

San Jose – San Marco – St. Nicholas

Resident

Community News



SCOUTS ENJOY CLIMB TO MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

This summer Boy Scout Troop 35 from Southside United Methodist in San Marco headed to Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico. Over the course of 12 days from June 27 to July 9, the crew of nine Scouts and three adult leaders hiked about 70 miles across a portion of the Southern Rocky Mountains, ascending from 6,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level.

The trek qualified the Scouts for merit badges in hiking, backpacking, camping and cooking. "Everyone battled muscle aches, dehydration and had some blisters, but fortunately all escaped serious injury," said Jon Singleton, one of the adult leaders.

The Scouts also enjoyed learning history from historic reenactors as well as fly fishing, archery, black powder shooting,

and, according to Singleton, showed a real talent for tomahawk throwing.

"The fly fishing was fantastic! I caught a trout in Rayado Creek," said Singleton's son Brandon. "We also loved the homemade root beer in Abreu."

Philmont Scout Ranch, one of the largest youth camps in the world in land area, covers 219 square miles of wilderness.

The National High Adventure Base offers backpacking expeditions and other outdoor activities for Scouts and Venturers.

Standing at the peak of Mt. Phillips are Brandon Singleton, Jon Singleton, Mitch Boggs, Zan Beaver, Ashton Beaver, Colton Champion (Crew Leader), Grayson Eng, Cecil Dichiaro, James Dell'Alba, Cory Vaughn, Ed Vaughn and Will McLaurine.

PRECINCT AND POLLING LOCATIONS HAVE CHANGED IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Come election time Tuesday, Aug. 30, residents living in District 5 – the area of Jacksonville represented by City Council President Lori Boyer – may find either their polling location and/or congressional district have changed.

During a Town Hall meeting sponsored by the San Marco Preservation Society, Boyer announced that City Council passed Ordinance 2016-410 July 26, which specifies changes in polling place locations and the boundaries between several precincts in her district, including 502 and 506; 503 and 504; 506 and 511; 507 and 504; 508 and 503; 504 and 513. The changes are part of the redistricting process recently approved by the Supreme Court for the purpose of restoring neighborhood integrity. According

to the ordinance, boundary lines have been moved slightly to keep recognized neighborhoods together in one precinct rather than being split between precincts.

Boyer said voters in her district should have been notified of the changes by the Supervisor of Elections and should check their new voter registration cards or call the elections office to confirm where their polling location is.

"I don't want you to show up on Election Day at the wrong place and not be able to vote," she said.

The congressional district changes may also cause some confusion, Boyer said. Congressional District 4 is Republican Rep. Ander Crenshaw's seat. Democrat Corinne Brown holds the seat in Congressional District 5. "Some of you may not realize that part of District 5 (the gray area on the map) is Corinne Brown's seat," Boyer said, noting many candidates are running in both primary races this

year. "There are parts of our area in that district that were not in there previously, and I don't want you to be surprised if you go to get your ballot and you don't see Congressional District 4 Ander Crenshaw's seat on the ballot."

Boyer also cautioned residents who chronically file absentee ballots to update their signatures with the Supervisor of Elections office. "So many absentee ballots get rejected because the signatures don't match the signatures they have on file," she said. "If you registered to vote 20 years ago or even two years ago your signature could look very different from what it is now. Please take the time to do it again," she said. Voters who head to the polls in person need not worry. Signatures are updated with every election, Boyer said.

View the new zoning map at ResidentNews.net

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YELLOW DUCKS HELP RAISE BIG BUCKS

Not just for making the bath tub lots of fun, signature rubber ducks helped make the Rubber Ducks and Food Trucks festival at the Jacksonville Landing a good time on the St. Johns River.

Strand residents Katie Grant, holding Clover, husband Michael, and sons Bradley and Thomas walked across the Main Street Bridge to check out the race, which helped to raise funds for a new campus for children on the autism spectrum.

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As Jacksonville City Council President Lori Boyer looks on, Mayor Lenny Curry discusses the necessity of voting "Yes" on the half-cent sales tax referendum at a town hall meeting at Southside Baptist Church July 28.

Mayor peddles pension solution to San Marco residents

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

As far as Mayor Lenny Curry is concerned, the city has no other choice. It is imperative that residents pass a referendum giving the city a way to pay down its unfunded pension liabilities when they head to the polls Tuesday, Aug. 30.

During a San Marco Preservation Society Town Hall meeting July 28 at Southside Baptist Church, Curry beseeched San Marco residents to vote "Yes" on the ballot measure. He said approval of the extension of the half-penny sales tax, currently used to cover the costs of the Better Jacksonville Plan, is the only clear option to avoid a financial catastrophe similar to the municipal bankruptcy Detroit faced in 2013.

The new half-cent sales tax, which will begin in 2030 after the current tax ends, is a fairly painless way for taxpayers to combat the pension crisis, he said. It seamlessly continues a tax Jacksonville citizens are already accustomed to. Money raised from it would be earmarked solely to reduce the City's unfunded pension obligations.

"If we don't solve this now, this \$2.7 billion unfunded liability is quickly approaching \$300 million in costs (per year); if we don't solve it now we are on the road to Detroit," he said.

Curry said he plans to use the affirmative vote as leverage when he enters collective bargaining negotiations with the Police, Fire, Corrections and General Employee unions about closing three existing plans to new hires. Curry wants to replace the older more lucrative pensions with market-based retirement plans such as 401(k) accounts.

"If we don't get an agreement with them we don't get the half penny," he said. "That's how we protect the taxpayers."

Once adopted, and collective bargaining is completed, the city would file an implementing ordinance for City Council to approve the collective bargaining agreement, detailing how the discretionary sales surtax would be dedicated only to paying the unfunded obligations. Once this is in place, by state law it will be "iron-clad" and future politicians could not divert the half-penny sales tax money away from paying off the pension liability, he said.

Jacksonville currently owns 25 percent of the total unfunded pension liability of more than 400 cities and counties throughout the state – a total of \$2.7 billion – paying more than \$270 million from its operating budget this year for its three public pension funds. Support of the three pension funds currently takes up 27 percent of Jacksonville's budget, Curry said, noting this is a dramatic increase from 2009 when pension costs took up only nine percent of the budget.

In response to the suggestion that a sales tax be installed now to cover the liability, Curry said that is a "bad idea" because it would not be considered by the Florida House, Senate or governor. "It's not even worthy of debate because it would not get a hearing in the Florida House, and if it did, the governor would surely veto it," Curry said.

He also nixed the idea of raising the millage rate saying it would be "massive," and would hurt property owners and businesses. It could not legally be used to solely to cover the pension liability and the money could be diverted toward other projects by future city officials, offering no leverage in upcoming negotiations with the unions, he said.

When asked about a lawsuit that was filed July 27 by five Duval County voters to remove the half-cent sales tax initiative from the Aug. 30 ballot, Curry said he isn't worried.

The five oppose the referendum, stating the ballot language is confusing and misleading. They also point to confusion in the length of time the pension tax would last, stating the ballot summary says it will end "30 years maximum," leading voters to think it will end 30 years from now and not 44 years from now because the dedicated pension half-cent tax will start in 2030. The lawsuit also states the ballot measure is illegal because the City Council voted in May to put the matter on the ballot even though the state law allowing the referendum only took effect July 1.

"I believe the lawsuit is baseless. The language is clear," Curry said. "We've spent a lot of time and energy with the City Council and the General Counsel, all smart, right, capable, confident people to make sure we got it right. I'm confident that we got it right. If you look at the history you will see some of these folks have a history of filing lawsuits. I'm going to just keep doing my thing and seek a 'Yes' vote."

Jacksonville ranks second for places to move

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Summer is the prime time for Americans to be on the move – and we're not talking about vacation travel. According to realtor.com, summer is the busiest time for relocation companies, moving households from one address to another, often within the same city, but sometimes crossing state lines.

A study conducted by realtor.com looked at three datasets* to come up with a list of the top 10 cities to which Americans are moving. Tampa ranked number one, Jacksonville number two and Orlando number seven, making Florida the most popular state for newcomers.

"It's not surprising that Jacksonville is becoming a destination of choice for those who want to relocate," said Terrell Newberry, president of Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). "The combination of warm climate, beaches, rivers and extraordinary park system provide an abundance of natural allure, while our home prices and overall cost of living are quite reasonable in comparison to many other areas."

With no state income tax, home prices that are relatively low compared to other metropolitan areas, and strong job creation, Florida is attractive to people from cities such as New York, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland, which isn't surprising given the harsh winter climates. The California cities of San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles are also losing residents, primarily due to high median home prices and cost of living.

Jacksonville's median home price of \$196,338, according to NEFAR's June market statistics, allows for affordable housing while its unemployment rate of 4.4 percent is lower than the national average of 4.9 percent. Jacksonville is also the number two pick city for millennials – after San Antonio, Texas – according to the same realtor.com study.

"We have incredible momentum right now – companies are choosing to invest in our city and people are moving to Jacksonville for the opportunities here," JAX Chamber Chair Audrey Moran said. "When you have great businesses of all sizes in a hiring mode and such a variety of neighborhoods where everyone can find a place to call home, your city will get national attention."

* The study analyzed data from the Census Bureau (2009-2013 metropolitan migration data); moving.com (number of cross-metro moving requests), and a cross-metro traffic search on realtor.com.

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Dead trees were removed and several limbs trimmed in Whatley Park June 23.

Whatley Park spiffs up

Although the grass still needed to be mowed, Whatley Park is looking quite spiffy these days due to new railings on its footbridge and new benches designating several seating areas along the park's new concrete footpath.

Arborists from Lewis Tree Service, a forestry service for the City of Jacksonville, were also out in late June taking down dead trees and trimming branches.

The San Marco Preservation Society is still working on selling naming rights on the trees and benches, said SMPS President LeAnna Cumber. Small commemorative plaques will be fixed to the park's infrastructure in response to donations. Those interested can contact the Society at (904) 396-0081 for prices.

Baptist Convention property to be sold for development

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

More evidence that the San Marco's business district and Jacksonville's Southbank are becoming hot property is the pending sale of the Baptist Convention Center's property on Hendricks Avenue in San Marco.

The Florida State Board of Missions announced its approval of a multi-million dollar contract to sell 3.5 acres of land and buildings on Hendricks Avenue at a meeting April 1 at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, Florida, according to an article dated April 25 on the Florida Baptist Convention's website.

A mixed-use residential building with retail space on the lower level and on-site parking is slated to be built on a full city block located at 1230 Hendricks Avenue, bordering the intersection with Nira Street, according to the article.

The property consists of several buildings including the Baptist Convention Center Building, a building that houses the offices of the Florida Baptist Financial Services and the Florida Baptist Credit Union, a metal storage building and a building that was used for theological-education classes and as a recording studio.

The Florida Baptist Witness, a weekly news journal of the Florida Baptist State Convention, leased space for its staff on the fifth floor of the convention building, but has since joined the Convention in moving its headquarters to leased office space on the Southside, near the 1-95 corridor south of Baymeadows Road and north of Old St. Augustine Road near Baptist South Medical Center, said Michael Smith, associate editor of Florida Baptist Witness.

The Florida Convention Building served as the Convention's hub for missions and ministry for Florida Baptists for more than half a century, according to the article.

Brian Moulder of CBRE Group Inc., the



If all goes well in early 2017, the Baptist Convention Center at 1230 Hendricks Avenue will be transformed into a mixed-use residential and retail development.

commercial real estate firm tasked with marketing the property, said the building was sold to a development firm that has good credibility with working with city officials and has developed other Jacksonville properties, according to the article. The sales agreement was completed March 7 and the contract was signed March 17, according to the article.

Soon after, the development company started making rezoning applications with the city, a process expected to take 175 days, stated the article. Completion of the sale is anticipated by the end of 2016 and construction is slated to begin immediately, Moulder said, according to the article.

Fifty-one percent of the proceeds from the sale will be directed to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program for worldwide mission causes, said Tommy Greene, executive director and treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, in the article.

The building represents a "sacrificial

investment made by Florida Baptists nearly six decades ago," according to the article. In 1958, construction began on the 50,000-square-foot building, which has five floors and a basement, and was completed in 1960. The original cost of the building was \$937,017, which included the purchase of land, construction, architects' fees and furnishings, according to the article.

Over the next five decades, the Convention incurred an additional cost of \$3 million to purchase the entire block, build additional buildings and provide capital improvements, according to the article.

Maintenance and upkeep of the aging building initiated the Convention's decision to sell the property. Several attempts over the last 10 years fell through as real estate values dropped during the economic downturn but, as market conditions have been improving, interest in the Baptist property increased resulting in the sale, according the article.

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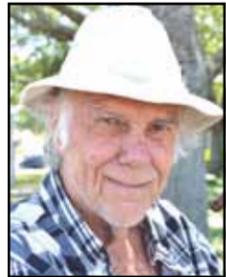
Residents want businesses to provide long-term parking solution

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

A 150-seat restaurant is being proposed for the San Marco Square location where Stellers Gallery currently operates. The applicant, Al Mansur, has asked for an exception to provide eight spaces in the

rear of the building, hoping to make use of existing street parking and perhaps the lot behind the building, which is owned by Southside Baptist Church.

Do you think his restaurant should be granted the parking exception? What solutions can you suggest for increasing parking in the vicinity of San Marco Square?



Quincy Brown, San Marco

Who doesn't think there is a parking problem in San Marco? I think if it is a super fine restaurant, sure, but if it is a hamburger joint, no. We have too many of those, and if they don't have parking, they shouldn't be allowed to go in. I'm pro-business and all for them, but they will be parking on top of each other, and where's the land for a parking garage? We are running out of space around here. There is no simple solution. I want to see the quality of the businesses in San Marco move up. We should work together and not against each other to find a mutual solution. I don't want to beat him down (owner of The Flying Iguana), but I don't want to circle the block 100 times either (looking for parking), and I've done that already.



Nigel Ledford, San Marco

No, it's a terrible idea to allow 150 seats. It's not fair. If they open up here they will choke out the rest of the businesses. There is tons of real estate a little way away from here. Perhaps in the area of the Skyway Station, (they could build a parking garage) and a trolley could ferry people back and forth from there. Then you could get on the Skyway and go other places as well. I would like to see the Skyway used more. That area over there is going to be booming in the future for sure. Also, perhaps they could talk to the church landowners and consider building a garage there. The church could charge for event parking. It could be two or three decks and the top or bottom (deck) could be reserved for the church. It would be their parking lot, so let the church choose, I know older folks don't always want to climb stairs. There could be a grand compromise and the church could profit in the meantime.



Jacob McCain, San Marco

It's a catch-22 because we want businesses to thrive and open here. We want the economy to be robust, however, we are limited by the way the area was historically developed. But as a resident I'm lucky because I can bike here and enjoy this, but I would like to see it become even a little more bike friendly. We need to find out if we have identified the maximum number of commercial parking (spaces) here, then we need to identify a parking solution or we will need to cap parking. Perhaps a shuttle system could be put in place to take people from the JTA lots. It might encourage people to ride the JTA. Or perhaps the tax payers and businesses could pay for a garage. It would benefit the businesses.



Sunny McCain, San Marco

I believe (the Flying Iguana) is responsible for its own parking assessment, but precedence has been set by giving a variance to the other restaurants. San Marco needs to make it easy for businesses to come in. I feel like the restaurants should get together and share a parking lot. There is a lot of area that is undeveloped and a little further away and doesn't have the value of the prime retail space closer to the square. Then they could do a shuttle running every 15 minutes. It would not be city run. The merchants get a direct benefit by people coming into the area and part of their expense should be parking. It's time for the merchants to get together and solve the parking problem. People should be working together. The merchants should pool their resources. They need to have a purposely cohesive mindset. If you are viewing your neighbor as competition, that's not good. We need a long-term solution.

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San Marco residents debate Flying Iguana parking concerns

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It was standing room only, with 10 or more sitting on the floor in the center aisle of Preservation Hall, when Attorney Paul Harden of San Marco addressed the crowd at a Town Hall meeting July 14. The San Marco Preservation Society convened the meeting to discuss the parking plan if and when the Flying Iguana, a new dining facility, is built on San Marco Square.

