

Riverside – Avondale – Ortega – Murray Hill

Community News

Resident



REAL MEN WEAR PINK
PAGE 16

ORTEGA PUMPKIN PATCH OPEN FOR BUSINESS
PAGE 44

Sophia Tempio, Anna Kessenger and Bailey Dunn



COMMANDER 3.0 ONE STEP CLOSER TO PROJECT APPROVAL



Street view rendering of proposed townhomes along St. John's Avenue (By Davis Architects)

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

The first of three required approvals have put Chance Partners another step closer to a \$42 million redevelopment of St. Johns Village and renovation of the Commander Tower Apartments at 3946-4000 St. Johns Ave.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved two ordinances (2016-560 and 2016-561) Sept. 22, upon the recommendation of the City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department, which would permit Chance Partners to raze the

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READ MORE, PAGE 26

SIDEWALK TO IMPROVE TRANSIT FROM ORTEGA RIVER TO SHOPPES OF AVONDALE

Walkability in the Lakeside/Fairfax neighborhood will improve when a new sidewalk project is completed this month, weather permitting.

Early in September, a purchase order was issued for United Service Connection to build approximately 920 feet of sidewalk on the east side of Herschel Street to connect Lakeside Drive with San Juan Avenue, according to City of Jacksonville spokesperson Tia Ford.

After the \$27,571 project is completed, Lakeside residents and boaters from the nearby Marina at Ortega Landing will be able to safely walk to the Shoppes of Avondale without stepping into the street.

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Q

I just put a house under contract that another buyer had already inspected and they shared the inspection report with me. Can I use another person's inspection report or should I have one of my own done?

Ask your realtor if this is a "known" inspector and someone they respect. All inspectors will find something different but many of them come up with the same types of things — missing GFCI outlets, wood rot, air conditioners that are on their last legs, etc.... In this case, it might be more cost effective to pay for some specific inspections like: Electrical, Plumbing, Roofing and HVAC rather than another general inspection. You probably should do your own termite inspection!

A

Email your questions to steilberg@comcast.net



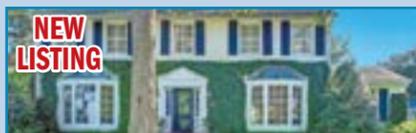
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Peace concert draws SRO crowd for annual 9/11 remembrance

By Christina Swanson
Resident Community News

A standing-room-only crowd gathered Sept. 11 at St. John's Cathedral downtown for a Peace Concert to celebrate universal humanity and to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedies in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The Jacksonville Sister Cities Association (JSCA), OneJax at the University of North Florida and the UNF Music Flagship Program joined together to present this year's annual concert, which was supported globally by Sister Cities International and the September Concert Foundation. The event coincided with more than 2,000 musical concerts held worldwide each year on September 11.

Introductions were provided by The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead and JSCA President Tongila Manly, who both spoke of the concert as a vehicle to reaffirm hope for world peace and bring people together through music's international language. Fittingly, the JSCA is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding and mission of "Peace through People."

The Peace Concert featured Soprano Paula Merritt, the Douglas Anderson Concert Chorale conducted by Jeffrey Clayton, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus led by Melissa Barnes and the UNF Chamber Singers conducted by Cara Tasher. The music was a mix of classical and exalting songs that excited, humbled and brought peace to the many listeners, reminding the crowd "We are more alike than we are different," a quote attributed to Maya Angelou.

The concluding rendition of "Give Us Hope" by the hundreds of singers lining the



Melissa Barnes conducts the Jacksonville Children's Chorus



Some of the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association, (including President Tongila Manly in the turquoise dress), who helped organize the event and provided specialties for folks to taste at the reception.

inside perimeter of the sanctuary was moving and heart-felt. "Give us hope...my voice is calling. Can you see? Look in my eyes. Can you feel...my hand is reaching. Give us hope and we'll show you the way."

After the concert, JSCA hosted a reception with light refreshments reflecting international specialties from Jacksonville's eight sister cities.



Letter to the Editor

We have a number of active military as well as former members who live abroad who receive emails from us that contain articles from *The Resident*, so you can, in all honesty, say that you are an international publication.

— Beverly Jackson-Davis, Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside

We loved that you featured our Challen Olympics on the cover of the September issue! Ted and I moved into our house in 1990, and throughout the years we have had a rich history of street parties and events. One was a "Muttarama" where we featured dog show, another was a bicycle and walking Easter Parade, and regularly we just do impromptu cookouts in the front yards. It's been a huge part of our love of Avondale.

— Nancy Powell, Avondale

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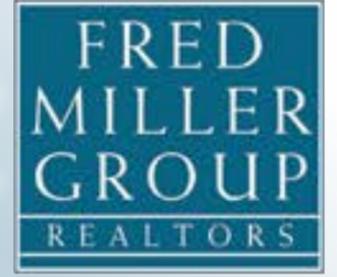
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Work begins on second phase to restore Memorial Park



Chain-link fencing was erected around Memorial Park Sept. 23 in preparation for work in the center of the popular Riverside park.

The Memorial Park Association, in collaboration with the City of Jacksonville, began construction in Memorial Park Sept. 26 in Phase 2 of the capital improvement effort to restore the park in Riverside.

This phase will be managed by the CMS Group, LLC. Work will be done primarily in the green of the center oval, to improve drainage, including the installation of new irrigation system, amend soils and restore it with a healthy lawn.

Perimeter walkways will be closed to remove, repair and replace concrete affecting the health of adjacent trees. The area under construction will be completely fenced off during the construction phase, and after the new lawn is installed so the grass has time to root and grow.

A comprehensive site survey was provided through the generosity of Clary and Associates, land surveyor. The design and

permitted construction plans for this project were generously donated to the association (prepared in-kind) Haskell's civil engineer Myra Jones and landscape architect Eric Lycke (donated in-kind). They are in keeping with the association's Master Plan, approved by the City Council.

Tree work was performed, with a generous contribution toward their bid, by Bushor's Tree Surgeons' arborist/tree surgeons to restore the health of the well-balanced tree canopy surrounding the oval and to allow needed sunlight to effectively filter through, helping the lawn to grow and thrive.

J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. was awarded the bid and generously donated back a percentage of their fee to the final cost of the project.

The completion of this project is planned for January 2017.



Abraham and Lindsey Bates with Danielle, daughter Vera May and Dan Baker

Murray Hill centennial block party a big hit

Although a centennial rolls around but once every 100 years, the comment heard over and over on Sept. 17 in Murray Hill was "Let's do this again next year!"

Perhaps Murray Hill's biggest-ever block party, the Centennial Celebration drew both residents and visitors from all over Jacksonville. Set up in front of the historic Murray Hill Theatre and just a short block from the equally historic Dreamette ice cream stand, the party included live music, food trucks, a climbing wall, kids mural and more.

"My grandma, Gayle Ennis, still lives in the same house she's been in for 50 years," said Ashton Kirkham, an Ortega resident who came out with her husband, Michael, and son, Eldon, to celebrate.

Newcomers Jeremy and Heather Kaneer were lured to Murray Hill by friend Will Morgan, who owns Vagabond Coffee. The Kaneers moved into a new home on property once owned by the Murray Hill Baptist Church. "We're so new the post office doesn't have this address," said Jeremy, who noted that, thanks to Morgan and Realtor Natalie

Reese Dreyer, at least five families have moved into the neighborhood recently.

Incorporated in 1916, Murray Hill had its own charter until joining the City of Jacksonville during the 1920s. During the celebration, resident Richard Sapp was declared Honorary Mayor of Murray Hill and presented with a top hat and a giant golden key by Gayle Rice, Murray Hill Preservation Association board president. Sapp's duties include officially opening future Murray Hill events. "I hope it isn't a full term," he joked, after he introduced the last band of the evening.

Presenting sponsors of the family-friendly event were Natalie Reese Dreyer Realtor® - Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty and Momni Boutique. Major sponsors included Murray Hill Preservation Association, Moon River Pizza, Vagabond Coffee Co., Mockshop Music Exchange, Blue Moon, Jess & Lex Wedding Co., Soma Wellness, Jim Love - State Farm, Community Loaves, PawStars Petcare, Content Architecture + Interiors, Ballroom Bliss, and A Perfect Rack Billiards.

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Developer plans to turn blighted Riverside corner into eateries

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Ten years after first proposing a plan for a mixed-use structure at the corner of Oak and Stockton Streets, Mark Rubin was optimistic that his latest endeavor to remove blight from Riverside would be approved.

“We have high hopes for it,” he said, referring to the restaurant and drive-thru coffee shop he is proposing for two buildings. “This corner is grossly underserving the community and has been blighted a long time. No one wants to see a blighted corner stay blighted.”

Just prior to the economic recession in 2007, Rubin had proposed a three-story retail and 16-unit residential building on the corner but said there were so many different voices in the community it became impossible to address all of them. “Trying to put those puzzle pieces together we finally came up with some great plans, but missed the window because the economy was shot,” he said.

Now, nearly 10 years later, Rubin has taken a different approach to getting a 70-seat neighborhood restaurant and a 25-seat coffee shop approved.

In December 2015 he submitted plans to the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness. The COA, which expires Dec. 18, 2016, had two conditions: site fencing shall be limited to eight feet in height, and all amended plans shall be reviewed and approved by Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) prior to proceeding with permitting.

Once armed with JHPC approval, Rubin submitted applications for a zoning exception, a variance and an administrative deviation to the city’s Planning and Development Department in late June.

“Let’s try to get what we’re entitled to under the zoning codes without any significant changes,” he said, referring to potential objections.

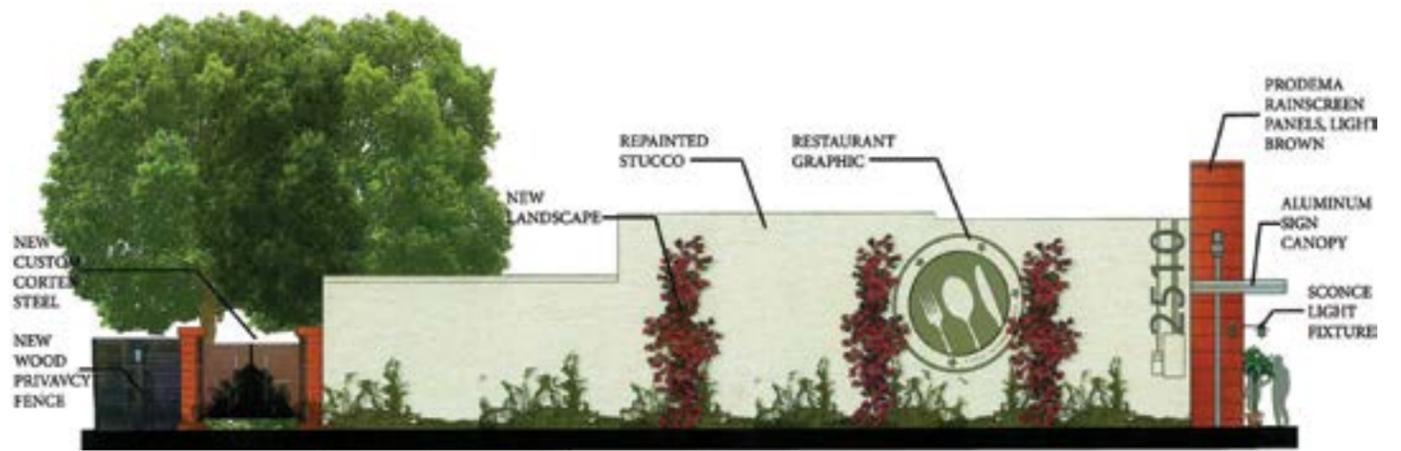
The zoning exception sought retail sale of beer or wine for on-premises consumption and for outside service and sales at the restaurant, located at 2510 Oak St., and permission to create a drive-thru for the coffee shop at 2502 Oak St.

Considering the drive-thru, Rubin noted it’s allowed by permission (exception).

“There are already more than 15 drive-thrus in Riverside with multiple windows and higher densities,” said Rubin. “I have done a study of the other coffee stores and learned that the impact will be extremely low. It’s more of a convenience for the community, serving the hospital, traffic on Oak Street in the morning and the residents in Villa Riva.”



Conceptual north elevation for Oak Street Eats (Rendering by Thomas Duke Architect, PA)



Conceptual east elevation for Oak Street Eats (Rendering by Thomas Duke Architect, PA)

Although he will not reveal the name of the company he plans to put in the coffee shop, Rubin indicated it’s a “local” company with half a dozen stores in another city. “I love the product they offer,” said Rubin. “Every store they have is different and meets and matches the requirements of the particular site. I very much like the idea of use what you have and make the most of it and make it unique.”

The administrative deviation seeks to reduce the minimum number of required parking spaces from 44.25 to 35, to serve both the restaurant and coffee shop. The site plan notes 16 spaces on-site and 19 on-street.

The application notes the property was developed prior to the current standards for off-street parking, and the request is based exclusively upon the impossibility of developing the property to include sufficient parking to meet the strict letter of the City of Jacksonville Zoning Code.

Also regarding parking, the variance requests a change from the strict requirement that one shade tree be planted for every three 90-degree head-in on-street parking

spaces. The application notes adhering to the strict requirement would reduce the number of on-street parking spaces required to support the development.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Thursday, Oct. 6 or Thursday, Oct. 20 for the zoning exception, variance and administrative deviation. Meeting agendas can be found at www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/planning-commission.aspx.

Rubin has entertained proposals for the restaurant from two well-known and well-liked companies with two very different offerings, but will not reveal who they are until the approvals are granted.

