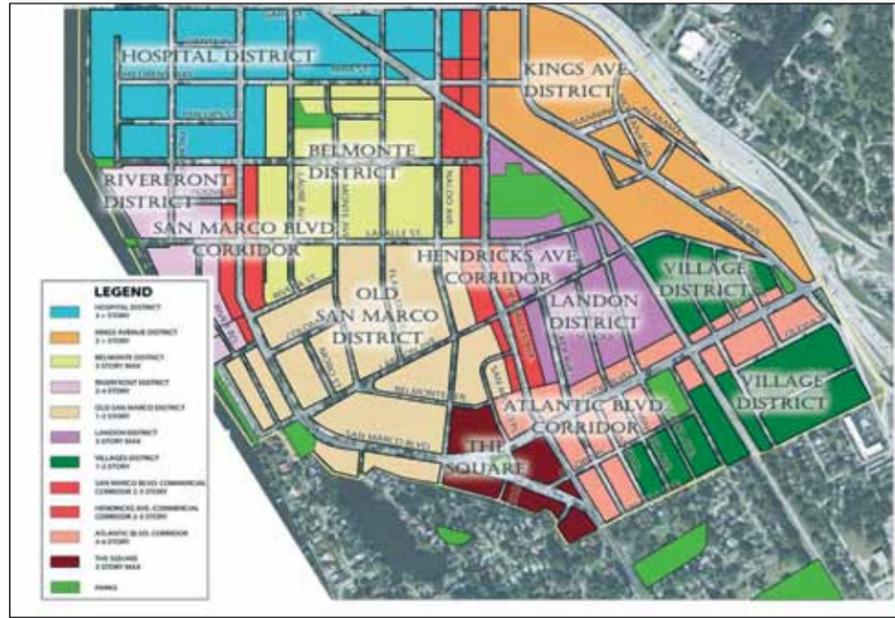
Looking at each district, the neighborhood guidelines spell out the maximum height of retail and residential buildings by identifying the highest existing building in each area. For instance, in the Landon and Belmonte Districts buildings are limited to three stories, while in the Hospital District, which is closer to the Southbank, it’s a 12-story maximum.

“The closer to I-95 you get, the taller you get,” said Dickson. “As you transition towards the urban, the taller buildings provide a sound buffer to I-95.”

In the instance of the yet-to-be-developed East San Marco, which already had an existing PUD in place which allowed six-story mixed-use development, the design plan mandates buildings on the Atlantic Boulevard Corridor can reach a maximum of six stories. The East San Marco complex deliberately transitions down to five stories as it advances south and west in order to transition between areas of higher and lower density, Dickson said.

In regards to the Kings Avenue District, design rules will be particularly important in the future, because it will serve as the “front porch” to the on-going development of The District – Life Well Lived, Dickson said.

“This is a guide to development for the next 30 to 50 years,” Dickson said. “And this does not apply to the Better Homes and Gardens areas of San Marco, such as River Road and the residential areas south to Greenridge. We wanted to concentrate



on these districts because there is so much opportunity for renewal, and we felt we must define what that renewal should look like.”

## Time to study smart growth

San Marco by Design was born during the 2008 recession. Prior to the housing bust, there was a lot of infill development pressure in San Marco, and the preservation society felt it was only responding “reactively,” Dickson said.

“Projects would go through city planning without our knowledge and some of the plans that went through were unsuitable,” he said, noting that in many ways the recession was a blessing because it called a halt to many such developments. “The recession gave us the opportunity to study what infill development meant for San Marco,” Dickson said.

In 2008, SMPS consulted with leading Smart Growth expert, Dan Burden, then director of Walkable Communities, Inc., and he set up a workshop to help the SMPS board understand certain concepts necessary to create and preserve San Marco as a livable community. He pointed out several concepts, which differed from the generic guidelines for land use and zoning currently used by the city.

Some of the concepts he discussed were the idea that crowded and slow streets are good; the importance of achieving higher residential densities relative to commercial and public areas; the necessity of a core commercial place such as San Marco Square or the San Marco Library, as an activity center for community gathering; the need to connect activity centers within walking distance of each other through sidewalks and bike lanes; the need to provide extensive landscaping and awnings for shade to make

the sidewalks to the public areas more pedestrian friendly; the need for buildings of two to four stories, such as those on San Marco Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue, to have 80-percent window frontage on the first floor; and the importance of creative parking solutions such as the parking agreement between the San Marco Merchants Association and Southside Baptist Church.

In 2009, SMPS formed a workgroup to identify project funding in order to create a Smart Growth Plan specific to North San Marco. When Valerie Feinberg, a co-author of San Marco by Design, who was formerly with the Health and Planning Council of Northeast Florida, obtained a grant from The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, she selected to study San Marco.

Feinberg named a steering committee comprised of Dickson, Bill Killingsworth, director of the city’s Planning and Development Department; Doug Skiles, of EnVision Design, who chaired the committee; Mike Balanky, a prominent Southbank developer; Bill Cesery, George Foote, Jay Handline, Connie Vaughn, Keith Kimbell, Michelle McCoy, Tim Miller and Mark Thiele. Chris Flagg, who currently works for the Haskell Company but at that time was with the Flagg Design Studio, assisted with workshop facilitation.

Zim Boulos, president of OES, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, Michael Saylor, AICP, of Black Dog Planning and Rob Smith, a Southbank landscape architect, served as “in-kind support” and as technical advisors.

The steering committee consulted with a broad spectrum of community stakeholders – merchants, developers, landlords, residents, architects, professional urban planners and landscape designers – to guide

them through the process of what smart growth means. They also held a number of design charrettes to get as much input from the public as possible.

“All the people got around the idea of what the best practices for neighborhood should be,” Dickson said. “This is not an exclusive endeavor. We had public comment each step of the way.”

The San Marco by Design document, which was originally published in 2012, has already had an impact on North San Marco development, Dickson said. Baptist Health has been currently using it for guidance as it draws up conceptual plans for its new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, he said.

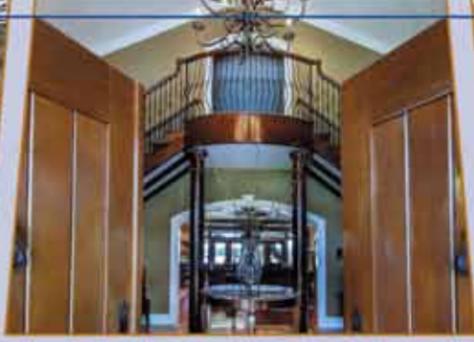
“Because the document has been around, developers have voluntarily built to its standards. Now that the interest in development is picking up, we need to finish the final revision and get it to the City Council as an ordinance. Once it is law, it will require the planning department to consult and interpret this plan when it reviews development applications. Having it in place is an advantage to developers because when they make first contact with the city they will be given it so they can have a certainty of what is permissible in the area where they are building. They can use it for guidance of design so what they do is consistent with the neighborhood, and we won’t have to reinvent the wheel,” he said. “The advantage to the community is it provides a predictability and an appropriateness for a new development.”

An important distinction between San Marco by Design and the Riverside Avondale Preservation Society’s historic overlay is that it is a neighborhood action plan, said Dickson. The North San Marco overlay presented in the new action plan only addresses setbacks and the height and density of buildings with an eye to increasing walkability, accessibility, business viability, economic development and greenspace along its streets.

“We want ours to be is rigorous enough to preserve the character of the neighborhood but flexible enough to allow for growth. We want to strike a balance between neighborhood character and property rights,” Dickson explained. “We address forms but not house design.”

“A decade ago we consciously decided not to go the historic overlay route,” Dickson continued, noting in the battle between preservation and conservation, San Marco leans toward conservation in the effort to undertake change responsibly.

“We think, or have found, it’s a good balance for the neighborhood,” he said.


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# Dispute between neighbors sparks new proposed zoning legislation

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

A dispute between Miramar neighbors is the impetus behind District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer's desire to draft new legislation to govern the size and positioning of garages on through lots in Jacksonville.

Because there are very few rules addressing through lots – lots that straddle two roads – in the city zoning regulations, a new ordinance, which has not yet been numbered and is currently being drawn up by the city's Office of General Counsel, would require two things: 1) Homeowners building houses on through lots would not be allowed to build garages wider than 19 feet – the average width of a double door – if the garage faces the street opposite from the front door of the home; and 2) the regulations would be modified so that through-lot owners would no longer be required to have their driveways access the road with the lower traffic volume as is currently specified in Section 654.115(e) of the Code of Subdivision Regulations.

However, the proposed ordinance will also specify, if the street is a "high volume," such as a "collector" or an "arterial" road, the existing rule of having the driveway egress access the lower volume road will still apply.

Currently in the city code, there are no specific zoning regulations regarding the size or position of garages on through lots.



The garage at 1007 Alhambra Drive North. Garages accommodating more than two cars will no longer be able to face the back street on a through lot if new legislation being drafted by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer is approved by the City Council.

Boyer's proposed bill does not entirely prevent homeowners from building larger garages with three or more bays; such structures would be permitted provided the garage is positioned sideways on the lot so that the doors aren't facing the rear street, she said.

Within the proposed ordinance, homeowners are also permitted to build more than two garage bays on their

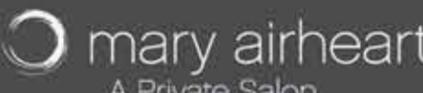
through lot if the garage doors will face the same direction as the front door, she said.

Boyer said she felt it necessary to add clarity to the city's zoning code when a majority of Rio Lindo homeowners loudly expressed concern that their road was becoming a de facto "alley" due to the construction of two homes on Alhambra Drive, but with driveways accessing Rio Lindo.

### Trees, it's all about trees

In February 2014, the lot at 1015 Alhambra Drive North, owned by Ed and Juliette Vaughn, was subdivided and the Vaughns sold its adjacent lot at 1007 Alhambra Drive North to Scott Soltau and his wife, Amanda Marie, according to property appraiser information.

*continued on page 13 >>>*



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Neighbors on Rio Lindo Drive want more trees planted in the public right-of-way after two houses are constructed on through lots facing Alhambra Drive North in Granada.

In the eyes of the Rio Lindo residents, there was no problem until the heavily wooded lots were suddenly cleared of all vegetation so that two new homes could be built.

Not only were the residents stunned to see the shady vegetation that had long been a buffer between their homes and the older Granada neighborhood removed all in one day, but several were shocked when the Soltaus put in a large concrete foundation and began to build a four-car garage in the rear of their property with a driveway that would access Rio Lindo Drive.

"We have pictures of oaks and other protected trees lining Rio Lindo, and we believe the land was cleared before the permits were filed," said Sid Roberson, who lives across the street from the Soltaus property. "It is our understanding that any

tree on city property is protected."

Roberson has been seeking to find out from the city if the trees were taken down without a permit because the city only required three crepe myrtle trees to be replaced on the city-owned right of way after the tree mitigation survey was complete. "I think the city should try to get the developers to agree to obscure the backs of their houses," Roberson said. "Putting in three crepe myrtles is just not going to work."

Also concerned the Soltaus' driveway might be illegal or set a precedent other Alhambra homeowners might follow if it were permitted, the residents, led by Roberson, hired a lawyer and complained to the city, contacting Planning and Development Department Director William

Killingsworth, Chief of the Development Services Division Mike Sands and Tom Goldsbury, chief of the city's building inspection division, in addition to Boyer.

"The issue really is the de-gentrification of the neighborhood," Roberson said, noting that the majority of Granada homeowners have driveways that face the same street as their front door.

"By doing this they are changing the look and feel of the neighborhood. We have a lot of nice oaked lots. The houses are not all cookie cutter," he said. "When you allow a house that size to be built you have changed the character of the neighborhood."

Although drainage problems have delayed construction on the Vaughns' lot, the couple said they intend to build a three-car garage facing Rio Lindo Drive and expect to have building permits in hand by the end of March and to be grandfathered in since the legislation has not yet been taken up by the City Council, said Juliette Vaughn.

Roberson said he has not approached the Soltaus or the Vaughns with his concerns. *The Resident* was unable to reach Scott Soltau. Juliette Vaughn said she and her husband have "no comment" about the situation having only heard about it "through the grapevine" and have never been contacted by any aggrieved Rio Lindo residents.

#### City says no illegal actions took place

After meeting with the residents and after much back and forth by email, Killingsworth analyzed the situation and determined, in accordance with the existing zoning code, the Soltaus' project

was legal, in compliance with Section 656.1601 of the existing zoning codes, and had received all necessary permits.

"I have determined the development at 1007 Alhambra Drive North is consistent with the City's Ordinances and legal," Killingsworth wrote in a January 4, 2016 email to Roberson. "I apologize for your disappointment and displeasure regarding the outcome."

Because permitting for both properties was completed before the new legislation was taken up by the City Council, the new rules will not affect the two Alhambra Drive North properties, said Boyer.

"This does nothing for the Robersons," Boyer said. "Once a permit is pulled, we can't do anything. The Soltaus can rely on what was in place at the time. It can't be made retroactive," she continued. "This doesn't prevent the Vaughns from putting a driveway on Rio Lindo, but it does give them the option of putting it on Alhambra Drive North."

In an effort to try to appease the Rio Lindo residents' concerns about the removal of the trees from the city's public right of way facing the Roberson's property, Boyer said she met with the city forester. She said he is consulting with a city landscape architect and will draw up a plan to replant more trees on the 13-foot right of way abutting the Alhambra Drive North lots.

"My goal is to get a plan in place as soon as possible so the residents can know what has been proposed," Boyer said. "Of course, we won't install anything until the construction is done," she said. "The bottom line from my perspective is to try to help the residents get as much landscaping as we can in that city right of way."