Harden represents Al Mansur, owner of the popular Al's Pizza chain, who has a contract to purchase the building at 1409 Atlantic Blvd., now occupied by Stellers Gallery. It is Mansur's plan to install a 150-seat upscale Mexican restaurant, similar to the one he owns in Neptune Beach, on the site.

In addition to Harden, several other notables in attendance included Jacksonville City Council President Lori Boyer, who represents San Marco, former San Marco Preservation Society President Mary Toomey and Chris Hagan, chairman of the Planning Commission.

Mansur has applied to the city's Planning Commission for a liquor license and a waiver to reduce the required distance from a church from 500 feet to 111. He is also working to acquire enough parking to make his application palatable to the city, while requesting a deviation to reduce the minimum number of required off-street parking spaces from



Parking has become an issue now that the Flying Iguana has applied to take over the space currently inhabited by Stellers Gallery in San Marco Square.

43 to eight. Zoning regulations require that he provide at least 43 spaces for his customers to use, and Hardin said he had recently amended the application originally requesting zero spaces to eight, stating the restaurant will have 12 employees, and that eight spaces are available in the rear of the building.

The Stellers Gallery building is already zoned to accommodate restaurants, said Boyer, noting Mansur's application would be heard by the city's Planning

Commission, which will make the final decision whether to grant the waivers and parking exception.

The commission had agreed to consider the Flying Iguana application July 21, but deferred the discussion at Harden's request so that the matter could be discussed at the town meeting first. Because the notice of public hearing had already been sent out, Hagan said the public would be allowed to speak July 21, but no decision would be made, and the public hearing would be

continued when the commission considers the issue at a subsequent meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Toomey agreed the Society will hold another town meeting prior to the Planning Commission's public hearing, which most likely will be scheduled in September.

As of press time, no date had been set for either future meeting.

At the start of the July 14 meeting, Harden said Mansur intends to open "the *continued on page 7 >>>*

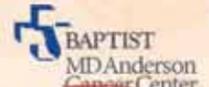
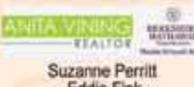
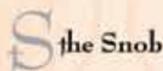
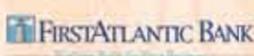
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“Obviously nobody in the Square has that many spaces, and there have been waivers for every restaurant. Until recently no one has been required to supply off-site parking. I know there have been some issues so we decided to do that as part of our application process.” – Paul Harden , attorney for Flying Iguana

Ruth Chris of Mexican restaurants.” He noted every other business in the Square has successfully received a liquor license, liquor distance waiver and parking exception. Harden said he is currently negotiating with two off-site parking lots in the San Marco area in order to provide valet services for off-site parking. He declined to specify which parking lots were being considered, whether or where a valet station would be placed near the restaurant or if a shuttlebus would be used to ferry customers to and from a remote parking lot.

“Obviously nobody in the Square has that many spaces, and there have been waivers for every restaurant,” Harden said. “Until recently no one has been required to supply off-site parking. I know there have been some issues so we decided to do that as part of our application process.”

Harden said he’s already held cordial meetings with both the San Marco Merchants Association and representatives from Southside Baptist Church. He said he intends to find answers to the church’s questions and concerns and is available to meet with any group that wants to discuss the restaurant’s application.

While nearly everyone who spoke at the meeting said they appreciate the quality and energy Mansur’s restaurant would bring to San Marco Square, for many residents as well as members of Southside Baptist Church, it is the Flying Iguana’s request for a parking exception that is causing concern.

Harden insisted the Flying Iguana is

not planning to use the church parking lot behind Stellers Gallery but admitted Flying Iguana diners would also be free to park wherever they like.

It is possible for the Planning Commission to approve the application “with conditions,” said Harden. “The church asked for a limitation on our hours of operation on Sunday, which we’ve agreed to do, and the parking issue, which we’ve agreed to do,” Harden said.

During the meeting, Thomas Lee, a Southside Baptist Church trustee, said his church is “100 percent” against the new restaurant application. “Our prayers are that Mr. Mansur’s restaurants may prosper everywhere but just not there,” he said. “We’re against it because it’s going to affect our church and what we do.”

Although based on past experience, Lee said he expects his church may not be able to prevent the Planning Commission from granting Flying Iguana with a liquor license or distance waiver. Still, the church plans to fight both as well as the parking exception, he said.

When the Planned Unit Development to build the parking lot was approved 20 years ago, it specified that the church would share the lot with the community but have exclusive use of the entire parking lot all day Sunday, Wednesday evenings after 5 p.m. and whenever the church holds special events such as weddings or funerals, said Cindy Graves, a church member. In order to keep the noise level down, the parking lot’s hours were restricted to 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., she said.

If the city approves of the application, the church may be forced to do something

it really doesn’t want to do – contract with a parking management company and charge daily for the use of its lot or install gates and barriers allowing only church members to use the lot during the specified times when church is in session, said one church member.

In a meeting between Harden and the San Marco Merchants Association board, the association agreed it would monitor use of the lot during times church is in session, said Harden. After the meeting, Anita Vining, president of the San Marco Merchants Association said the SMMA board is “positively in favor” of having the Flying Iguana join other businesses on the square but wants to find a parking solution. “Nobody wants to offend the church,” she said.

During the meeting, Toomey said the San Marco Preservation Society had not yet formed an opinion on whether the application should be granted.

However, Eddie Fink, a longtime owner of several commercial buildings on the Square took issue that SMMA’s board could unilaterally make a decision without a vote of all the merchants.

“The problem is that the Square is at its capacity. The idea that you are going to have valet parking doesn’t make sense,” said Fink. “I cannot feasibly think customers are going to come to Flying Iguana and park in some remote station. They’re not. They are going to fill up the spaces nearby. They are going to fill up the church’s parking lot and the spaces near the residences. (Securing off-site parking) doesn’t address the reality of what goes on every day in the Square. I don’t want my tenants or any of the merchants at the risk

of any additional burden.”

More than one resident expressed concern that a lack of parking would “choke” residential streets, blocking alleys and driveways. One San Marco Place resident said cars often line both sides of his street making it impossible to pass. “We’ve had over six cars head to head backed up to Hendricks on one end and the fire station on the other,” he said. “No one could go anywhere. They had to back out one at a time onto the street. San Marco Place should really become a one-way street, but I understand that is difficult, too.”

The “root of the problem” is safety, said another resident. “If you’ve lived in San Marco for years you will see the same car circle around the Square three or four times. But with this it will not be one car but three or four. The first time they will go five miles per hour. The second they may go 10 and they are running stop signs. Eventually they will be going 40 mph. We are putting rational people in an irrational situation,” he said, noting unattended delivery trucks block streets hamper ambulances and fire trucks access.

Many wondered what the “big picture” for the Square is in terms of parking, and asked Boyer if the police would enforce violations. “Likely not,” replied Boyer. “It is unrealistic to expect we are going to get more police coverage or more parking enforcement just because you have more businesses opening,” she said. “The budget controls how many police officers we have and where we have the most severe amount of crime is where they go.”

Granada resident Kris Barnes encouraged everyone to be positive. “If we don’t keep upgrading and adding to our draw over here on the Southside we may become the dying neighborhood. If you don’t have change, things will get very stale. To say this can’t happen because you can’t find parking isn’t fair.”

Another resident concurred. “We need to keep thinking forward. We don’t want to end up with a Square that could be vacant. We can’t keep thinking the sky is falling all the time,” he said.

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Southbank's Strand is sold

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The latest evidence that the real estate market in Jacksonville's Southbank is heating up was the recent sale of The Strand on Riverplace Boulevard.

The iconic 28-story apartment tower, which is positioned on the lip of the St. Johns River, was purchased July 13 for \$64.6 million, a cost of approximately \$219,000 per unit, by DeLorenzo Strand, a limited liability corporation registered to John and Barbara Rumpel of Winter Park.

Selling the 295-unit building was 1401 Riverplace, a limited liability corporation associated with Crescent Heights, a Miami

firm that advertises online as providing "residences with soul" - "communities that are personalized in every detail to the resident's desires." Three years ago, 1401 Riverplace LLC bought the apartment building for \$53.3 million from The Strand Investors Limited Partnership, a group that had owned it since it was built in 2007. Crescent Heights often converts apartments into condominiums, but didn't choose to do so with The Strand.

The Strand is currently 96 percent occupied, according to Deshai Robinson, of The Strand's leasing office. Studio, one-, two and three-bedroom apartments are available with rents ranging from \$1,025 to \$3,000 per month.



The Strand, a 28-story apartment tower in Jacksonville's Southbank

St. Nicholas focus of city clean-up

Millers Creek supporters to help

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The Millers Creek Special Tax District will team up with the City of Jacksonville to hold a special area clean-up day Saturday, Aug. 13. Millers Creek residents are asked to focus on the waterway near their homes, north and south of Atlantic Boulevard. Members of the public are welcome to join in the fun.

St. Nicholas residents interested in participating in the neighborhood clean-up sponsored by the city's Environmental Quality Division and the Mayor's community blight clean-up initiative will meet at 8 a.m. at Southgate Plaza. Those interested in focusing only on Millers Creek should meet between 7 and 8 a.m. at a satellite location on property owned by Rene and Danny Pulido located at 3434 Atlantic Boulevard next to the fire station.

The clean-up event will end at 11 a.m. Water, soft drinks and doughnuts will be provided under spacious tents at the Millers Creek meeting place. Participants should plan to bring heavy gloves, sturdy shoes, boots or waders, as well as "scoopers" and "potato rakes." Hats, sunscreen and bug spray are also recommended. Equipment and trash bags will be provided at the site.

"We will be on foot and using small boats, canoes and kayaks," said Millers Creek Special District Secretary Sharon Johnson in an email. "We will have at least one large dumpster, which was donated by Rene and Danny, on our site to make trash drop-off easy and convenient. The EPD (Environmental Protection Division) has advised us to expect tires to be among the trash we will be collecting," she said. "Not only is this a great community service that directly affects us, it is also a fun day with friends and neighbors. Everyone who wants to 'work' is welcome."

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Portion of River Road now one way to relieve speeding

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Residents are now finding relief from speeding and congestion stemming from public fishing in Riverfront Park. Jacksonville's Department of Public Works will soon be modifying traffic flow in front of the park by converting the section of River Road between Laverne Street and Landon Avenue into a one-way street.

Prior to the change, the roadway allowed for two-way traffic, northbound and southbound with parking lining the street on its east side. On July 21, Public Works posted variable message signs alerting motorists to the upcoming change, and a week later, on July 28 signs were installed and new pavement markings were painted indicating traffic is allowed to travel only one way, northbound, in a single lane. As before, residents and park visitors may park on the east side of the street.

Changing the direction of street near Riverfront Park was one suggestion residents considered during a public meeting called by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer in January as a way to curb problems stemming from public fishing in the park. During that meeting, many residents spoke to limiting that section of River Road to one way as a deterrent to motorists who often exceed the 20 mph speed limit.

"I think it's a great idea. I'm thrilled to see how it will resolve the problems with the traffic flow," said Anita Morrill, a San Marco resident who lives near the park. "It seems like a cost-effective way to resolve the issues



Variable message signs were posted in late July indicating a portion of River Road in San Marco will soon become one-way.

some of the residents have. It's a good way to alleviate traffic off Route 95."

Also discussed at the January meeting was the possibility of blocking the alley on its north end behind residences facing the park with a gate and access code only for residents. The gate would deter cut-through traffic from commuters who might try to bypass San Marco Boulevard once the one-way street goes into effect.

This spring, the San Marco Preservation

Society contacted the owners of the buildings along that stretch but discovered many did not relish taking responsibility for maintaining the gate, said Boyer. While no barrier will be installed, 'Do Not Enter' signs will be posted at the entrance to the north end of the alley, she said.

"We're going to try it with only the signs to see if people will abuse the alley," Boyer said. "If they do, we will then look again at the gate idea or perhaps install speed bumps and additional signs."

Dianne Muse, a resident who lives on River Road near the park, said she believes motorists will cut through the alley on their way south as a way to continue onto River Road. "We've been here nine years and we don't like people to cut through the alley, but trying to tell them it is not a cut-through is impossible," she said.

"I'm so happy. So very, very happy (about the change)," said Muse. "People

drive so fast through here. During work hours they fly through here. It's very dangerous at each end of the street near the park, especially near Laverne Street," she said, noting some homeowners have high hedges making visibility difficult as drivers round the corner where River Road intersects with Laverne Street. "That corner is real bad. I'm so surprised there haven't been more wrecks. We hear horns and the squealing of brakes all the time," she said.

Morrill agreed that the sharp corner near Laverne Street is hazardous. "Having the traffic only go one way will help," she said. "There is a blind spot there, and although I've never seen an accident, I often worry about pedestrians crossing the street. Drivers can't see you if you walking your dog. This is a good start," Morrill continued. "I'm optimistic. Hopefully we will see positive changes with all of it."

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Yellow muck causes Millers Creek Board concern

Board votes to set dredging assessment at \$3,000 per year

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Although the Millers Creek Special Tax District Board of Directors had recommended setting the yearly assessment at the maximum amount allowed by city ordinance, it was not tax money that got Millers Creek residents stirred up during its Non-Ad Valorem Public hearing July 18.

With no residents speaking against the amount of the additional tax, the board voted unanimously to set its yearly assessment at \$3,000 per parcel, as had been proposed during its previous meeting June 20.

The board also discussed possible ways to engineer the dredging and presented two “disturbing” videos showing a yellowish liquid being dumped in the creek. The videos, brought to the meeting by board member Jonathan Wright, who said JEA had dumped sediment into the creek “illegally,” caused much discussion among the approximately 15 residents who attended the public hearing at Cuba Libre Dance Club in St. Nicholas.

One video, filmed by Millers Creek resident Louis Joseph at low tide on July 13, showed a yellow liquid with sediment emitting from a drain pipe into the creek from property owned by Millers Creek resident Kate Thilges. A second video, which was recorded later in the day by Wright, showed a JEA truck in the background and the chemicals beginning to disperse throughout the creek. Wright also said Millers Creek resident Bobby Baker had taken photos during a similar incident involving a different storm drain on Millers Creek May 15.

Wright said JEA was working on a pipe behind the old Baptist Church on Gay Avenue when the pipe burst. Instead of allowing the water, which was filled with clay and sediment, to run into the street, JEA workers hooked up a hose to run the discharge out a storm pipe off Thilges’ property into the creek. “Andrew Sear of JEA came out and said they were in violation because they were supposed to put a filter on the hose to catch the dirt and



Yellow fluid and sediment spills into Millers Creek July 13 from a JEA drain pipe.

clay and they didn’t. He told us verbally and (Millers Creek resident) Bobby Baker was standing right there with me,” Wright explained. “All that was pumped into the creek. They have done this twice within 60 days. This was just the first time we have called them on it. They have probably been doing it all along with no repercussions.”

Wright, who notified John Flowe, water branch manager of the city’s Environmental Quality Division (EQD) on the day the incident occurred, said in an email to Flowe that Sear came out to test the water at 4:30 p.m.

“He (Sear) said there was a violation and the reading they took was a 20 on the turbidity meter at the drain and a 17 reading on the other side of the dock about 40 feet away upstream. However, these readings were a few hours after the major infraction,” Wright wrote to Flowe. He also mentioned a similar incident on May 15, which was recorded by Baker and showed a cloud-line of chemicals across the creek with JEA’s truck in the background.

“JEA’s environmental coordinator went out and arranged to clean up the source and pump out the storm culvert, but I know the tide was up and (there was) not much success in the pipe,” Flowe responded to Wright in an email. “EQD had three people at the site around 5 p.m. We will be citing several violations and will have JEA at the EPB (Environmental Protection Board)

meeting later this month.”

After the meeting, Wright said he believed JEA has been regularly clearing the storm drains without using “fabric” to capture sediment. He said he is concerned because the Millers Creek Special District is committed to spending a lot of money to clean up the creek, and he fears JEA’s carelessness will only serve to quickly clog the creek again.