“We spend a lot of money on our projects, not only on the interiors but on the re-skinning of the exteriors. Look at Blind Rabbit,” he said, referring to his King Street property. “I’ve been doing this for a long time. Our projects are not designed to make the most money we can possibly make. At this point in my career we’re focused on improving the quality of life.”

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New substation blends in with neighborhood

Approximately five months after beginning the rebuilding of its power substation on Herschel Street, the Jacksonville Energy Authority completed the project in late August and garnered compliments in the process.

The more than 50-year-old substation was upgraded to meet future load requirements and to reduce the number of circuits in the Historic District, reducing maintenance and increasing reliability.

JEA also replaced the old existing chain link fence with a faux ornamental black fence as well as added substantial landscaping to improve the aesthetics of the Herschel Street property.

“They have made great efforts to make them blend into the neighborhoods with nice fencing and extensive landscaping,” said Riverside resident Paul Bremer, speaking of the JEA. “They have worked closely with the RAP committee that

The rebuilt JEA substation on Herschel Street near Boone Park is nearly concealed by decorative new landscaping.

worked with them to change the tree trimming practices. The Herschel Street station by Boone Park is the first to be upgraded and is almost finished. It now looks like part of the park.”

According to Gerri Boyce, JEA media relations, there were more than 100 trees and shrubs planted, including Upright Yaupon Holly, Dahoon Holly, Wax Myrtle, Nellie Stevens Holly, Cabbage Palm and three Cathedral Live Oak.

“JEA did go above and beyond to meet the standards of this area,” said Boyce. “JEA’s standard is a chain link fence; the wrought iron fence meets the standards of the neighborhood.”

The next substation rebuild is on Rosselle Street, not far from Central Riverside Elementary School. The project is expected to start later this month and be completed in early 2017 and will also include ornamental fencing and substantial landscaping.

“It is going to look better than any of the commercial buildings that surround it,” commented Bremer.

Episcopal’s Jacob F. Bryan III Library rededicated after renovations



Jacob F. Bryan III’s family: Seated: Kendall, Eleanor, J.F., Peggy, Carter, and Cheryl Bryan; standing: Sarah Bryan Holyer, Bella, Jeff, Nicole, Klare, Annie, James, and Josh Bryan

As part of Episcopal School of Jacksonville’s 50th anniversary Lead the Way capital campaign, the reimagined Jacob F. Bryan III Library was rededicated Sept. 20 while its namesake’s family looked on.

“We are pleased to support Episcopal, which the Bryan family has done for 50 years. My father was one of the School’s founders,” said J.F. Bryan IV, of Ortega, along with brothers Kendall and Carter, and other family members.

“He was the oldest of six children, and he never went to college. He went to work instead, and he helped to send his five siblings to college,” Bryan said. “Our family is grateful that the Jacob F. Bryan III Library will continue to enrich the lives of students.”

A center of academic, collaborative and technological activity on campus since it opened in 1991-92, the library now sports an updated for space for use as an information center, group study facility, media center, reading room and meeting space.

“The Bryan family and all of those who have made this vital campus hub an exciting and beneficial place to be truly understand how important it is to keep libraries relevant to our college-bound, technology-savvy students,” said Head of School Adam Greene.

Episcopal worked with a library consultant to update the space, maximize flexibility, embrace technology and diversify students’ learning opportunities. The circulation desk has a smaller footprint, and a glassed-in area on the northeast wall of the library overlooking the Regan Plaza and River Field has become the Harden Conference Room, capable of being divided into three smaller spaces or opened into one large space.

New furniture sets are placed to help define zones in the library based on students’ needs and are equipped with power so students’ devices can recharge. The study zones include frosted-glass-divided carrels



J.F. Bryan, IV, speaks at rededicated of library named for his father

with noise-canceling headphones for individual study as well as desk-adjacent sofas and chairs for group work. Noise-absorbing materials chosen for floors and ceilings in soothing blue and green colors aid in separating the space.

An expanded, better equipped Makerspace has new computers with software for creative endeavors like recording, playing, and editing music. General arts and crafts supplies will be available, in addition to a 3-D printer students can use to create and duplicate designs. Media specialists will look to students to guide the evolution of this space, responding to interest and demand for additional supplies and workshops

Books are still a prominent feature of the library, so additional improvements include a permanent home for the Louise Bignon Archives and Episcopal’s “hard copy” history. The Gooding Boardroom and library lobby were also updated in the first phase of renovations and the new Alumni Hall of Honor is displayed in the renovated space.

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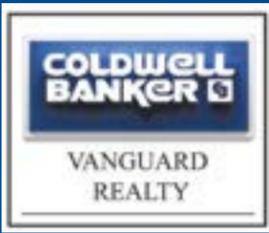
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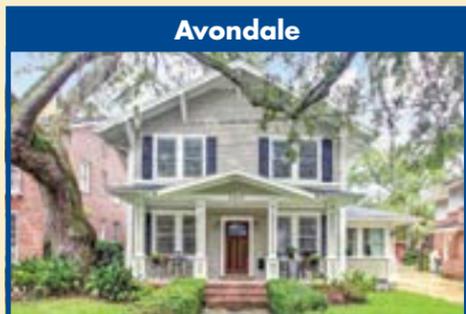
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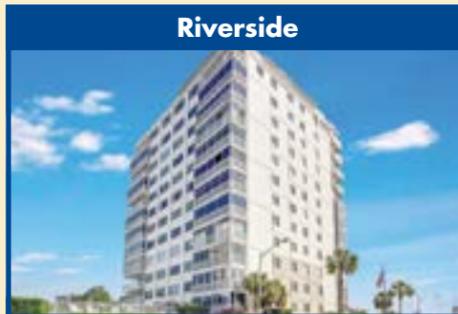
Avondale
3643 Boone Park Avenue
Erica Davis, 904-219-0954
\$379,900



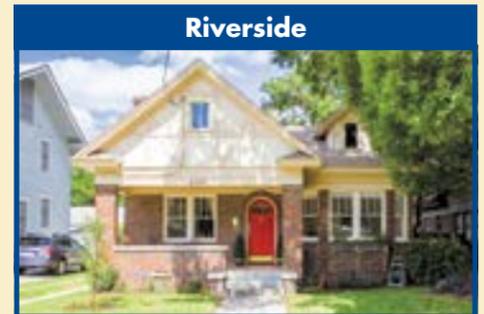
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3940 Park Street
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Commander 3.0

FROM PAGE 1

30-year-old retail building along Fishweir Creek and build new apartments.

Both ordinances are required to give the project the green light. According to the Planning Department staff report, 2016-560 amends 3.05 acres from Community/General Commercial to High Density Residential and 0.25 acres to Conservation. The other bill, 2016-561, seeks to rezone the entire 5.86-acre property from the 2013 approved Planned Unit Development to a new PUD for an infill multi-family development project.

The Planning Commission approved the applications (filed under Chance Jacksonville Owner LLC) with a minor adjustment, allowing for a maximum of 140 new living units instead of 136, as described in the application. This is in addition to the current 90 units that comprise the present Commander Apartment building.

City Council held a public hearing Sept. 27 at which no one spoke against the proposed PUD. The ordinances are scheduled to be heard by Land Use and Zoning Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m., pending any deferrals, and will be voted upon by City Council on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 5 p.m., in Council Chambers at City Hall.

At both the Planning Commission and City Council, Riverside Avondale Preservation Board Chair Keith Holt spoke in favor of the multi-family residential project, citing several successful meetings with developers Judd Bobilin and Jeff Rosen.

As Holt noted in his comments before the Planning Commission, much of the opposition from surrounding property owners has to do with a concern about an increase in traffic on St. Johns Avenue from the proposed development.



Aerial view rendering of proposed new development along St. John's Avenue and Fishweir Creek (By Davis Architects)

"We've been working on this project with Chance Partners and have gone through eight different meetings. We hashed out things, we all gave a little, we all got a little. The developers have been very responsive to neighbor and RAP feedback and requests, and they've also been very transparent," said Holt. "This project has been vetted throughout the neighborhood. None of the comments or criticisms were related to the project per se. It was things outside of the developers' purview, specifically around traffic through that section on St. Johns Avenue. We will be working with Councilman Love to address this with FDOT."

Traffic impact projected as 'zero net new trips'

The staff report indicated a transportation analysis determined that "the proposed amendment has the potential to result in no increase of new daily external trips... based upon the comparison of what potentially could be built on that site... versus the maximum development potential." The report's impact assessment noted there would be zero net new daily trips generated by potential tenants of the new development.

Residents from nearby the Arden neighborhood disagree. In prior community meetings some have said the analysis doesn't make sense as it compares two "potential" outcomes instead of using existing traffic volume as one of the comparative standards of measure.

However, according to the Planning Department's report, the projected traffic is expected to be at 0.62 of volume demand to capacity ratio (V/C), where 1.0 indicates a roadway is operating at capacity. This segment of St. Johns Avenue can expect slightly over 9,600 vehicular trips, about six-tenths of the maximum daily capacity of 15,600.

Avondale resident and urban planner Thad Crowe explained projects such as this one are evaluated on the basis of approved versus proposed impacts, according to state-mandated road concurrency rules. Road concurrency is the instance of one physical road bearing two or more different

designations, such as St. Johns Avenue also known as State Route 211.

"The project is 'vested' in terms of road concurrency for the approved [2013] PUD, meaning the City has accepted projected traffic from this development (even if the project was not developed)," said Crowe. "So when a new PUD is adopted, they only have to procure additional road capacity for the increase in trips."

Because the 2013 PUD was approved for nearly nine percent more units in the development, the traffic analysis deemed Chance Partners' PUD at 20 fewer units than the prior PUD would not increase daily traffic trips, and thus not be obligated to work with state and city transportation agencies to make infrastructure improvements, such as turning lanes. However, as Holt noted, RAP and Councilman Love will meet with FDOT to determine what improvements can be made to that stretch of St. Johns Avenue between Woodmere Street and Greenwood Avenue.

The property owners have requested the site be designated a Brownfield Area, indicating that prior uses as a fueling station, hardware store, extermination business and dry cleaner have resulted in the presence of various contaminants in the soil including tetrachloroethylene, dieldrin, naphthalene, arsenic, and benzopyrene. Designation as a Brownfield Area will require Chance Partners to rehabilitate and redevelop the site according to a plan to be reviewed and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection before construction of the new buildings.

"It may include some excavation and some capping but they will have to resolve the existing contamination on the site," said T.R. Hainline, attorney for property owners Chance Partners.

Since the property is located within the "Commercial Character Area" of the Riverside/Avondale Zoning Overlay, the project must concur with the historic development and established character of the area. The application indicates this will be achieved through the location of uses – such as the parking garage – incorporation of residential setbacks, buffers and pedestrian walkways.

Appeal filed against Planning Commission approval of restaurant

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

An Avondale resident has filed an appeal with City Council against the Planning Commission's Aug. 18 decision to approve a 120-seat restaurant in the 5,470-square-foot space formerly occupied by the retail store Cowford Traders.

Alicia Grant, who lives on Riverside Avenue behind the Shoppes of Avondale, filed the appeal the first week in September and the Office of General Counsel filed the legislation (Resolution 2016-656) for it on Sept. 21. The appeal was introduced to City Council on Sept. 27 with an opportunity for public comment, however no one spoke.

The Land Use and Zone Committee will hear Grant's appeal, possibly in a separate special hearing, followed with a final vote by City Council, dates yet to be determined.

Absent an appeal, the Planning Commission's approval would have been all that was needed for the restaurant to move forward, according to Grant. The appeal process moves the decision from an appointed body to an elected body. "Unfortunately, this Planning Commission has been overstepping their charge making it necessary for citizens to incur the costs of appeals or lawsuits and the City Council and its committees to use their time and efforts to right the PC decisions," she said.

The City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department had recommended approval of the exception with two conditions; one would limit the size of the restaurant to 2,500 square feet, thus prohibiting banquet space, and the other would ensure outside seating would meet all requirements for ADA accessibility and would not obstruct pedestrian traffic.

The applicant, property owner Thomas R. Lee, had requested an administrative deviation to reduce the number of required parking spaces from 10 to zero on behalf of his tenant, BMR Dining Group, of New York. The applicant's administrative deviation to reduce parking requirements to zero, however, was not approved by Planning Department staff.

The parking situation for residents and merchants alike is at a critical mass, said Grant in an email to residents in the area of the Shoppes. "Since I live on Riverside in the block between Talbot and Ingleside, the parking on my block will not be affected as it can't get any worse," she stated. "The same goes for those living on Pine Street."

Grant also said current restauranteurs and merchants have reported long-time customers have decreased their visits due to lack of convenient parking.

Frank Gallo, who owns the Blue Fish Restaurant building and the parking lot next to it, supported the statement with his own observation. "I have customers, ex-customers [of the Blue Fish], telling me they are not coming into the neighborhood anymore because they can't find a place to park," he said at the Aug. 18 hearing before the Planning Commission. "A lady said to me, 'You know, I used to go to Avondale to shop. I don't go anymore. I just avoid the place' because it's too long for her to take a 15-minute lunch break to get into Avondale."

According to Grant, the Riverside Avondale Preservation board of directors voted to support the appeal, but RAP is not in a position to financially support it or to file a separate appeal.

In order to fund legal expenses, Grant has reinstated the community group We Love Avondale.

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Jacksonville honors patriots, fallen heroes

By Seth Williams
Resident Community News

The attack on the consulate in Benghazi was a tragedy for Americans, from service members to the staff of the State Department and others serving abroad. It was an unnecessary loss of life, compounded by a lack of response for support for those serving on foreign soil. The lives of four people were lost on a tragic day that is overshadowed by annual mourning over Sept. 11, 2001, yet the attack came on the anniversary, 11 years to the day, of one of our nation's darkest days.