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# Construction begins on Whatley Park improvements

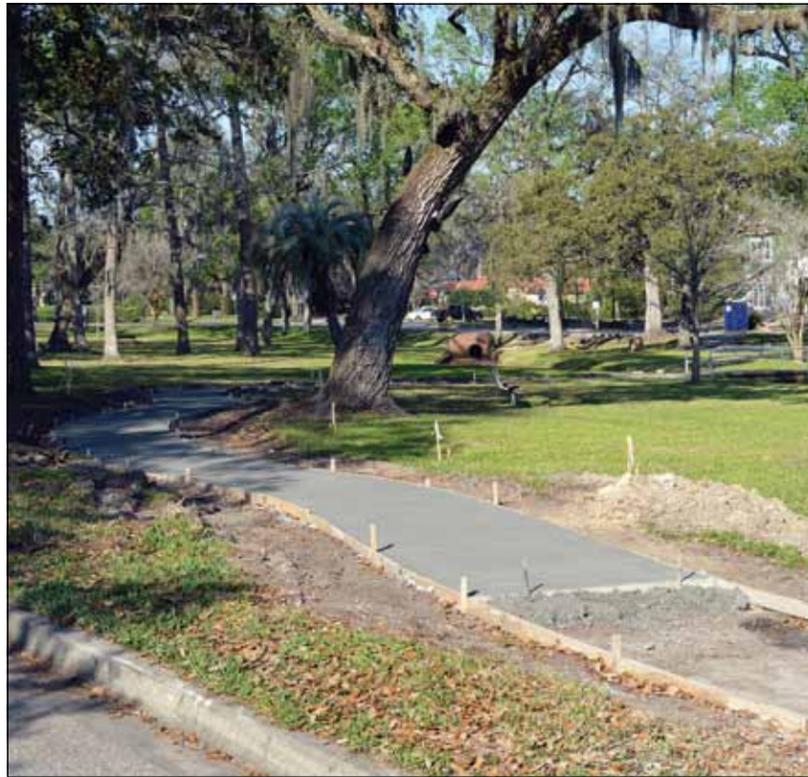
By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Construction on the new concrete path that will wind through San Marco's Whatley Park was finally started in March. Workers from CAP construction, a sub-contractor hired by the Jacksonville Public Works Department bulldozed a path and poured the concrete in mid-March.

The path, which will finally bring wheelchair accessibility to the park at Alexandria Place, was expected to be complete by the end of March, with seating areas, new bridge railings, and lighting along the path and in the tree canopy to follow shortly after.

The San Marco Preservation Society hopes the work will be complete before its Wine Down in the Park event April 16, said Preservation Society President Andrew Dickson. The fundraiser traditionally includes visits to three San Marco greenspaces – Whatley Park, Davin Park and Balis Park in San Marco Square.

"The neighbors of Alexandria Place have really owned the project," Dickson said in an email. "They have provided feedback at every step of the design process, and have solicited input from neighbors to form a broad consensus of how it should look at the end. We're looking forward to enjoying a beautifully enhanced version of the park we've always loved," he said.



A new sidewalk was just one of the improvements installed in Whatley Park in March.



A contractor makes preparations so a new sidewalk can be installed in Whatley Park in San Marco.

Matt Carlucci, an Alexandria Place resident, agreed.

"Everybody is very happy with the way it is turning out, and we are very appreciative of Councilwoman Lori Boyer, Parks Director Daryl Joseph, Andrew Dickson of the Preservation Society and everyone who has contributed to this project," Carlucci

said, adding that his family intends to dedicate one of the new seating areas in the park to his mother, Louise Trower Carlucci McCreight, who has lived on Avoca Drive in the neighborhood since September 1951.

One concern residents had was how the contractor would construct the concrete sidewalk in the wettest part

of the park near the bridge, Carlucci said. "They poured a foundation and a concrete slab for it there, so I think it will probably turn out good."

"Anytime you are on the receiving end of a nice park improvement it's great," Carlucci said. "Not only will this be nice for our neighborhood, it will be nice for the people live in the surrounding area."

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# New Firm to Guide Families Through Trials, Tribulations

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It's the dream of every attorney to start their own law firm. After reaching a certain level of success by proving competence, winning cases – and respect from colleagues – there comes a time to make the ultimate leap of faith. For Paola Parra Harris, that leap meant starting her own firm in January of this year. It has been a lifelong goal, one she's finally achieved after proving her strength and commitment to a career spanning 18 years in Family Law.

Having worked alongside her husband Robert at a firm he founded in 1986, Parra Harris had a front row seat to the inner workings of a larger firm. Understanding leadership, dedication, and the commitment it takes to run a successful legal practice, she learned through the years as a wife and litigator. With this insight, combined with thousands of positive outcomes in favor of her clients, she was ready to take a more personal,

intimate approach to her practice of law. With her strong resume and community engagement far outpacing many in her field, the next practical step was already in the works.

"In addition to working hard to achieve professional success, I've been raising two wonderful boys and nurturing my own marriage," said Parra Harris. "It's finally come time for me to spread my wings and live my dream."

Parra Harris is excited to finally dedicate her time to the valued clients- clients she's helped get through some of their toughest times. No stranger to the intricacies of parenting and career, she has served in various positions- from Room Mom at Bolles to her role as President of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association- all of which have helped her become better equipped to advise her clients who are juggling parenting, work, and divorce proceedings. Marriage difficulties

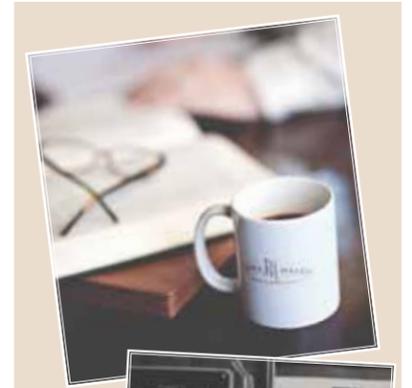
occur with more frequency today with the tempo of life increasing and she knows that clients are seeking strong advice from a seasoned advocate, finding many in need of a woman's perspective.

While each side in a divorce case may strive to gain custody and a financial advantage, Parra Harris listens with compassion to guide her clients to reach positive results amicably and, if needed, she's tough in the courtroom. She's become known as a lawyer who gains trust quickly and delivers results for her clients. Her peers took notice and the Jacksonville Women Lawyer's Association named her "Woman Lawyer of the Year" in 2012.

Parra Harris has been working hard for years to earn the trust and respect of judges, colleagues, clients and fellow members of the business community. President of the Rotary Club of San Jose in 2013-2014 and currently serving as Chair-Elect of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, she has earned her stripes in the Jacksonville community.

With her feet planted firmly on the legal ground, the leap of faith has been a fruitful venture for her thus far. With a seamless move into a newly purchased building, investment in her own staff and continued service to community, she is prepared to move with strength into this next chapter.

As a mother, a lawyer, and a devoted wife, Parra Harris is excited to grow as a resource for friends, family and those seeking a saavy, zealous advocate. She takes tremendous pride in her new law practice, serving men and women – and in her native Spanish language – achieves positive results for her Family Law clients and underprivileged in our community alike.



"Parra Harris has a compassionate nature to assist, yet she's tough in the courtroom."



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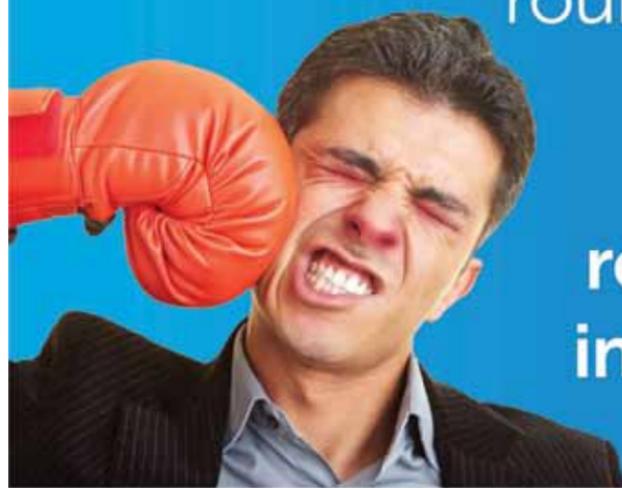
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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## San Marco resident joins Financial Design Associates

Scott Ables recently joined the staff at Financial Design Associates, a general agency of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.



A member of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Ables is active in the North Florida CPCU insurance organization. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from North Texas State University.

Ables and his wife, Diane, live in San Marco. The couple enjoy traveling, attending the symphony, theater, spending time with friends, and the great outdoors.

## Local agency expands in San Marco

AntonWest Advertising has moved less than a mile from its start-up office to new quarters at 1721 Atlantic Blvd. After considering five other locations, the agency decided to stay in San Marco.

"We looked everywhere for a year, always wanting to stay in San Marco, but not wanting to leave any location off the table," said Jefferson Rall, co-founder and executive creative director. "This area offers access to the best restaurants, culture and atmosphere. San Marco is also logistically smart, giving us quick access to all parts of Jacksonville, and the airport. The opportunity for business to flourish here has always been a huge part of our success."

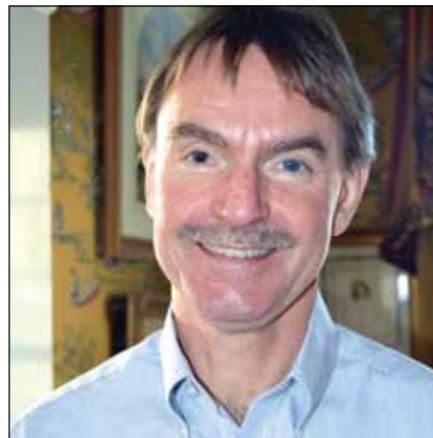
Rall and his partner and agency president, John Fricks, are leasing 3,500 square feet of space in a custom build-out.

## South Jax Presbyterian hires new minister

After two years without a permanent minister, South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church has hired a new pastor.

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Hedgepeth, who formerly served as Executive Pastor at the Church of the Palms in Sarasota, was the unanimous selection of the South Jacksonville nominating committee. He will take over from interim pastor Rev. Stephen Kolderup, who has served the church for two years.

Hedgepeth earned an undergraduate degree from Stetson University in DeLand, where he met his wife, Cindy. He did post graduate work at Emory University, where he studied clinical psychology and later worked as a computer program for Electronic Data Systems in Detroit. After three years in the Motor City, he and his wife joined the



The Rev. Dr. Bruce Hedgepeth

American Baptist Church.

In 1988, the Hedgepeths returned to central Florida and joined First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. In

Orlando, Hedgepeth experienced a deepening of his faith while leading adult Sunday school, participating in small group Bible studies and going on short-term mission trip to Merida, Mexico. After feeling the call to pastoral ministry, he later earned a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque in Iowa and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

Prior to serving at Church of the Palms, Hedgepeth was associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Maitland and Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in DeLand.

Hedgepeth and his wife have two adult children. The Hedgepeths will reside in San Marco, within walking distance of their new church home.

## Bishop Kenny taps two in its faculty to join administration

Two Bishop Kenny alumni who are also members of its faculty will join the Catholic high school's administration when long-time administrators retire in May.

"Two of Bishop Kenny's longtime administrators, Vice Principal and Athletic Director Bob West and Academic Dean Debbie Coultrip each announced, earlier in the year, their plans to retire at the end of May," said Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando. "I was very happy to have two exceptionally qualified teachers who are eager to assume the duties related to these important positions."

Replacing West in his role as vice principal will be Vincent Saladino, who has been teaching multimedia arts since he joined the faculty in 2013. Saladino will bring a great deal of administrative experience to his new position having served as both a principal and vice principal in two Diocesan Catholic Schools prior to teaching at Bishop Kenny. Saladino graduated from Bishop Kenny in 1995 and holds a Master's of Education degree.

A graduate of the Class of 1999, Broach will take over the position of Academic Dean when it is vacated by Coultrip after she retires. Broach has served as a history



Vincent Saladino



Michael Broach

teacher at the school since 2004 and currently teaches AP history. Over the past 12 years, he has played an important part in the integration of technology into the curriculum. Outside of his duties as a history instructor, Broach has presented

workshops and training sessions to the Bishop Kenny faculty as well as to teachers at other schools throughout the Diocese of St. Augustine. He was also a presenter at the Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) in Orlando.



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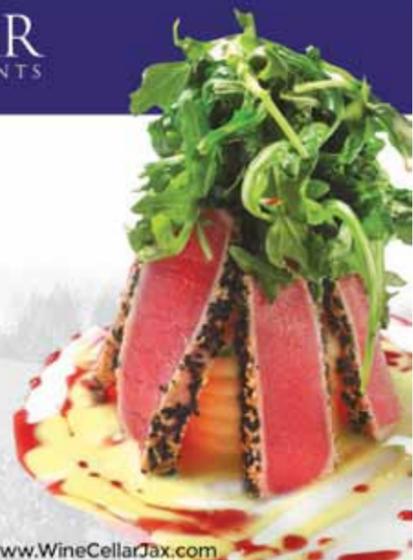
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## CSX executive reviews fraternity's activities



Andrea Foschi, John Layton, Alumni Scholarship Advisor, Erik Fournier, Clarence Gooden, Luke Myhree, PKA president, and Jackson Busbee

CSX Corporation president Clarence W. Gooden hosted officers of Jacksonville University's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at his executive office to review the fraternity's outstanding results in campus, philanthropy, fundraising, and athletic activities for the past year. Gooden is Honorary Alumnus Advisor for the chapter. The chapter plans to send 35 men to the Pi Kappa Alpha International Convention in New Orleans this summer.



Andrea Siracusa, Dreams Come True of Jacksonville; Bernice Mauras, Community Health Outreach; Leslie Weed, HEAL Foundation; Michael Howland, Jacksonville Speech & Hearing; Terry Eason, Community Hospice PedsCare; Michelle Tipton, Designs from the HeART; Dr. George Trotter, WeCare Jacksonville

## Community Nutcracker presents \$55,000 to nine local charities

Community Nutcracker, Inc. presented \$55,000 to nine local charities at Dreams Come True of Jacksonville on March 16. In addition to the featured charity, Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, which received \$30,000, checks were presented to Community Health Outreach; Community Hospice PedsCare; Designs from the HeART; Healing Every Autistic Life (HEAL); Jacksonville Speech & Hear-

ing; Learn to Read; Sanctuary on 8th Street; and WeCare Jacksonville.

The donations are funded by the proceeds from the 24th annual production of The Nutcracker Ballet, sponsored by Community First Credit Union, which took place in December 2015 at the Florida Theatre. With these donations, the combined total donated since its premiere in 1992 is over \$500,000.

## Cards for K9s charity poker tournament raises \$15,000



William Stump and his service dog, Woody; Rory Diamond, executive director, K9s for Warriors, and Jamie Shelton, President, bestbet Jacksonville.

The Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (JBA/YLS) and bestbet Jacksonville hosted a charity poker tournament Feb. 11 to benefit K9s for Warriors.

The annual fundraising event, "Cards for K9s Charity Poker Tournament," was held at bestbet Jacksonville, where more than \$13,500 was raised including a \$1,500 donation from bestbet.

The fun-filled event featured business and civic leaders who committed to playing and serving as "Bounties" along with many local celebrities. The bounty players who donated their time included bestbet poker guru and radio host Allie McDeal; NBA Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore; 1010XL host Jeff Prosser; First Coast news anchor Lewis Turner; State Attorney Angela Corey, and Tony Allegretti, executive director, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville.