“They’ve been doing this four times a year for 60 years,” Wright said. “It’s going to happen again. They were dumping in our creek, cleaning out the storm drain and doing it without taking the necessary precautions. They are supposed to put a filter cloth down over the drain to catch the dirt and mud.”

At the suggestion of Tax District Attorney Wayne Flowers, Sharon Johnson, Millers Creek Special Tax District secretary, said she plans to write a letter to Paul McElroy, CEO of JEA, on behalf of her board notifying him about the situation.

Meanwhile, in an email to *The Resident*, Flowe indicated JEA had already been apprised of the problem. “EQD notified a JEA environmental representative, who went to the site and instructed the workers on what needed to be done to clean up the residue and stabilize the site. The representative stated that he would be attending the EPB meeting,” Flowe said, adding that the normal protocol in such situations would be “to notify the responsible party of the problem and inform them of a time to resolve it.” In Millers Creek’s case, Flowe said

the “actual discharge was abated by the time we arrived, however for the July 13 incident, there was still evidence in residual to document.”

Water quality violations are usually forwarded to enforcement staff, Flowe continued, noting “enforcement will work out a settlement to be adopted by the Environmental Protection Board, which may include a fine and future measures to prevent similar occurrences.”

Wright and a few others at the meeting said they believed JEA should partner with the district on the dredging project or see the fine collected by city be put into Millers Creek tax district coffers to help pay for dredging. However, in his email to *The Resident*, Flowe said any money collected from a fine would go to the city’s Environmental Protection Fund, which is used for environmental studies and some restoration projects as limited by the Ordinance Code.

In an email to *The Resident*, JEA spokesperson Gerri Boyce said the utility had followed proper protocols in cleaning the storm drains. “We are not aware of any recurring incidents in which (Millers) creek was impacted,” she wrote in an email. “We do know that JEA was replacing a valve and followed all procedures for placement of barriers around the storm drains,” she said. “A finer silt did get through the filters and impacted the creek. JEA is currently assessing the impact and will be responsible in taking the appropriate action based on the results of the assessment.”

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Boyer proposes changes to San Marco Overlay amendment

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

City Council President Lori Boyer no sooner filed an ordinance amending the San Marco Zoning Overlay when several in the development community suggested she consider amending her proposed amendment, particularly where it concerns certain areas of commercial development in San Marco.

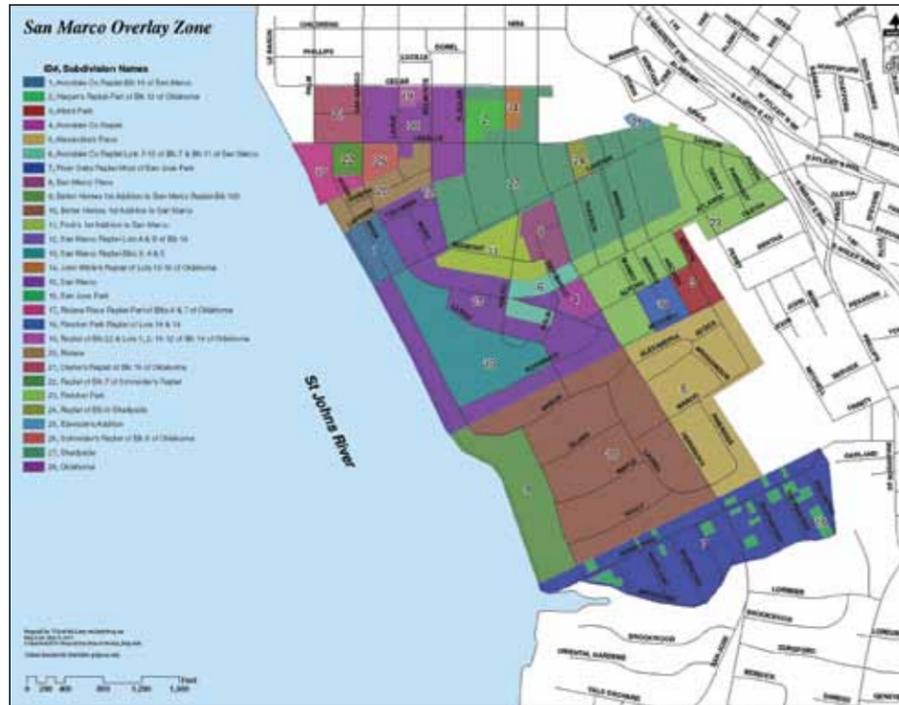
On May 18, Boyer had filed Ordinance 2016-367, which would prevent developers from applying for Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning as a way of weakening the Overlay's development standards. The ordinance stated "no PUD rezoning shall be allowed that waives or alters any development standard established by the Overlay."

The ordinance was scheduled to be discussed at the Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting July 26 but was deferred when several would-be developers persuaded Boyer to consider "relaxing" the height restrictions in certain commercial areas within the Overlay in San Marco. The amendment to the bill is scheduled to be addressed Tuesday, Aug. 2 by the Land Use and Zoning Committee.

Before it makes its way to City Hall, Boyer said she wanted to discuss her changes to the proposed ordinance with the crowd at a town meeting sponsored by the San Marco Preservation Society July 28. The meeting was held at Southside Baptist Church. At press time, the amendment had not yet been drafted, she said.

"I'm trying to, as they say in the legislative process, make sausage," she continued. "My goal is to maintain the integrity of the Overlay - to maintain what we were trying to ensure, which was to protect the historic character of the area and the feel of the community - but to also provide some flexibility for those commercially zoned properties in the event there are proposals for redevelopment that we might think are valid," Boyer said.

The boundaries of the San Marco Overlay



This map of the San Marco Overlay does not correspond with the changes Council President Lori Boyer is proposing in an amendment to Ordinance 2016-367.

are Cedar Street in the north, Craig Creek in the south, the St. Johns River in the West and the railroad tracks and Kings Street in the east. The Overlay and its boundaries differ from San Marco Preservation's neighborhood action plan, San Marco by Design, which seeks to provide guidance for neighborhood continuity to developers and the city's Planning and Development Department in an effort to provide walkability and preserve the character of San Marco's neighborhoods.

Boyer said the city adopted the San Marco Overlay in 2004 when there was a concern about several development proposals coming before the city's Planning Department causing a push to establish a historic overlay in San Marco similar to the one in Riverside and Avondale. At that time, it was decided to go with a less restrictive overlay than one that would require property owners to get certificates of appropriateness when they want to make changes to their property.

Most buildings in the San Marco Overlay

are required to be no higher than 35 feet, which is consistent with the original plats as well as historic building restrictions and setback lines. For areas where there were no historic setback lines in the plat, a survey of San Marco was done and the Overlay was drawn up to reflect the houses and businesses that were actually on the ground at the time of the survey, she said. "They took how they were set back and those standards were adopted for the area," she said. "It addressed the historical height limits for those areas, which was 35 feet."

However, within the existing Overlay is a provision for administrative deviations, which, if granted, allow developers to relax the existing requirements as long as they meet the other criteria of the Overlay, she said.

By amending her proposed bill, Boyer plans to loosen the height requirements from 35 feet to allow a baseline of 50 feet for properties on the north side of Atlantic Boulevard from Hendricks Avenue to the

railroad tracks, which is considered to be a transportation corridor. Also included will be a block of properties on the south side of Atlantic that back up to Olevia Street near the new Overland Expressway exit ramps, Daily's, and Southside Assembly of God Church, where a developer might want to construct taller buildings.

All the areas are currently zoned CCG-1 and CCG-2, zoning which allows 50-foot buildings in areas not superseded by the Overlay district. Two buildings - East San Marco and the Demetree Office Building, which were already approved - are higher than 35 feet, with a portion of East San Marco planned to tower higher than 50 feet. None of the buildings in this area are adjacent to residential neighborhoods

The area east of the railroad tracks on the north side of Atlantic Boulevard would be left at 35 feet due to its proximity to historic World War I housing and several Klutho homes.

In Parcel 4, the area on Hendricks where the Bank of America and Southern Bell-AT&T building lie, as well as some commercial frontage on either side along Hendricks Avenue near Southside Baptist Church, PUDs would be allowed which waive the height requirement, but developers would submit their applications with the understanding they would be judged by the criteria of the Overlay and evaluated on how they impact and transition to single-family houses which rest behind the commercial corridor. "We want to preserve those residential neighborhoods," she said.

Boyer said she will make no such recommendation for San Marco Square because that is an area where in the past there was a desire by the community to have the storefront buildings designated historic. "We have not done that, and I am not suggesting that we do that, but I do think it is appropriate that we keep these same criteria that we had before. Storefronts on the street and heights so we don't have any one building that's out of character with the rest," she said.




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San Marco buildings make way for new cancer center

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

After the groundbreaking ceremony for its new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center facility June 23, Baptist Health wasted no time tearing down the remaining few buildings that were scattered on the two blocks surrounded by Gary Street and Children's Way, San Marco Boulevard and Palm Avenue.

Meeting the wrecking ball were the brick building at 916 Dante Place that formerly housed Baptist's Premier Open MRI facility and neighboring Catlin Design, an interior design firm owned by Juliana Catlin, as well as a psychiatric practice at 1357 Palm Avenue, which was formerly owned by Dr. David Sall and his wife, Patricia Stacey Sall, a licensed clinical social worker, who sold their property to Baptist Health in March of 2015. The Salls moved their practice to 1437 Flagler Avenue.

In anticipation of its soon-to-come demolition, both Premier Open MRI and Catlin Designs moved their headquarters to the duPont Center, two office buildings with ample parking on the Southbank. Premier Open MRI now resides at 1660 Prudential Drive, Suite 102, while Catlin Designs moved into the adjacent building at 1650 Prudential Drive, Suite 107.

The 10,350-square foot warehouse at the corner of San Marco Boulevard and Children's Way, which was formerly owned by Gladys N. Cacerio, was also demolished in July in order to make way for a public plaza-like park, which Baptist Health will own but intends to share with the San Marco community.

Tearing down the warehouse was more complicated, said Baptist MD Anderson site superintendent Denny Joyce of Perry-McCall Construction. Before doing so, Baptist Health had to coordinate a different traffic pattern with the city in order to close San Marco Boulevard so heavy equipment could come in, he said.

Perry-McCall Construction joins DPR Construction in working jointly on the project.



The building that once housed Premier MRI and Caitlin Design was torn down in mid-July in order to prepare the groundwork for the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center building slated to be built on that site.

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Drainage improvements come to Landon's track and field

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

In late June after school recessed for the summer, workmen were finally seen using heavy equipment to improve the drainage on the playing field and surrounding track at Julia Landon College Preparatory School.

It's been more than a year since Jacksonville City Council President Lori Boyer, who represents District 5, allocated \$75,000 from her Loblolly Recreation/Parks account to upgrade the drainage at the often soggy facility. By funding the project, Boyer said her intention was to provide San Marco residents with a safe place and cushioned surface to jog and walk when the school is not using the facility. No organized league play will be allowed on the field, but the grassy expanse inside the track will be available to the public for pick-up soccer games and neighborhood youth team practices, she said.

In early June 2015, prior to Boyer transferring the money, a joint-use agreement was signed between the Duval County School Board and the city's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Construction on the field was originally slated for summer 2015, but was delayed when a preliminary estimate for the work came in over budget. After reviewing the project's scope and receiving several bids, Duval County Schools decided to wait until the



end of the 2015-16 school year before starting construction.

Although the school board and the city co-sponsored the project, Duval County Schools took the lead, hiring the contractors. In June, Aquino Construction, which is overseeing the project, installed storm drains and piping underground at the athletic facility. Robert M. Curry Masonry and Concrete inserted a cement gutter pan between the track and the playing field in order to direct rainwater away from the playing surfaces. The project should be finished within six to eight weeks, prior to the start of school, according to a sign on the athletic facility's chain-link fence.

Once the improvements are complete and new sod is planted, the facility will be named Landon Middle School Park and will be open for public use during evenings after school sports practices are finished and the district is no longer using the facility. The track and field will also be available to the public on weekends and during the day during the summer. As with other parks in San Marco, the track and field will only be open until dark because there are no lights at the facility.

T. J. Macomber of Robert M. Curry Masonry and Concrete assists Sam Lookadoo of Cemex Company in the pouring while Robert Curry smooths the concrete as the three construct a gutter pan at Landon Middle School July 21.

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New City Council president sets goal to “be bold and dream big”

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It was a family affair when Lori Boyer took the oath to become president of the Jacksonville City Council. Boyer's son R. J. Nemeyer held the Bible while her husband, Judge Tyrie W. Boyer of the Fourth Circuit Court, administered the oath of office during an installation ceremony at the Ritz Theatre June 30.

In the crowd were nearly all her children and grandchildren. Her nephew, Eagle Scout Jack Fox, and her grandson, Jack Hellmuth, a Cub Scout, took part in the Pledge of Allegiance ceremony.

Boyer had only taken the reins for a few short minutes when she demonstrated why she is often called “the Energizer Bunny,” by her council colleagues. The District 5 Councilwoman has City Hall reputation as a multi-tasker with a keen eye for detail. A person who listens to both constituents and fellow councilmembers, Boyer rarely says no when asked to take on mundane issues, even if it requires wading through thousands of pages of documents. The hard questions she asks bore into the heart of things as she seeks to get to the bottom of what is really going on.

In her opening remarks after taking the oath, Boyer, who served as vice president to the council last year, showed her stripes immediately by outlining “a very ambitious plan that may have a lasting impact on our city's future.”

Boyer said her goal for the year is to “be bold and dream big.” Recognizing the city has no extra money to accommodate big initiatives, Boyer intends to find ways to make the city more efficient. She wants to enable her colleagues to become “proactive” rather than “reactive,” and to equip them with the tools they need to achieve individual goals for their districts.

“Consolidation promised an efficient city government without conflicts and overlaps,” she said. “We also promised our citizens one city with infrastructure, city services and economic opportunity available throughout. If we are to become a Jacksonville in which every neighborhood is safe, clean, healthy and thriving economically, it won't happen by accident,” she said. “We need to set priorities, answer difficult questions, mend relationships and work together to develop the policies that will allow us to



Lori Boyer takes the oath of office with help from her son, R.J. Nemeyer and husband, Fourth Circuit Court Judge Tyrie W. Boyer

achieve our goals.”

Recognizing her colleagues spend much of their time responding to constituent complaints, putting out the “fire of the day,” and reviewing legislation offered by the administration, citizen groups or lobbyists, Boyer said she wants City Council to work toward taking a “larger” and “more important” role. “Rather than just managing the present, we have the opportunity and, in fact, the responsibility to create the future,” she said.

Boyer plans to work toward “creating a framework for communication, the transfer of institutional knowledge and policy development that can provide a foundation not just for future spending but also for how we evaluate and implement programs and policies.”

“Knowledge is power and we can do more for you if we know how,” she said.

Holding weekly “lunch and learn” sessions, informal meetings where specialized topics such as budgeting and emergency preparedness can be discussed in detail, is one way toward this goal. Boyer hopes the open gatherings will help her colleagues – particularly those in their first year of service – share the nuts and bolts of their work, build a rapport and enable them to better accomplish their individual goals for their districts.

“Council members sometimes find the Sunshine Law restricts them from meeting and talking with one another, which makes us less efficient and less able to get the job done,” Boyer said. “We need to teach each other the tricks of the trade in order to help each other do our jobs better.”

Boyer appointed only first-term council members to head up the Council's various committees, and in council meetings, Boyer plans to hold “featured district presentations” to help council members learn more about the challenges in each area of the city. Because Jacksonville is large and diverse, it is important the council understand the “composite picture” in order to be effective, she said.

Also along this line is her plan to provide “proactive policy development” in workshops in each standing committee, which will address specific topics. For instance the Public Health and Safety Committee will discuss the subject of body cameras while the Waterway Commission would be tasked with “thinking big about activating the river downtown.”

“My vision is for each of the standing committees to be charged with working on policy initiatives within their scope,” she said. “There aren't many bills they

work on where they promote their own initiatives and seek improvements for the city. I want to give them time to work on some of that, to have them be proactive and not reactive.”