In honor of the fallen, one group of local volunteers organized a gathering for those who gave their last, full measure on Sept. 11, 2012. With an attendance of several

hundred guests, the ceremony drew Northeast Florida residents to hear distinguished guest panelists, including Lt. General Thomas McInerney, USAF, Ret., Clare Lopez, former CIA operations officer and advisor on Middle Eastern strategic policy and national security, and Charles Woods, a former attorney and retired administrative law judge and father to former U.S. Navy Veteran and SEAL Tyrone Woods.

The ceremony, complete with presentation of colors by Sandalwood Air Force JROTC Color Guard, was followed by the bagpiping of Highland Cathedral by Pipe Sgt. Ron McDonald of the JFRD (Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department). The national anthem was sung by Lifesong, Trinity Baptist College Chorus and a formal presentation of four wreaths were laid to the tune Going Home, piped by Sgt. McDonald, who exited playing Amazing Grace.

The event took place at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts Sept. 10 and presented the opportunity for attendees to interact with special guests at a VIP reception prior to the ceremony. The Benghazi tribute in Jacksonville was the only formal event held across our nation to pay tribute to those lost on that tragic day in Libya.

The lives of U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens, U.S. Navy Veteran SEAL Glen Doherty, U.S. Navy Veteran SEAL Tyrone Woods and U.S. Navy Veteran Information Officer Sean Smith were all lost to the conflict. Our government failed to send backup and provide support to those killed in an ambush on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya.



Dr. Helmut Makosch with Dr. Lewis Obi, Lt. General Thomas McInerney, USAF, Ret., Padraic Mulvihill and Roger Wilson at the VIP reception.



Kenneth Wood with Victoria Vesce, Wesley Bunce and Albert Bresciani



Dr. Lewis Obi, a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, took time to thank Charles Woods for his son's sacrifice for our country.



Charles Woods shares his fondest memories of his son, Tyrone, who was killed in action in Benghazi.

The event was organized by Turning Points in America, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to provide education about events that are turning points in the history of our country and to provide services to those involved or affected by such turning points. Visit www.turningpointsinamerica.org to learn more about how you can serve a servicemember.

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Sanctuary director leaves nonprofit in good hands

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The Sanctuary on 8th Street's annual Shindig, this year themed Heart and Soul, was a special one for Executive Director Vicky Watkins. After 15 years of putting her own heart and soul into making a difference in the lives of Springfield children, Watkins is turning over the reins later this month to Rick Cartlidge, program director and Sanctuary homeschool teacher.

Sanctuary on 8th Street, which will celebrate its 25th year in 2017, began as Urban Ministries of Springfield in 1992 and changed its name when it relocated to the historic post office building in 2001. Under Watkins, the programs have grown to more than 100 children and offer after-school programming, summer camp and a small home school.

"I have always been interested in kids, especially at-risk kids and wanted to provide education and make a difference," said Watkins, who came out of retirement from mortgage banking to work at the Sanctuary. "I came to the Sanctuary as a board representative for Riverside Presbyterian Church in 2001, then became the director in 2002."

Cartlidge, of Riverside, was brought on full-time in 2010 as program director. He also serves as the home school teacher. "I am thrilled that Rick will be taking over as executive director when I leave," said Watkins. "The Sanctuary will be in good hands."

Watkins considers the Sanctuary's greatest success story to be Alonzo Jackson, who began attending after-school programs at age 10. "He is now 24, working at the Sanctuary and attending UNE," she said.



New Sanctuary on 8th Street Executive Director Rick Cartlidge with outgoing Executive Director Vicky Watkins

"He is a great role model for our kids, a real team player and is proud to be giving back."

Jackson is a "Kid Koach" at the Sanctuary, along with Stuart Smith, in the after-school program. He works in the summer camp and also runs the Sanctuary's Pallets for a Purpose program, creating Adirondack chairs and other rustic items as a way to learn a skill and earn money.

After Watkins retires – for the second time – she plans to volunteer at the Sanctuary. "I will also travel and my dream is to hike the Appalachian Trail," said the Avondale resident. "And, of course, spend more time with family and friends."



Lamar Singleton signs a commemorative bench for retiring Sanctuary Executive Director Vicky Watkins

Avondale 5K bigger than ever

The Fit-4-Life Team RPDS was named Top Team for turning out 79 runners in the 8th annual Avondale 5K Classic and Fun Run Sept. 24. The team received a custom "pallet" award, made by Pallets for a Purpose at the Sanctuary on 8th Street.

There were 529 total finishers in the 5K, over 100 more than last year's race. Avondale resident Michelle Krueger, 40, finished first in the women's division with a time of 5:54. First place in the men's division was Cody Pontius, 27, with a time of 5:16.

The annual race is sponsored by the merchants of the Shoppes of Avondale to benefit Sanctuary on 8th Street.



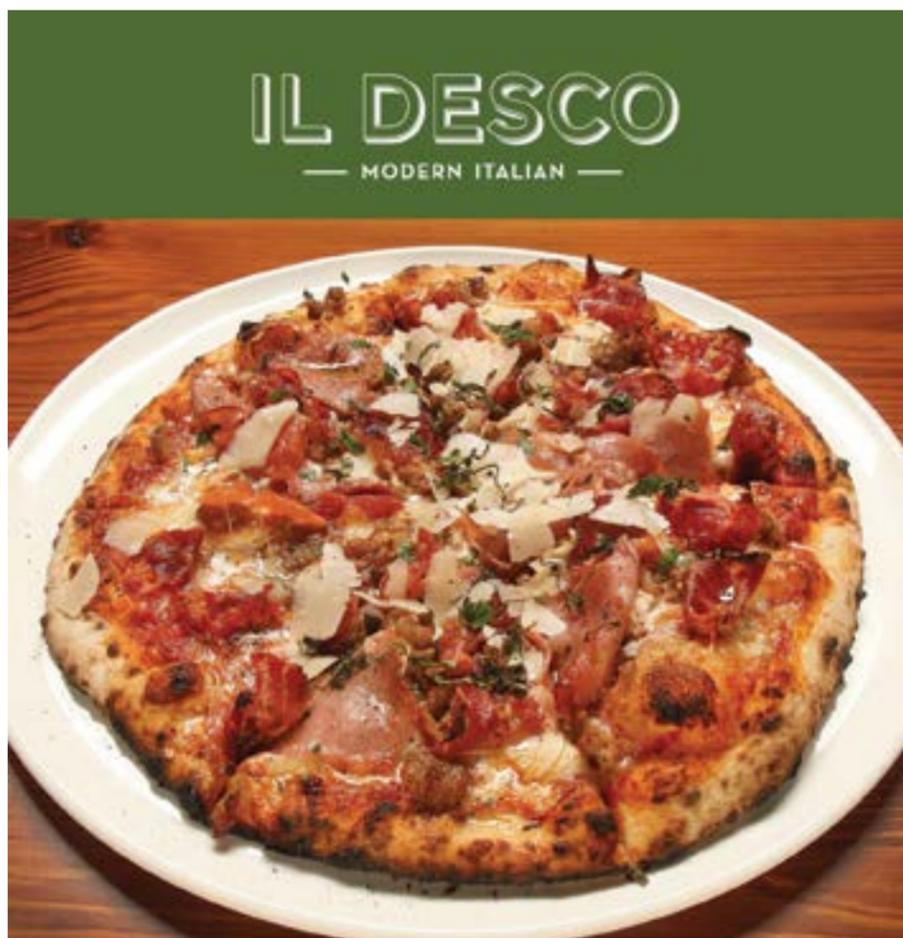
Team RPDS members Cauthen Catlin, Elizabeth Austin, Layla Fattahi, Nadia Fattahi, Susanna Ball, Phebe Ball



Adam Smith, Jackson Ravis, Carter Stankard and Kiefer Washburn stand ready to hand cups of water to runners in the Avondale 5K Classic.



Wolfson gives a kiss to Emily Gunnlaugsson while owner Emma Ruth Ferguson peers over the top of the dog's head.



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Long-awaited park opens to yips and yelps of joy

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

Contrary to the dreary weather, which threatened the Jan. 22, 2016 groundbreaking, The John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park officially opened on a sunny day nearly eight months later to loud cheers of “Open the park” from owners of dozens of dogs of all sizes.

During the Sept. 17 ceremony in the acre-and-a-half park, the large-dog area was thoroughly examined by canines chasing balls while smaller pups chased each other in the small-dog area. “It’s so heartwarming to see so many people and so many dogs having so much fun here at this great park,” said District 14 Councilman Jim Love. Created as a public-private partnership, the new “park within a park” should

comfortably accommodate a couple hundred dogs at a time.

Speakers at the grand opening included Trey Csar, Riverside resident, and park project organizer; Keith Holt, Riverside Avondale Preservation Board chair, and Councilman Love. Over three dozen sponsors were acknowledged for their financial contributions which funded the \$300,000 park, and accolades were given to Kay Ehas, Carmen Godwin, Csar and Holt for keeping the project going from its conception six years ago.

“This park started as an idea when my wife and I walked [our dog] Friday from about three blocks down the street every weekend to the Riverside Arts Market,” said Csar. “A group of community members got together and said ‘What if we can take it and turn it into an asset for our community and make a place not just for dogs but for people and community?’”

The off-leash dog park is well-lit, with benches and three-level water fountains, and is enclosed by decorative fencing with double-gated entries into each dog play area. The park was constructed by Riverside-based company Hager Construction, and the fencing was erected by Newsome Fence. The land for the park was formerly used by the Florida Department of Transportation as a construction equipment storage yard.

Personalized pavers commemorating dogs, cats and their humans were laid in



Maggie Caron and Corey

the new entryway from College Street, and there are spaces available to accommodate more. Pavers may be purchased through RAP (info@riversideavondale.org or (904) 389-2449), which will schedule several installations throughout the year.

Adrienne Burke, RAP executive director, announced the creation of Friends of The John Gorrie Dog Park. Although the park falls under the care of the city’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, the volunteer group will conduct periodic clean-ups.



Riverside Avondale Preservation Board Chair Keith Holt, Executive Director Adrienne Burke, Trey Csar, project organizer for the John Gorrie Dog Park

Strut Your Mutt equals fun and funds for local rescues

By *Kim Lamb*
Resident Community News

The only thing more fun than walking dogs is rescuing dogs and that was the vibe at Best Friends Animal Society’s Strut Your Mutt event Sept. 24 at Metropolitan Park.

Best Friends Animal Society is the only national animal welfare organization dedicated exclusively to ending the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters.

Its annual Strut Your Mutt fundraising event brings together rescue groups, shelters, and individuals, effectively building a network of members and partners dedicated to raising awareness and saving animals across the country. Best Friends also provides resources for animal welfare groups to raise the funds necessary to care for homeless pets and to educate people in their communities.

“If you put in the effort, they make it easy to raise money. They’re extremely responsive and helpful,” said Safe Animal Shelter Director, Sherry Mansfield.

Jacksonville is one of 14 cities chosen to participate each year. Cities are selected based on where there is an identified need and where Best Friends members, volunteers, and network partners can help with the undertaking of this fundraiser. Nineteen local rescue groups participated in this year’s event.



Michael Cabbage, Dolly, a Pointer mix available for adoption, Kathy Rossiter

There was something fun for everyone, including agility demonstrations, little dog races, doggie musical chairs, best kisser contest and the rescue runway. There were also food trucks, exhibitors, contests, and, of course, adoptable dogs.

Some dogs strutted with their family and others – like, Dolly with Animal Care and Protective Services, Buddy with Safe Animal Shelter and Fiona and Jemma, both with The Old Dog House – were there in hopes of finding a forever family.

“We just couldn’t do something like this without Best Friends,” said Kim Stordahl, owner of The Old Dog House. “This is our fourth year participating because it’s so well attended and successful for us.”

At the event, Friends of Jacksonville Animals was awarded first place in team fundraising, The Old Dog House placed second and Friends of Clay County Animals placed third.



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4341 WOODMERE ST - \$285,000
3/2-1,900 sqft. 3/2 on Fishweir creek!! This beautiful home offers spacious rooms that allow a natural flow though out. Updated eat-in kitchen, updated bathroom, large master bedroom, and covered car port adds to the charm.



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3/2-2,138 sqft. SOLD by Jane Slater, Marcia Simmons, and Melissa Lewis! Charm meets tradition in this beautiful, brick home in Ortega Terrace. . . One of the Great Neighborhoods of Jacksonville.



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2525 COLLEGE ST 1209
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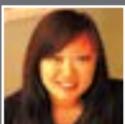
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McDuff Avenue traffic concerns resident

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Called the Death Corner by nearby resident David deForrest, the intersection of Riverside and McDuff Avenues has seen more than its share of fender benders or worse, as long as deForrest has lived there.

Fortunately for those involved, there have been no deaths on Death Corner.

“No one has actually been killed or gets hurt. The cars get destroyed, they get taken away on flatbeds,” deForrest said. “Sometimes an ambulance is called to the scene but I’ve never seen anyone sustain a serious injury. But it’s just a matter of time of until someone gets seriously hurt.”

Part of the problem lies with the swale to the north of McDuff Avenue. As vehicles driving southbound on Riverside Avenue enter the dip in the road at Willowbranch Avenue, they “disappear” for a second or two. When they re-appear, it’s often an unpleasant surprise to motorists entering the intersection from McDuff Avenue.

“I’ve lived here 11 years and can tell you anecdotally, we see one accident per month as an average,” said deForrest, who has recently taken to posting photos of each accident on the NextDoor website in an attempt to prove statistics collected by the City of Jacksonville are not accurate. “This is a monthly occurrence, regular as clockwork.”