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# Morning news show gets permanent home

By *Kate A. Hallock*  
Resident Community News

Under the cloak of anonymity, a friend of Pine Castle recently made a dream come true for several of its participants. The donor provided funds to create a professional radio studio at the Spring Park campus, which serves adults with developmental and other disabilities.

The radio studio was dedicated and named for Terry G. Clark, Jr., a Pine Castle participant who passed away Aug. 25, 2015. Clark was an anchor and technical producer for the Pine Castle Morning News show.

“It’s a happy-sad occasion that we’re going to celebrate Terry’s life with this studio in his memory,” said Jon May, Pine Castle CEO, at the Feb. 26 ribbon-cutting.

The ceremony was kicked off with a song by the Pine Castle Chorus, followed by remarks from May, Board Chair David Rowland, and Clark’s mother, Jackie Clark Holsey.

“Today is all about elevating the meaningful work they do at Pine Castle. Going from walkie-talkies and a boom box to a professional radio studio is truly a monumental moment for all of Pine Castle,” said Rowland. “The radio show is always a favorite around here, not only allowing

the participants an outlet to express their inner DJ but also hold them accountable for producing for their peers. We are so thankful to the special friend of Pine Castle, who wishes to remain anonymous, for providing funding for this studio.”

According to Reagan Norton, training coordinator and radio station manager, the morning announcements began about two years ago, reading the lunch menu and daily activities from the nurse’s station.

“It was from there that the idea for the morning news show was born,” said Norton, at the ceremony. “We would occasionally add a segment here and a segment there. Pine Castle Morning News began without a home; we were using every available space we could find.”

All the broadcasts were transmitted using walkie-talkies, cellphones and a CD player, said Norton, who purchased a touchscreen laptop, monitors for prompts, and a sound board so the crew would have more equipment to use, but the radio show still didn’t have a permanent place to call home.

“We wanted to legitimize our crews’ hard work and dedication by making the setting as professional as possible, but we were still left without a true place to broadcast,” said Norton. “It was during this time Terry was added as a crew member



Jon May, Pine Castle CEO; Terry Clark, Sr.; newscasters Lori Sammons, Anna Rosado and Dan Fox in wheelchair; Reagan Norton (center back), radio station manager/training coordinator; Jackie Clark Holsey, mother of Terry Clark, and Desmond Parrish, peering over her shoulder; lead anchor Percy Howliet in wheelchair and newscaster Benjamin Lee; David Rowland, Pine Castle board chair



Dan Fox, foreground, and Percy Howliet, two of the anchors for the Pine Castle Morning News show



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and quickly became an excellent technical producer. It was because of his dedication to the show that it didn’t take long to understand how the system worked and how to get everything set up. He was very excited about the possibility of having a campus radio station one day.”

The vision of the Pine Castle Morning News has come to fruition, thanks to

the special friend of Pine Castle, in-kind donations from American Electrical Contracting and CoxMedia Group, and the tireless efforts of many Pine Castle staff members and others in the community.

“Truly this is a blessing,” said Jackie Clark-Holsey. “Terry enjoyed attending Pine Castle, and I know he is here with us. He enjoyed the radio show, being a part of it.”



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# Bill introduced to rename portion of Gary Street

## New name to honor long-time San Marco business

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

A portion of Gary Street in San Marco is getting a new name.

The 911 Emergency Addressing Advisory Committee has determined a segment of Gary Street between Hendricks Avenue and Kings Street should be renamed to differentiate between unconnected segments of the street due to the Overland Bridge Project.

The new road will be named Naugle Way after the Naugle family, owners of Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

In honor of their nearly 100-year contribution to the San Marco community, At-Large Councilmember Sam Newby introduced Bill 2016-180 on Mar. 8 as an ordinance, which would rename the one-block segment of Gary Street to Naugle Way.

City Council will be asked to waive a code requirement that calls for 90 percent of property owners on the street to agree to the renaming. Since there are only two property owners, Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services, and LMS Holdings, LLC, which is in bankruptcy proceedings, it is expected the ordinance will be passed in April.

### Family roots deep in Jacksonville

Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services is Jacksonville's oldest funeral home that is family owned and operated. Established in 1919 as Thomas M. Burns Funeral Home, it became Burns-Naugle Funeral Home in 1930, then renamed Robert M. Naugle Mortuary in 1955. It has served four generations of residents in Jacksonville and is now operated by the fourth generation of the Naugle family.

Stella Naugle became a licensed funeral director in 1907 after graduating from the Worsham College of Embalming in Chicago at age 27. She assisted her husband, Vernon, in the operation of the business until his death in 1947. Stella passed away in 1964, at age 84, and was one of Florida's oldest licensed funeral directors at the time of her death.

Stella's grandson, Paul Naugle, who grew up in the business, is senior funeral director at the Hendricks Avenue location.



Dr. Roy Schnauss, Roy Schnauss, Katherine Schnauss Naugle, Cameron Naugle, Paul Naugle



1203 Hendricks Avenue (Photo courtesy of Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services)



Stella and Vernon Naugle in front of their business at 1203 Hendricks Avenue. (Photo courtesy of Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services)

"Back in my time, it was something we were expected to do," he said. "Children were supposed to take over the family business. That's all we knew."

Great-grandson Cameron Naugle is president of the company, but didn't initially begin his business career at Naugle Funeral Home.

"I got a degree in business management and went into banking and finance," said Cameron. "One day I realized I didn't like it and wanted to be back in the family business."

Naugle Funeral Home recently expanded its services by adding a second location, at 808 Margaret Street, to serve Riverside, Avondale and Ortega.

Cameron Naugle is working in partnership with his wife, Katherine Schnauss Naugle, an elder-law attorney who operates an office next to the new location. Katherine, who is third generation in Ortega Forest, helps with marketing of the funeral home and its services.

Keeping it in the family, Katherine's father, Roy Harris Schnauss, M.D., assists with management of the Riverside funeral home. Her brother, Roy Schnauss, is the operations manager.

"I actually started out in medical research, then got into the real estate industry," said Roy Schnauss, who, with his sister, grew up in Ortega Forest. After attending a celebration service for a dear friend, Schnauss felt it was a good fit for him to manage the celebratory services for those who have passed away.

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# Presidential candidates eye votes in San Marco



Connie Hodges, retired CEO of the United Way, Marian Wilcher, Executive Director of All Saints Early Learning and Community Care Center, Chelsea Clinton and Padma Rajan, director of programs at the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County.



Marco Rubio hugs his brother, Mario, who works for the City of Jacksonville, as Mayor Lenny Curry looks on during a campaign stop in San Marco March 14.



Sarah Marie Johnston shows her support of presidential candidate Marco Rubio during a meet and greet with the Florida Senator at Maple Street Biscuit Company March 14.



Anton Whiteford takes a selfie with Florida Senator Marco Rubio during a campaign stop at the Maple Street Biscuit Company March 14.



Chelsea Clinton fields a question from Aden Speight-Rodriguez, a graduate of All Saints Early Learning and Community Care Center March 10 while Executive Director Marian Wilcher looks on.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

San Marco was hotbed of political activity with candidates or their high profile surrogates stopping by in the days leading up to the Florida Primary March 15.

Representing her mother, Hillary Clinton, on the stump March 10 was Chelsea Clinton, who visited 60 children and at least 100 parents during a private campaign event at All Saints Episcopal Early Learning and Community Care Center.

Four days later, a throng of more than 100 well-wishers from both sides of the river greeted Florida Senator Marco Rubio when his campaign bus dropped by the Maple Street Biscuit Company on San Marco Square March 14.

Clinton, who is pregnant with her second child, seemed right at home speaking with the parents and children at All Saints Early Learning Center. She was introduced by

Marian Wilcher, the center's executive director. The venue had been recommended by Connie Hodges of Avondale, retired CEO of the United Way and Padma Rajan of Ortega, who heads up programming at the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County, said Lisa King of Riverside, regional head of Hillary Clinton's campaign.

All Saints was selected because it is one of the strongest early learning centers in the area and the campaign wanted Clinton to see the best because early childhood education is near to her mother's heart, King said.

"This center is the only one of its kind in Jacksonville," said Rajan, referring to All Saints' partnering of its preschool community with special needs adults. "The kids meet up with seniors and there is great diversity here," Rajan said.

Hodges agreed. "This is one of the most racially, socially and economically balanced early learning centers in the country," she said. "It has a five-star

rating, and we wanted Chelsea to see the best in Jacksonville."

Several local dignitaries, including Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry of San Marco, District 4 Councilman Scott Wilson, and Rubio's brother, Mario, who works for the city as administrator of the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business Office, were on hand to greet the candidate's bus when it pulled up in front of the restaurant early in the morning on the day before the Florida Primary.

The restaurant was stuffed with supporters and news personnel, causing many to crowd the sidewalk hoping to get a glimpse of Florida's favorite son as he aimed to win the primary.

San Marco's Dr. Alana Canupp, a surgeon with First Coast No More Homeless Pets, took a day off to attend with her rescue dog, Jenny. Doug Skiles of San Marco and the Rev. Dr. Gary Lee Webber of Southside Baptist Church were

also in the audience.

Sarah Marie Johnston of San Marco said she is excited for Rubio's candidacy. "I really hope he has a great showing on Super Tuesday. I think he is a man with a real plan, a man with leadership skills for our country."

Adam Rhoads, of San Marco, said he skipped school to join his friends Jesse Christian, Anton Whiteford, and Alex Hernandez at the rally. It was the fourth Rubio event in the state Rhoads said he had attended. "Rubio inspires and has a firm message. He's the only one who can beat Hillary," he said. "Some say he's an underdog, but they said the same about Barack Obama and Kennedy in the 1960s."

Unfortunately for his ardent supporters, Rubio lost the primary to Donald Trump, winning only 27 percent of the vote in his home state and withdrew from the race for president the day after his visit in San Marco.



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# San Marco to celebrate birthday in Venetian style

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

To honor San Marco's 90th birthday, 150 guests will raise a glass at a banquet-style feast in the heart of San Marco, courtesy of the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA).

Feast of Carnevale, an alfresco dinner, will take place on Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 3 to 6 p.m. in Balis Park, the centerpiece of San Marco Square.

Prior San Marco celebrations have successfully raised funds for the ongoing beautification of San Marco Square and the expansion of Balis Park, and the Feast of Carnevale will be no different. Money raised from the event will support SMMA efforts to continue to make the quaint town center a walkable, picturesque enclave.

Empty Nest Boutique Events will manage the 90th birthday banquet, coordinating with Dining District chefs and the merchants association to create a unique dining experience accompanied by Venetian Carnevale-style entertainment.

The event will also include a reception, live entertainment as well as other "surprises," said Anita Morrill, owner of Empty Nest Boutique Events.

The origins of the Venetian theme hearken back to the beginnings of the San Marco neighborhood Jacksonville loves today. Over 90 years ago, San Marco was constructed

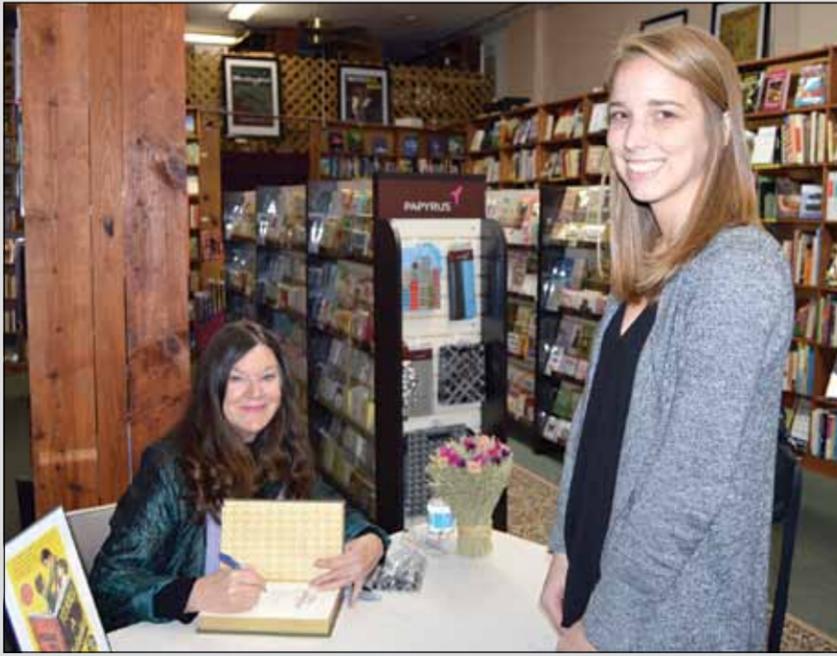
on 80-plus acres of the former Villa Alexandria estate in what was then known as South Jacksonville. Developer Telfair Stockton imagined the area as a fashionable, upscale development comprised of 250 lots and a centralized commercial district. Construction of the first buildings began in 1926, and the area was planned in the Italian Renaissance revival style, influencing the final name of the community and its streets.

Today, San Marco Square, named after Venice's Piazza San Marco, showcases several Mediterranean-style buildings and a central fountain guarded by three regal lions, a symbol of St. Mark. All this fascinating local history and more will be captured in a commemorative book, available to guests of the celebration.

Funds raised from sponsorship and ticket sales for the banquet allow the San Marco Merchants Association to continue making Jacksonville's own Venice a destination for North Florida residents and visitors alike, said Morrill.

"We hope to make this an annual fundraising event for San Marco so the merchants can continue the work they do for beautification and to make San Marco special," Morrill said.

Banquet tickets will be available in May 2016 at [www.mysanmarco.com](http://www.mysanmarco.com). Organizations interested in sponsoring the event should contact Anita Morrill at (904)742-4674 or email [emptynestevents@gmail.com](mailto:emptynestevents@gmail.com).



Mary Badham, who played Scout in the film, "To Kill a Mockingbird," signs a copy of Harper Lee's book of the same name for Kelsey Bennett during a celebrity book-signing event at San Marco Books and More Feb. 27.

## "To Kill a Mockingbird" actress visits San Marco

With Harper Lee's recent death, February 19, fans of "To Kill a Mockingbird" had the opportunity to learn more about the Pulitzer-prize winning author, as well as actors Gregory Peck, Robert Duvall and others, through the eyes of the child actress who played Scout in the corresponding film.

Sponsored by San Marco Books and More, Mary Badham, an Alabama native who was selected from obscurity to play Jean Louise "Scout" Finch in the film, spoke about her relationship with the celebrated author to a crowd of nearly 40 in Balis Park Feb. 27.

At age nine, Badham, a child with no prior acting experience, was selected to play the daughter of Atticus Finch, the character made famous by Gregory Peck in the movie. In 1961, she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the classic film, and at that time was the youngest actress ever nominated in that category.