Working with the Mayor

Boyer said she will make it a top priority to assist Mayor Lenny Curry in campaigning for a half-cent sales tax to pay down the city's \$2.8 billion pension debt. She is already working on a list – the first in 10 years – of priority projects to submit to the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, which directs state and federal road funding. She also said she plans to establish a full five-year capital improvement plan and to unveil a “very special parks program,” early in her term.

In a telephone interview, Curry said he knows Boyer well and has always been impressed with the way she does her work and tackles hard problems.

“I find her to be a serious-minded person who knows the issues and gets facts straight. She can be tough and collaborative at the same time,” he said. Whatever she does, she's good at and the council will be the better for it. She's a leader and that's demonstrating leadership.”

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St. Nicholas Car Wash sold

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The St. Nicholas Car Wash, one of the oldest family-owned car washes in Northeast Florida, has been sold.

The car wash, which is located at 3237 Beach Boulevard in St. Nicholas Center, was purchased by Jacksonville-based Interlinx Technologies, LLC, according to a press release from Gateway Business Advisors, which brokered the sale. It had been owned and operated by the Lindley family since 1969.

In addition to the St. Nicholas location, Interlinx Technologies purchased Beaches Car Wash at 1401 Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville Beach, which was also owned by the Lindley family.

The family's patriarch, the late George H. Lindley, began the family's car wash business in 1952, when he established a location at the foot of the Main Street Bridge, which at that time was the main route through Jacksonville. In subsequent years, he established two more locations, the St. Nicholas Car Wash and another in the Stockton Street area.

"Cars came from up north and were filthy from the snow," said Lindley's son, George, who took over the St. Nicholas location from his father in 1971 and later bought Beaches Car Wash in 1988. "People would drive right to us as soon as



The Lindley family's St. Nicholas Car Wash has been purchased by Interlinx Technologies, which plans to keep it in operation.

they got into town. I was raised in the car wash business."

The sale of the car washes came about when Interlinx engaged Gateway Business Advisors to find a company in which it could invest. Interlinx was looking for a longstanding local business that included real estate and St. Nicholas Car Wash fit the

bill perfectly, said Interlinx President David Johnson in a press release. "We looked at a number of companies in different industries, but the stability and quality of these car washes were very attractive," Johnson said. "The fact that they were local landmarks, had been in business for so long and had a satisfied clientele sold us."

Although Interlinx has short-term plans for some renovations at the St. Nicholas location, the overall formula and operation of the car washes will remain the same. George A. Lindley will remain on board as a consultant during the initial transition. Many employees at the car washes have been there for decades and Interlinx has no plans to overhaul its staff, preferring to maintain and encourage a "cohesive team atmosphere," according to the press release.

"In an industry that typically has a lot of turnover, it is so refreshing to have a company where the employees understand the vision and take pride in their work," said Interlinx Vice President Brian Martin. "These car washes have provided a great experience for customers that we want to continue. We are extremely excited to be able to carry on the Lindley legacy."

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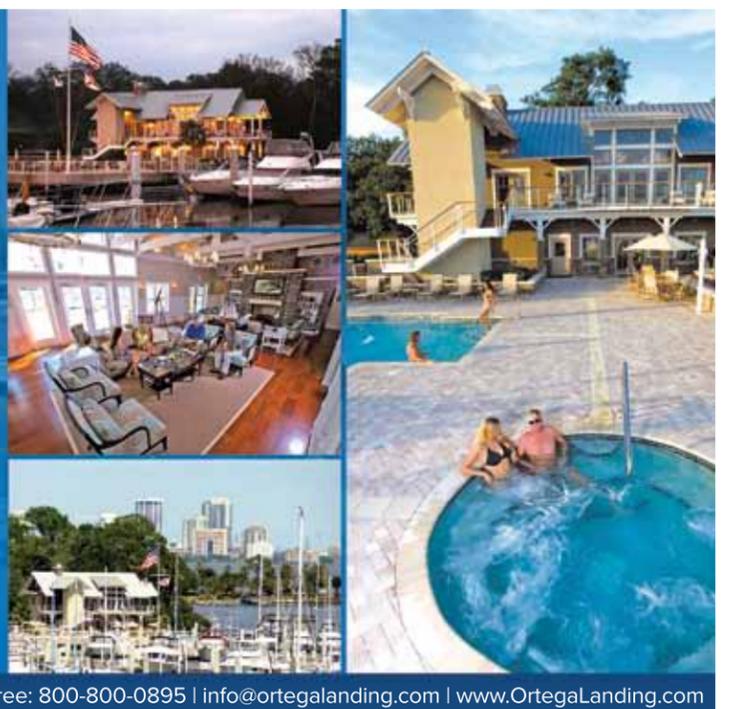
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MOVERS & SHAKERS

New pastor at Southside UMC



Pastor Juana Jordan

Southside United Methodist Church welcomed a new pastor into its church family on July 1.

Rev. Juana Jordan of Fort Lauderdale joined Southside UMC as its new Pastor-in-Residence. She is planning to plant a new United Methodist Church in Jacksonville's urban core in early 2017 and will use the San Marco church as her home base until then.

Jordan was formerly the lead pastor of Harris Chapel United Methodist Church in Fort Lauderdale.

Episcopal names new Head of School

Episcopal School of Jacksonville has a new school administrator at its helm.

The Rev. Adam S. Greene has been named by the Board of Trustees as Episcopal's Head of School as of July 1. He succeeds Charley Zimmer, who retired as Head of School June 30.

Greene formerly served as the Dean of Spiritual Life at Episcopal High School in Houston, Texas, where he was a senior administrator, leading one of its four core "pillars" of emphasis.

In addition to being an Episcopal priest, Greene brings to the school experience in education, finance, and a commitment to faith-based learning. His educational philosophy aligns with the Jacksonville school's dedication to a balanced educational program as well as the school's core beliefs in servant-leadership, a desire for excellence in the classroom, and the importance of spiritual development.

During his six years at EHS in Houston, Greene worked on the strategic and operational activities and was responsible for the spiritual life of the school, which included more than 680 students and 150 faculty and staff. In Houston, he oversaw academic programming, taught theology, provided pastoral care, and led community



The Rev. Adam Greene

service and outreach programs.

Greene also served as an active member of EHS's Board of Trustees' committees for Finance, Strategic Planning, and Risk Management as well as the school's 2014 capital campaign.

Greene is a graduate of Choate Rosemary Hall and has a bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt University. In 2009 he earned his Master's Degree from Yale Divinity School. Greene was ordained as an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Atlanta in 2009. Prior to joining EHS and attending divinity school, he was a highly successful leader for more than 20 years in global investment banking and finance at firms all over the world, including Citicorp, ABN Amro Bank and Wachovia, among others.

"Adam's outstanding strategic leadership experience, academic accomplishments, devotion to his faith and sophisticated financial expertise, as well as his educational perspective, stood out to us from the beginning," said Robert Clements, chair of ESJ's Board of Trustees. "Adam personifies what we know makes Episcopal unique, and he has the insightful vision and talent to execute what the School needs as we look toward an exciting future."

Bank taps three from area for advisory board

Thomas E. Gibbs, Esq. of Ortega, William (Tripp) Gulliford of Avondale and Michael Munz of San Marco are among five local business leaders selected by IberiaBank to serve on a local advisory board for the Jacksonville market.

Also selected for the board were Dane Grey of Elite Parking Services of America and Gina Hill, owner of G.M. Hill Engineering.

The advisory board will work closely with the Iberia bankers in Duval County in order to execute strategic growth initiatives and further expand the bank's presence in the market.

"We are fortunate to have assembled an impressive team of business leaders with strong ties to the local community," said Abel Harding, IberiaBank's market president for North Florida. "The formation of this

group further demonstrates our continued commitment to the Jacksonville market. We look forward to growing this region and tapping into the business expertise and entrepreneurial spirit of this group."

Gibbs, an attorney with Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP law firm, will serve as chair of the board. Gulliford is managing director for CBRE's Jacksonville office, where he oversees all operations and provides strategic support on business development to grow the firm's operations and local market share. Munz is president of the public relations division for the Dalton Agency, where he is responsible for high-level planning, tactical implementation, public relations, government relations, corporate positioning and political consulting.

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Jacksonville native joins Manormor Sotheby's



Michael J. Starling

A new realtor has joined Manormor Sotheby's International Realty in San Jose.

Michael J. Starling, a native of Jacksonville, graduated from Bishop Kenny and received degrees in journalism/communications and organizational management from the University of Florida. Starling joined the realty firm in June and expects to apply his essential skill set in the areas of marketing, sales and negotiations.

The majority of Starling's 35 years of professional experience have been in publishing and telecommunications. He was previously employed by the Florida Times-Union, where he deepened his knowledge of the neighborhoods of San Marco, Ortega, Riverside, Avondale, and Jacksonville's Southside.

A father of three, Starling also cherishes three grandchildren and hopes for many more. He said he enjoys the Northeast Florida outdoors and religiously follows the Florida Gators and Jacksonville Jaguars football teams.

Local ballet school under new ownership

The longstanding Ballet Arts Centre is under new ownership. Without skipping a grand jeté, former instructor Sydney Michel Keister took over as owner/director of the more than 50-year-old dance company located in St. Nicholas.

Keister, who has worked with former owner Beth Marks for four years, trained locally at La Villa School of the Arts and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and graduated with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts in Dance from Florida State University. At Marks' retirement, Keister said she is



Sydney Michel Keister

achieving her dream of having a dance studio. "It is an honor to continue the Ballet Arts Centre legacy," she said. "I want to give it the love and passion that Beth has given - I want to make her proud."

Marks, whose mother, Betty Balfour Marks founded the school, retired in 2015 after spending 36 years expanding her mother's vision. The well-respected dance school offers private lessons and group classes in several forms of dance to both children and adults.



Natalie Pelham

Pelham wins education achievement award

Natalie Pelham has received the American College of Education's (ACE) Alumni Achievement Award for her expertise in education. Pelham incorporates real-life scenarios into learning by using technology and helping students take ownership of their education journey.

"The truth is, I'm an ordinary person who loves teaching and learning," said Pelham, an adjunct professor with the University of North Florida, where she majored in education. "Learning not only from great educational establishments like ACE, but from my students as well."

Pelham, 29, previously taught second and fifth grade math at Annie R Morgan Elementary School, where she was 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year. Currently she instructs and mentors over 80 UNF interns a year as they move from their textbooks into real classrooms across 11 counties in Northeast Florida.

River Garden Hebrew Home an eight-time winner

For an unprecedented eighth time in a row, River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health & Aging Center received the Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care at a presentation July 29 in the facility's Cohen Auditorium.

Speakers included Martin A. Goetz, CEO of River Garden Hebrew Home; Audrey Moran, senior vice president, Baptist Health; the Honorable Aaron Bean, Florida State Senator; Marsha Pollock, River Garden president and Jeanine Rogozinski, River Garden Foundation president.

"Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams,'" said Goetz. "For over 70 years, our community has believed and supported its dream of having a senior care community where everybody is a somebody, where the lives of rich and poor, black and white, Jew and non-Jew alike have infinite value. A care community where everybody is a somebody. That we are now an eight-time recipient of the Gold Seal award is a direct testament to our board and staff, residents, volunteers and community, all of whom come together to make life good for older people."

After Senator Bean presented the award to Pollock, approximately 150 residents, staff and guests enjoyed a reception.



Holding up eight fingers to signify the eighth consecutive Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care award are (seated) Shirley Stone, president of the River Garden Residents Association; standing: Martin A. Goetz, CEO; Marsha Pollock, president, River Garden Hebrew Home; Senator Aaron Bean; Jeanine Rogozinski, president, River Garden Foundation, and Elliott Palevsky, CEO emeritus.



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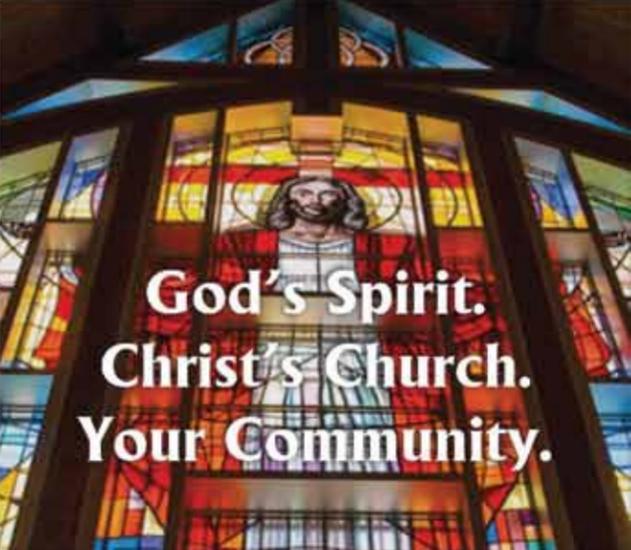


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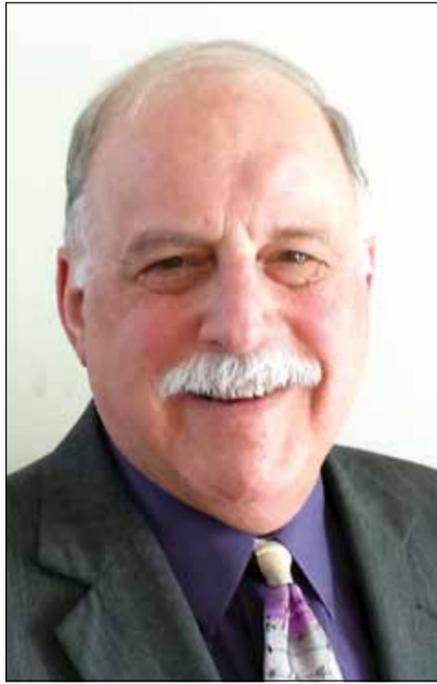
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Congregation Ahavath Chesed hires interim rabbi

Rabbi Richard Joel (Rick) Shapiro has joined Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple) as its Intentional Interim Senior Rabbi.

Shapiro, who has made his home in The Villages of San Jose, has taken over for Rabbi Joshua Lief and will serve The Temple's congregation while it is in transition for the next two years until a permanent rabbi is hired. He started his tenure with the San Jose Reformed Jewish community July 1, and will work alongside Associate Rabbi Matthew Cohen.

Shapiro is a native of Orange County, California. After completion of his military service in 1974, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies from UCLA. He later began studies at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, where he earned a Masters of Arts degree in Hebrew Letters in 1979, received rabbinic ordination in 1981 and



Rabbi Richard Joel (Rick) Shapiro

his Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) in 2006.

For the past 10 years, Shapiro has been serving as an Intentional Interim Rabbi, assisting congregations in transition as they prepare to select a new rabbi. In his capacity as an interim rabbi, he has served congregations in New York, Ohio, Florida, California, Connecticut, and most recently in Kansas. Prior to becoming an interim rabbi, he served as the settled rabbi for congregations in Denver, Colorado and in three California communities – Stockton, Santa Barbara and Palm Desert.

Shapiro, who views himself as a kind of “bounce-back boyfriend” is a nationally recognized expert in the area of synagogue transition. As one of the first rabbis trained in this field, he speaks and writes extensively on the national level. “I help them understand who they are,” he said noting through his work, the San Jose based congregation will better know what qualities they are seeking when they hire a new settled rabbi.

In addition to tending his congregation's religious needs, Shapiro said he will do some cooperative work with the Jacksonville Jewish Center as well as Beth El at the Beaches.

A strong advocate of reproductive rights, the elimination of racial and religious discrimination and equity in all areas of life for the LGBTQ community, Shapiro said he plans to also work with the Board of OneJax as well as with Planned Parenthood during his tenure in Jacksonville.

Forking Amazing hires pastry chef for three venues



Michael Bump

Michael Bump, former pastry chef at Restaurant Orsay in Avondale, was hired by Forking Amazing Restaurants to serve as Executive Pastry Chef.

Bump oversees the pastry program for Oviné, Bistro Aix and Il Desco. His responsibilities include menu development, management of other pastry chefs and dessert catering.