Most of the crashes are angle collisions, rather than head-on crashes according to

the Traffic Engineering Division, which noted 19 crashes at the city-maintained intersection from September 2011 to September 2016.

In response to calls and issues submitted to 630-CITY, to improve sight lines the city has relocated some traffic signs and installed No Parking signs to restrict curbside parking near the intersection, within the past month or two, according to city spokesperson Tia Ford.

Shortly before the No Parking signs were erected, deForrest stated he encountered “some kind of officials with paint markers and blueprints or documents on clipboards. They claimed there were a total of six accidents at this corner in the last five years. As anyone living adjacent to ‘The Corner’ can tell you, it’s more like 8-12 per year,” he said.

“The thing is, with modern cars, no one gets really hurt in these encounters although often the vehicles are severely damaged. This diminishes the pressure to take this stuff seriously,” he said.

What deForrest would like to see is a traffic signal put in, but traffic volumes observed at the intersection will not satisfy the warrants for a traffic signal, according to Ford. “The installation of traffic control devices start with satisfaction of warrants listed in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). It is followed by an assessment of projected traffic operations,” said Ford on behalf of Traffic Engineering.



This two-car accident occurred on July 16 at 6:08 p.m.

Joyce Bates, who moved to a corner home on Riverside and McDuff nearly 30 years ago, said traffic – and accidents – weren’t as bad when she and her husband, Robert, moved in.

“It has gradually gotten worse. I can’t account for that except that people are generally less aware of where they are and what they are doing,” said Bates. “One month recently we had two. I’ve had a section of my retaining wall taken out to the tune of \$9,000 and people regularly end up on my yard, which damages the sprinkler system and the landscaping.”

Bates said the recently installed No Parking signs have not done much good because people normally don’t park there, but she is also not fully on board with a traffic signal, saying it would only back up Riverside Avenue traffic during rush hours.

“People have been talking for years about having a stoplight there,” said Bates. “An overhead blinking light might help to call attention to the intersection, but a four-way stop sign wouldn’t do any good because people who don’t observe a two-way won’t observe a four-way.”



The result of an accident at Riverside and McDuff Avenues, Sept. 11 at 2:20 p.m.



David deForrest began tracking accidents, such as this one on Apr. 17 at 2:25 p.m., at Riverside and McDuff Avenues.

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Billboard removal gets cheers from beautification group

Site's future turns blight into beauty

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The last day of August 2016 was a red-letter day – and a long time coming, according to William Brinton, an Avondale attorney who has made a mission of fighting billboard blight in Jacksonville and around the country.

On Aug. 31, Brinton was joined the presidents of Scenic Jacksonville, Inc. and the Douglas Anderson #107 Alumni Association, Inc., along with members of their boards and other interested persons, to witness the removal of a billboard adjacent to a neighborhood park on the east side of I-95 northbound near Douglas Anderson School for the Arts.

After six years of litigation, Scenic Jacksonville and Outfront Media worked

out an agreement, which Brinton lauded as amicable with positive outcomes for Jacksonville Neighborhoods.

“Scenic Jacksonville appreciates the cooperation of Outfront Media in removing this billboard located next to a park, in a residential area, which has a school nearby,” said Susan Caven, president of Scenic Jacksonville, for which Brinton has been long-time counsel.

The billboard was located at 2400 Gerard Ave. on property next to a city-owned community park in Spring Park. Two ordinances enacted in 2014 approved settlement agreements between Scenic Jacksonville, the City of Jacksonville, Clear Channel Outdoor and CBS Outdoor (now Outfront Media).

Nearly 30 years ago, citizens of Jacksonville voted to prohibit billboards through the addition of a Charter Amendment. In 1987, 59 percent of the electorate voted to banish new billboards and remove hundreds of others from neighborhood roadways.



Turning neglected park into school legacy

The community park consists of six parcels of city-owned land with existing amenities including a sidewalk, park benches, grills and picnic tables. A Florida Department of Transportation sound wall borders one side of the property.

Scenic Jacksonville and the DA Alumni are working together to enhance the beauty of the park area, consisting of 1.75 acres, and to consider appropriate tributes to the legacy of nearby Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

The original school, initially known as South Jacksonville School #107, was built in 1922 and included grades one through nine. At that time, it was the only public school on the Southside serving African-American students. In 1945, the school was renamed the Douglas Anderson School after the black community leader Douglas Anderson (1884-1936) who spearheaded the building of the school, along with W.R. Thorpe (1893-1967).

In the late 1950s, the school expanded to be a high school and had its first graduating senior class in 1959. The school closed in 1968 as a result of school desegregation and reopened in 1985 as the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. The Alumni Association was formed in January 2009 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first senior graduating class in 1959.

Three weeks after the billboard was removed, at a meeting on Sept. 22, Scenic

Jacksonville and the DA Alumni continued discussions on numerous ways to enhance the area, including planting vines and jasmine on the interior of the FDOT sound walls, as well as a variety of trees and other vegetation throughout the acreage, and adding a variety of other amenities that would further benefit the public, the neighborhood and the School of the Arts, said Brinton.

“What a difference this neighborhood improvement will make over the years. I am looking forward to working with everyone, and especially everyone who has ever attended Douglas Anderson – before 1969 and after 1985,” said Brinton, referring to the span of years when the school was closed. “I am especially proud of the role that Scenic Jacksonville has in this endeavor. This will make a great documentary of what is possible when the goal is beauty and there is unity in purpose. The first visioning session will be very exciting.”

DA School for the Arts Principal Jacqueline Cornelius immediately saw the opportunities for how the property might serve the arts education. In the coming months the leaders of both organizations plan to hold a visioning session to consider any and all ideas for benefiting all constituencies, then develop a timeline to realize and implement that vision. Their goal is to have the most beautiful park area of its size in Northeast Florida accessible to neighbors, students, alumni and the public, said Brinton.



“What a difference this neighborhood improvement will make over the years. I am looking forward to working with everyone, and especially everyone who has ever attended Douglas Anderson.”

-Bill Brinton



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Local men harness the power of pink to eradicate breast cancer

By Kate A. Hallock, Resident Community News

Why would men – real men – wear pink? One reason may be in honor or memory of a loved one. This month 29 leaders in the community are wearing pink to help raise awareness about breast cancer – and other cancers – and to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

Here’s a look at seven local men who are “putting on the pink” to support the cause or honor special people in their lives. They have also pledged to raise at least \$2,500 for ACS.

IT’S WORTH IT

Although San Marco resident Jake Gordon doesn’t have cancer in his family, he does worry about the women in his life.

“I have a young daughter, a sister and a mother. They are all healthy now, but we need to find a cure so they never have to worry about this awful disease. Plus, men can get breast cancer too – so I don’t want to worry, either!” said Gordon.

CEO of Downtown Vision, Inc., Gordon said he doesn’t subscribe to the outdated notions of colors reflecting gender norms. “I have absolutely no problem wearing pink! So to wear pink in support of a great charity like the American Cancer Society is wonderful,” he said. “Everyone should be free to be themselves and express themselves in a positive way making positive change in the world.”

According to the CDC, each year in the US, more than 200,000 women get breast cancer and more than 40,000 women die from the disease.

“I feel an obligation to help the effort for cancer research, especially breast cancer,



Jake Gordon

which is very common,” said Gordon. “If I can help the effort, and we can save even one life, isn’t that worth it?”

The Making Strides for Jacksonville 5K will be held downtown on Saturday, Oct. 22. Last year, more than 10,000 walkers in the event raised \$317,000.

DOING IT FOR GRANDMA

“My grandmother was a breast cancer survivor who wanted to do her part to help other women detect, cope with and survive the disease,” said Brian Bush, eCommerce manager at the family business, Tom Bush Family of Dealerships. “Her commitment to educate and support her extended dealership family continues today.”

The Tom Bush Family of Dealerships participates in the Making Strides Walk every year and wears pink shirts every Thursday in October to continue its awareness campaign.

Bush, of Riverside, plans to fundraise via social media, an open bar night at Suite, and to make a donation for every car sold during the campaign. “Also, I will be driving around in the all-new VW #PinkBeetle during my fundraising campaign,” he said.



Brian Bush

“I am excited to bring more awareness to the fight against breast cancer around the First Coast. I think having established men from the community get behind the movement is an excellent way to get others to do the same,” said Bush.

THE GRANDMOTHER HE NEVER KNEW

Everyone knows Sweet Pete Behringer. What they don’t know is he never got to know his grandmother, who died from breast cancer when Behringer’s mother was a little girl.

“I am most excited about making a difference,” said Behringer, founder of Sweet Pete’s, the largest candy store in the Southeast. “I was shocked to learn that one in eight women will develop breast cancer.”

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Behringer moved to Jacksonville at age 10 and grew up in San Marco. Married 15 years to a Jacksonville native, Behringer lives in Springfield with his wife Allison, son Daniell, and greyhound, Trolley Song.



Pete Behringer

Behringer said he’s always had a passion for chocolate and candy, and now he can add “fighting breast cancer” to that list.

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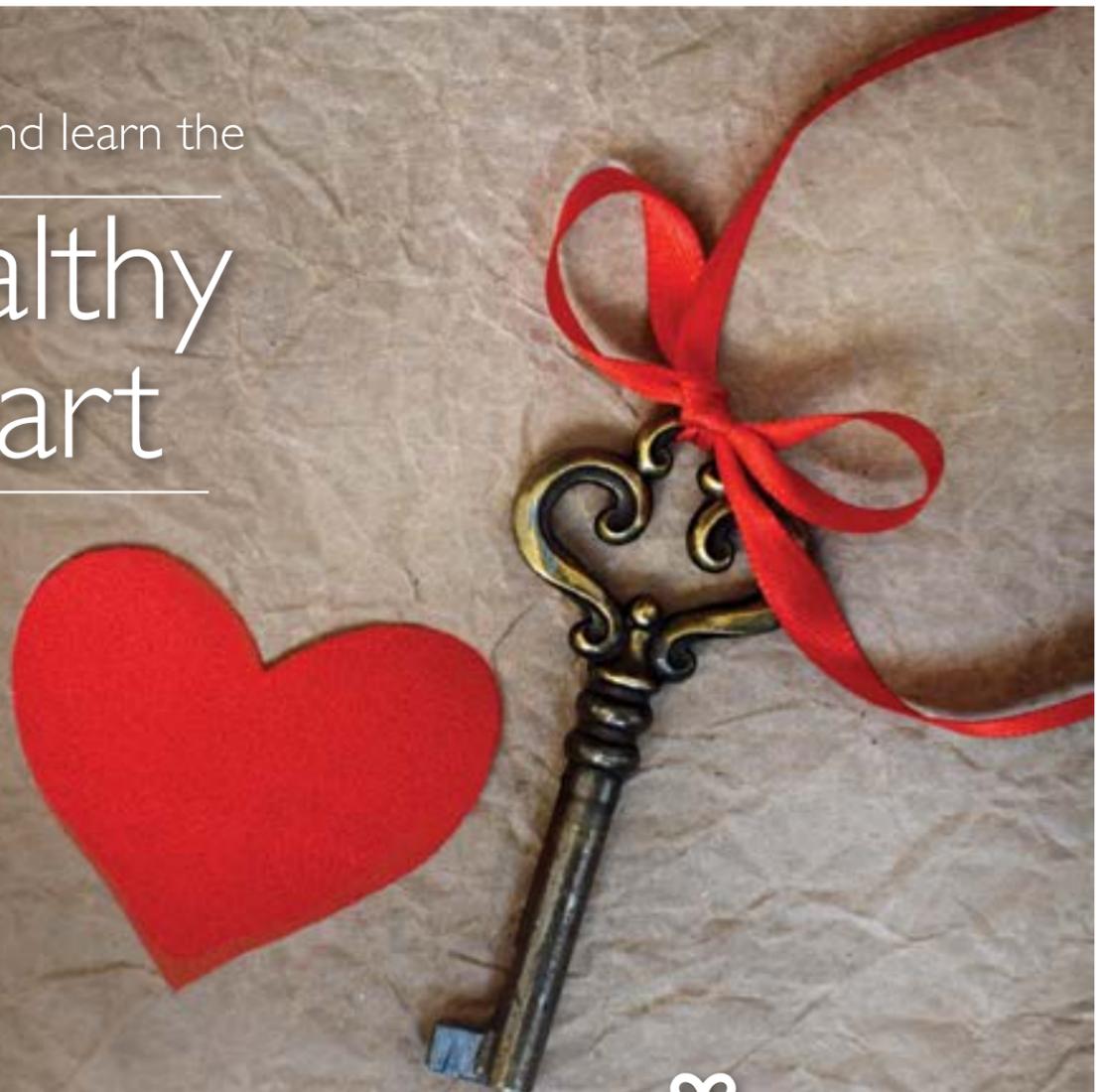
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With nearly 300 aircraft carrier landings under his belt, there's probably nothing that scares former Corsair attack jet pilot Jim Love more than hearing those dreaded words, "Your wife has cancer."

Just months after the retired Navy Captain started his campaign in 2010 for the District 14 City Council seat, Love's wife, Robin, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"This was a very scary time considering that her mother had had colon cancer," said Love, of Avondale.

The same inner strength Robin Love drew on as a military wife undoubtedly helped her during the battle against cancer. "She was very brave about this situation and attended the radiation treatments while allowing me to continue my political campaign," said Love.



Jim Love

In fact, during the weeks of radiation treatment she continued to help in the campaign from sign waving to asking for petition signatures, he said.