Badham said she tried out for the part alongside a girl with blonde hair. "They wanted someone who looked like they could be Gregory Peck's daughter, so I guess the brown hair won," she said. "Gregory Peck was wonderful. What you see on the screen is what you got at home," she recalled, noting that she was close to the actor and referred to him as "Atticus" until his death in 2003.

The actress also had the opportunity to interact with Lee, while making the movie when the celebrated author came to Hollywood for two weeks to make sure the producers were doing justice to her book. "I lost contact with Harper Lee after we made the film," she recalled, "But a few years ago, we got hooked up again. I was sorry to lose her," she said.

After she gave a talk in Balis Park, Badham signed copies of "To Kill a Mockingbird" as well as Lee's newest novel, "Go Set a Watchman," during a celebrity book-signing event at the San Marco bookstore.

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# '70s-themed fundraiser a success for JCA



Jim and Francine Kempner with Karen and Philip Adler

Transported back to the time of platform shoes and disco, supporters of the Jewish Community Alliance enjoyed '70s-themed food, décor, cocktails and entertainment during the JCA annual fundraiser Feb. 27.

Donning miniskirts or bellbottom pants, go-go boots and peace signs, the party-goers grooved on a well-lit dance floor worthy of Saturday Night Fever.

Chairing the event were Glenn and Michael Miller and Alison and Brent Trager. The "Let's Boogie" motif of the event helped ensure its success, said Pam Tavill, JCA Director of Administration. "Everyone loved the '70s. We had a lot of support this year because everyone was excited about the theme," she said.

The JCA typically awards \$330,000 in financial assistance for children, families and senior adults, raising a significant portion of this money at the JCA fundraiser, said JCA Director of Communications and Development Lior Spring.



JCA Fundraiser co-chairmen Michael Miller and Alison Trager



Mary and Jack McElroy with Betsy Tilis



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**Gala guests have heart for heart disease**

The annual Heart and Stroke Ball raised \$450,000 for the American Heart Association on March 12 at the Sawgrass Marriott. This year's "White Out" theme brought 300 elegant attendees together to raise awareness and funds for heart disease and stroke, the nation's number 1 and 5 killers. The gala featured a cocktail hour, dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions.

The event was chaired by Memorial Hospital President and CEO James O' Loughlin. The evening honored First Coast American Heart Association Board of Directors Chair Doug Baer, CEO and president of Brooks Rehabilitation, and his wife Laura, a longtime, active volunteer with the Heart Association.



Christina and Vasant Jayasankar

Cathy Maddux with Scott Wooten



Virginia and Billy Reynolds



Madeline Rolfsen with Alana Sawyer and Kelly Goddard



Kim Hodgkinson and Tom Branch

**SOCIAL R**



Vikki Mioduszewski and Erin Wallner



Charlie, Christy, John Till



Jeff and Robi

**Florida Forum features Peyton Manning**

Super Bowl 50 winner and now retired NFL quarterback Peyton Manning finished off the 2015-16 Florida Forum season at the Times-Union Center on March 2.

Coming on the heels of his recent Super Bowl victory, Manning teased the crowd about his big announcement, one that had yet to be made in sporting circles. The talented and legendary quarterback found time for some comic relief about his Papa John's franchise operations and Nationwide insurance campaigns, all while remaining true to his commitment to children's health. The humanitarian is already known for the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in the city he called home for 14 seasons in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The high profile speaker served on the Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital for decades, continues to enthral the community with his annual installments bring word and raise community awareness at the hospital. This season's forum raised \$1 million.

All proceeds go toward The Children's Hospital of Orange County's pledge to the Surgery Center for Children and the pediatric hospital in the region. The hospital has contributed more than \$26 million to the region.



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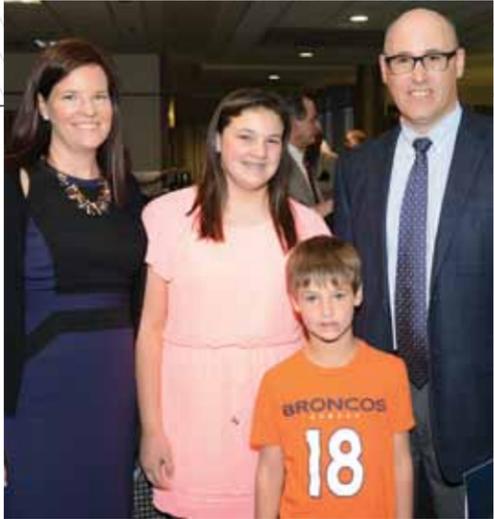


n Albanese

ies, hosted by the Women's Hospital for more than two those in attendance. The old-class speakers to Jacksonville ss and funds for the children's raised more than \$410,000. e Women's Board's \$5 million of Distinction, which fund enhance the only in-patient, n. The Women's Board has illion to the hospital to date.



Debbie and Lathun Brigman



Heather, Anna, Heath and Dr. David Mandel



Charlie and Ann Joseph with Amy and Gilchrist Berg



Becky Johnson and Lynne Radcliffe



Jennifer and Natalie Watson with Elaine and David Strickland, Annie McAfee



Robin Love with Carolyn Houston, John Hurtubise and Susan Gordon

## Symphony concert gala a night to remember

The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra was proud to host Russkaya Noch (Russian Night), a gala concert celebrating its orchestra at the Times-Union Center Feb. 27. The concert featured world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell, who performed Russian composer Tchaikovsky's violin concerto.

After the performance, approximately 300 attendees enjoyed an evening of cocktails and dinner along the St. Johns River. Guests dined on crispy duck leg and red wine braised boneless beef short rib catered by The Chef's Garden. For dessert, guests indulged in vanilla bean chiffon cake with vanilla bean buttercream concocted by Calli Marie Webb, food program manager at BREW Five Points.



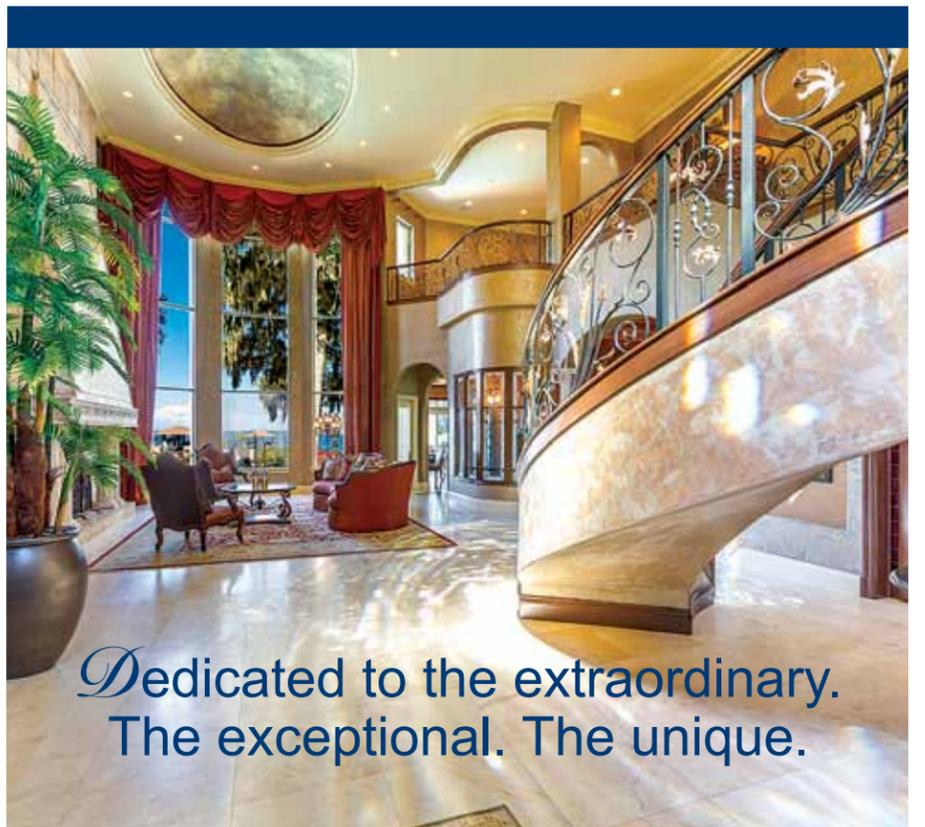
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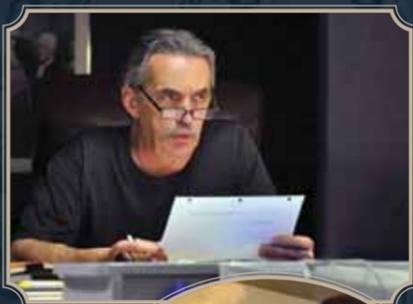
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only benefits our seriously injured clients, but other deserving members of our community that the law firm cares so much about.



The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and Michael Pajcic made donations in honor of a longtime Jacksonville educator who taught law courses and coached the mock trial team at Fletcher High School. Edward Lange was once honored as "Teacher of the Year" by the Justices of the Florida Supreme Court. Lange passed away last summer just days after retiring. Michael presented Edward's son, Brad Lange, \$5,000 for the Florida Law Related Education Association and \$5,000 for Communities in Schools-Jacksonville in memory of this remarkable leader in our community.



Pajcic & Pajcic was a main sponsor of the Junior Achievement luncheon this year. Steve Pajcic had the privilege of introducing Edward Waters College President Nat Glover, who was honored as the 2016 Baker Award Recipient. The award celebrates the accomplishments of those who have shown outstanding leadership in our community. Junior Achievement brings workforce preparation, entrepreneurship programs and financial literacy to young people in our community.



We are proud of our super sleuth paralegal Melanie Homer whose specialty is products liability. She shared her expertise earlier this year speaking in Nashville to a national group of products liability paralegals on the subject of researching motor vehicle defects. Melanie is on her second stint with the law firm and has been here more than 30 years in total.



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.



# NEIGHBORS

## At home with "Chill Will" Barker

BY KERRY SPECKMAN  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

*Meet the St. Nicholas resident behind the smoothest voice in Jacksonville.*

You may not know his name or face, but if you've lived in Jacksonville during the last 20 years, there's a pretty good chance you've heard his voice. During the last two decades, Will Barker (aka DJ Chill Will) was an on-air talent for WJBT The Beat, as well stations in Tampa and West Palm Beach. He's the official disc jockey for the Jacksonville Jaguars, producing game day music for the team and music for THE ROAR; a voice-over artist for clients including Puma, Nike, Direct TV and the NFL; and DJ/mixer for The Foxxhole on Sirius/XM produced by Jamie Foxx.

The Jacksonville native graduated from Raines High School, where he served as drum major (ask him to see the picture) and graduated from Florida A&M in Tallahassee with a degree in criminal justice, an interesting choice since he enrolled in college as a music major. "Once I got into the [music] program, I realized I only had two choices after graduation: becoming a music instructor or a band teacher," he said. "When I was a kid, I wanted to be a police officer, like my dad, so I changed my major to criminal justice."

The criminal justice system's loss is music's game, however, as Will, a resident of St. Nicholas, has kept music fans entertained all over the world.



**What he likes best about his job:** "Music evokes emotions and brings people together. I like the fact that I can control a room full of people ..." he says, "sometimes without saying a word."

**How many albums he owns:** A rough estimate, he says, is 10,000.

**Something people would be surprised to learn about him:** He has a married, adult son, and he's a grandfather.

**First concert:** The Jacksons Victory Tour at the Gator Bowl

**His favorite local hang-outs:** Burrito Gallery, Donut Shoppe, Bono's and Fuji Sushi in San Marco

**Music he listened to growing up:** "I listened to EVERYTHING. I was an MTV kid. I would watch it as many hours of the day as

my mom would let me," he says (which would explain his affinity for music of the '80s and '90s). "The only thing I remember my parents listening to was gospel and Stevie Wonder."

**What's always in his refrigerator:** Martinelli's Apple Juice

**What he does in his free time:** "What's free time?"

**Last time he cried:** Watching the movie "Rudy"

**Why he likes living in St. Nicholas:** "Seriously," he says, "I feel like St. Nicholas is the HEART of Jacksonville. Yet, it's nice and quiet."

**Random fact:** He would love to "attempt" to conduct the Jacksonville Symphony.

## Who's Your Neighbor?

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, said Fred Rogers. Won't you be my neighbor? If you have a neighbor with a fascinating story that should be shared, send your suggestion to [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net).

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# Mukti Ball gives hope, new lives for women

The 5th annual Freedom Gala: Mukti, Rethreaded's fundraiser, drew more than 300 leaders from the Jacksonville community on Feb. 13 to enjoy an evening of shopping at Rethreaded's Pop-Up Store and Silent Auction, dining, and dancing, while raising money to support Rethreaded's mission and vision.

This year the event was held at the newly renovated Jessie Ball duPont Center with a program that included a survivor's personal testimony and poetry readings by readings by Mayor Lenny Curry and his wife, Molly, and former Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard and his wife, Mary.

The Bengali word mukti (mook-ti) means freedom, which is what Rethreaded strives towards in its mission to change the lives of local women affected by the sex trade.



Kathy Hamilton and daughter Ansley Busch



Tarik Minor, Mayor Lenny Curry, Molly Curry, Melanie Lawson



Mary Beth Lanigan, Haley Lanigan, Mindy Barker, Moppy McGhee, Dan Miller (Photos by Hannah Joy Photography)

# Project SOS calls Grand Anchor gala a royal success



Donors for the new Envision: On-Line Learning for teens include Jimmy Stockton, Dr. Richard Stewart, Donna Griffin, Pam and Bruce Robbins, Ruth Conley and her daughter Debbie Bower, and Patricia and Frank Japour from the LaRose Foundation.

Project SOS (Strengthening Our Society) held its annual FUN-Raiser at the Marriott Sawgrass Convention Center March 5, where over 300 guests attended and helped Project SOS raise money to impact the lives of 10,000 local teenagers on the First Coast in their middle schools and high schools.

The 23-year-old nonprofit is developing a series of videos to electronically teach teens life skills. "We want to get them right where they live - on their smartphone," said Dr. Pam Mullarkey Robbins, founder and CEO. "They can access these critical life skills anywhere, anytime and share with their friends."

State Senator Aaron Bean was the auctioneer for the event and entertained everyone while raising money. He awarded four trips and a designer puppy from Pet World to the highest bidders. Edi Wolgemuth, Beaches Chapel School Administrator, spoke about the pressures teens today face.

"The evening was a huge success. "Everyone went home with a smile on their face wanting to return next year," said Sue Stepp, Grand Anchor Gala Chairperson.

For more information contact [www.projectsos.com](http://www.projectsos.com) or call the office at (904) 296-9950.