Bump is a graduate of the Western Culinary Institute (now the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts) in Portland, Oregon. He has more than 15 years of pastry chef experience, including two years working directly with James Beard Award-winning chefs Michael Smith and Debbie Gold at 40 Sardines in Leawood, Kansas, and one year as the pastry chef at Michael Smith's restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri.



Kimberly Fore, Program Director for Children's Home Society, Kathy Suarez, Buckner Place Supervisor for Children's Home Society, Shawn Naugle, Director of Program Operations, Children's Home Society, Bill Hardaker GHG/Sihle Insurance

Children's Home Society receives grant from insurance foundation

Children's Home Society of Florida, based in St. Nicholas, received a grant from Westfield Insurance Foundation, thanks to the help of Sihle Insurance Group's Riverside office.

“Thanks to the generous donation from Westfield Insurance Foundation, teen mothers and young women will gain the skills needed to be self-sufficient,” said Kymberly Cook, of Children's Home Society of Florida during the presentation of the donation. “Through this amazing partnership with the Westfield Insurance Foundation, we're able to ensure these young women can properly care for their

children and break the cycle of abuse and neglect for generations to come.”

The grant is part of the new Westfield Legacy of Caring program in which Westfield Trilogy agencies across the country were invited to nominate a local nonprofit in the areas of disaster relief, insurance pathways, family stability of safety.

“Sihle Insurance Group and its employees are proud members of the Seminole County community. Our collaboration with Westfield allows us to further our citizenship efforts and have impact in critically important initiatives,” said Lou Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer of Sihle.

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back row (left to right): Bobby Clayman, Mike Caro, Jon Pampalon, Gary Laughlin, Teddy Clayman, Eric Clayman front row: Elana Clayman & Loren Clayman

Clayman sponsored team helps knock down cancer by participating in grueling ultra-marathon challenge

Doctors Loren and Mark Clayman, both former high school and collegiate All-American track and field athletes and renowned plastic surgeons at Riverside/ St. Vincent's Hospital, recently sponsored North Florida's relay team at The 100 Mile Key West Ultra Marathon Race.

For the second year in a row, Dr. Clayman's sponsored relay team completed the Keys 100 Ultra Marathon, placing second in their division despite the challenging conditions. The Keys 100 raises awareness and funds for the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys, a worthwhile charity in the state of Florida. The funds are donated directly to support cancer patients and their families in the Florida Keys.

With grueling months of physical training and mental preparation, Team C.O.'s and Bro's finished second in their division. Dr. Clayman's supported team consisted of six runners including his sons Bobby, Teddy and Eric Clayman along with close friends Gary Laughlin, Mike Caro and Jon Pampalon. Each team member ran approximately 16-22 miles, in extreme heat, along the 100-mile course.

The race began at 5:45 am in Key Largo and ended in Key West in pitch black darkness. Runners kept coming in throughout the night and into the following afternoon. After the race, there was a medal ceremony to celebrate the winners and commemorate the achievements of each participant.

Dr. Loren Clayman and his wife, Elana, followed the team through all of the checkpoints, drawing on the strength of their sons and their teammates – and feeding off the inspirational drive of other runners they met along the way.

"I've never done that before, followed the race for 100 miles. I spoke with so many interesting people who shared their perspective on running, how they felt, why they do what they do," says Elana Clayman. "It's a unique way that they live their life with goals and persistence."

This race demonstrates the endurance of the runners and the commitment to teamwork, ethics, determination and mental fortitude. This year's race was the hottest on record with temperatures reaching 100 degrees. Even with the high temperatures, the team relied on each other for support and personal strength as evidenced by the teams' personal triumphs.

The Seven Mile Bridge is the longest leg of the race at about the 50-mile mark that must be completed by a single runner. Mike Caro completed the running of the Seven Mile Bridge in the emergency lane, traveling headfirst into oncoming traffic as the piercing hot asphalt literally burned through the rubber soles in his running shoes. Exhaust from cars and trucks robbed the runners of fresh air during this taxing race.

Every runner will agree that the worst parts of the race are an area known as Hell's Tunnel, a 2.9-mile stretch of the race surrounded by mangroves. From the runners' perspective, the mangroves block any breeze from coming through and therefore intensify the heat.

This year's race was very special for team member Bobby Clayman. Last July, Bobby suffered a leg injury that required emergency surgery. Post-surgery, he suffered from blood clots in both legs and lungs. Through several months of intense physical therapy and the support of his family, friends and fiancé, Bobby was able to compete and contribute to his team at a very high level.

"Through it all, he still had the mindset of achievement. Bobby said 'I'm going to do the 100-mile marathon again,' and he did. I couldn't be more proud," commented Loren Clayman.

The race attracts over 100 different teams throughout the United States, with many teams returning year after year for the charity, the challenge and the camaraderie. Teams help each other out, offering first aid, water, food and encouragement. Members of the Key West community and volunteers encouraged competitors during the race. Cars stopped and passengers cheered for the runners, offering water and a kind word.

Dr. Clayman's sponsored team placed second in their division with a time of 16:46:55 bettering their time by 40 minutes from last year. The team vows to beat their time in the 2017 race with hard work, dedication, and a lot of heart.

Thank you for all the support, Drs. Clayman, not only for the teams, but for such a worthy cause.

pd. adv.

Magill honored for vision in nonprofit sector



Sherry Magill, Rena Coughlin

Sherry Magill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, received the first Nonprofit Advocate Award from The Nonprofit Center at its Local Focus. Lasting Impact.™ awards luncheon June 28.

The award was given in recognition of Magill's achievements with the fund and its namesake center, the Jessie Ball duPont Center, 40 E. Adams Street.

"On December 18, 2012, Sherry Magill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund stopped at a red light, and glanced to her left and saw the former public library building vacant and neglected. In that instant, Sherry could see the future — a future with a wonderful, collaborative space for our local nonprofit organizations," stated the awards program. "That future is now our present,

and it's called the Jessie Ball duPont Center. The building is now a hive of activity, with multiple and lasting impacts for the nonprofit community."

Magill, an Avondale resident, was recognized for her many important and forward-thinking efforts that helped the nonprofit sector become more influential organized and collaborative.

Additional awards presented included the Collective Power Award, which was given to We Care Jacksonville for Beaches Health and Wellness Program, and the Social Innovation Award, given to Family Foundations for 1,000 in 1,000, a coalition of 21 organizations in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, which developed a strategy to move 1,000 people out of poverty every 1,000 days.

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Costume-clad party-goers benefit adult reading programs

Guests dressed as favorite book characters set the tone for Learn to Read Jacksonville's gala, Night at the Library – Where the Characters Come to Life. The July 23 event, held in the atrium and the Betsy Lovett Courtyard at the Main Library downtown, was emceed by John Bachman and Tenikka Hughes, CBS47/ Fox30 Action News anchors. Honorary chair was Congressman Ander Crenshaw.

Enjoying delectable food, drinks, music by Akia Uwanda, a silent auction and costume contest, guests contributed to the programs at Learn to Read, which change the lives of adults in Jacksonville by enabling them to earn their GED, fill out job applications, or help their children with homework.

"The support from our annual event enables Learn to Read Jacksonville to provide the life-changing gift of education to adult learners in the Jacksonville community," said Learn to Read Executive Director Judy Bradshaw. "Although surprising to many, it is an unfortunate reality that many people in Jacksonville cannot read. Our organization is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of individuals and families through literacy education."



Briehn Wildman, Blair Hakimian, Haley Hakimian



Jennifer Giltrop, Rita Buonocore



Kim and Andy Wheeler



Nancy and Seeman Zimmerman

SOCIAL R



Front: Mariah Verseput, Allison Ortega, E. William Nash IV; middle: Thomas "Ty" King and Spencer Hyatt; back: Paul Grainger and Justin Markley



Spencer Hyatt, Allison Ortega, Erica and Christopher Destephano and Arden



Elizabeth Stoner, Ashley Szczukowski, David and Tracy Williams, Jane Lanier

Summer soiree a celebration of philanthropy

In a celebration of philanthropy, Shircliff Society members and guests gathered for a summer soiree, held July 30 at St. Vincent's Spirituality Center. One of two annual social events that provide a mix-and-mingle opportunity for prospective members to learn about the young professionals group and its fundraising projects, the get-together was catered by St. Vincent's culinary staff.

The Shircliff Society, named after St. Vincent

HealthCare supporter and philanthropist Robert "Bob" Shircliff, serves to inspire young leaders to focus on improving the health of the community through giving and volunteering. The Society's current project, a Book Nook for St. Vincent's Family Medical Center, reached its \$25,000 fundraising goal, which was matched by the St. Vincent Physicians Society. The Book Nook will be ready for use sometime this fall.

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Callie and Mat Hugo with Susan Williams

Cowford's Pioneer support runs strong

The American Cancer Society's North Florida Chapter of young professionals are working hard to build a constituency among other like-minded supporters. Their recent Cowford Kickoff reception was held at the Mellow Mushroom in Avondale to gain new recruits and support current membership, July 21. Donations of time and effort alongside a campaign to grow ticket sales for the annual Cowford Ball are just a few of the group's initiatives.

With cancer touching so many lives, the endeavor to share experiences and outcomes from elders in the ranks help to illustrate the importance of the involvement of up and coming professionals. This year's Cowford Ball, titled Diamonds and Denim 2016, will draw a support from this crowd of younger donors and active members alike.



Pat Andrews and Fred Lambrou with Sharon Coon



San Marco Preservation Society President LeAnna Cumber and her husband, Husein, join Debra Pataky at the reception following Lori Boyer's installation ceremony at the Ritz Theatre in LaVilla.



Jennie Pappas with Lisa and Director of Public Works John Pappas and their daughters, Taylor and Alexa, niece Christina Podes and Alice Checorski

Political fanfare marks City Council installation ceremony

The movers and shakers of Jacksonville politics and many neighborhood residents turned out at LaVilla's Ritz Theatre to celebrate the installation ceremony for City Council President Lori N. Boyer and Council Vice President John R. Crescimbeni June 30.

Judge Tyrie W. Boyer of the Fourth Circuit, administered the oath at her investiture, while her son, R.J. Nemeyer, held the Bible and looked on with pride. The Honorable Mark H. Mahon, Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial Court of Florida, administered the oath of office to Crescimbeni while his wife, Tanya, held the Bible.

Among awards given, City of Jacksonville Director of Public Works John Pappas received the Robert O. Johnson award, which is the highest award given to a city employee.

After the swearing-in ceremonies, Boyer recognized her predecessor, Group 4 At-Large Councilman Greg Anderson, with a special gift.



Tyrie and Lori Boyer and Boyer's son, R.J. Nemeyer

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Shauna Taylor, RN, BSN, owner of Elite Medical Spa and its neighboring sister company, Elite Salon & Day Spa, is thrilled to open this new medical spa and bring on Dr. Garcia as the center's new medical director.

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feel comfortable by fully understanding all treatment options and how they will be geared to accomplish your personal needs. Dr. Garcia's consultations include photographic analysis and a complete individualized treatment plan.

Every person who comes in for a consultation receives a copy of the book, *Just Faces*, co-authored by Dr. Garcia, that gives detailed information about what happens to our faces as we age, with before/after photos and details of procedures that

can correct various aging concerns.

"The goal is to have people look as young as they feel," said Garcia.

Residents may already be familiar with the Elite Salon & Day Spa next door in the elegant building at 4290 Herschel Street. As owner and medical aesthetic nurse, Taylor's vast experience in age-defying techniques and her passion in helping you look your best is unmatched when you know her career experience and life goal to open a medical spa.

Taylor was a stylist for 10 years at the Elite Salon & Day Spa before going back to college to become a licensed, registered nurse. She then gained experience working at another medical day spa. When Elite became available a year ago, Taylor saw it as her chance to combine her love of nursing and fascination with the beauty industry by ultimately opening a medical spa at her local stomping grounds.

In addition to offering nonsurgical medical aesthetic procedures such as BOTOX®, and dermal fillers including Ultra and Ultra Plus Juvederm®, Taylor also provides clinical facials which help those with specific skin conditions such as acne, rosacea, and dark spots.

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cancer.org/treatment/supportprogramsservices/hopelodge/jacksonville

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- Leone, Hope Lodge major donor



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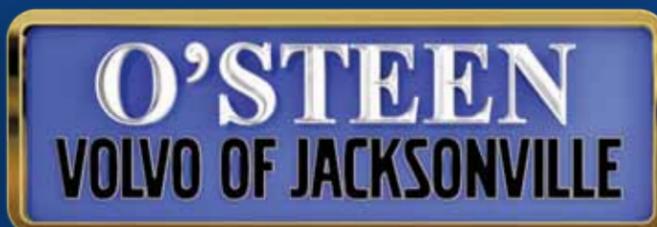
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Goodwill to open large thrift store in Lakewood



A rendering of the new Goodwill Thrift Store and Job Junction being built on St. Augustine Road in Lakewood.

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The land has been cleared, construction has commenced, and if everything goes as planned, the largest thrift store in Goodwill of North Florida's stable of retail outlets will open soon on St. Augustine Road in Lakewood.

Goodwill is in the process of building a \$4.2 million, 25,000-square-foot building on property located at 5953 St. Augustine Road. The new facility is slated to open in September 2016, said Tracy Collins, a spokesperson for the nonprofit.

Included within the new building will be a large thrift store, a donation center and a Job Junction site, which offers free job training and employment placement services to anyone walking through its doors. The

new facility will be staffed with 25 to 30 employees, said Goodwill of North Florida CFO David Rey.

"The location was selected because it is in an established area with high visibility where we can accept donations, operate a low-cost retail outlet and provide our free services to the community at our Job Junction," said Rey.

A nonprofit organization with the mission to assist all individuals who face barriers to employment, Goodwill of North Florida seeks to provide help to anyone looking for a job or a way to develop a career, said Collins. The nonprofit even has an education program that provides low-income students seeking higher paying jobs with college scholarships and other assistance.

"We help anybody. Everyone can use our services," Collins said.

The new Job Junction location will replace

one currently located in the Bowden Corners Shopping Center at 5711 Bowden Road, where a Goodwill Pound Store, a "second-look" location, is also located. Pound Stores sell clothing and goods by the pound, which were not sold after remaining on the racks at Goodwill's thrift stores for an indefinite period. Goodwill has three Pound Stores in the greater Jacksonville area.

The Lakewood donation location will join two Goodwill donation outlets on San Jose Boulevard within the San Marco-San Jose area – one in Miramar Plaza and another stand-alone drive-thru in Mandarin. In total Northeast Florida Goodwill operates 19 regular thrift stores, 17 donation locations, and one high-end Bluetique store in Jacksonville Beach. The nonprofit also offers free eye exams, runs LCI, a commercial landscaping and irrigation business, and

a healthcare laundry, which processes seven million pounds of wash per year. It also has an e-commerce location online at shopgoodwill.com.

According to Goodwill's website, the nonprofit received 667,000 donations in 2015 tallying \$33 million in revenue from its retail operations. The nonprofit charity does no traditional fundraising and utilizes 89 cents of every dollar it receives from its retail outlets to support its mission, said Collins.

According to Goodwill, 89,000 people received employment services through its Job Junction locations in 2015. "This year Goodwill's goal is to assist 95,000 people through its different services, and I think we will surpass that," Collins said. "We're responsible for giving 15,000 unemployed people something to do."

Volunteers needed

Ronald McDonald House in San Marco is expanding and with the expansion comes the need for additional volunteers. Opportunities are available to assist families and staff at the house, helping out with annual special events as well as caring for families in the Family room at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Volunteers also help provide dinner for Ronald McDonald children and their parents each evening, making a great volunteer opportunity for civic or corporate groups to get involved.

For more information, contact Amy Christus at (904) 807-4670 or email her at achristus@rmhcjax.org.

JSO joins Nextdoor

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) recently expanded its social media and mobile application offerings by becoming part of the Nextdoor neighborhood program. The JSO will post about crime and public safety in the area.

Although the JSO is unable to see content on a specific Neighborhood website, users can reply to posts about crime and public safety issues in their neighborhoods. The JSO cautions, however, that Nextdoor users not use site to report a crime or share specific crime information or suspect information on a post without first notifying the police through proper channels.