"Without her amazing help I would never have won the extremely close election and, fortunately, her cancer has remained in remission," said Love, "so I am excited about helping the American Cancer Society come closer to curing cancer, especially breast cancer."

IN THE TRENCHES WITH CANCER

With a wife and four daughters, there was always the worry in the back of Alan Verlander's mind that one of his loved ones would someday join the more than 240,000 women who are diagnosed each year with breast cancer. "Someday" struck the Verlander family six years ago.

"In 2010, our family received news that my wife was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer," said Verlander, of Miramar. "Over the many appointments and surgeries, we have seen firsthand the importance of a support system around you at these critical times in life."

Verlander understands support systems from a community perspective, too. He volunteers his time with various organizations, currently serving on the boards of Rethreaded, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Baseball, Boy Scouts Scoutreach and Samford University's Sports Marketing Program.



Alan Verlander

Still, Verlander is finding time to wear pink and raise funds for the fight against breast cancer.

"I'm excited to show my support for those people who have either gone through or are going through cancer as we speak," said Verlander, Jacksonville Sports Council executive director/COO. "Additionally, I look forward to educating those in our city about my personal journey and the importance of being proactive about your health."

HELPING A CAUSE HE BELIEVES IN

Tony Caribaltes doesn't have a pink thing in his closet to wear during the Real Men Wear Pink Challenge. He solved that problem by challenging clients and friends to bring him something pink to wear.

"I am always up for helping a cause I believe in, and this sounded like a fun and easy to help make a difference," said Caribaltes, a licensed realtor at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty.

On a more somber note, Caribaltes' connection to breast cancer is extremely close.

"My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after my father had passed away. She had always been healthy except for her diminishing mental capabilities, so this was uncharted territory," said Caribaltes. "She had a mastectomy, chemo and radiation,



Tony Caribaltes

but she survived the breast cancer. The unfortunate side effect was the chemo accelerated her diminishing mental capabilities and she passed away a few years later from complications with Alzheimer's."

Caribaltes has a multi-pronged approach utilizing the Coldwell Banker Vanguard storefront in the Shoppes of Avondale, including a kissing board and Tony's "Tata Tip of the Week."

REAL FIGHTERS WEAR PINK

Ever the athlete, Seth Pajcic is unleashing his competitive nature in the fight against cancer.

Each year more than 2,600 men in the United States are diagnosed with breast cancer, but it was the loss of his father-in-law to renal cancer and his uncle to lung cancer that persuaded the All-State football player and All-City basketball player at Episcopal High School and collegiate offensive lineman at Suwanee, the University of the South, to get involved in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides/Real Men Wear Pink campaign.

"It is important to me to do all I can to battle against this disease that impacts so many families," said Pajcic, a personal injury attorney.

Whether his fight is on the basketball court, in the courtroom or against cancer, Pajcic knows women need all the help they can get in their fight to survive the pain and suffering of cancer.

"Every day, the American Cancer Society helps people take steps to reduce their risk of breast cancer or find it early, when it's small and easiest to treat," said Pajcic, of San Marco. "They provide free information and services when and where people need it. They are funding



Seth Pajcic

groundbreaking research to find, prevent, and treat breast cancer, and are working to ensure access to mammograms for women who need them."

An avid runner, Pajcic has competed in more than a dozen marathons and more than 50 half-marathons. Don't be surprised to see him running this October wearing pink, and he is sure to sport pink ties or bow ties all year long.

For more information on how you can support the Real Men Wear Pink campaign or sign up for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Hemming Park, go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl.

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clients," Akra said. "We work for them. We want them to be successful, we want them to be happy and we want them to have the best."

The concierge practice continues to raise the bar for its approach to medicine, the reviews and positive growth fuel the work of Dr. Akra and his staff. Dr. Akra has over 25 years of expertise in internal medicine. His wife, Dr. Elena Akra, has a successful clinical psychology practice in the office as



Bede Warren, Anita Layton, Drs. Louis and Elena Akra, Cindy Faithful and Lauren Chance

"We work for them. We want them to be successful, we want them to be happy and we want them to have the best." – Dr. Louis Akra

Cindy Faithful, Akra's office manager, and Bede Warren, assistant office manager, greet patients with warm, friendly smiles upon entry. It's so cozy in this space that you might just want to ask for a cup of tea, a magazine and curl up in one of their comfy chairs. Which, apparently, their clients do – and it's encouraged. Clients are family here and you will feel that immediately.

Dr. Louis Akra M.D. and his staff love that they have clients who stop by, have a cup of coffee, read a book and enjoy the calm, soothing atmosphere.

"Everything here is designed for our



well. Along with Faithful and Warren, Dr. Akra has outstanding assistance from Lauren Chance, M.A., and Anita Layton, M.A., to help manage patient care. His entire staff is experienced and passionate about providing exceptional service and professionalism for their valued clientele.

So, it's no surprise that the month of September was spent celebrating their fifth year in business.

Dr. Akra truly values the relationships with his clients, which is exactly why he opened his concierge medical practice five years ago. Passionate about delivering personalized care, he felt trapped in a traditional practice that had over 5,000 accounts, making it impossible to devote the time necessary to know and help each patient as an individual.

For an annual fee, clients have direct access

to Dr. Akra 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You're not calling an answering service, you're calling his personal cell phone. "I want clients to know they can call me any time. I have your cell number on my phone so when I get a call I ask, 'What's going on, how can I help you?'" said Akra.

He believes it's important for Jacksonville residents to have this option when choosing medical care. Because the concierge model limits the size of the practice, doctors and staff are better able – and available – to recognize and respond to clients' needs.

Dr. Akra and his staff handle everything for their clients. They schedule appointments, lab work, consultations, annual exams and even same-day and next-day appointments, which start on time and last as long as necessary. And Dr. Akra makes sure his clients clearly understand their test results,

medications and any health conditions. He offers comfort by removing any confusion or worry they may have.

When opening his practice, Dr. Akra was labeled a pioneer. While concierge medical practices were popular in South Florida, nobody was taking that leap in Northeast Florida. They still haven't. Akra Professional Services is the only concierge medical and psychological practice in the area.

And they're thriving. Business has seen annual growth from word of mouth referrals since opening the doors. While at about 90 percent capacity, they're still growing and welcoming new clients.

Akra said, "I'm excited that I am able to do something I really enjoy and our clients are enjoying. We want to pause and thank our clients, thank our community, that we're able to do this and do it successfully."

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Anthony Chevalier

Local maintenance manager earns Excellence award

Residents at Riverside Park Apartments consider themselves blessed to have the Southeast Region Maintenance Person of the Year, Anthony Chevalier, work at the Oak Street independent living facility, which opened October 1982 and is managed by Riverside Park United Methodist Church.

Chevalier, who has worked at the facility since 2003, was humbled by the Excellence in Maintenance award bestowed by SAHMA (Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association) from among hundreds of maintenance personnel at over 500 companies in eight states. As 2016 Maintenance Person of the Year, Chevalier received a crystal plaque and \$1,000.

"I am still shocked but very appreciative for being recognized. They chose me," said Chevalier. "There's a lot of gratitude for them recognizing the work that I do. You don't do this to be recognized. You do it because it's what you do."

An employee of SPM Property Management, which has five properties in Jacksonville, Chevalier is a one-man show, tackling almost all routine maintenance jobs by himself. He is a member of the First Coast Apartment Association and holds several licenses, including a Property Maintenance Craftsman license required by the City of Jacksonville.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Brosche among honorees at environmental luncheon



City Council President Lori Boyer, At-Large Councilwoman Anna Lopez Brosche, Duval County Public School Board Chair Ashley Smith-Juarez, Scenic Jacksonville Board Member Rachel Cocciolo, and Scenic Jacksonville President Susan Caven

Duval County Public School Board Chair Ashley Smith-Juarez, who represents San Marco, At-Large Councilwoman Anna Lopez Brosche, who grew up in Murray Hill, and Sarah Nan of Riverside were among the honorees recognized at the 24th annual Mayor's Environmental Awards Luncheon, Sept. 15 at the University of North Florida University Center.

The awards honored Duval County individuals and organizations for their demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment to the Jacksonville environment. In all, 34 awards were presented by 12 organizations. The recognitions were distributed by City Council President Lori Boyer and Director of Community Affairs Dr. Charles Moreland.

Smith-Juarez and Brosche were recognized with the first-ever Scenic Jacksonville Award

for Civic Engagement & Environmental Stewardship. Brosche introduced Bill 2016-487, which appropriates dormant City tree trust funds to plant one tree at each of Duval County's 160 public schools. Smith-Juarez championed the ordinance, which also broadens trust fund language to allow tree planting on

any public property. The entire Duval County Public School Board were also recognized with the Scenic Jacksonville Civic Engagement and Environmental Stewardship award.

The Late Bloomers Garden Club was awarded the 2016 Canopy Award by Greenscape of Jacksonville.



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Law practice takes on preservation, new office

There's a new owner of a large historic 110-year-old mixed-use property on the corner of Stockton and Oak Streets in Riverside. The husband and wife legal team of Kristopher Robinson and Susannah Collins, have moved their law firm, Robinson Collins, P.L. into the large estate home. The building was formerly the local home office of the Monticello Drug Company, a drug manufacturing firm with its roots in Jacksonville.

"We were very nicely welcomed to the neighborhood," said Robinson, as he made mention of several warm gestures from neighbors greeting the couple upon their arrival. For the duo, the home presented a bit of a restoration project, taking considerable time to prepare for office occupation. The work included the repainting of the interior, refinishing of



Kris Robinson and Susannah Collins

the floors throughout, and some slight alterations to the interior walls in order to create more functional offices for staff.

According to the law firm's website, Robinson Collins, P.L. is dedicated to providing its clients with custom transactional and litigation legal services. They can be reached at (904) 483-3857 or found online at www.robinsoncollins.com. The office is located at 1604 Stockton Street.

Avondale doctor wins award

Dr. Albert Lopez, D.O., FASPC, of Avondale has been designated a Fellow of the American Society for Preventive Cardiology (ASPC).

The award, which was bestowed in August, was granted to only nine individuals within the Fellowship's inaugural year and is reserved for members of the ASPC who have shown effective engagement in cardiovascular disease prevention.

To be considered for fellowship, ASPC members must have attended the society's annual congresses, completed a master's course and have a clinical program which emulates ASPC's beliefs through active prevention of cardiovascular disease.



Dr. Albert Lopez

Lopez founded his prevention practice, Real Life Health, with the intention of curbing the disease which has grown to affect one in three Americans. With his work he identifies risk factors in patients to effectively prevent them from developing cardiovascular disease as well as to retard or reverse the disease. Real Life Health operates separately from Lopez Internal Medicine Associates, his internal medicine practice, which is located at 4291 Roosevelt Blvd.

Jaguar Julius Thomas attends St. Vincent's book drive



Jaguars tight end Julius Thomas reads a children's book with the help of Dr. Sonya Dominguez and her daughter, Gabriella Moore during a book drive collection event at St. Vincent's Riverside Sept. 24.

After attending Saturday morning practice, Jacksonville Jaguar tight end Julius Thomas made an appearance at the St. Vincent's HealthCare book drive collection event at its Riverside location.

Children's books collected during the two-week Reach Out and Read Book Drive will be distributed later in October to waiting rooms at primary care and pediatric offices throughout Northeast Florida. The goal of 6,000 books was surpassed, standing at 15,000 on the day of the collection event.

The community book drive, held Sept. 1-15, culminated with the collection event, which featured plenty of fun for kids, including inflatables, face painting, and free food. Thomas, 28, partnered with St. Vincent's to encourage local children to read, and at the book drive event Sept. 24 talked about the importance of reading in his life.

"I've always had a lifelong passion for reading and it's was something I established at an early age. My mom used to take me to Barnes and Noble and say 'pick out three books' and I would always have a stack of six or seven," said Thomas. "Reading means more to me than just something I enjoy. It's

also something I believe can help everyone across all different types of professions. I really want to do my part to push the initiative of reading for children. Reading is something that's cool and we should all spend as much time as we can doing that."

The book drive complements St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center's Reach Out and Read program, which provides books to young children during their primary care visits, as well as the annual Romp and Read event, currently scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3, which allows children to explore interactive stations with books, crafts and games.



Jaguars tight end Julius Thomas autographs a children's book during a book drive collection event at St. Vincent's Riverside Sept. 24.

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Foundation grant funds Mobile Health Outreach for seniors

Thanks to a six-figure, two-year grant, St. Vincent's HealthCare's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry has a new program for senior citizens.

"Receiving this prestigious grant is important because it has opened the door for vulnerable, low-income senior citizens in our community to receive quality healthcare that will make them happier and healthier," said Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, President of the St. Vincent's Foundation.

The Jim Moran Foundation awarded nearly \$150,000 to St. Vincent's HealthCare for semi-monthly visits to San Jose Manor and Hurley Manor, where clinicians provide free basic checkups and screenings, and health education and wellness seminars to approximately 260 seniors.

"This program is a wonderful extension of our already robust Mobile Health Outreach

Ministry, which offers critically needed care to our neighbors who need it the most," said Stella Mouzon, Mobile Health Outreach Ministry Manager. "Our goal is to help keep these seniors healthy so they can remain independent longer and continue to live life to the fullest."

The St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry began in 1991 and provides fully-staffed doctors-offices-on-wheels to areas in Northeast Florida which need acute and preventive services the most. In addition to this new senior outreach program, mobile health units also visit:

- People who work in the agricultural fields of Putnam and St. Johns counties, including migrant workers and their children
- The working poor, the homeless and their families in urban neighborhoods of Duval, Clay and Nassau counties



St. Vincent's HealthCare Mobile Health Outreach Ministry sends this van to two senior housing projects twice a month for free health care.