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# Cultural Council rolls out top honors at Arts Awards

*Iconic gala to raise funds for arts, grant programs*

It's set to be one of the most star-studded affairs this city has ever seen and a sellout crowd is expected. The Cultural Council's big night, the annual Arts Awards, slated for May 7, will take place at the TPC Sawgrass Benefactor tent overlooking the 17th green on the legendary course in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The event is sure to captivate attendees and honorees, as it will showcase the city's most iconic arts and culture advocates in an unprecedented and historic fashion. The awards will be presented by honorary chair, First Lady Molly Curry, who will recognize those who have demonstrated continuous significant support of arts and culture in our community.

This year's theme of the annual arts awards banquet, titled Boundless: 40 Years, 40 Icons, will be one for the ages, as honorees will be featured in a unique documentary photo exhibit. The exhibit will accompany the VIP reception sponsored by Cultural Council founder, Helen Lane, and arts advocate, Joannie Newton.

Aside from specialty cocktails, dinner and live entertainment, unique performances and cultural surprises await those making



A behind the scenes look at one of the photo sessions reveals honoree Jim Winston and his wife Jeanne, photographer Renee Parenteau, honoree Helen Lane and the Cultural Council's Ryan Ali.

their way to the extravagant gala.

The proceeds from the fine affair will benefit the Cultural Council's Artist and Professional Development and Grant programs. In 2015, the event raised \$70,000 in grant monies to help local artists pursue projects, attend workshops and free public art symposiums, and much more.

With 32 of the 40 honorees hailing from the local neighborhoods, the crowd is sure to reflect a wide array of interests, but share a common thread of support for Jacksonville's burgeoning arts and culture scene.

The event's title sponsor, Regions Bank, alongside the efforts of the Boundless Gala host committee of Alex Ackerman, Daniel Davis, Gwen Gallagher-Howard,

Heather Moore Geraghty, Jim Gilmore, Wesley Gibbon, Corkie Gooden, Hugh Greene, Chris Lazzara, Michael Munz, Darnell Smith, Matt Rapp, and Wende Wilson encourage those who have a passion for the arts and culture to attend.

Visit [www.culturalcouncil.org/boundless](http://www.culturalcouncil.org/boundless) for more information or to purchase a ticket, while available.

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**Keynote speaker: Amy Robach**

Anchor, Good Morning America  
Breast cancer survivor

Author of *Better: How I Let Go of Control, Held on to Hope and Found Joy in my Darkest Hour*

# Look who's coming to Girls' Day Out!

After receiving a mammogram on live television in October 2013, Amy Robach revealed on Good Morning America that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Hear her story as a Keynote Speaker of the 2016 Girls' Day Out from Baptist Health and WJCT.

Register early for this amazing event, also featuring chef Mai Pham of the Food Network as well as inspiring talks from local health experts, free screenings, lovely gift bags, breakfast and lunch, and the energizing spirit of women who care about their health and well-being.

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# Wearing purple raises awareness for cancer research



Relay For Life team Heather Riley, Barksdale Pullen IV, Vivian Ruiz, Alexis Ray and Leslie Green with Miss Jacksonville 2016, Amanda Hatcher (center)

Even the lions wore purple on March 5 when the American Cancer Society's Purple in the Park festival brought awareness to fundraising efforts of Relay For Life of San Marco/San Jose.

Amanda Hatcher, Miss Jacksonville 2016, stopped by for a quick photo with the Relay For Life team, while Bolles students Zev Lee and Van Lucas, himself a cancer survivor, entertained visitors on drums and guitar.

Partnering with the San Marco Merchants Association, the event hosted by the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life of San Marco/San Jose resulted in donations of 10 percent or more in sales from merchants such as Peterbrooke, The Wardroom, Impressions, Leila's, Stellers Gallery, The Loop, Firehouse Subs, and San Marco Books.

The annual Relay For Life event will be held Saturday, April 9, 3-9 p.m. at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School. Visit [www.relayforlife.org/sanmarcosanjosefl](http://www.relayforlife.org/sanmarcosanjosefl) for more information.



Nassiem Waitley, Jessica Fessenden, Wolfson Magnet School teacher, Anxhela Angjo, Ayadeth Riveiro



Heather, Gray, Scott and Ford Riley

## Episcopal School celebrates 50 years with Founder's Day celebration

Sherry Magill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, was the keynote speaker at Episcopal School of Jacksonville's 50th anniversary celebration March 15 on the Dale D. Regan Plaza on campus. Philanthropist Jessie Ball duPont was Episcopal's original benefactor and helped fund the school during its planning and early years.

In addition to Magill, a proclamation from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry was read. Episcopal Founder David W. Foerster spoke at the ceremony, which also served as the induction of Honorary Trustees and Trustees Emeriti.

"Mrs. duPont cared deeply about education," Magill said. "She was a teacher and a school principal, and some of her earliest charitable gifts were made to individuals to support their education. In her lifetime she supported scores of private

educational institutions – secondary schools, colleges and universities. Recognizing the value of education is a significant part of her legacy."

Mrs. duPont's original gifts to the school totaled \$300,000 in 1967, a gift that today would be valued at \$2 million.

"In the early winter of 1966, visionaries dreamed of founding an Episcopal high school in Jacksonville. Fifty years later we rejoice in the success of their dream," said Head of School Charley Zimmer. "The school today enjoys a position of prominence and strength within the Southeast and continues to graduate young men and women who are leaders in their professional fields and communities."

Over the past half century, Episcopal has striven to live up to its founding mission of providing excellence to its students in the ar-

reas of academics, service, athletics, arts and spiritual leadership.

Its original founders, most of whom were members of St. John's Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville, were part of a planning committee that created the Report of the Planning Group – known today as "The Purple Book" because of its purple cover. The book outlined the guiding principles of the future school.

In 1966, the articles of indoc-trination (incorporated) were drawn, and Episcopal was named Jacksonville Episcopal High School, or JEHS. Over time the school has become Episcopal School of Jacksonville in order to reflect a student body comprised of sixth through 12th grades.

Currently, the school has more than 5,000 alumni and educates 900 students annually.



Playing key roles in the 50th Anniversary Founder's Day Chapel at Episcopal School of Jacksonville were Robert M. Clements, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Richard H. Jones, honorary trustee; Katharine K. Zambetti, trustee emeritus; keynote speaker Sherry McGill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund; Head of School Charley Zimmer and Thad McNulty, trustee emeritus.



Episcopal School of Jacksonville Founder David W. (Dink) Foerster, who is also a trustee emeritus, gave the opening remarks at the school's 50th Anniversary Founder's Day Chapel. Foerster attended the event with his wife Margaret and grandchildren, who are students at the school. From left: Mac Lyerly, Dink Foerster, Vason Lyerly and Margaret Foerster.

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# The art of food, inspired by works of art, unveiled at Cummer

Lovers of fine food and drink were treated to a recipe tasting event for the launch of "The Chef's Canvas," a coffee table book featuring recipes from Northeast Florida's top chefs, bartenders, food trucks and breweries. Each recipe, inspired by a work of art from the Cummer Museum's collection, is presented alongside the corresponding

work of art. The 288-page book is produced by The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and Cari Sanchez-Potter, owner of The Legend Series, with photography by Agnes Lopez and design by Varick Rosete Studio. The March 16 event brought out Jacksonville's food and art connoisseurs.



Philip Potter, Cari Sanchez-Potter, Mark Grandin, Hope McMath (Photo courtesy of Dennis Ho)

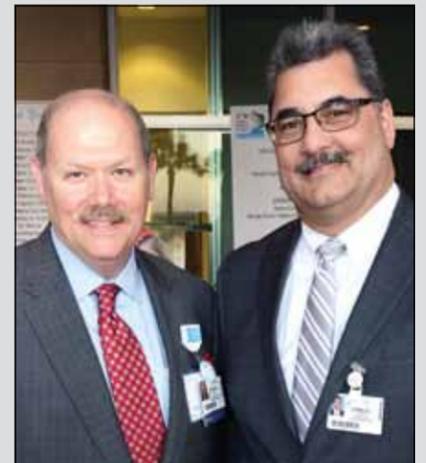


A check for \$300,000 was presented March 8 to Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, from the proceeds of the 2015 Bass Tournament.

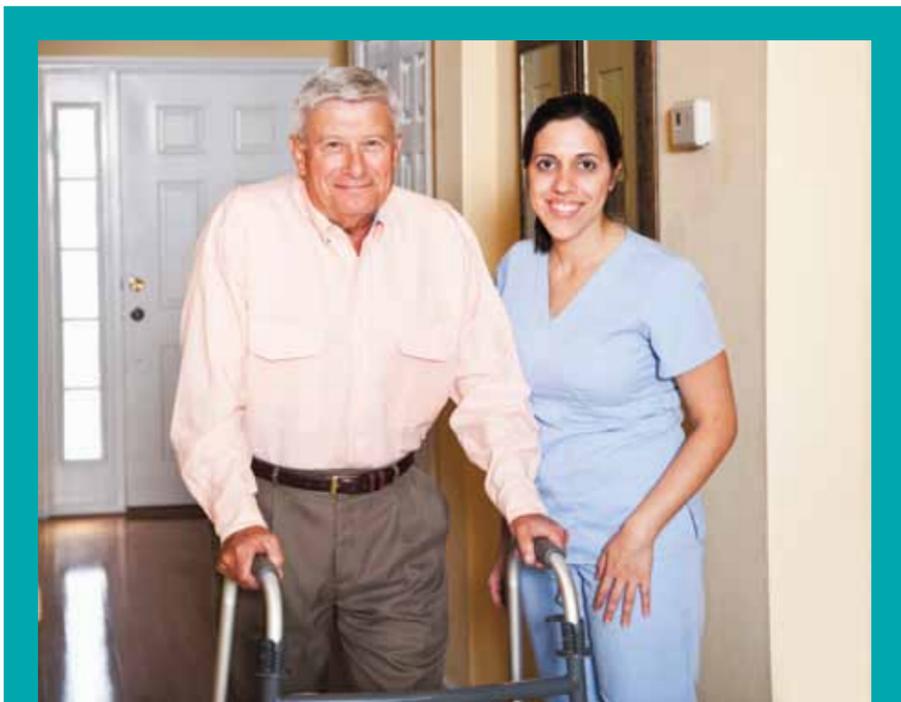
## Bass Tournament raises \$300,000 for Wolfson Children's Hospital

Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene and other Baptist officials showed their appreciation at a reception March 8 to sponsors of the 2015 Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament. A check for \$300,000 was presented to Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, from the Bass Tournament Committee.

The funds raised by the upcoming 2016 Bass Tournament will be used to purchase a second heart-lung bypass machine, which will help 200 more children each year who need open heart surgery, according to Carol Chaffin, marketing and communications specialist for the hospital.



Hospital President Michael Mayo of Baptist Jacksonville with Sam Dean, Plant Operations Director, Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital



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# Arbor Terrace San Jose to Open May 2016

Anyone who has cared for a family member living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia will tell you: it's a demanding job. Seniors with dementia may exhibit difficult behavior, such as agitation or aggression, and are often prone to wander, sometimes late at night. As a result, family caregivers may experience high levels of stress, and that can compromise their physical health.



However, families in the San Jose area will soon have a new option. When Arbor Terrace San Jose opens in May, 2016, at 3760 Dupont Avenue in Jacksonville, Fla., the community will offer a safe and caring environment dedicated exclusively to seniors living with Alzheimer's or dementia.

The community's 60 units will include two levels of security, designed to keep residents safe yet as independent as possible, depending on their current level of abilities. Families may choose bedroom or companion suites.

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Jacksonville-based Whitehall Realty Partners owns the property and The Arbor Company will operate it. The Arbor Company is an Atlanta-based operator of more than 25 independent living, assisted living and memory care communities, serving seniors in eleven states.

With nearly 30 years of experience, The Arbor Company's specialized approach to memory care includes three components: Dining with Dignity, which promotes increased nutritional intake and helps residents maintain their independence as long as possible; Gem Levels, a positive approach to addressing each resident's needs and abilities across the dementia

spectrum; and the Engaged Living program, which enriches residents' lives by providing activities they can enjoy within their level of ability.

Arbor Terrace San Jose will help address a growing need for dementia care; according to the Alzheimer's Association, nearly half a million Floridians are living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.

"The demand is growing daily, with Alzheimer's rates anticipated to double in Florida over the next ten years," said G. John Carey, founding partner of Whitehall Realty Partners. "We are working to meet that need with thoughtful, specialized care and living communities."

"As specialists in dementia and other memory care diseases, we provide dedicated programs designed for the

progression of dementia with a focus on what remains as a part of the disease process rather than what has been lost," said Harper.

*"Our goal is to provide high-quality, engaging and compassionate care that is considerate of each resident's personal preferences and needs, and we do that by taking a progressive approach to caring for residents with memory impairments."*



*Arbor Terrace San Jose is currently accepting reservations.*

*For additional information or to set up a tour, call Nicole Jones at 904-601-3884, or visit [www.at-sanjose.com](http://www.at-sanjose.com)*

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# Landon Middle welcomes Lions from bygone era



Yves Rathle, Zavier Rathle, Anne Saltmarsh Lasher and Suzanne Saltmarsh Rathle.



Lonnie Turner and Dale Harris, both Landon High School Class of 1963, look over old yearbooks at Julia Landon College Preparatory School March 17.



Former Landon Middle School Principal Bill Dutter and his wife, Elsie, who graduated in 1958, attended the gathering sponsored by the Julia Landon College Preparatory School PTSA March 17.

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

In an effort to bridge the gap between the “Leading Lions” of today with the “Lions that came before,” the Julia Landon College Preparatory School Parents-Teachers-Students Association hosted an alumni gathering in the school auditorium March 17.

Organized by Miramar’s Joy Hicks, Landon PTSA Alumni Coordinator, the gathering was held as a way to build a connection between the leadership magnet school and the greater community.

“For the people who have graduated from here there is a strong bond with the school,” Hicks said, noting that her mother, her husband and his father all graduated from Landon, and she is currently the mother of

a sixth grader at the school. “We hope to give the alumni an opportunity to reconnect with the school while allowing the students to learn about the school’s rich history,” she said. “We want to build community support, not for fundraising, but just as a connection.”

Landon PTSA President Kelly Nowak agreed. “We want to connect the history of Landon with the future leaders that are going through the school,” she said.

Nearly 20 alumni attended the event, which included introductions from Julia Landon Principal Timothy Feagins, a slide show, musical solo presented by a musical performance by soloist Nicolle Alexandra Bahamon, and a presentation put on by the school’s robotics team. The alumni also had the opportunity to take a tour of the school. The oldest class represented was 1949,

while the youngest alum hailed from the Class of 1998.