JSO officers do not monitor Nextdoor 24/7, so in case of a police emergency call 9-1-1. If you need an officer, but it's not an emergency, call (904) 630-0500.

If you have information about a crime that has been committed, or suspect you have information, share it with the JSO by contacting First Coast Crime Stoppers toll free at 866-845-TIPS (8477) or emailing JSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org.



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Santa leaves North Pole for steamy Jacksonville to benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital

Wolfson Children's Hospital learned Jacksonville is a city full of Santa Clauses when it held its annual "Christmas in July" toy donation event July 25.

As of 4 p.m. on drop-off day, the hospital had more than doubled its take in toys and online contributions over last year and was still counting, said Carol Chaffin, a spokesperson for Wolfson Children's Hospital. So far the month-long toy drive has generated \$12,665 in online giving, \$105 in cash and checks and a whopping 7,571 new toys – 4,756 during the drop-off event July 25 and 2,586 during the period of July 1-24, Chaffin said. Last year the charitable children's event collected 3,000 toys, and in the past three years only \$6,920 in monetary donations.

On July 25, Santa Claus and his pal, Wolfie, mascot of Wolfson Children's Hospital, were on hand to greet donors in the circular driveway in front of Baptist Medical Center during the drop-off event. It was the fifth consecutive year Wolfson Children's Hospital has sponsored the toy drive, which provides toys and games for its patients in order to make their hospital stay less overwhelming.

The pediatric hospital treats more than 80,000 children each year in the North Florida and South Georgia regions, using toys and art supplies to help soothe, distract and ease the anxieties of children of all ages during treatment for illness and injuries. During the donation event, new, unwrapped toys, art



Wolfson Hospital President Michael Aubin and Dr. Veronica Scott-Fulton, Wolfson Vice President of Operations, are joined by Santa Claus and Wolfie during the Christmas in July event at Wolfson Children's Hospital July 25.

supplies and financial donations to purchase developmentally appropriate playthings for children with special needs were solicited between July 1-25 at Baptist Health hospitals and Jersey Mike's Sub stores.

"Toys are needed all year long," said Vikki Mioduszewski, a spokesperson for Wolfson's Children's Hospital. "The hospital's toy supply typically dwindles during the summer months, away from the traditional spotlight of holiday giving and year-end charitable donations."

Online gifts are being accepted until August 1. To donate or see a wish list with price ranges, visit ChristmasJuly.com.



Representing Jersey Mikes, Tyler Eaton, manager of the San Marco restaurant, and Chris Causey pose with Wolfie as they bring donations to Wolfson Children's Hospital's Christmas in July event July 25.



Vikki Mioduszewski accepts a Christmas in July donation from Jann Clark.



Representatives from all 11 Jersey Mike's locations dropped off a truckload of toys and gifts during the Wolfson Children's Hospital Christmas in July event July 25. Standing: Santa Claus, Tatum Smith, Melissa Kirchain, Macie McGrane, Amy Davison, Drew Maider, Chris Causey, Tyler Eaton and Wolfie. Kneeling: Jason Colonna

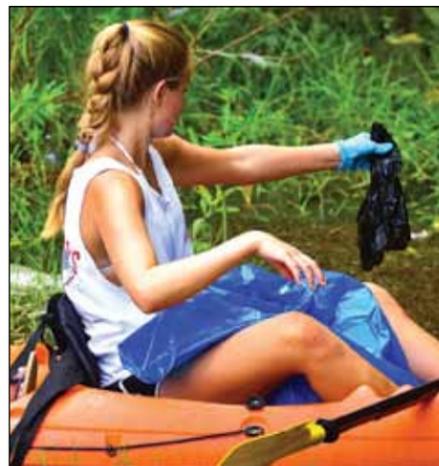
Young man remembered through creek cleanup

Friends and family of the late Jefferson Edwards IV, a Beauclerc resident and alumni of San Jose Catholic School and Bishop Kenny High School, honored his memory with a cleanup at Goodby's Creek on June 18.

After more than 50 participants collected nearly 40 bags of trash and debris from the creek and surrounding banks, they enjoyed a flotilla down the creek.

Edwards died in a tragic car accident in Arlington, Virginia on April 17, 2015. He was 26 years old and was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as an assistant manager at a fitness center in Virginia.

Because the St. Johns River was a huge part of Edwards' life, according to his mother, Annette Edwards, the event will benefit the St. Johns Riverkeeper. The family plans to hold the memorial cleanup and flotilla every year.



Mary McGowan picks trash out of Goodby's Creek during a cleanup.



Jack Stetson gives cleanup teammates a thumbs up for a job well done.

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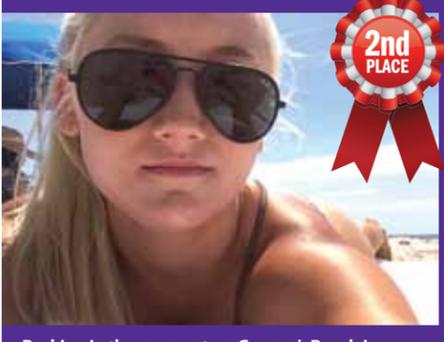
Summer fun is fleeting but capturing the moment with a selfie lasts forever. Readers were asked to submit their best Summer Selfie for a chance to win \$250 in restaurant gift cards from *The Resident*. Among those submitted, these images share a slice of life on a hot summer day. Thank you to all who participated. Congratulations to first place winner Harlan McGuire and to Suzi Airheart, second place, and Kaylee Carolan, third place winners.



Harlan McGuire, of Avondale, taking a fierce approach to a selfie with a bear in South Carolina.



This San Marco family was not happy about a three-hour flight delay in New York. Suzi Airheart captured the moment in the jetway at JFK enroute to Jacksonville.



Kaylee Carolan of Mandarin posing for a Flower Power selfie in her backyard.



Shana Stein and Greg Novinski of Riverside attending a DapperJax picnic in Memorial Park.



Harlan and Sara McGuire at Salt Life Food Shack, Jacksonville Beach



Reet Bilanchone and her daughter Avery mug for a selfie at home in Riverside.



Sara McGuire and Ashlin Turner bicycled to Peterbrooke Chocolatier in the Shoppes of Avondale for a cool gelato on a steamy afternoon.

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The Way We Were

Hannah Lou Southwell McGowan

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Few people can say they met their soulmate in third grade, but Hannah Lou Southwell did when she and Charles “Charlie” McGowan became classmates at Southside Grammar School.

Hannah Lou and her parents, Charles Theodore and Hazel (Walker) Southwell, moved to Granada and the home they built at 1011 Alhambra Drive South in the early 1930s. At that time, Paul Edmund and Florence (Jenkins) McGowan and their children, Robert “Bob,” Charles “Charlie” and Betty Ann also moved to Alhambra Drive North, just two blocks from the Southwell family.

“Charlie and I rode bikes together and played all the time because we lived so close to each other,” she said.

Charlie and Hannah Lou loved music and, after starting piano lessons at age five, Charlie became well-known as a pianist and accompanist. He and Hannah Lou both studied piano with Pierce Draughon and with Mrs. Kingsbury, who taught at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

After graduating from Southside Grammar School, Hannah Lou and Charlies attended duPont Middle School. Hannah Lou recalls how they enjoyed the student orchestra. Mrs. Irene McDaniel, their red-haired music teacher, had also been Charlie’s second grade teacher at Southside Grammar School.

“She formed a small student orchestra. Charlie played piano and I played flute. He also played for church, at school and even at the companies where he worked. He performed his senior piano recital at Friday Musicale in 1947,” Hannah Lou said. “Mrs. McDaniel gave us tickets to attend the symphony and concerts by famous classical

musicians and popular singers brought to Jacksonville by the Civic Music Association, like Itzhak Perlman and Marilyn Horne.”

During high school, Charlie had a part-time evening and weekend job playing piano and selling sheet music at the Cohen Brothers Department Store. Later, Charlie served as president of the Civic Music Association.

Hannah Lou had many hobbies. She learned from a friend to sew all her own clothes. She was an avid photographer from the moment her maternal grandfather, Henry Walker, gave her his old black box camera he had used since the turn of the century. She took photos of her friends and Girl Scouts, developing the photos in a darkroom at home. At Landon she was the official Landonian yearbook photographer and Charlie was co-editor his senior year.

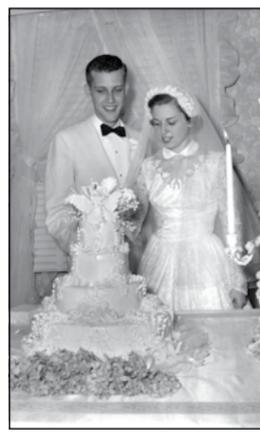
Hannah Lou was also a Landon Lionette and vice president of her senior class; she said she still stays in contact with her Landon High School friends. Charlie was school and class pianist and a cheerleader his senior year.

After graduating from Landon High School in 1947, their relationship was tested when Charlie’s father moved the family to New York in a job transfer.

“We found out they were moving the day after our graduation. It was devastating,” she said. “Charlie moved with his family to Scarsdale, New York. When I visited his family, his father bought us Broadway show tickets. We got to see ‘Annie Get Your Gun,’ starring Ethel Merman and ‘South Pacific,’ starring Mary Martin.”

Charlie attended college at Franklin Marshall University in Pennsylvania and graduated with a sociology degree in 1951. Hannah Lou graduated from Mary Washington University in Virginia with her degree in dramatic arts and speech.

Hannah Lou returned to her family’s



Cutting the wedding cake, 1952



Charlie, Hannah Lou, Mark, Paul McGowan



From ceremony to reception, 1952



The Southwell family, Charles, Hannah Lou and Hazel, at home, Christmas 1947

Granada home after college and worked for Delta Airlines from 1951 to 1953. Charlie also returned to Jacksonville and he and Hannah Lou were married June 28, 1952 at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church by Pastor Stephen T. Harvin. Her bridal gown was purchased from Purcell’s, located downtown next to Hemming Plaza at the Northeast corner of Laura and Monroe Streets. Their reception was held at the Southwells’ Granada home and Hannah Lou worried that it would be too hot, with no air conditioning.

Hannah Lou married into a fishing family, as she describes the McGowans, and many days were spent fishing and crabbing off

Charlie’s parents’ dock on the river. Charlie’s parents took the entire family on vacation every summer to Kings Bay Lodge at Crystal River on the Gulf, a wonderful family tradition they enjoyed for years.

“I wasn’t good at fishing but Charlie always brought home buckets of crabs and there was a time when I thought I’d die if I saw another bucket of those crabs. Now, I’d love to see Charlie bringing a bucket of them!” she said.

Their first home was at 1738 Flagler Avenue in San Marco. At that time, Charlie worked for Southern Bell for one year before he was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned to Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina.





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Granada home, 1937



Charlie McGowan and Hannah Lou Southwell, college years



Charlie McGowan, far left, and Hannah Lou Southwell, left, with classmates who received awards from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for essays, 1943



McGowan family, 2015; front: Gabriella, Mary, Hannah Lou, Anne Marie; back: Marco, Austin, Matthew, Marisa, Michael

After his discharge in 1954 they returned to Jacksonville and Charlie's position at Southern Bell. They purchased a home in Lakewood, but Charlie was transferred to Orlando in 1955.

They resided in Orlando until 1958 when another transfer returned them to Jacksonville and they purchased a home in San Jose. Now the parents of two young sons, the couple settled into family life. Their sons, Paul Theodore "Ted" and Mark attended Kings Trail Elementary and are Bolles graduates. Hannah Lou recalls days of volunteering as classroom mother, attending PTA meetings, garden and bridge clubs, and raising their sons.

In 1966 Charlie and Hannah Lou designed and built their home on San Viscaya Drive, on a lot given to them by Charlie's father, who had purchased the riverfront property in 1950. They chose J.C. McLaughlin, Jr. as their builder.

"We chose McLaughlin because he had constructed nice homes on Rustic Lane, the next street south of San Viscaya," Hannah Lou said.

The couple grew roses, orchids and had a greenhouse. They planted lemon and pink seedless grapefruit trees that yielded delicious fruit. They also had several citrus trees from the original orange grove, until the last one died recently, Hannah Lou said.

Charlie worked until 1987 when he took early retirement at age 57 rather than be transferred back to Orlando. He was AT&T District Manager when he retired from his 36-year career. At that time, the couple were

carrying for both of their elderly mothers and an aunt. Charlie went to work as a travel agent for Shamrock Travel, owned by friends and located in Lakewood. This job led to many trips within the United States and abroad.

The couple spent years traveling to visit family and friends, to the North Carolina mountains and many European countries and enjoyed several cruises. Hannah Lou smiled as she described how Charlie would groan when anyone mentioned a travel location because she would always say, "I've been there" and describe the trip.

A year after the Southwells celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2002, Charlie passed away.

Now Hannah Lou, 87, stays active and engaged with her friends, neighbors, church and community. She walked religiously two or three miles every day for the past 18 years with her next door neighbor, Patricia "Pat" Boney, who recently passed away. She attends a weekly Tai Chi class and several lunch groups. A 70-year member of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, Hannah Lou volunteers with eight other senior ladies (average age 82), to staff the church kitchen for vacation Bible school every summer.

This month, Hannah Lou will celebrate 50 years living in her San Jose area home and, if she had a wish, it would be that Charlie could celebrate with her, too.

NEVER TOO OLD

Never Too Old takes a look at senior residents who think out of the box or step out of their comfort zone. If you know someone who has a similar story to share, send information to editor@residentnews.net

GIFT SHOP SALES BALLOON THANKS TO 81-YEAR-OLD MANAGER

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Ever since Evelyn Peck took over as manager of the gift shop at River Garden Hebrew Home merchandise has been flying off the shelves.

The 81-year-old Beauclerc resident, whose husband, Ira, resides at the Mandarin-based senior community, took over managing the small gift shop in the lobby in February 2016. A 20-year member of the River Garden Women's Auxiliary, Peck immediately took stock of her inventory and revamped the shop to give it a new look.

In March, on the day of River Garden's anniversary celebration, she held a big sale, setting up a satellite locations in the facility's day care center. "We set up a zoo and had a sign that said, 'Please don't feed the animals,'" Peck said, noting she offered stuffed animals which were piled high in laundry baskets in front of the shop. "We did a lot of business and cleared out a lot of the old inventory. It was a big success. Nobody was more shocked that I was, and I really mean that."

Since Peck has taken over, she has tripled the sales in the store, with all the profits going directly to River Garden Senior Services. But retail work is in her DNA, she said. A native from Greensboro, North Carolina, Peck grew up selling footwear in her father's Boston Sample Shoe Store and occasionally helped out in her uncle's shoe shops in Charlotte and High Point. "We were a shoe family," she said. "At that time I hated the retail business. How would you like to put shoes on people's feet?"

However, when she was offered the job as manager, she did not hesitate. "I felt an obligation to River Garden," she said, noting the good care her husband is receiving. "When you are a Southern Jew, raised in a small town, you are raised to contribute to the community," she explained. "I thought it would be a way to give back."

Peck's shop is open six days a week,



Evelyn Peck greets a customer from behind the counter at the River Garden gift shop.

Sunday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Although River Garden is a gated community, the public is welcome to shop by just mentioning the gift store at the guard gate.

Peck's regular staff of 14 are all volunteers, as are five or six River Garden staff who substitute when needed. Margaret Miller, an interior designer by profession, designs the curio cabinets and window displays inside the shop and out.

Peck said she found a "fabulous" supplier online and no longer "goes to market in Atlanta" for her inventory as the previous shop manager did. Her store sells oodles of clip earrings, a favorite of River Garden's female residents, as well as sundries, hair accessories, scarves, key rings, stationery, ice cream and candy, all for \$20 or less. "The key to our success is to keep our prices low and have inventory that looks expensive," Peck said. "If an item stays on the shelf more than a couple of weeks I feel like I've failed."