- Children and teens at 23 middle and high schools throughout Duval County
- To learn more about the St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, visit www.jaxhealth.com/MobileHealth.

Former Avondale resident joins symphony



Michelle Barth

Michelle Barth has joined the Jacksonville Symphony as Individual Giving Officer, responsible for helping supporters express their passion for the Symphony's mission through securing of major gifts. Barth brings over 15 years of experience in government relations, community engagement, strategic marketing and communications to the position.

Barth has served as a Regional Director for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Deputy Chief of Staff for former Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, Chief Strategy and Development Officer for the area Feeding America food bank and is a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network and is a past volunteer/board member of Leadership Jacksonville, Community Connections, Executive Women International and the Super Bowl Host Committee.

Barth holds a Bachelor's degree from University of North Florida, a Master's degree from the University of Florida and a Master's degree from the University of Durham, England, where she attended as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. She now lives downtown.

Meals-to-go business celebrates first anniversary

Louise Reeder and Kim Michael, owners of 3 Squares to Go in Avondale, celebrate one year providing residents with fresh, home-style entrees and side dishes for take-out or delivery. In 2015, the two women married their passions for nutritious, delicious cooking with a business plan and opened their take-out kitchen at 3945 St. Johns Ave. Open Monday through Friday, the business has partnered with Community Couriers for deliveries, and also provides catering.



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Two Ortega women join Jacksonville Public Education Fund board



Marsha Oliver

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund added seven new board members, including Ortega residents Marsha Oliver, director of public affairs for the City of Jacksonville, and Lisa Page, former Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of Jacksonville. Page (photo not available) is also a member of the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital and the Women's Giving Alliance.

The other appointees include Hugh Greene, president and CEO of Baptist Health and CEO of Coastal Community Health; Ronnie King, owner of Scratchwerk, LLC; Coley Jones, vice president of Middle Market Banking Group of TD Bank, and Kay Park, who serves as the non-voting ex officio Florida Blue teach of the Year representative.

The seven join 13 other board members and two non-voting ex officio members, Dr. Nikolai Vitti, superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, and the Honorable Ashley Smith-Juarez, Duval County School Board chair.

Woman's Club makes large donation to Historical Society



Pictured in the archives in front of materials donated by the Woman's Club of Jacksonville are University of North Florida student Anna Varney, who will help archive the material, Woman's Club President Laura Crooks, Jacksonville Historical Society Executive Director Emily Lisska, Katherine Naugle, chairman of the Woman's Club Heritage Committee and Taryn Rodriguez-Boette, associate archivist for the Jacksonville Historical Society.

After handing over all the records and scrapbooks to the Jacksonville Historical Society some time ago, the Woman's Club of Jacksonville has now given the society the means to process their chronicles.

Woman's Club President Laura Crooks of Riverside joined Woman's Club Heritage Committee Chairman Katherine Naugle of Ortega in donating a \$10,000 check to the Jacksonville Historical Society Aug. 30. The money, which was derived from the sale of the Woman's Club building to the Cummer Museum in 2005, has been held by the

Community Foundation of Northeast Florida on behalf of the Woman's Club, said Naugle.

"The Historical Society is receiving our first check, but we look forward to handing out more," she said.

Jacksonville Historical Society Executive Director Emily Lisska said she is excited about receiving the Woman's Club collection on behalf of the society. "So many things revolve around this collection," she said. "This collection deserves so much attention. So many women have not had the voice that they deserve through the years. Most

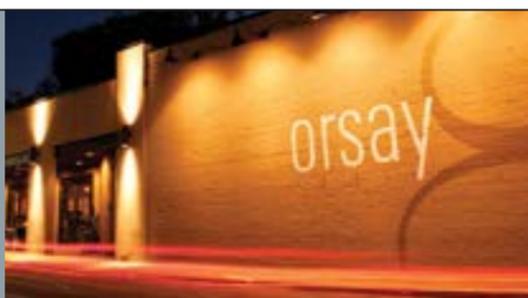
history was written about the men in the (Jacksonville) area. There is a lot more to be heard and uncovered."

The archival materials from the Woman's Club document many of the city's social and cultural improvements, said Crooks. "The Woman's Club was one of the first organizations to stand up for women in the city in a variety of social needs and causes," she said.

Anyone desiring further information or to join the Woman's Club should contact Crooks at LWCrooks@comcast.net.

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Melissa Ospina
(Photo by Patricia Borgess @makejaxweird)

Yoga salon adds class in Spanish

Soluna Yoga Spa, 4145 Herschel St., has hired Colombia native Melissa Ospina to lead a yoga class in Spanish. Ospina said there is a large and growing Latin community in Jacksonville, but none of the area fitness centers offer classes taught only in Spanish. "This will allow them to feel more comfortable with venturing out and meeting the community," said Dori Thomsen, owner. "Even if you cannot speak Spanish, this is a great way to learn something new. It's also great for the brain to learn a new language." The Spanish yoga classes are offered on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

5 Points welcomes namesake tavern



Hannah Alexander, Jeffrey Forrest

In a nod to the neighborhood, the new Five Points Tavern's most popular cocktail, the Margaret Street, celebrates one of the reasons Chef Jeffrey Forrest chose that location. "While looking at business opportunities online, Jeff saw this one an hour after it was posted and knew this was the neighborhood to be in if we were going to open a restaurant in Jacksonville," said co-owner Hannah Alexander. "This area has character and personality, a lot of foot traffic. People say, 'Let's go to 5 Points and hang out and

see what we find,' so how could we not open here?" Just a month after opening in early August with a dinner menu, Forrest and sous chef Donal Hourihan, also a partner, offered a lunch menu with many of the same dishes. A wait staff of seven serve the 106-seat restaurant which has both indoor and outdoor seating. The restaurant is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, beginning at 11 a.m. and is located at 1521 Margaret St., the former site of O'Brothers Irish Pub.

New manager joins Riverside Arts Market team



Liz Grebe

Liz Grebe is the newest addition to the new management team at Riverside Avondale Preservation, joining the organization as Market Manager for Riverside Arts Market (RAM), where she will be responsible for marketing, special events and operations of the market. Grebe, who lives in Springfield, describes herself as an event planner and advocate for Downtown and the urban core. "The majority of my career has been focused Downtown," she said. "I managed the First Wednesday Art Walk for three years, I was the events director for Friends of Hemming Park and most recently I was the Events and Programming Manager at Sweet Pete's." A former Riverside resident, Grebe said she would begin her weekends with a walk from Goodwin Street to RAM to buy produce and enjoy the community. "I love the different type of people who live in the neighborhood. I lived in Riverside for a couple of years because I wanted to be close to Downtown for work but I also wanted to live somewhere that had art, parks, history, and lots of things to do." Grebe said she will focus on bringing more aspects of the community to RAM, by focusing on placemaking at the market, having more of a social media presence and increasing the assortment of vendors to adapt to the changing tastes of the community. "There are so many great organizations and small businesses in and around our community, and I would love to partner with them to continue growing the market," she said.

New ownership for local podiatry practice

Podiatry and Barefoot Wellness Center, located on Park Street, announced a transition in ownership. Established in 1968 by Dr. Howard G. Groshell as Podiatry Centers of North Florida, the local, family-oriented podiatry practice was handed down to his son, Dr. Howard J. Groshell, who is "retiring" to homeschool his children and do charity work. The Riverside-based practice will be in good hands under Dr. Eric Shultz, who trained with the elder Dr. Groshell and returned to the practice in 2012, when the name was changed to Podiatry and Barefoot Wellness Center. Dr. Shultz was a professional skier and semi-professional dancer prior to becoming a Physician's Assistant, then worked as an orthopedic P.A. before receiving a doctor of podiatric medicine degree. After 20 years in his own practice in Jacksonville, Shultz joined Podiatry and Barefoot Wellness Center. Still dancing with the Jacksonville Ballet, Shultz specializes in sport and dance foot care.



Dr. Eric Shultz

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Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery in 39th year



Congratulations to Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery on its 39th anniversary as a long-time Avondale business. On Sept. 15, 1977, Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D., opened his oriental rug business in the same location he is still in today at 3571 St. Johns Ave. "I am the longest-running business in the Shoppes of Avondale. Same owner, same business, same location. I take pride in that fact," said Hooshang, who imports his unique, affordable rugs directly from eight countries.

"I love what I do because I love Avondale, and I love the people," Hooshang said. "I'm fortunate that the nature of the business allows me to connect with the community, locally, nationally and internationally."

Baptist MD Anderson celebrates first year

Good Morning America Host and cancer survivor Amy Robach was the guest of honor when the folks at Baptist MD Anderson celebrated the cancer center's first anniversary Sept. 16 on the fourth floor of the Hill Breast Center in San Marco.

Part of a family with no history of cancer, Robach, had been shocked to discover she had a malignant tumor when she agreed to have her first mammogram on national television in October 2013. After enduring surgery and chemotherapy treatments, she chronicled her 12-month journey to survivor status in her book, *Better: How I Let Go of Control, Held On to Hope, and Found Joy in My Darkest Hour*.

During the party she was recognized as the first recipient of the cancer center's "End Cancer Champion" award.

Speaking at the anniversary event were Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Wilbanks, Chaplain Courtney Hesser, Vice President Oncology Service Line Darin Roark, and Baptist Health and MD Anderson employees Lee Ann Mengel, Dr. Trishna Patel, Dr. Pat Calhoun, and Dr. Cynthia Anderson.



Baptist Senior Vice President, Social Responsibility & Community Advocacy Audrey Moran, Dr. Patricia Calhoun, Good Morning America Host Amy Robach with John Wilbanks, Executive Vice President and COO for Baptist Health.

A year ago, Baptist Health teamed up with the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas with the mission to transform cancer care in the Southeastern United States by replicating MD Anderson's model of care in north Florida. The center opened in October 2015 and recently broke ground on a nine-story addition, which is currently

under construction across the street on San Marco Boulevard.

In addition to attending the anniversary party for Baptist MD Anderson, Robach served as a keynote speaker at Baptist Health's Girls' Day Out event Sept. 17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



Baptist Director of Women's Health Strategy Danielle Stein; Director of Women's Imaging and Oncology Support Services Linda Allen with Dr. Laura Grippa, Emergency Medical Specialist for Baptist Health.



Mary Lou Gossett and her daughter, Dr. Jill Mauldin, Maternal and Fetal Medicine Specialist for Baptist Health.



Dr. Pierre Allaire, vice president and chief development officer with his wife, Lorraine and Melanie Messer, Director of Development for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

Sakura Roll - Shrimp tempura, cucumber roll with tuna, salmon, whitefish, avocado on top and krab salad, crispy crunch, topped with eel sauce

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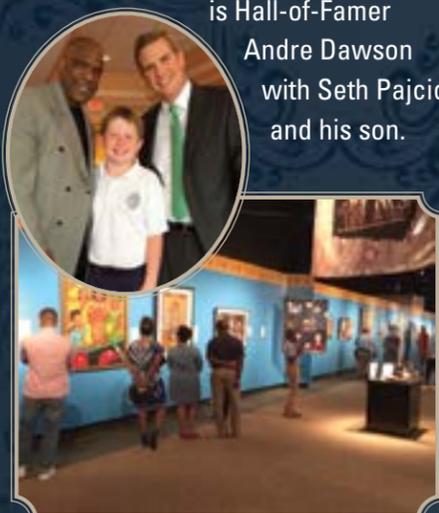
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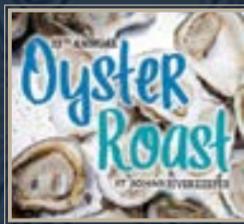
It was a great celebration of baseball in Jacksonville and the Pajcic Firm was proud to be a part of it. We sponsored an art exhibit at the Ritz Theater honoring Negro Leagues Baseball, which has a rich history in our city. Many former major league players were in town as part of a fundraiser for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida. Here

is Hall-of-Famer Andre Dawson with Seth Pajcic and his son.



Pajcic & Pajcic is the prime sponsor of the 15th annual St. Johns Riverkeeper

Oyster Roast. The event raises funds for the Riverkeeper which is an independent voice and watchdog group fighting to keep our beautiful St. Johns River clean and healthy. Hundreds are expected to attend this festive event on November 18th at the Garden Club.



Steve Pajcic loves going back and giving back to his roots. He enjoyed being part of the 100 year anniversary celebration at Annie R. Morgan Elementary School, which he attended as a child. Steve likes to visit on a regular basis and has always supported the school. He and his late brother, Gary Pajcic, donated \$1 million in the past to a program to encourage experienced principals and teachers to work in the county's lowest-performing schools.



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.

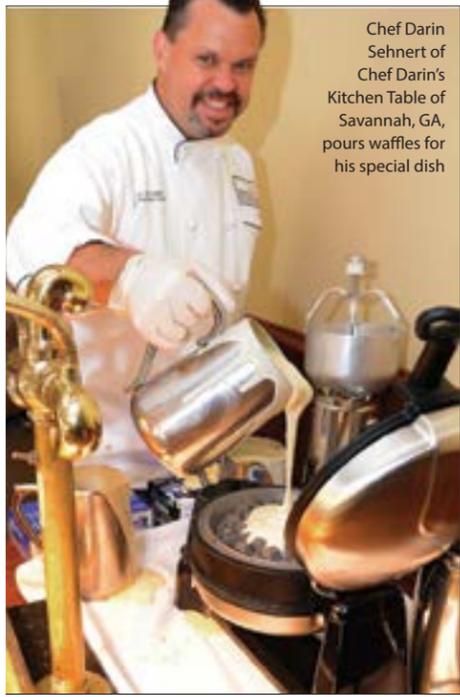


A destination with delicious in mind
Raising funds never tasted so good

It was another successful year for St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, as founding partners Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits were celebrated alongside an outstanding cast of Southern culinary stars and spirits providers. In Year 15, the charity continues to deliver, as it hosts Jacksonville's Premiere Food & Wine event, where patrons enjoy a wine glass in the hand, while a few feet from the sand.