Three generations of the Saltmarsh family, who are members of the Landon family, joined the fun, and the group sang “Happy Birthday” to Anne Saltmarsh Lasher, Class of 1949. Joining Lasher at the event were her daughters, Suzanne Saltmarsh Rathle, Mary Saltmarsh, and her grandson, Zavier Rathle, who is currently in eighth grade at the school, as well as Suzanne’s husband, Yves Rathle who is not an alum.

For former Landon Principal Bill Dutter, who attended the event with his wife, Elsie, Landon Class of 1958, the March 17 event was a chance to see changes in the school he once led. “I started (at Landon) in the late 1980s, just before it became a magnet school for visual performing arts,” he said.

“I haven’t been back since I left. I never took the opportunity to stop in,” he said.

“Being here brings back a lot of memories,” said Lonnie Turner, Class of ’65. Turner’s classmate, Dale Harris, agreed. “It’s nice that they opened it up for us so we can look around,” Harris recalled as she perused several old Landon High School yearbooks. “Back in the day everyone wore Gant shirts, Gold Cup socks, and Villager dresses,” she said.

For John Rose, Class of ’65 of Orange Park, who grew up in San Marco and played in the Landon High School band, the school still had a comfortable, familiar feel. “The only difference is the air conditioning,” he said. “It looks the same outside. The classrooms have been modernized, of course, but the stage looks the same.”

## Watercrest San Jose awaits its new residents

The Watercrest of San Jose Sales Office held a wine and cheese soiree on March 10 to introduce the community to its future senior living facility.

Groundbreaking was nearly a year ago, May 27, 2015, for the 79,000-square-foot, 90-unit Watercrest of San Jose Assisted Living and Memory Care Community, which will offer luxury residences, premium amenities, and tranquil settings along the picturesque banks of Goodby’s Creek. The facility will offer 66 assisted living and 24 memory care apartments with upscale accommodations, spa amenities, outstanding dining, concierge services, grand balconies and Florida-style outdoor living spaces.



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# The Way We Were

## Former Camden Avenue residents walk down memory lane

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It was a stroll down Memory Lane for more than 20 Camden Avenue childhood friends and former neighbors, who gathered with their families for a first-ever reunion in St. Nicholas March 19.

Reconnecting through Facebook with their neighborhood friends from the 1940s, '50s and '60s, childhood best friends Anita Tiffany Dunford of San Jose and Linda Wood Hills of Mandarin orchestrated a Saturday evening walk down Camden Avenue for their childhood buddies before heading over to the Mudville Grille in St. Nicholas for a reunion meal.

Including spouses and other family members, 40 with Camden Avenue ties took part in the walk back in time. Joining in the fun were Roger Curry of St. Nicholas; Dunford's sisters Melanie Tiffany Bird of Avondale and Marie Tiffany Howell of Ortega; Phil Spiak of San Marco; Wayne Ballasso of St. Nicholas and his wife, Laurie, as well as Wayne Ballasso's ex-wife, Cindy, of St. Nicholas; Wayne Ballasso's mother, Marilyn Wilkins Ballasso, and her sister, Tena Wilkins Dancy; Wayne's son, Sean Ballasso, and his children, Blake, Samuel Cash and Olive Ballasso; Barbara and Jim Brinkman; Frances Daniels Rogers; Layton Hartley and his sisters Patsy Hartley Selang and Dede Hartley Noyes; Jeff Parsons and his brother, Tom Parsons; Ray Bunn; and Margo Olcott Wilson.

Chris Meide of San Jose, as well as Hal Schemer and Marty Schemer and their families missed the walk but were expected to join the group at the Mudville Grille. Wayne Ballasso's sister, Tammy, who currently lives on the street, also was absent from the walk but made it to the dinner. Her son, Jonathan Sandroni, grew up on Camden Avenue, but currently lives in Jacksonville Beach and was unable to attend the festivities.



Naomi Parsons, Chloe Johnson, Ray Walker, Faye Chambers Walker, Tom Parsons, Chase Johnson, Jeff Parsons and his wife Gina



Roger Curry of St. Nicholas with Patsy Hartley Selang, Tom Parsons, Margo Olcott and Anita Tiffany Dunford of San Jose



Childhood friends sit for a photo in front of Linda Wood Hills Camden Avenue home back in the 1960s.



The girls on Camden Avenue often congregated at the Tiffany's backyard playhouse.

Tom Parsons, who lives in North Carolina, traveled to the reunion from Afghanistan, where he has been working as a contract firefighter for more than five years. "I would have quit my job to come to this," he said.

Also traveling from afar to see their old friends were Patsy Hartley Selang and her sister, Dede Hartley Noyes, who live in the mountains of Tennessee.

Presently living on the street is Roger Curry, who grew up on Camden Avenue, moved away for a few years, then back into his mother's home after she passed away.

Wayne Ballasso's grandparents built the house at 2014 Camden Avenue, which he currently owns, and five generations of his family have lived in that house or in others nearby. Wayne currently owns three Camden

Avenue homes, which he rents. He formerly lived with his wife, Laurie, at 2104 Camden. His ex-wife, Cindy, and his sister, Tammy, are also Camden Avenue residents. "It was beautiful back then, and I knew everybody on the street. We knew everybody," he said.

A short street that intersects with Beach Boulevard, Camden Avenue is a dead-end in the heart of St. Nicholas near the headwaters of Miller's Creek. It currently consists of 23 small homes, said Dunford, noting when she was growing up, the end of the road was commonly referred to as "the ditch."

The oldest former resident to attend the gathering was Jim Brinkman, who is 88. His family built the first house in 1933, a residence with no inside plumbing and outhouse in the backyard. Brinkman said

prior to moving to Camden Avenue, he was born in a house at the corner of what is now Beach Boulevard and Schumacher Avenue. At that time, Camden Avenue was unpaved and named Roosevelt Road. "This was long before there was a Beach Boulevard," said Dunford. "There was a train station just a short walk away, and the train went all the way to Atlantic. Hogan Road was a dirt road leading to the street"

Since the time the group resided on Camden, four to five more homes near Beach Boulevard have since been demolished to make way for several commercial properties during the 1960s and '70s, she said.

"Growing up, the road pavement ended at 'the hill,' near the end of the street. Why,

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Former Camden Avenue residents and their families strolled down Camden Avenue in St. Nicholas March 19.



Barbara and Jim Brinkman enjoyed the reunion.



Barbara Brinkman, Jim Brinkman, Phil Spiak, Frances Daniels Rogers, Anita Tiffany Dunford, Tena Wilkins Dancy, Sean Ballasso, Melanie Tiffany Bird, Patsy Hartley Selang, Wayne Ballasso, Laurie Ballasso, Cindy Ballasso, Dede Hartley Noyes, Ray Bunn, Marilyn Wilkins Ballasso, Layton Hartley, Faye Chambers Walker, Margo Olcott Wilson, Marie Tiffany Howell, Linda Wood Hills. Children in front: Olive Ballasso, Blake Ballasso and Samuel Cash Ballasso.



Sisters Anita Tiffany Dunford of San Jose, Marie Tiffany Howell of Ortega and Melanie Tiffany Bird of Avondale in front of their childhood home on Camden Avenue in St. Nicholas.



Camden Avenue residents Bebe, Margo and Skipper Olcott in the 1960s.



Longtime Brownie and Girl Scout leader Priscilla Tiffany of Camden Avenue in 1962.

no one knows. A few of the homes are still owned by family members," said Dunford. Most of the children on the street walked to Spring Park Elementary or Assumption Catholic School, she said. Later they advanced to Landon High School or Bishop Kenny. During their childhood years, St. Nicholas Shopping Center thrived with several businesses, including Preston's Pharmacy (now the Mudville Grille), A&P Grocery Store, Sew and Trim (alterations), a laundrette, a shoe repair shop, a uniform shop, Curry Thomas Hardware, which is still in business today, and St. Nick's package store and lounge, she said, noting that Curry Thomas has been housed in the old A&P for many years.

"The neighborhood was like Leave It To

Beaver, with quite a bit of heavy drinking, recalled Margo Olcott Wilson. "It was a modest neighborhood," Dunford said. "Everybody owned their own home. We didn't have curbs, and the road was more narrow. Everybody had bigger lawns, and it was shadier," she remembered. "There's no way you could drive down this street if you grew up on it and not have your heart warmed." "My fondest memories are playing in the Tiffanys' backyard playhouse and playing Tarzan with the Bunn boys," Linda Wood Hills recalled. Dunford also remembered the playhouse in her backyard. "The playhouse had a front porch and a stoop. It also had a little bench and a built-in hutch inside. We would

play house and school in there. It was the gathering place for the girls," she said. "It was just a comfortable place to be," said Dunford's sister, Melanie Tiffany Bird. "There was always somebody to play with. When our mother would call us to come in, our next door neighbor, Ruth Cox, had a parrot named Polly, who would imitate us and tell our mother we were coming. Polly would say, 'Coming,' and she would imitate our voices. It was funny," she recalled. "Marguerite Olcott (Margo Olcott Wilson's mother) was Miss Camden Avenue. She ran a barber shop out back," Dunford continued. "She would sweep her lawn with a broom." Marguerite Olcott was also the neighborhood barber, cutting everyone's hair from a small shop in her backyard,

recalled her daughter, Margo. She and Marie Tiffany Howell were the youngest children on the block and grew up as best friends who lived across the street from each other, Wilson said. "There used to be a dent in the road between our houses. If she wasn't at my house, I was at hers," she remembered. Also in the mix was Patsy Hartley Salang, who lived nearby. "We were inseparable. To be punished meant we couldn't see each other for a day," she said. "We had a glider and a rocker on our front porch and mother would sit me in the rocker with her," Wilson recalled. "The neighbors would come and wave and join us. There was laughter all around. We had a nice childhood. We were blessed," she said.

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# Churches, public schools blessed by faith-based partnerships

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville's public school system has been built on the firm belief churches and schools hold separate roles in the community. However, more than one public school in the San Marco area has found partnering with local churches beneficial to students while still preserving the boundary between church and state.

Churches can offer support and resources unavailable to public schools, said Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Nikolai Vitti. Some sponsor field trips. Others provide students with tutoring, mentoring, or give families with socio-economic challenges material provisions such as canned goods, clothing and school supplies, he said.

"Jacksonville is rich in involvement of church. Parents trust churches, sometimes more than schools," said Vitti, noting some parents are more apt to attend meetings or adult classes offered by the school district if they are held at a church.

"Churches have a different support mechanism," Vitti said. "When you think about the fabric of the community with its churches and schools, the strategy of social capital is linked to relationships," he said. "It's not about converting individuals to Christianity. Churches want to fill gaps in the lives of children. If church members are willing, it's a win-win situation with the schools, churches and community," said Vitti, adding he hopes every school in Duval County will have a partnership with a church or business in the future.

## Southside Baptist

In 2009 when Kelly Coker-Daniel was principal, Landon Middle School began its special relationship with Southside Baptist Church (SBC), said Dr. Gary Webber, senior pastor at Southside Baptist.

"We don't make a big deal about it, and in no way do we cross any lines," Webber said. "We are respectful of the plurality of faiths on the school campus. There is no proselytizing in any way. We are very careful. A lot of trust has been built up over the years because we have been true to our word."

In the years following Coker-Daniel's tenure, Landon has been led by two other principals and transformed into a college preparatory and leadership



Tina Joel and Southside United Methodist Church youth pastor Steve Dickson stand in HAPI House room where church members sort and store boys' clothing.



Rebecca Garner of Southside United Methodist Church tutors Gretchen Grant in Tracy Langley's third-grade class at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School.

magnet, yet the church remains its faith-based partner and continues to make a difference for many students.

The church's close proximity to Landon is beneficial to the school in two ways: Southside Baptist is Landon's designated evacuation zone and its students often use the church's indoor track for athletic practices on rainy days. "All of our facilities are available to them," Webber said. "They can use our gym when they need to practice. They pretty much have a blank check as far as we're concerned."

SBC volunteers provide food for teacher appreciation events and the church provides a small donation to be used for "benevolent needs" at the principal's discretion, Webber said. "We don't know how they use it. We just stipulate it be used for the needs of the students."

Also, each year, approximately 15 church members serve as mentors for students the school deems might benefit from having ongoing one-on-one relationships with caring adults, he said. SBC mentors eat lunch at school with their students on a regular basis and serve as a sounding board or advocate for their students if necessary. One church member grew so close to her mentee she essentially became a second mother and continued the relationship after the student advanced to high school, Webber said.

Southside Baptist also provides spiritual support to the school, with members conducting prayer walks after church the Sunday before the school year begins, praying as they walk the campus perimeter, Webber said. The church offers

students breakfast and a prayer service before Landon's Thanksgiving football game, he added.

Landon gives back to Southside Baptist by partnering with the church in community food drives and tutoring refugee children the church supports in preparing for their FSA tests, said Landon Assistant Principal Carolyn Aponte. "Currently our Leadership teachers and students are working on creating 'Welcome Home' baskets for refugees who have been brought to Jacksonville," she said, adding that the school also puts on a thank-you luncheon for the students and mentors at the end of the year.

In the past, SBC has served as a more casual partner to Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Englewood High School, Webber said. Members have conducted prayer walks at DA and have offered help to Principal Jackie Cornelius, but the relationship has not developed to the degree of Landon's, he said.

Last August, at the request of Englewood Principal Sara Bravo, the church paid for and planted shrubbery and helped clean up the school campus as part of its GO JAX initiative. Bravo reached out to Southside Baptist because of the relationship she developed with the church as Landon's principal the previous year, he said.

"We like to go deep rather than wide," Webber explained. "We want to think long-term rather than short. We want other churches to become aware they can do this in the neighborhood. Our mission is across the street as well as around the world. The

light that shines the farthest shines the brightest at home."

## Southside UMC

Like their Southside Baptist Church neighbor, Southside United Methodist Church (SUMC) believes it has a similar mission.

"Our intention is to love our neighbor and to build a community," said Tina Joel, who heads up the church's Hendricks Avenue Partnership Initiative (HAPI), the program the church has developed as a faith-based partner to Hendricks Avenue Elementary. "Our church is so central, it's a no-brainer for our church to commit to the partnership."

SUMC's relationship with HAE began in the fall of 2012 after church children's director Angie Cospser learned about Southside Baptist's partnership with Landon. "Angie attended school there. She heard about what Southside Baptist was doing and wondered why we weren't doing something," said Steve Dickson, SUMC Youth Director.