But perhaps the main reason River Garden's shop is so successful is Peck herself. "She is customer friendly. Her personality entices you to buy," said Karen Frey of Tucson, Arizona, who said she has spent a lot of money while visiting her father in rehab.

The gift shop is more than a store or way to raise money, said Peck. "It creates an arena of normalcy for the residents. It is a place where the residents and staff can be customers. River Garden is a family," she said. "The last thing about it is to make money. The number one goal is to make people feel good."

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First Wolfson High senior class celebrates 50th reunion

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It's been 50 years since members of the first graduating class at Samuel W. Wolfson High School collected their diplomas. To celebrate, the Class of 1966 held a two-night class reunion June 24-25 at Unity Plaza and the Lexington Hotel on the Southbank.

The more informal meet-and-greet gathering at Unity Plaza in Brooklyn allowed classmates to reunite while enjoying a cash bar and snacks. At the Lexington Hotel, DJ Chill Will Barker, who is official DJ for the Jacksonville Jaguars, serenaded the crowd while old friends talked over old times and enjoyed a buffet dinner, dancing and a cash bar.

As the first group of seniors to inhabit Wolfson's air-conditioned halls, the 1966ers represented a merger between more than 450 students from Landon and duPont Junior-Senior High Schools. The former Landon and duPont students did not coalesce well in the beginning, remembered Reunion Chairman Michele Zavons Steinfeld of San Jose. It was football season that brought everyone together and unified the student body, she said.

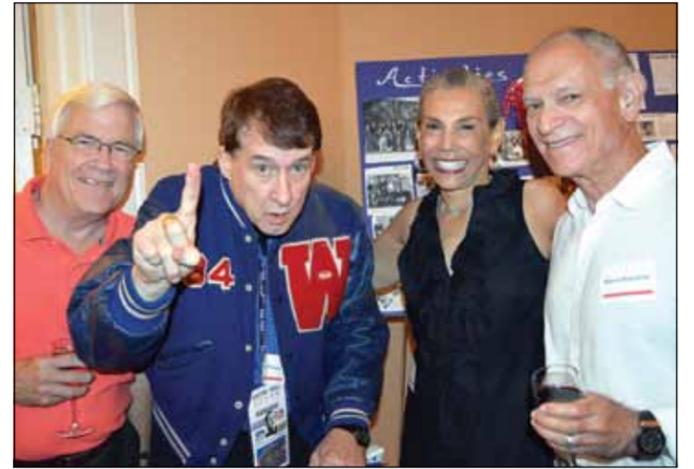
That year the Wolfpack devoured nine regular-season foes to be undefeated during its first season and saw its new football coach and athletic director, Bob Williams, named Jacksonville's Coach of the Year. The All-City and All-County football teams in the fall of 1965 looked like a Wolfson roster, and the Pack went on to win the Gateway Conference Championship and the Region 1 Class AA Championship only to fall to Melbourne, 7-0, in the semi-finals of the state championship.

"We were No. 1 in the city and then we went to state," Steinfeld recalled. "The football team's success brought everyone together."

As Wolfson's first senior class, the



Wolfson High's All-City baseball players Carle Felton, Dickie Nichols and Winston Whitehall



Wolfson football players Ed Minge and Bill Evans join Michele and Steve Klausner



Donnie Safer, Jerry Sachs, Jeff Geftter with Leon Yergin



Michele Zavons Steinfeld and Rose Kolchin Tincher

students were able to select the Wolfpack name and the school colors, blue and red, Steinfeld said, noting at first the class thought one color should be orange or black for Landon and the other should be green or gold for duPont. "Then we decided it should be neither," Steinfeld said. "We took so much pride in our school. Not everybody can say they were in the first graduating class. Now they say, 'I didn't know Wolfson was that old.'"

Becky Bayer Colangelo of San Jose, who was also on the reunion planning committee, recalled she didn't have an

escort when the Wolfson K-Club (Young Kiwanis Club) selected her to be part of its Sweetheart Court. "The guys took pity on me and got me a date," she said. "Marion Matthews took pity on me. He was the sweetheart that agreed to take me to the dance," she remembered. Matthews was a lucky man. Colangelo was eventually selected Miss Sweetheart.

A former duPont student, Colangelo said she was happy to go to Wolfson because it gave her an opportunity to make new friends. "I'd been with the same group since seventh grade," she said. "Landon had been our rival. I knew some people at Landon already, but it was nice to have a shot at making new friends."

Separated from many of her Hendricks Avenue Elementary friends when she went to duPont and they enrolled in Landon, Rose Kolchin Tincher, of San Jose, said she was happy to meet up with them again at Wolfson, a school she described as being in the "boondocks"

and surrounded by cow pastures. "It was exciting for the people we knew in elementary school to be back together again," she said.

Donnie Safer, who traveled to the reunion from Nashville, Tenn., agreed. "It was like going to a new school but with all my old friends. I did not have a sense of displacement, like I might have if I'd gone to a new school at the beach," he said, noting he'd gone to Hendricks Avenue Elementary and Landon prior to Wolfson. At the reunion, it's been nice to reconnect with people I grew up with."

Several classmates joined Steinfeld on the Wolfson High School reunion committee including Tincher, Colangelo, Amelia Edwards Green, Bonnie Clark Sleiman, Leon Yergin, Janet Waldoch Travis, Angela Jansen Carter, Cynthia Horton Starkey, Cheryl Sussman Lebeau, Grace Arlene Kramer Nealis, Barbara Gefen Jaffe, Gwen Gillespie Holcomb, and Beverly "Troy" Rahn Hutchinson.

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Centenarian celebrates a lifetime of music

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Recognized at age five as a gifted musician, 100-year-old Marie White Parker has spent the past 95 years following her passion for learning and performing.

"I was born liking music and that's how I got started," she said. "My first music teacher charged 25 cents for a 30-minute lesson. And to let you know how things were, my parents couldn't even pay that sometimes."

Born in Jacksonville on August 18, 1916, Parker is eyeing her century mark as an independent woman.

"I don't do the things I used to do, but I'm doing pretty good, fine actually. I'm healthy, strong, I have friends and family," said Parker, who still takes care of her home, fixes most of her own meals and puts away the groceries she has delivered.

A member of the Classy Chicks Red Hat Club, Parker said she enjoys having the group visit at her apartment. "I can move around and not have to sit in one place all the time," she said, remarking the only reason she uses a walker is because others at The Coves at River Garden, an independent living community for active seniors, expect her to do so.

Although Parker was raised in the South at a time when segregation was strictly enforced, she said she didn't encounter unpleasantness.

"I came up in the South during real segregation but as a child I never noticed it. Children were just children. I played the piano and everyone loved me," said Parker. "I went to Stanton High School, then we moved



Marie Parker at the piano, 2012



Marie White Parker, 2016, holding a photo of herself at age five

to New Jersey where I was one of four black children in the school but I never experienced any discrimination."

Parker's mother passed away at a young age so she was brought up by her aunt and her father, who was an AME minister.

"My Lord, I came up so good. I never saw a deck of cards in our house or whiskey," remarked Parker jovially. "The only music I saw came from a hymnbook. I had a wonderful upbringing – I think it made me a good person. As a child I thought I wanted to do things other children got to do but now that I'm old and I look back – what a wonderful life I've had."

Parker continued her musical studies and performed throughout New Jersey and New York. She sang in choruses with the Queens Symphony, accompanied vocalists, played for churches, directed choirs and presented

concerts. Her apartment has hundreds of photographs, concert programs, sheet music, plaques and awards and other memorabilia representative of her life as an accomplished performing artist.

"Of course, I met a man named Aaron Parker who didn't know anything about music – he didn't even sing in the shower," laughed Parker. "I told him I would give up my career and be his wife. He said, 'No, you were doing all this before you knew me, you can't stop now.' We married in 1950 and in the 41 years that we were married he never complained – concerts, rehearsals – all of that, he never went back on his word. About the only song he liked was 'Danny Boy' so it became my favorite too."

The Parkers moved back to Jacksonville January 1, 1985. "I told my husband, 'New York is enough city for me,' so we built a

house near the golf course in Middleburg," said Parker.

After her husband passed away from Alzheimer's disease, she renewed her lessons with renowned organist Andrew Clark who was then at Riverside Presbyterian Church, and resumed performing and accompanying others.

"Andy's just fabulous, a great teacher. I've been blessed with fabulous teachers," she said. "We don't see each other as much now but every year he takes me to lunch on my birthday and we go to Hendricks Baptist Church where he plays and gives me a private concert."

Parker's personal piano and organ repertoire runs from Handel and Bach to Duke Ellington, "Jelly Roll" Morton and Scott Joplin, as well as hymns from every denomination, but Clark's own compositions are her favorites.

"I met Marie around 1990. She took lessons because she wanted to keep up with her training and she studied with me for about 12 years," said Clark. "She is a very respected organist. She was a favorite guest performer at the Wednesday Happenings at Riverside for many years."

No doubt all those years of organ playing have contributed to her longevity. Parker and Clark agreed that it's not just the knees or hands, the whole body has to work.

At 100 years young on August 18, Parker plans to celebrate with a nice dinner. She looks forward to eating something spicy and enjoying a cocktail. "Every special occasion deserves a nice cocktail," said Parker with a smile.



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Local musicians perform in historic English venues

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

To perform at New York City's Carnegie Hall is to "arrive," but for six local musicians the chance to perform in oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe where 18th century composers Joseph Hayden and George Handel played was the opportunity of a lifetime.

"Performing in the same location that Haydn played in about 250 years ago was a highlight of the trip," said Eric Olson, principal oboist of the Jacksonville Symphony and co-founder of the San Marco Chamber Music Society. "The Holywell Music Room was a favorite, because of the fine acoustics, full hall, and history of the Room. To play in a place that Haydn and Handel performed in was really special."

In June, the San Marco resident, along with his wife, Ellen, a violist with the Jacksonville Symphony and co-founder of the San Marco Chamber Music Society, spent 10 days in England performing four concerts and taking in some historic sites with four other musicians and a small entourage.

Also on the trip were Les Roettges, principal flutist of the symphony; Aurelia Duca, principal second violin of the symphony; Clinton Dewing, a violinist with the symphony, and Nick Curry, professor of cello at the University of North Florida; fundraising chair Rod and Annie Morris, the Olsons' daughter, Gina, and Dewing and Duca's daughter, Siena.

The society's tour was well publicized, thanks to efforts by Morris and his friends, Juliet and Roger Curry of Witney, England.

"There was press about us everywhere in Oxford and in Witney. There were fliers with our pictures on them in bathrooms, on the streets, in restaurants, in hotels, basically everywhere," said Nick Curry. "It felt really nice to have our concerts promoted to this level."

The idea to send the San Marco group to England to perform "grew into a more ambitious plan to create a cultural exchange between our two cities, with each sending some of their finest talent to perform for the other," said Morris.

Together, Morris and the Currys put together a "trade agreement" and the Adderbury Ensemble came to Jacksonville in April to perform four concerts. The Jacksonville musicians' trip to England was financed, in large measure, by donations from Stellar Group and many supporters.



Annie Morris, Ellen, Gina and Eric Olson, Les Roettges, Rod Morris at Trafalgar Square



Nick Curry, Annie Morris, Ellen, Eric and Gina Olson, Les Roettges at Salisbury Cathedral

"My favorite [venue] was Holywell, where the audience was so close and seemed to really enjoy it. There was a minute and a half ovation at the end of the concert." – Ellen Olson

In addition to performing in the Holywell Music Room at Oxford University, the San Marco Chamber Music Society played to audiences in churches in Oxford, Witney and Adderbury. The British promoters had requested a program consisting of American music by American composers, said Morris. "I know this created considerable additional work by the musicians."

"My favorite [venue] was Holywell, where the audience was so close and seemed to really enjoy it. There was a minute and a half ovation at the end of the concert," said Ellen Olson. "That's also the concert that was reviewed [in the Oxford Times]. I was thrilled to be mentioned in the review!"

Despite a few mishaps – Ellen got airsick on the flight over and Clinton Dewing and Aurelia Duca had luggage misplaced for two days – the group had a wonderful experience abroad and spread the word

about Jacksonville while they were at it. "Visit Jacksonville provided 500 colorful stick-on labels that we used to promote Northeast Florida as a tourist destination," said Morris.

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

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

5:00 p.m. – Art – Professional instructor – Jennifer Miller, certified Art Instructor with DCPS. Mrs. Miller teaches at Chimney Lakes Elementary. Expanding children's education through the world of art is her passion. Art is so much more than what meets the eye. Together they will explore art through painting, watercolor, ceramics and paper crafting.

6:30 p.m. Classes

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

Children's Art – See description under 5:00 classes

Learning is a Family Affair – Some Adult classes also are available to serious young students, especially with parental participation (such as Sign Lang. and Guitar)

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Beginner to Intermediate Yoga – CYT Instructor – Jayne Parker – Beginner to intermediate Vinyasa Yoga. Move through postures that will invigorate and help you tap into a more abundant life. Vinyasa means flow and the postures are linked with movement. Students are encouraged to move at their own pace as they breathe. \$45.00

Gentle Yoga – Instructor Jill Pagan – This class offers gentle movement of breath and body. Motion is lotion. This class will focus on breathing with an introduction to simple modified poses. Class suitable for all levels. Jill Pagan trained in Kripalu Yoga at Discovery Yoga in St. Augustine. \$35.00

6:30 p.m. Classes

Gentle Yoga – See description and price listed above

Line Dancing – Professional Instructor – LouAnn Simpson – A slower, easier way to exercise but lots of fun and fellowship. The latest dances and no partner needed because lines of them are provided. \$45.00

Guitar – Professional Artist/Instructor Arvid Smith – For beginners and intermediates. A warm, fun learning environment where both the instructor and the more experienced students willingly help novices. A guitar is required – acoustic or electric. \$45.00

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

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

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Introduction to Sign Language – Leeanne Triplett – 7 years of ASL studies and 3 years experience teaching deaf students, and a year of high school instruction. Minimum of 6 students required. All materials furnished. \$25.00

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Pokémon GO takes historic neighborhoods by storm

Indoors goes outdoors as video gamers head outside

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

They can be seen in Riverside Park, Whatley Park in San Marco or wandering the streets of St. Nicholas or Murray Hill. Teens, undeterred by summer heat, trek along the sidewalks in 5 Points or San Marco Square or along St. Johns bulkhead in Riverfront Park, heads down, smartphones in hand, as they search for the imaginary animals in their real world surroundings.

Although many players are kids there really isn't any age limit to the people found playing Pokémon GO, an augmented reality game that challenges users to find and catch Pokémon characters in their real world surroundings.

The video game, which is a new take on the Pokémon phenomenon celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, is doing something that parents, physical education instructors and even Michelle Obama have not been able to accomplish – encouraging couch potatoes, who are addicted to electronic devices, to head outside and walk around.

"It's just a fun game," said Parker Joyce of San Marco. "I played the other Pokémon games, but this is not like the traditional games. It's definitely a game changer. It's taken indoor gaming outdoors."

Joyce's mother, Patti, agreed. She said Parker has walked at least 20 miles since he started playing the game a week or two ago. "When he first got it we went out and did a two-hour walk together," she said. "It was so nice to spend the time with him. It used to be a rare moment when I'd have to say, it's dark outside, you have to come in, but not anymore," she said.

Although the game is new, it has clearly taken Jacksonville by storm. In late July,



Taking a lunch break at M Shack in Riverside, which is a Poke Stop are Episcopal Campers Lily Shields, Michael Viscali, Michael Teal, Kristian Tucker and Coach John Dwyer.



Hanging out at the Pokémon "gym" at Greenridge Park in San Marco are Josh Milon, Will Harbison, Parker Joyce and Richard Orbison. Each of the boys is on a different level in the game and on different teams as well.

15,000 people attended a Jaguars' sponsored Pokémon GO event at EverBank Field, making it the largest Pokémon adventure in the United States so far. Once the game came out, The Episcopal School quickly added it to its summer camp program, allowing campers to spend each day for a week traveling to neighborhood parks and venues such as Adventure Landing, Regency Mall, the Town Center and the Baseball Grounds searching for the illusive creatures.