This year's event was presented by Miller Electric Company and Wells Fargo, as well as a partnership with THE PLAYERS. Countless Northeast Florida businesses and individuals participated in making this year's 15th annual celebration a milestone for the Foundation.

The theme of *Farm to Fork: Celebrating the South* drew patrons from all over the First Coast, from the beaches to the historic neighborhoods. Thirteen chefs and five wine and spirits companies participated in the bounty by the seashore at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Sept. 10. In addition to the gala, there were events held over the course of the three-day guest experience. For more information or to learn more about the mission, visit www.jaxhealth.com/foundation.



Chef Darin Sehnert of Chef Darin's Kitchen Table of Savannah, GA, pours waffles for his special dish



Bob Shircliff, Kathy and Todd Van Osdol, Carol Shircliff and Jane Lanier



Grace and Katie Leeper with their parents, event Co-Chairs Aly and Chris Leeper



Dr. Steven and Betsy Siegel



Event Co-Chairs Sean and Susan Kelly



Stephanie Lacey with Jeff Cole

SOCIAL R



Jack and Alexa Quaritius, Brooke Davis and Natalie Lupu



Allen and Sarah McInnish



Kristen and Jonathan

Guests were 'lovin' it'

Ronald McDonald House's Red Shoe Crew hosted its annual Fries With Field Sept. 23. Presenting sponsor for the sold-out event was EverBank Field. Touted as one of Jacksonville's "best parties with a purpose," the charity premier wines from Riverside Liquors and delicious McDonald's food. Florida just for the event by a locally trained chef who now works for the McDonald's a private bar for more extensive food and wine pairings.



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Ashley Helmick and Molly Maguire

at Red Shoe Crew party

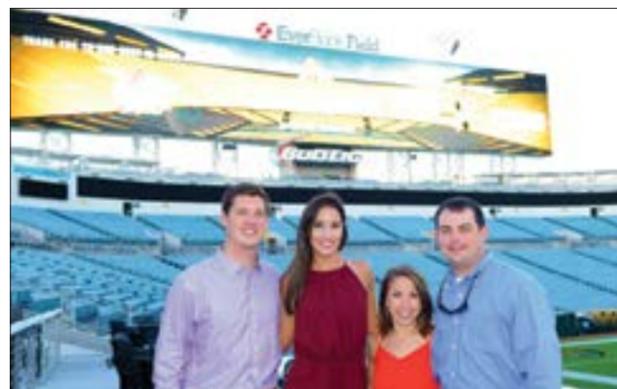
That Wine event in the newly renovated East US Assure Club at EverBank field and the event included live music, a photo booth, craft beer and a raffle. fundraiser hosted by the young professionals group offered a sampling of Florida Blue sponsored a VIP section with a three-course tasting menu created by the Blue corporation. VIP guests were greeted with champagne with access to



The sponsor group of Allison and Alden Thornton with Vickie and Ford Nelson, Jillian and Hague Palmer representing the technology firm, ABCoA



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Serafina DiBenedetto and Alison Miller



Jessica and Timothy Clark, Joshua and Melissa Sizemore with Zach and Lyndsey Simpson

Animals are champions of the night

The Jacksonville Humane Society celebrated the efforts of donors and volunteers who have continued to support the coveted JHS Medical Fund. This much-needed initiative continues to assist and better the lives of homeless animals, especially those that are ill, neglected or gravely injured.

A Toast to the Animals 2016 was raised once again by Chairs Dave and Joelle Caldwell, who have continued to step up for homeless animals in Jacksonville. Dave, the General Manager of the Jacksonville Jaguars, alongside his wife, Joelle, has not only supported the mission, but has walked the walk. By adopting three of their family dogs from animal shelters, they are dedicated to helping others with like minds for animal welfare. This year's event was held at the US Assure Club West at EverBank field Sept. 24.

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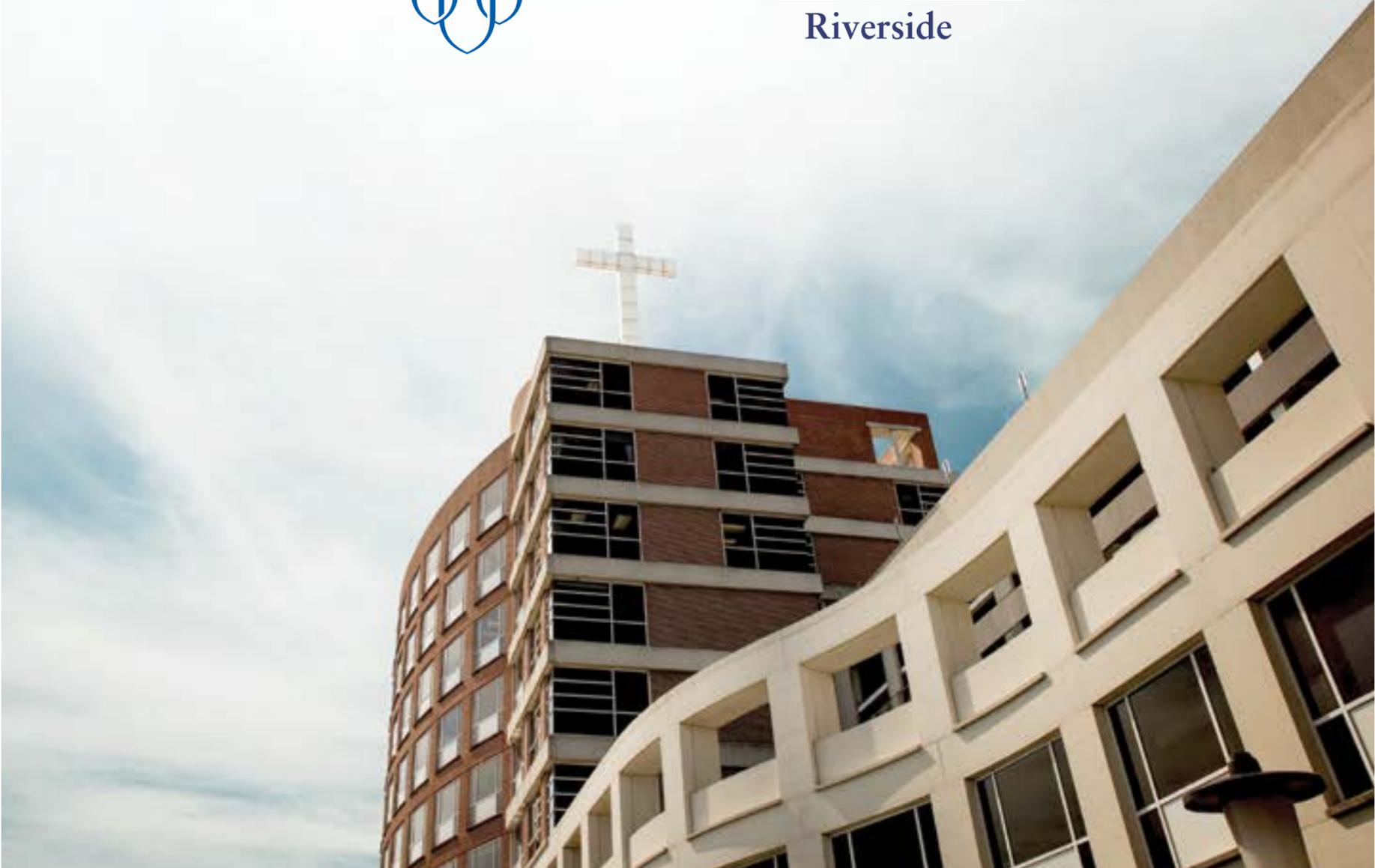
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This October, Mayo Clinic will open a comprehensive cancer center on the campus of St. Vincent's Riverside. Bringing Mayo's world-renowned cancer physicians,

cutting-edge therapies and clinical trials to even more people on the First Coast. All in the compassionate setting St. Vincent's is known for. To learn more, visit jaxwins.com.

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Flappers in force at annual RAP ball

There's no better way to celebrate the Roaring Twenties than at the 5th Annual Bootleggers' Ball, presented by Riverside Avondale Preservation and sponsored by Riverside Dental.

Guys and dolls all spiffed up in ragtime garb posed next to Clementine, a Model A owned by Al Heyn, member of the First Coast Region Model A Restorers Club, or next to Nancy Ulrich's classy black Model A.

Dames, dolls, flappers and swells enjoyed their choice of giggle water in period cocktails courtesy of MOJO #4 or other libations served up by Intuition Aleworks and Marlin & Barrel Distillery, while nosing on delectables from Il Desco.

Old-time jazz was provided in the courtyard by Junco Royals, and on the stage by the 77ds, with dance routines demonstrated by the First Coast Blues & Lindy Society and by Chaos Dance Productions.

Sponsors included Traditions Realty, Jim Love State Farm Insurance, Sun-Ray Cinema, Brightway Insurance, Grease Rags



Sarah and Jason Provost

Clothing Company, Joy Walker of Berkshire Hathaway Florida Network Realty and Sunny Gettinger. The bee's knees of an event took place Sept. 24 at Speakeasy Good Shepherd (also known as the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd).



Jason and Sydney Love, Robin and Jim Love



John and Amy Ambrose



Jason Mehta, Krysten Bennett, Trey Csar



JAPA hosts fall party at Haskell Building

Attending the fall party of the Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association were Kathy Lechner, Megan Guyton, Jayne Jett, Wendy Mueller and Joann Purdie.

The Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association kicked off its 102nd year with a fall party at the Haskell Building Sept. 13.

Thanks to the efforts of Fall Party Chairman Wendy Mueller of Murray Hill, and her committee – Susie Crosby, JAPA President Mary Freeman, Carla Hill and Carol Michael of San Jose – there were goodies to munch on, stations set up so participants could sign up for activities during the year and several drawings in which the members took home prizes. At Carol Michael's suggestion, all past presidents of the group took turns pouring punch during the party in an effort to get to know new members better.

In her opening remarks to the group, Freeman mentioned that JAPA awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to four recipients and that its membership had logged over

20,000 volunteer hours in community service the previous year.

She also recognized members of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, which took home last year's The Mary Louise Shannon Attendance Award, honoring the sorority with the most sisters attending general JAPA meetings during the current membership year. Kappa Alpha Theta was named as the sorority with the most sisters who are JAPA members during the past current membership year. Kappa Alpha Theta has won the membership award each year for the past 11 years.

Lark Will was recognized as the Panhellenic Jewel Award recipient, which is given to the member who exemplifies the true meaning of Greek sisterhood as well as for her sustained service to JAPA.

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Hemming Park friends fuse fun and fundraising

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Riverside residents in the Cherry Street area are used to a little bit of noise and a few more cars parked along the streets when local historian Wayne Wood hosts a Historic House Concert – usually to benefit a cause near and dear to his heart. He has hosted more than a dozen in the past few years to benefit several local nonprofits.

The most recent, Goliath Flores Spanish Fusion held Aug. 28, brought together 125 people to raise \$1,200 for Friends of Hemming Park (FOHP).

Since it announced dire financial straits in May, FHOP has spent the summer re-organizing and re-assessing. Former executive director Vince Cavin stepped down and board member Bill Prescott agreed to serve as interim director on a voluntary basis.

Wood, a member of FHOP's Board of Directors and the park's new programming coordinator, joined local artist Lana Shuttleworth in organizing the concert. He said it was a fun way to end the summer while raising awareness of and funds for Hemming Park.

For the intimate gathering, a stage was constructed on the terrace of Wood's home for an afternoon concert by the pool, and chairs were arranged in three adjoining rooms for an up-close and personal performance by Flores in the evening.

"This is the first concert which I've hosted that was indoors and outdoors," said Wood. "It was a great way to see a talented



Guitarist Goliath Flores performs at benefit concert for Hemming Park

musician, enjoy great music, food, spirits and camaraderie. Goliath is a multi-talented musician and instrumentalist."

Flores' classical/flamenco guitar with expressive vocals is a vibrant cross of South American, Mexican, jazz and soul influences. He has appeared on "Latin Late Night Television" and "Soul Beat Television," and has performed in venues all around the country.

Adding to the festive event was pianist Gina Martinelli of Avondale, who played some original work, plus oldies such as the "Girl From Ipanema" and "What's It All About, Alfie?"



Guitarist Goliath Flores and host Wayne Wood

Woofstock adoption event follows successful hurricane fostering

Hurricane Hermine provided an opportunity for homeless animals to be fostered for several days – and for many to remain in what became their forever home. One week later, the Woofstock free adoption event held Sept. 10-11 at Animal Care and Protective Services and at Jacksonville Humane Society, saw 202 dogs, cats and kittens get adopted over the weekend.

"ACPS had an astounding 105 animals get adopted in two days!" said Eunity Thornton, a board member of Friends of Jacksonville Animals who volunteered at the event. "Jax Humane reported they had 97 adoptions for the event."

According to a weekly report posted on the FOJA volunteer Facebook page, for the entire week after Hermine skirted the area 88 cats and 111 dogs left ACPS, said Thornton.