Because the SUMC campus neighbors HAE, the church's Family Life Center is the school's evacuation zone. The church also allows the school to use its facility for events, such as its annual fifth-grade graduation party. "We're just walking distance," Dickson said.

HAPI assists the school in many ways. It provides three different kinds of extended-day care for HAE students, a "Dance for Joy" program, a Digital Music Academy, and after-school tutoring. Teenagers from

*continued on page 39 >>>*

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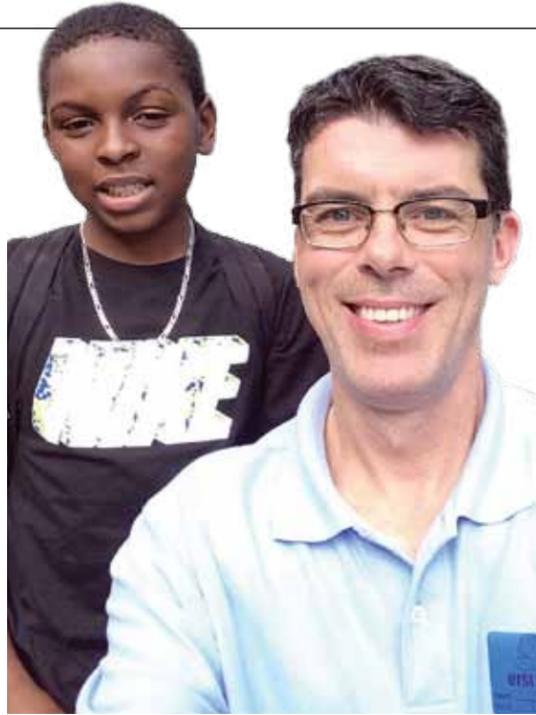
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HAPI House on Inwood Terrace



The Rev. Dr. Gary Lee Webber, pastor at Southside Baptist Church, is mentor to Dietrich, a student at Landon Middle School.

## Cleaning up the bioswale

A team of volunteers and members of the Bolles Environmental Club turned out Feb. 20 to assist representatives from the St. Johns Riverkeeper in doing routine maintenance to the bioswale outside the San Marco Library.

The function of the bioswale is to filter pollutants from surface water before it reaches the river, said Justina Dacey, community engagement coordinator of the St. Johns Riverkeeper. During the event, volunteers trimmed the muhly grass, weeded the beds, spread mulch and picked up trash. "The bioswale is made up of all native plants so it doesn't need to be fertilized or watered," Dacey said.



Grace Igel, Libby Levin, Alexander McIntyre and Wyatt Kogan of the Bolles Environmental Club spread mulch on the bioswale outside the San Marco Library during the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER's semi-annual clean-up event.



Wyatt Kogan of the Bolles Environmental Club spreads mulch during the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER's semi-annual bioswale clean-up outside the San Marco Library Feb. 20.

the church's youth group, as well as adult volunteers, tutor students each day, logging 700 hours of volunteer time during the last school year, said Dickson. In total SUMC volunteers have tallied close to 2,000 hours since the program started in 2012, he said.

Church members monitor "center time" in kindergarten, where the children rotate to different areas to practice reading and their ABCs. In Tracy Langley's third grade, where at the start of this school year 11 children were not reading at grade level, HAPI supplied eight tutors to help, most of which were former teachers as well as one former principal.

"We have many students who need specialized help and benefit from one-on-one time with a caring adult," Langley said. "The ladies from SUMC are able to read with my students in books at their current level. They help me remediate gaps some students have in phonics, math and reading. The kids look forward to them coming in and love their special time with the "church ladies," she said.

SUMC seeks to nurture HAE faculty and staff in body and spirit as well. It sponsors end-of-the-year luncheons and back-to-school teacher breakfasts. Church members pray for the school and all its employees, from the custodial staff up to the principal. "We are intentional in our relationships with them," Dickson said.

Perhaps the largest contribution the church makes toward the school is HAPI House, a small bungalow owned by the church on Inwood Terrace, adjacent to the SUMC campus. Because 34 percent of the children who attend HAE qualify for

free or reduced lunch, church members collect clothes, coats, backpacks, and school supplies, which they store at HAPI House and distribute to these families and others in need in the community.

"Our goal is to impact as many children as possible by improving the academic performance, social condition and emotional well-being of the students we serve," Joel said. "We are Christians, and we take the Christian perspective, but we are not trying to convert people. We are just trying to express Christ's love. You can't love your neighbor if you don't know your neighbor," she said.

Kate Hurst, an HAE employee who serves as liaison between the church and school, said Hendricks Avenue Elementary feels the love.

"Our partnership with HAPI is amazing. People who want to help give us a resource for those who need help. It's a dual blessing," Hurst said. "It's the little things they do that say we care about you. We care about your child here. That's what makes this such a wonderful community."

### Faith-based partnerships in San Jose

Landon Middle and Hendricks Avenue Elementary are not the only schools in the community to benefit from relationships with local churches. Samuel Wolfson High School partners with Light of the World Christian Church, according to school district records, said Brandon Mack, a DCPS employee who works with faith-based and community engagement.

Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church and

San Jose Church of Christ support duPont Middle School. Shiloh's congregation has donated \$1,000 to duPont during the past four years, while San Jose Church of Christ contributed school supplies this year, said Principal Marilyn Barnwell. Duval County Public School District records state, in addition to these two churches, five other religious organizations – Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, First African Baptist Church, East Florida and Bethany Baptist Association as well as Lakewood United Methodist Church – are on record as faith-based partners to duPont, said Mack.

Meanwhile, San Jose Elementary profits from the benevolence of three churches – San Jose Baptist, Lakewood Presbyterian, and Lakewood United Methodist Church, said Assistant Principal Arlene Baez. These religious organizations donate school and "sanitation" supplies, and provide volunteers who read to primary students and assist with campus beautification, she said. Church members provide snacks for the students during FSA testing as well as "bread and sweets," which are taken to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) families' homes, she said.

"We are very grateful for these partnerships," said Baez. "Our students and teachers benefit greatly from the volunteers in the classroom. These volunteers assist with one-on-one assistance, small groups, mentoring of students and preparing materials for teachers. Volunteers from these faith-based organizations are an asset to our school, and we are glad they are part of our San Jose Panda [school mascot] family."

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# Jr. Residents

## Local high school students to get CPR/AED training

### Initiative spurred by tragedy

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

In honor of one of their own, Bishop Kenny High School has incorporated training for all students in CPR and the proper use of automated external defibrillators (AED) into its health curriculum.

To institute the new healthcare initiative, Bishop Kenny staff has joined forces with members of the Baptist Medical Center CPR staff to ensure all students receive proper training. Bishop Kenny employs a full-time registered nurse and also offers annual CPR training to its faculty and staff. Five AED devices are available throughout its campus.

Last September, Michael Namey, who attended Assumption School and was a 2015 magna cum laude graduate of Bishop Kenny, died of sudden cardiac arrest during class at the University of Central Florida, where he was an engineering major.

The tragedy shook the UCF community and personally affected the Firehouse Subs organization because Namey was



Michael Namey



Bishop Kenny students receive hands-only CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training in the school gymnasium.

the nephew of a corporate team member.

In an effort to prevent similar tragedies from occurring, Firehouse Subs has established The Michael Namey AED initiative, in order to provide AED and CPR training to schools and organizations in Florida. Fundraising for the initiative began in Jacksonville March 14.

From March 14 through April 17, Firehouse Subs restaurants in the Jacksonville area will support the initiative by encouraging guests to “round

up” their bills to the nearest dollar.

Donors can also drop spare change in donation canisters or donate on-line at [FirehouseSubs.com/Foundation](http://FirehouseSubs.com/Foundation).

“The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation is proud to support the life-saving mission of the Michael Namey AED initiative,” said Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director. “Often there are no warning signs before someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, and Michael’s

death stirred deep emotions within the community. By launching training programs and increasing access to portable on-site AEDs we hope to prevent future tragedies.”

Bishop Kenny took up the initiative after Namey’s mother, Connie, and Dr. Sylkia Martinez, and the mother of one of Namey’s closest friends, took up the mantle to raise awareness for sudden cardiac arrest on school campuses.

“We were approached about the initiative by one of our parents, a medical doctor, who is the mother of a classmate of Michael Namey,” said Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando, noting the training will remain part of the school’s health curriculum with a three-year plan to teach all current students prior to graduation.

Martinez hopes other Florida schools will follow Bishop Kenny’s lead and take the initiative seriously. “Twenty-seven states require CPR training before graduation,” she said. “Unfortunately Florida is not one of them. By providing a protocol that teaches schools how to create a Cardiac Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP), how to train faculty, staff and students and how to acquire funding for necessary equipment, schools will become sustainable and able to lead training by themselves for years to come. This preparedness can make the difference between life and death – not only at school, but anywhere.”

## duPont role models meet Jacksonville mayor



Alfred I. duPont Middle School students involved in the 5,000 Role Models for Excellence program met with Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry at the Millennial Generation Developing Leaders Today for Tomorrow Summit held at the University of North Florida March 5. The students participated in several breakout sessions including a financial workshop, an entrepreneurial panel and a session led by Mayor Curry.

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# Middle school students create, perform opera



## Full-length opera makes history as first in country

By Lara Patangan  
Resident Community News

Art may imitate life, but for students at LaVilla School of the Arts there is no replicating the production of the full-length opera titled, “Jared: A Tale of Freedom, Control and Choice.”

Indeed, every word and every note of the production is the outcome of collaboration between LaVilla’s vocal, theatre, and instrumental music students.

While the production, which will run on April 14 and 15 in the school’s theatre, promises to be a work of art, it will also make history as the first full-length opera to be both created and performed exclusively by middle school students.

“This is the first time that a full-length opera has been done entirely by middle school students – anytime, anywhere in any country,” said Shawn Pendry, Choral Director and Music Composition Teacher, who is the Project Manager for the production.

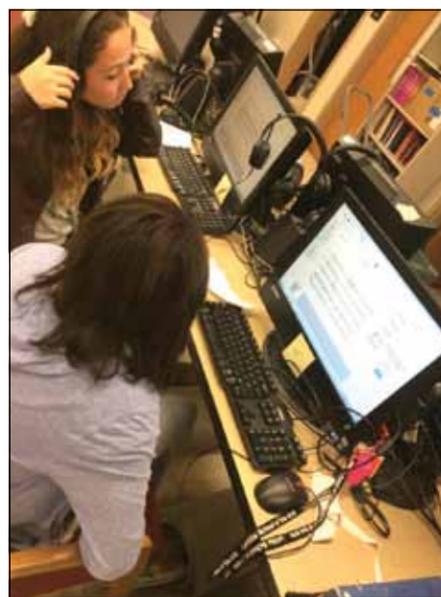
While the idea for the opera originated with Pendry, the LaVilla students, who had just finished studying the Enlightenment Period, chose the complicated themes of redemption, unconditional love and generational sin for the story line.

“Students wanted to deal with real material – not unicorns in a fantasy land,” said Pendry. “It raises the question about how far do our freedoms go before they cross into the personal liberties of others.”

Singing in the opera will be Delaney Rose, an eighth-grade vocal student who said the serious story line explores the role of freedom versus control with the central figure, Jared, being a sociopath.

“The character, Jared, is a horrid person,” said Delaney. “The students wanted the opera to reflect pretty serious issues. They created these characters not just for the audience but for the students to confront problems happening in the world today.”

Delaney’s mother, Teresa Rose, a St. Nicholas resident, is thrilled her daughter



and the other students at LaVilla have the unique opportunity to create and perform in their own opera.

“This will be Delaney’s first opera, but it’s also historically significant because it’s the first opera created and performed solely by middle school students,” said Rose. “It is an incredible opportunity, not just because of the value of the experience to perform but because it shows these kids what it’s like to really create art – to make something significant out of nothing.”

For Pendry, it is an opportunity to show the public what students can do when their potential is unleashed and for students to see the freedom they have to do just about anything in this world.

“There has never been a project at this school, and perhaps any other, that accesses so many parts of human knowledge from concept to stage. Every art and every academic pursuit in our building have played a role in the creation of Jared,” explained Pendry. “Our students have spoken their story into the world with their words, their melodies. This is freedom.”

Approximately 160 students have been involved in bringing the project to fruition. The Visual Arts Department will host an art exhibit that will reflect the themes of the opera to coincide with the show.

To help pay for production costs of sound and theatrical directors, students have set up a fundraising page at [www.gofundme.com/cw7s8hws](http://www.gofundme.com/cw7s8hws). To date, they have raised \$5,710 of the \$10,000 needed. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 at the door.



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# Superheroes cheer children on Nemours' Incredible Kids' Day



The Incredible Division of Endocrinology at Nemours Children's Specialty Care

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

At Nemours Children's Specialty Care, National Incredible Kids' Day is celebrated like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Throughout the day, comic book superheroes take time off from fighting crime to wander the halls, and it is not unusual to see Superman, Batman or Spiderman outside an 10th story window, armed with a sponge and squeegee, fighting grime and waving to children.

"A variety of superheroes take time from crime fighting to surprise real-life superheroes – kids facing health challenges," said Nemours spokeswoman Erin Wallner.

National Incredible Kid's day is always celebrated on the third Tuesday in March, said Wallner. "It was originally created as a letter-writing campaign with the goal that all children would receive a letter or note of encouragement and inspiration."

Many Nemours doctors and nurses join the fun by dressing up as their favorite superhero.

Denise Dancull, Speech and Language pathologist and feeding therapist, took a turn as Catwoman and handed out capes to her patients. Shark Boy Laura Goldstein of Lakewood was seen searching for Lava Girl on the 10th floor accompanied by Ninja Turtle Amanda Carter, while Spider Girl Jessica Mays and Captain America Dana Smith of Avondale checked in patients near the Endocrinology Department.

"On Incredible Kids' Day every child receives a certificate from their doctor telling them why they are incredible," Wallner said, noting a Superhero parade takes place in the of the outpatient specialty care practice later in the day.

Adding to the day's comic-book allure, window washers from City Wide Maintenance dress in superhero costumes in order to spread joy to Nemours patients. On March 15, several superheroes scaled the exterior walls to peek at the children being cared for on the upper stories and scrub the

windows until high winds midmorning forced them to retreat to the ground floor.



Batwoman Julie Russell, Wonder Woman Tina Ewen and Batwoman Lurdes DeJesus from Nemours' gastroenterology department.



Batman said hello to children and staff on the 10th floor of Nemours Children's Specialty Care March 15. Window washers from City Wide Maintenance donned superhero costumes in commemoration of National Incredible Kids' Day at the outpatient care facility. (Photo courtesy of Nemours Children's Specialty Care)



Ninja Turtle Amanda Carter and Shark boy Laura Goldstein



Hudson Noblitt, 19 months, has a visit with Catwoman Denise Dancull, speech and language pathologist and feeding therapist at Nemours Children's Specialty Care March 15. Also in the visit was Hudson's dad, Austin, and his grandmother, Mandy Davis.