Neighborhood businesses such as Community First Credit Union in Riverside dropped "lures" to draw players to their location July 25 and neighboring M Shack offered a half-off milkshake special during the lure drop.

"Our public relations marketing team planned a Pokémon GO special to take advantage of the PokeStop designation at our M Shack Riverside location," said Matthew Medure, owner of M Hospitality Restaurant and Catering Group. "Pokémon mania ensued and lots of folks dropped in to catch Pokémon. Milkshakes weren't the only menu item they purchased. It's driving revenue for us and exposure to our brand while leaving a good taste in the mouth of our consumer. We are excited to embrace this craze."

Coach John Dwyer, counselor to

Episcopal's Pokémon campers, said he downloaded the game and plays it with his six-year-old daughter Kiera. "From a fitness standpoint it's a great thing to get them moving around," he said.

"Pokémon GO brings people together," said Kristian Tucker of Riverside, adding that one time he walked at least five miles through Riverside. "It brings people to the same locations."

"I like the game," said Michael Teal of Riverside. "When I was little I played all the games of Pokémon. Now this has come out and it gets you to go outside and play video games. If it was not for this camp, I'd be inside all week."

"I like the game because it brings you outside and gives you cool stuff," said Lily Shields, a student at Episcopal. "You can

crack an egg if you walk a certain distance. The maximum I've walked is 12 kilometers."

"It's really fun and I get a lot of exercise doing it," agreed Richard Harbison of Ortega, a student at Bishop Kenny.

And Pokémon GO is not reserved just for kids. Adults have fun playing the game too. Michael Visali, a student at San Jose Episcopal School plays the game daily with his mom.

"My mom said it is the first time she and I have been walking outside our house for that length of time in the last four years," he said.

Like all Pokémon players, Visali, age 10, said his goal is to capture all 151 Pokémon. "It's a thrill to walk around and find a super rare thing," he said, noting there is one element of the game he does not care for. "The guy (Avatar) it made for me has curly hair, and I don't have curly hair," he said.



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Jr. Residents

High school entrepreneurs head off to college

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Come August, when Jesse Evans and Chris Prattos head off to college, San Marco dog owners may be hard pressed to find a pet sitter.

Evans and Prattos are Miramar neighbors who became entrepreneurs after founding Happy Hounds Dog Walking and Pet Sitting Service, when they were in eighth grade. On the cusp of heading to college out of state, they hope to hand off their lucrative business to other interested students in their neighborhood.

“Chris and I plan to interview neighborhood kids and hopefully they can start to do it themselves,” said Evans, noting he and Prattos will run the program this summer and may continue to keep a hand in it, albeit from a distance, after they go to college.

“It’s bittersweet for Chris and I. We need to move on to the next phase of our lives, but we want the business to continue so other kids in the neighborhood can earn money and learn about running a business as we have,” Evans said.

A graduate of Stanton High School’s

International Baccalaureate program, Evans will attend Washington and Lee University in Virginia, where he has received the prestigious Johnson Scholarship, a full-ride worth more than \$250,000. The scholarship covers four years’ worth of tuition, housing, fees, food, and books as well as a \$7,000 per year stipend to cover summer experiences, said Evans, who will hike part of the Appalachian Trail with other incoming Washington and Lee freshmen in August.

At Stanton, Evans was a member the National Honor Society as well as national honor societies in Spanish, Math, Film, and Science. He was a member of the varsity cross country and track teams for two years and also an Eagle Scout in Southside United Methodist Church’s Troop 35. In college, he plans to major in business with a minor in environmental studies.

“Getting the scholarship has taken a great weight off my shoulders and my parents,” he said. “I’m so grateful I don’t have to worry about future financial burden.”

Meanwhile Prattos, a 2016 graduate of Bishop Kenny, will attend Notre Dame where he plans to double major either in finance and chemical engineering



The Happy Hounds crew of Chris Prattos, Jesse Evans and their employee, Micah Conrad with Maggie.

or energy studies and computational engineering. At Bishop Kenny, Prattos ran cross country and track for four years and was the captain of the cross country team his senior year. A member of the National Honor Society, as well as the Spanish Honor Society, he served as a volunteer leader for HandsOn Jacksonville, where he was on the youth leadership council. In addition to walking dogs with Happy Hounds, he is also a counselor at Hope Haven this summer.

It was through a love of running that Happy Hounds came to be. While in eighth grade at Landon Middle School, Evans was jogging through the streets in Miramar when his neighbor, Suzanne Honeycutt, flagged him down. “Mrs. Honeycutt waved her hand at me and asked if I wanted to make some money. She wanted me to run with her dog,” Evans explained.

Soon exercising the Honeycutt’s pooch became a regular thing. After discussing his new job with Prattos, a

Landon classmate, the duo decided to go into business. They borrowed \$50 from Evans’ father to make business cards to distribute around the neighborhood and Happy Hounds was born.

Currently Happy Hounds has five regular clients and up to 30 residents in the neighborhood who call for dog-sitting services, Evans said. Over the past four years, in addition to sports and school work, the boys have spent an average of two to four hours a day as well as nights and weekends building their business, which often employs other friends, he said.

As the boys go on to study business in college, their entrepreneurial experience is a strong foundation to build on, said Evans. “Happy Hounds has given Chris and me the opportunity to learn about business hands on,” he said. “We both love being entrepreneurs, and we both want to continue to be our own bosses and to conceive and grow other successful businesses one day.”



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Southside Baptist submerges for Vacation Bible School

“Submerged” was the theme of Vacation Bible School at Southside Baptist Church in San Marco June 20-24. The children enjoyed learning about the Bible through music as well as traditional Bible study.

First graders in the program learned about local and international mission work and raised more than \$800 to help build a playground for the Florida Baptist Children’s Home. The fifth graders served their community by cleaning up the playground.



Second graders break out in song during a worship rally led by Jade Bateman.



The camp theme song accompanied the fourth graders as they did motions under the watchful eye of Allison McClain.

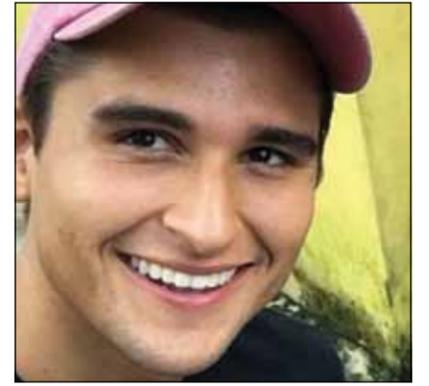


Kindergarteners learned about Nicodemus, Zacchaeus and the woman at the well during a Bible study lead by Emma Webber.



Led by Cori Weller, fifth graders Adriane Conner, Ansley Pennywitt, Esther Sawyer, Fiona Ormond and Alaina Leslie served their community by cleaning up the playground.

San Jose resident researching Zika virus in Rio



Al Muzaurieta

Al Muzaurieta of San Jose, a student at Harvard University, is conducting research on communication methods used in campaigns to control the Zika virus as Brazil prepares to host the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. His trip is sponsored by Harvard’s departments of Romance Languages and Global Health.

A 2013 graduate of The Bolles School, Muzaurieta spent a month in Recife, a northeastern city with the highest number of infants born with microcephaly and the epicenter of the Zika outbreak. His travels also include Manaus in the Amazon and Belo Horizonte in the south. He will complete his trip in Rio at the Olympics.

His work was recently featured on national news in Brazil on the morning program “Bom Dia Pernambuco,” which aired June 30.

duPont Middle to host orientation events

Rising duPont Middle School sixth grade students are invited to attend a “Bridge to Sixth Grade Academy” to help with the transition from elementary to middle school, August 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

During the two-day event, the students will have an opportunity to meet their classmates and teachers, investigate their classrooms, learn how to use their lockers, receive their schedules and more. Included in the fun will be a parent and student assembly, team-building activities, and lunch. Physical Education uniforms will also be sold during the academy. Pre-registration is not required to attend the bridging event.

duPont Middle School will also hold its regular orientation for all students Thursday, August 11. Sixth graders with last names ending in A-M should arrive at 9 a.m. Sixth graders with last names ending in N-Z should arrive at 10 a.m. The seventh grade orientation will take place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Eighth grade orientation will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

An open house for all students and their parents will be held Tuesday, Sept. 20. Sixth graders should arrive at 6 p.m., while seventh and eighth graders should come at 7 p.m.

Scholarship competition announced

The Veterans of Foreign Wars announced themes for its annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions, both with November 1, 2016 deadlines.

"The competitions foster a patriotic spirit in our youth by helping them better understand and appreciate our great country," said Patricia McQuaig, president, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Charles E. Bennett Post 1689.

Students are invited to submit an essay in response to a question or statement on a theme that prompts them to consider how American history and democratic principles apply to their lives, she said.

This year's Voice of Democracy theme is "My Responsibility to America." Voice of Democracy is an audio-essay competition open to students in grades 9-12. The national winner will receive the \$30,000 T. C. Salman Memorial Scholarship Award.

The Patriot's Pen competition is open to younger students, grades 6-8. This year students are asked to reflect on the statement "The American I Believe In." The national winner will receive \$5,000.

In addition to monetary awards, both grand prize winners will win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. for the 2017 VFW Legislative Conference in March. More than 166,000 students participated last year.

Participants are asked to submit their entry (along with a completed entry form) to VFW Charles E. Bennet Post 1689, c/o 9751 Viceroy Dr. E., Jacksonville, FL 32257. For more information, contact Patricia McQuaig at (904) 268-3086.



Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace Joseph Schooling Omar Pinzon Santo Condorelli Caeleb Dressel George Bovell Ryan Murphy

Seven from Bolles to swim in Olympics

Seven swimmers with Bolles' ties – five alumni and two current members of the Bolles Sharks Swim Club – will compete on six different teams in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro Aug. 6-13.

Swimming for the United States will be Caeleb Dressel and Ryan Murphy. Dressel, a member of the Bolles Sharks, will compete in the 100 freestyle, the 4 X 100 freestyle relay and the 4 X 100 medley relay. Murphy, who graduated from Bolles in 2013, will compete in the 100 and 200 backstroke and the 4 X 100 medley relay. It is the first time both swimmers will compete in the Olympic Games.

Rio will mark the fifth straight Olympics

that George Bovell, a 2002 Bolles graduate, has competed in the 50 freestyle. Swimming for Trinidad and Tobago, the 2002 Bolles graduate took home a bronze medal in 2004.

Santo Condorelli, a 2013 Bolles graduate, will swim for Canada in the 50 and 100 freestyle, the 100 butterfly and the 4 X 100 freestyle relay. It is his first Olympic Games.

Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace, a 2008 Bolles graduate, will compete for the Bahamas in the 50 and 100 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. It is Vanderpool-Wallace's third straight Olympics.

Omar Pinzon, a former Bolles Sharks Club member will swim for Columbia

in the 200 backstroke. It is his fourth Olympic Games.

Joseph Schooling, who graduated from Bolles in 2014, will swim in the 100 and 200 butterfly and the 100 freestyle for Singapore. It is Schooling's second consecutive trip to the Olympics.

Since 1972, the Bolles School has been represented in each Olympics. A total of 59 Bolles alumni and members of the Bolles Sharks Club have participated representing 28 countries or territories. Bolles alumni include 10 medalists winning a total of 14 medals. Bolles coaches and former coaches have also had a presence in the Olympics since 1988.

Children with cochlear implants enjoy summer camp activities

"Under the Sea" was the theme of a special camp for children with cochlear implants held at Nemours Children's Specialty Care in Jacksonville June 18-22.

The camp's activities enabled the children to have fun and make new friends while practicing speech development with Nemours counselors. Due to the cost and delicacy of the implants, the children are unable to participate in the same activities at other summer camps in the area. Nemours cochlear camp allows children to enjoy summer activities as well as a field trip with the assurance that their implants will be safe and secure.

On June 21, the children enjoyed a visit with Molly Curry of San Marco, wife of Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, who volunteered for the day. Molly is honorary chair at Nemours annual fundraiser, An Evening of Promise, which raises funds for the cochlear program as well as many others throughout the year.



Molly Curry joins campers at Nemours Cochlear Implant Summer Camp for a game of "Shark, Shark, Fish," on June 21.



Jacksonville First Lady Molly Curry joins volunteers and children from Nemours Cochlear Implant Summer Camp June 21.

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Team Up campers discover Jacksonville

Campers from Team Up, a summer program out of San Jose Elementary, spent time in July discovering downtown Jacksonville. The all-day camp ran June 20 to July 27, and students worked on academics, enrichment and enjoyed weekly field trips. During a June 23 trip, the group visited the main library, ate lunch on the atrium, rode the skyway, visited Friendship Fountain on the Southbank and hiked on the Riverwalk.



San Jose Elementary teacher Erika Farmer and Alina Gonzalez, a paraprofessional at the same school, accompany Team Up campers to the city's main library.



Team Up campers hike the Southbank Riverwalk.

Surf's up for Southside UMC Vacation Bible School



"Surf Shack" was the theme of Vacation Bible School at Southside United Methodist Church in July. Participating in the program were Sarah Troup, Melissa Frankie, Jeanette Yates and Steve Dickson as the "land shark."

School uniforms coming to San Jose Elementary



Students at San Jose Elementary will wear red and white polo shirts next fall.

School uniforms are coming to San Jose Elementary. The school is opting to have all students from pre-K to fifth grade wear uniforms in the upcoming school year in conjunction with the Duval County School District's uniform policy.

All students must wear either red, white or black polo shirts with a collar and three buttons. Boys may wear either khaki or black-colored long pants or shorts. Girls may wear either khaki

or black-colored long pants, shorts or skirts. All students must wear close-toed shoes.

Shirts with the San Jose Elementary School logo may be ordered from the main office, which accepts only exact cash payments.

For more information, see the school's website, sanjose.duvalschools.org, or contact the main office at San Jose Elementary.

2016

FALL CLASSES

10 Week Sessions

Junie B. & Me
Tuesdays 4-5:30 - grades 2-4

Getting The Part: Audition Technique
Tuesdays 5:30-7 - grades 5-8

Let's Put On A Show: 1 Act Workshop
Fridays 4-5:30 - grades 9-12

Musical Theatre Workshop
Wednesdays 4:30-6 - grades 3-8

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Flashbacks

Students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville gather around the Yellow House for a group photo in 1968. Built in 1893, the house known as Keystone Cottage was renamed the Bond-Lane House in 2002 for William Bond, a 16-year member of the Board of Trustees. It functions today as the business office for Episcopal.

The head of school at that time was Horton C. Reed, the first of 11 to serve in that capacity for the past 49 years. Some of the 55 students attending in 1968 as sophomores included Tom Bliss, Barbara Bobinski, John Bowman, Janet Colson, Marsha Crevasse, William Draper, John Duncan, Duncan Ennis, Kevin Foster, David Fraser, Shelly Fulford, Pat Gionet, Randy Gobbel, Mary Heron, Roy Jennings, Vicki Mein, Fred Royce, Becky Sipple, Richard Suddath, Lynn Wilhelm and Christian Withington, among others. They would become Episcopal's first graduating class in 1970.



Photo courtesy of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.



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It was a very lucrative hole-in-one, not only for the golfer but for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. Thomas Lloyd was the first to ever sink a whiffle golf ball in one shot at the Pajcic's annual yard golf tournament. He was awarded with a \$6,000 check and the Pajcic Firm gave another \$6,000 to JALA, which offers certain legal services to those who otherwise could not afford them. Start working on your shot for a chance to win big at next year's event!



Attorney Curry Pajcic gave the opening remarks at an educational seminar named in honor of his late father. The Gary Pajcic Professionalism Seminar is put on by The American Board of Trial Advocates. It is appropriately named for Gary Pajcic who set the standard for professionalism.



Steve Pajcic never passes up a chance to play some hoops. He visited his alma mater Paxon High recently to check out the "Shoot A Way" machine he donated to the basketball teams. The machine fires off basketballs to the players to help hone their skills and make practices more efficient.



Pajcic & Pajcic represents individuals and families who have suffered serious personal injury or wrongful death due to the fault of others. 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.





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