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## Tennis is all in the family for Bishop Kenny senior

Will Thompson, a Bishop Kenny senior and the Crusader's top tennis player, has signed to play for LaGrange College in Georgia next year.

Thompson, an Empire Point resident, who turned down offers from two Division II schools to play at LaGrange, will receive an academic scholarship package from the Division III school, which does not award athletic scholarships.

"Will has spent countless hours in the weight room and the tennis courts improving his fitness and technique. He has a tremendous work ethic and competitive drive that have enabled him to achieve his goal and play tennis in college," said Dave Williams, Dean of Students and Head Tennis Coach at Bishop Kenny. "We are all very proud of the success Will has achieved."

At Bishop Kenny, Thompson has been named to both the Principal's Honor Roll and the Athlete's Honor Roll all four years, said his mother, Suzy Luker Thompson. He was named Most Valuable Player his freshman, sophomore and junior years for Crusader tennis team, and as of March 1, was undefeated playing in Bishop Kenny's top spot during his senior year.

Thompson's expertise in tennis may be genetic on his father's side of the family.



Will Thompson's family came out in force when he signed with LaGrange College. Seated: Will Thompson. Second row: Thompson's aunts, Mary Hartley and Olivia Bush, his mother, Suzy Luker Thompson, his grandmother Katharine Thompson, his brother Robbie Thompson, his cousin Trey Thompson and his aunt, Cindy Thompson. Back row, Thompson's father, Bill Thompson, his aunt Mary Monfort and grandfather Ken Thompson.

His great-grandfather, Rex Thompson of Brunswick, Georgia, was named to the Forest Hills tennis ladder in his youth and played the game well into his 80s. His grandfather, Kenneth Thompson, also of Brunswick, played varsity tennis for Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, and at age 85 still gives lessons, and his grandmother, Katharine Thompson, plays as well.

Thompson's father, Bill Thompson, was on the tennis team at the University of Georgia. Bill currently serves as an

assistant tennis coach for Bishop Kenny, teaches tennis at San Jose Country Club, and gives private lessons in his backyard.

Thompson's brother, Robbie, is a tennis teacher as well. After graduating from Georgia Southern University in May 2015, where he played tennis all four years, Robbie works as assistant tennis pro at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club.

Meanwhile, at San Jose Country Club, Thompson's mother, Suzy Luker Thompson, teaches fitness and sells tennis gear as well as other items in the pro shop.

## HAE first graders learn about teeth



Decked out in green for St. Patrick's Day, Avah White makes a mold of her finger with Haley Shehan of Dopazo Orthodontics.



Abe Dopazo and first graders from Hendricks Avenue Elementary discuss dental x-rays.

First graders from Hendricks Avenue Elementary School learned everything they need to know about braces and dental hygiene during a field trip to Dopazo Orthodontics in San Marco March 17.

Visiting the dental facility were the first-grade classes taught by Suzanne Tokar, Ashley Adkins, Gretchen Frazier and Jessy Duva.

During the visit, the children tasted different flavors of alginate, discussed the proper way to care for their teeth, learned about "magic wires," checked out dental X-rays and made molds of their fingers. All the children took home goody bags filled with toothbrushes and dental floss courtesy of Dr. Leandra Dopazo and her husband, Abe.

## Eight-year-old girls publish first book together

Abigail Bradley of San Marco loves to write. Sarah Thomas, her good friend and classmate, loves to draw. Together the two Bolles Lower School second graders applied their creative talents and imagination to write and illustrate their first book, "The Magic Fence."

The 23-page book was released by Halo Publishing International earlier this year and is available on Amazon and barnesandnoble.com. It is the first in a series the two eight-year-olds intend to produce called, "Magic's in the Air." Bradley has already completed text for the second book in the series.

"I like to write about what I see," said Bradley, who based the story on a fence between her home and a neighbor's. "This started with an idea."

The idea came about when Bradley and Thomas planned to write and illustrate a book during a playdate last summer. The girls honed in on the fence and what magic storyline and illustrations it might inspire. In the fantastical plot, Annie and Alice, two young friends and neighbors, become



Bolles second graders Abigail Bradley of San Marco and Sarah Thomas of San Jose

separated by a fence that grows taller under the magic powers of a mean fairy. Later a nice fairy makes their situation a bit brighter.

Bradley said she began to write the story at the bottom of blank pages, leaving the space above the text for colorful drawings produced by Thomas. After several playdates, the book was complete. Several months later, Halo produced the book for the girls to share, sell and showcase.

Bradley began her literary career writing poetry. According to the biography of both girls displayed on the back cover, she enjoys reading books, particularly about horses, ice skating and playing. When she grows up she intends to travel and write about her adventures.

Meanwhile, Thomas loves art and has enjoyed drawing since she was able to hold a crayon. When she is not creating art, she loves to swim, play golf and sing. Thomas aspires to become an architect as well as have an art gallery of her own someday.

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## Episcopal rowers dominate invitational

Not a ripple spoiled the calm, clear waters of the Ortega River early in the morning Feb. 27 as crews from four schools competed in the 2016 Stanton River Bank Invitational.

Joining the Stanton River Bank Rowing Club in the competition were crews from The Bolles School, The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, and Hilton Head Island.

Episcopal rowers dominated the races winning eight of the 15 events including the women's middle school four with coxswain; men's junior varsity eight; women's varsity eight; men's middle school four with coxswain; women's freshmen eight, women's junior varsity four and the women's varsity four.

Bolles rowers won four men's races: third eight; varsity eight; freshman four and varsity four. Stanton River Bank Rowers won three events: the women's freshmen four, the women's lightweight four, and the men's junior varsity four.



Pro golfer Len Mattace, whose daughter Noelle rows for Episcopal, and Jennifer Mayo of San Marco served the Episcopal team breakfast before the SRB Invitational Feb. 27.



An Episcopal eight prepares to launch while a squad from Bolles heads toward the starting line during the SRB Invitational crew competition Feb. 27 on the Ortega River.



Episcopal rowers Kate Begley, Amanda Thompson, Margaret Commander, Sarah Sawyer, Katie Cofran and Margaret Gibbs.

## Easter parade, egg hunt popular annual events



Braelynn Wilson, decked out in her finest Easter bonnet.

Students of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Preschool carried out a 60-year tradition when they donned handmade Easter bonnets with all the frills upon them and paraded through San Marco Square behind the Easter Bunny on March 17.

"The children and their parents make the bonnets together," said preschool director Karen Saltmarsh.

For many parents, the occasion brought back fond memories of the time they were at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Preschool and took part in the parade. Four-year-old Brett Isaac of San Marco was thrilled to join his mom, Michelle, in the parade. Brett's dad, Brett Isaac, Sr. is an alum of the school and participated in the parade years ago, Michelle said.



Dressed in their Easter finest during South Jacksonville Presbyterian Preschool's celebration were Braedy Wilson, Claire Elliott, Everly Mason, Nigel Clements, Sarang Oh, Violette O'Neill, Jake Loeswick, Abel Miller and Lily Keller.

The gardens at the Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club resounded with the sound of more than 150 children, up to age 13, in hot pursuit of 4,000 candy- and toy-filled Easter eggs on March 27. Each of three age groups had the chance to find a silver or gold prize-winning egg for an Easter basket at the annual club event – a favorite among staff and members.



Elizabeth, Leo and Jamie Moore with the Easter bunny.



Isabella Villano, Owen Villano, Luke Spillers and Parker Cleghorn take the lead for the Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club annual Easter Egg Hunt.



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Taking home the team trophy in the 2016 City Scholastic Championship was Hendricks Avenue Elementary's winning 3rd-5th grade chess team.



Hendricks Avenue Elementary's chess team won the 2016 City Scholastic Championship in the kindergarten through 2nd grade division.

## HAE takes home gold in city chess championship

Students from Hendricks Avenue Elementary dominated the elementary school divisions taking home gold in both categories during the 2016 City Scholastic Championship Feb. 13 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Marco.

In the K-2nd team competition, Hendricks Avenue placed first followed by Bolles at second place and New Berlin Elementary at third.

HAE also won the 3rd-5th team competition. J. Allen Axson Elementary was runner-up. The San Marco students also swept most of the individual competition. In the K-2nd division, Hendricks chessmen took home the first five places. Lucas Repper won the event with his teammates Avisia Rezaei placing second, Charlie DeVooght, third, David Booher, fourth and Lucy Pearson and Joshua Postal, tied for fifth.

In the 3rd-5th division, HAE players captured all but first place in the individual competition. Parker Roberson placed second, Niek Rezaei was third, Charlie Alesandro placed fourth and Gabriel Keiter and Hayes Betman tied for fifth place.

George Foote of San Marco coaches both teams for Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

## duPont Middle to celebrate 75 years

It has been 75 years since Alfred I. duPont Middle School opened its doors, and alumni from both middle and high school days are welcome to attend the anniversary celebration.

The commemoration will be held Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Included among the festivities will be a tree planting and campus clean-up sponsored by CSX Intermodal Terminals and 5,000 Role Models of Excellence, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by a campus tour from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A special brunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a cost of \$20 per person. For tickets and additional information contact Wendi Orr at [Orrw@duvalschools.org](mailto:Orrw@duvalschools.org) or the duPont Middle School office at (904) 739-5200.

## Lady Gators 'hang out' at San Jose Episcopal prior to SEC Tourney

On March 2, prior to arriving at Jacksonville's Veteran's arena to compete in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) women's basketball tournament, the Lady Gators made a very important stop. They headed to San Jose Episcopal Day School to shoot some hoops with their pen pals, all student athletes they met in December when the UF women held a Jacksonville Sports Council basketball clinic at the school.

Greeting the students with high-fives, the collegiate players joined the students in some four-on-four scrimmaging before autographing posters and posing for pictures. Since December, the students had corresponded with the Lady Gators through video messages and personal notes. Becoming pen pals helped build up the students self-confidence both on and off the court,



Katie Frick, Josi Thompson and Evan Van Brunt of San Jose Episcopal Day School pose with UF basketball player, Haley Lorenzen.

said Amy Blumstein, director of athletics and after school activities at San Jose Episcopal Day.

"They wrote notes to our kids that were very sweet and supportive of our players," said Blumstein. "The kids were

able to ask them questions. One boy said, 'I like basketball, but they don't pass me the ball that much. His pen pal wrote, 'I believe in you. It's not just about scoring, it's about improving your game and having fun.' I'm paraphrasing, but that's about what she said," Blumstein said.

"We have a group of women who love community service," said UF head

coach Amanda Butler. "They are very engaged with the local community and take very seriously the opportunity to be role models."

At SEC tournament, the SJEDS students joined the Gators on the court at halftime during the Florida's third-round game March 4 against Kentucky. Unfortunately, the Gators lost, 92-69.

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## San Marco resident takes home fencing honors

Regan Foote of San Marco took home a bronze medal in the youth foil division of the Highland Games Fencing Tournament in Green Cove Springs Feb. 27.

A senior at Stanton College Preparatory School and a member of the Jacksonville Fencing Club, Foote placed in the event after taking up the sport a year ago. She plans to continue fencing next year at the University of Florida, where she is considering engineering as her major.



Regan Foote with some of her Jacksonville Fencing Club teammates: Riley Phillips, Simon Bloomfield, Andrea Relova, Vivian Dees, Regan Foote.

## Publisher speaks to budding journalists at San Jose Episcopal Day

Students at San Jose Episcopal had the opportunity to learn the intricacies of newspaper publication when they were visited by the publisher of San Jose's leading community newspaper March 10.

Seth Williams, co-publisher of *The Resident Community News*, and News Editor Marcia Hodgson visited students in the journalism pod sponsored by language arts teachers Shannon

Nunley and Kelly Gallagher. As Gallagher was absent, Pamela Wehde joined Nunley in the classroom.

During the visit, Williams shared insights on all aspects of newspaper work, including advertising sales and news reporting. He also shared copies of both editions of *The Resident* as well as the company's magazines, *Historic Life: Neighbors and Newcomers Guide* and *Circles: Charity Register and Social Datebook*.



*Resident Community News* Publisher Seth Williams joins San Jose Episcopal Students Akash Balenalli, Joelle Wadei, Jaden Salameh, Charlie Allemand, Caroline Connell, Layla Guy, Ainsley Gray, Samantha Harrell and Myles Johnson in the classroom March 10.



Students in the San Jose Episcopal journalism pod listen to Seth Williams, publisher of *The Resident Community News*, talk about operating a community newspaper.

## Journalism students practice what they learn

After a visit from *Resident Community News* Publisher Seth Williams and a member of his news staff, journalism students from San Jose Episcopal Day School had an opportunity to earn extra credit by submitting a story about their visit to *The Resident*. Joelle Wadei, Myles Johnson, Ainsley Gray and Akash Balenalli rose to the challenge turning in commendable pieces, with Wadei's selected for publication. All the students received free tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo for their efforts.

## The Makings of a Newspaper

By Joelle Wadei

On March 10, 2016, Editor/Reporter Marcia Hodgson and Publisher Seth Williams came to our school, SJEDS, and talked to our Newspaper POD about creating a newspaper. They gave us some tips on how to write, edit, and publish our school newspaper. We learned that reporters are constantly on the lookout for new stories. Mrs. Marcia Hodgson told us, "Never be afraid to ask a question. It's better to ask someone if you don't understand something than to assume." Mr. Seth Williams taught us about needing advertisements in the newspaper to fund it. "Different sizes of advertisements mean different amounts of revenue," he said. It is important to the Resident that their newspaper is local, and they have a presence in the community. We thank them very much for coming to talk to us. The information shared during their visit will be very helpful to me and our POD as we create our school newspaper.

**Upcoming Events**  
at the Florida Theatre

**BARRAGE**  
April 17 at 7:00pm

**Chris Isaak: First Comes the Night**  
April 24 at 7:30pm

**Paula Poundstone**  
April 9 at 8:00pm

**Let It Be: A Musical Celebration of the Beatles**  
April 10 at 7:00pm

**ABBA the Concert**  
April 15 at 8:00pm

**Bronx Wanderers**  
April 16 at 8:00pm

**Generation Axe featuring Steve Via, Zakk Wylde, Yngwie Malmsteen, Nuno Bettencourt, & Tosin Abasi**  
April 20 at 8:00pm

Florida Theatre Ticket Office 355.2787 or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) | [floridatheatre.com](http://floridatheatre.com)  
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