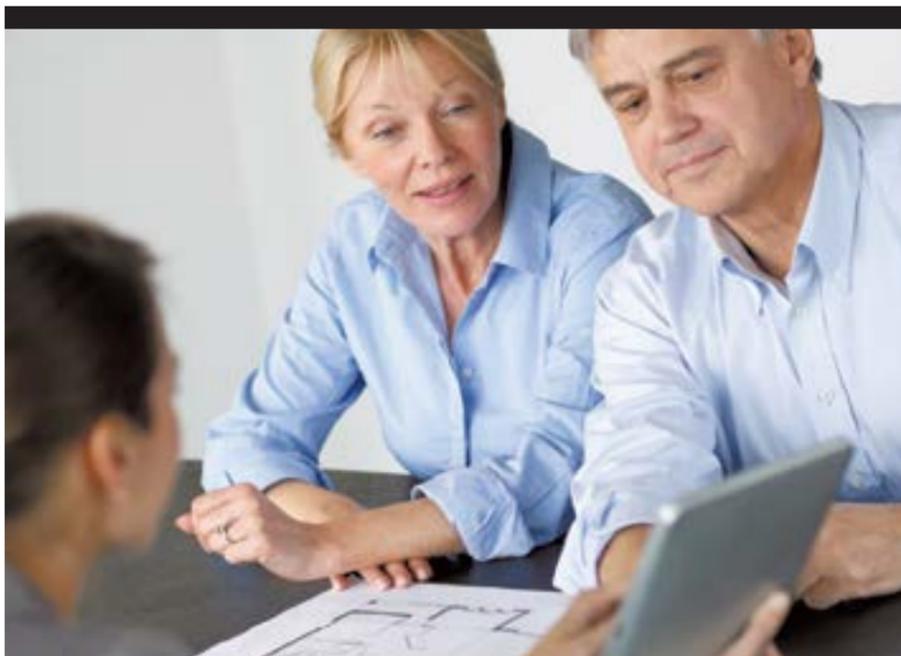
Volunteer Dawn Scheiningering holds Cheddar, the kitten selected for adoption by Mykila Greene, 5, during the Woofstock adoption event on Sept. 10 at Animal Care and Protective Services.



Eunity Thornton, board member of Friends of Jacksonville Animals, and Priscilla Mason, FOJA treasurer, show off Pang, a kitten available for adoption at Animal Care and Protective Services.



Alisabeth Carrigg, 8, checks out kittens at Animal Care and Protective Services during the Woofstock adoption event on Sept. 10.



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In the pink for Remission Rocks

Survivors and supporters gathered for the 6th annual Remission Rocks benefit for Bosom Buddies, a free support group for breast cancer patients and survivors across Northeast Florida, which has been operating for 28 years.

“This year’s event had a record turnout of 400-plus people; everywhere you looked were people dressed in pink smiling ear to ear,” said Margery Flannagan, Life Care Centers of America.

The venue, River City Brewing Company, was in the pink Sept. 16, as guests and volunteers donned hats, wigs, T-shirts and tutus all in support of the cause. Live entertainment was provided by No Known Cure, Expressound, Dance Express, Aura Aerial & Yoga and Showtime St. Johns Dance Studio. Signature sponsors included Life Care Centers of America, Apex Home Health Care, and Avante at Jacksonville Beach.

“There were so many new faces and it was so much fun to watch the survivors dance the night away,” said Melinda Ingle, Concierge Care. “The annual event holds a special place in many of our hearts.”



Lauren Walton, Rachel Kohl, Klare Paul



Beth Clark Lisé Everly, Cheryl Anthony



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JAXSPORTS Honoring Our Heroes Program Needs You

Send a military family to the iconic Navy-Notre Dame game

There's nothing more exciting than a college football rivalry and Jacksonville hosts its share of some of the most anticipated match-ups. This year, area servicemen, women, and their families have a unique opportunity to attend the Navy-Notre Dame college football game. This unbelievable experience is only made possible by the generous support of donors and sponsors who are able to step up for America's patriots.

Often, military personnel are unable attend events due to illness, injury or the costs involved and that's where the Jacksonville Sports Council (JAXSPORTS) is stepping in and calling on our community to get involved.

Honoring Our Heroes provides the opportunity for military members and their families, including those who have been wounded, ill or injured, are currently deployed or have lost a family member during active duty, to enjoy a unique game-day experience complete with flying colors and an outstanding dedication to our nation's servicemen and women.

These families will receive a full day of fun Saturday, Nov. 5, beginning with transportation compliments of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority. After arriving at EverBank Field, the heroes and their families can kick-off the rivalry with a pregame tailgate party which includes lunch and a special game-day gift. The festivities before kickoff honor families of the fallen and those who have honorably served, with an in-stadium tribute at the nationally televised event.

All branches of the military are eligible for the game-day experience, the 90th meeting between the United States Naval Academy and the University of Notre Dame. This is the third time the Midshipmen have played in Jacksonville, including the 1964 and 1973 Gator Bowl games against Georgia Tech.

The Navy-Notre Dame game will be presented by Navy Federal Credit Union and Navy Mutual Aid Association. Funds utilized to send military members and their families to the game are being raised through individual and corporate donors, small businesses and local leaders in the community.

Rick Catlett, JAXSPORTS president and CEO, said the goal is to raise \$500,000 to make it a day some 3,000 to 5,000 heroes and their families will never forget.

The program highlights Navy Gold Star families – those who have lost a family member who served in the military – as well as families of injured or ill service members. The public may also nominate a hero for consideration.

"We have a lot of brave military members right here in our community who have been injured while on active duty. In many cases they can't afford to come," said Catlett. "This program is for them – to give them a special day; an opportunity for our community to salute our armed forces."

Honoring Our Heroes is personal for Catlett, whose family has a long military history. His father was a Marine, his father-in-law an Army Colonel, his son currently serves in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander, and Catlett himself was on activity duty in the Air

Force and flew with the 125th Fighter Wing of the Florida Air National Guard.



Force and flew with the 125th Fighter Wing of the Florida Air National Guard.

JAXSPORTS staff said Honoring Our Heroes was Catlett's brainchild.

"We started talking, when we were first awarded the game, about doing something that could give back or provide the community touch," said Catlett. "We knew this game would gather national publicity, so what could we do for the military in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida? We tossed around the idea of a scholarship, but in the end we wanted to do something for the families of our local heroes."

"I would never tell people in Jacksonville that it's their obligation to buy a football ticket to go to a sporting event, but this might come as close to an obligation for our community," said Catlett, referring to supporting the Honoring Our Heroes program.

Leading up to game day are a host of events beginning with a military-themed First Wednesday Art Walk downtown in Hemming Park Wednesday, Nov. 2 from 5-9 p.m. On Thursday, Nov. 3, the JAX Chamber will hold a Military Appreciation Luncheon at the Prime Osborn Convention Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. A Celebration of the Navy will take place Friday, Nov. 4, at 5 p.m. at The Jacksonville Landing, followed by a Notre Dame Pep Rally at 7 p.m. Fireworks will cap the evening at 8 p.m. The Jacksonville Sea and Sky Spectacular will also be held during that weekend in Jacksonville Beach, featuring derring-do military air acts by the Blue Angels.

To send a hero to the Navy-Notre Dame game, visit jaxsports.com



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Music helps seniors reconnect with self, others

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Whether it's laughter or music that make the best medicine, you can't get enough of either when it comes to brain health.

Many senior living and memory care facilities subscribe to the notion music can be a side door into the brain, and employ a program called Music & MemorySM to help reduce agitation or verbal or physical acting out, a distressing behavior of Alzheimer's disease.

On Sept. 22, Arbor Terrace Ortega hosted an informational luncheon, Music & Memory, with approximately 100 attendees at Timuquana Country Club. The guest speaker was Deborah Ferris of Columbia, Tennessee, Music & Memory Regional Director – Southeastern U.S.

According to Ferris, the Music & Memory program is the therapeutic use of a personalized music playlist based upon a senior's favorite era, style of music, vocalists

or bands to stimulate positive responses not otherwise present. An iPod and full-coverage head phones (ear buds are difficult for seniors to use) are the only equipment needed.

"Although music has long been a part of senior care centers' activities, the music has been generic and not personally accessible to or personalized for each senior. It appears that the music a person enjoys never changes and memory of it remains deeply embedded within the brain, even in the presence of dementia or Alzheimer's and it can be accessed," Ferris said.

Seniors who hear their favorite music connect with lost memories, emotions and movements and there are often tears of surprise and joy when seniors first hear their music playlist. The senior often says that he or she feels happy after listening to their music playlist.

"As it turns out, that old saying 'music is the best medicine' is true...we can't overdose on it and more really is better," Ferris said.



Diane Kerr, Arbor Terrace Ortega Engagement Director Tracy Bass, Ann Washington, Ann Shelton attended a Music & Memory luncheon and presentation Sept. 22.

Tracy Underwood, Arbor Terrace Ortega Senior Care Counselor, Tracy Bass, Arbor Terrace Engagement Director (responsible

for implementing the Music & Memory Program), and several other staff coordinated the event.

Still stubborn at 100 years' young

At one time, Richard Ivy Lanier's motto was "Live to be 99 and then be very careful." Now that the Murray Hill resident is 100 years old and recovering from a broken leg, he'll need to change it up a bit, perhaps, to "Be extra careful after 100."

Born Sept. 23, 1916 in Metter, Georgia, Lanier ended up in Jacksonville when he and Mary Evelyn Blalock eloped on Aug. 20, 1945,

then hopped on a bus south. Once here, he established a career in the automotive business rebuilding alternators and generators.

Lanier has self-published two books of poetry. "He writes and recites his poems to everyone," said his daughter, Iva Jane Lanier Keyworth, owner of Gottahaveit in the Shoppes of Avondale. "Dad has a very good memory and can tell you the date and where he was when he had his first Coke. He remembers every word in his first reader."

His favorite president was Harry S. Truman, and his favorite place is Jacksonville because all of his family moved here, said

Keyworth, noting her father loves to listen to Bill Monroe, the late American songwriter who created the style of music known as bluegrass. Lanier is a member of Edgewood Heights Baptist Church, on Gilmore Street.

Lanier also has a son, Richard Gordon Lanier and daughter-in-law, Lesley, as well as one granddaughter, Jessica, and three great-grandchildren, Athena, Arabella and Isaac, through his daughter Iva and her husband, Scott. The family celebrated his milestone a couple of days after his birthday, said Keyworth, who attributes her father's longevity to stubbornness.



Richard Ivy Lanier





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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

Ortega woman flies 'friendly skies' for 50-plus years

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Mary Dudley Childress sees nothing unusual about the longevity of her 53-year career as an international flight attendant with Delta Airlines.

"In my family the women all worked until they were in their seventies," said the Ortega resident, who also has a 23-year career at Underwood Jewelers. "I am very independent."

After studying two years at the former Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, Mississippi, Childress found, at age 20, she had limited resources and needed a job.

"There wasn't much for a small-town Mississippi girl in 1964. My uncle, who was a doctor, asked me if I wanted to work in a doctor's office or fly," she recalled. "I interviewed with Delta, and they asked me if I would mind missing church or if I minded serving liquor. I had to sign an affidavit that I wouldn't marry, had never been married and would retire at age 32."

Fortunately, company policy changed, allowing Childress to marry, and to continue working at age 73. "There is just something magical about working for an airline. I feel a lot of confidence in what I do. I can do it well, and I still enjoy it, so why not?" she asked.

Childress returned to college in her 40s, enrolling at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, where she studied comparative religion, women's studies, and German because she was flying to Germany frequently. "I've always needed structure and realize how important it is to learn," said Childress. "Going back to school was a big boost for my self-esteem."

An avid reader, Childress enjoys a wide range of topics, including India, Hinduism and philosophy. "I have very diverse interests," she said.

Currently Childress' flight schedule takes her to Johannesburg, South Africa two or three times a week. She has met many celebrities on her flights, including Fran Drescher, John Travolta, Mitt Romney, and former president George H.W. Bush. "He was on a flight from Barcelona. He came out of the bathroom and the sink was broken. He said, 'I tried to fix it but couldn't; I guess that's above my pay grade,'" Childress recalled.

An amusing encounter she had with royalty was one with Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark. "There were body guards and me - he was flying incognito and was so charming. He changed from his jacket to a lighter weight sweater and I got to see the royal abs," laughed Childress.

In 1992, friends set then-divorced Childress up on a blind date and, when told her date was a widower, she cracked, "Well, I hope he's mobile." It took her three years of dating to commit, but in 1995 Childress married Ortega resident and Lee High School Class of 1962 alumnus Bill Schmidt.



Mary Dudley perched on Sam Brown

"I fell for her on that first date," said Schmidt. "I think Bill fell for me because I could pronounce Schmidt correctly," said Childress, referring to her study of German. "Bill was a widower - his wife had been ill for a long time and I had been divorced a long time, so I guess I was scared," she said. "But, I knew I wanted to keep flying and share that with Bill."

The couple did travel together, often when Childress was working the flight.

"Bill was on a flight when I was working and a passenger called me over and said, 'That man must be your husband! I asked how she knew and she said, 'You wouldn't let him have any dessert and every time you walked by he grabbed your hand.'"

A perfect example of never being too old to learn something new, Childress took up horseback riding in her 70s and last year Schmidt bought her a retired champion jumper for Christmas. An Oldenburg breed, Sam Brown stands 16 hands high. "If I'd known he was so big I would have taken up bridge!" joked Childress.

Though in her eighth decade, Childress has no intention of slowing down and doesn't



Mary Dudley in uniform as a Delta Airlines flight attendant

think about the difference between her age and her colleagues.

"I have always worked. I love the people I meet and what I do. Working and doing - it's just my way." She shrugged and laughed, "That's all - it's just my way."



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Suzanne Shaw

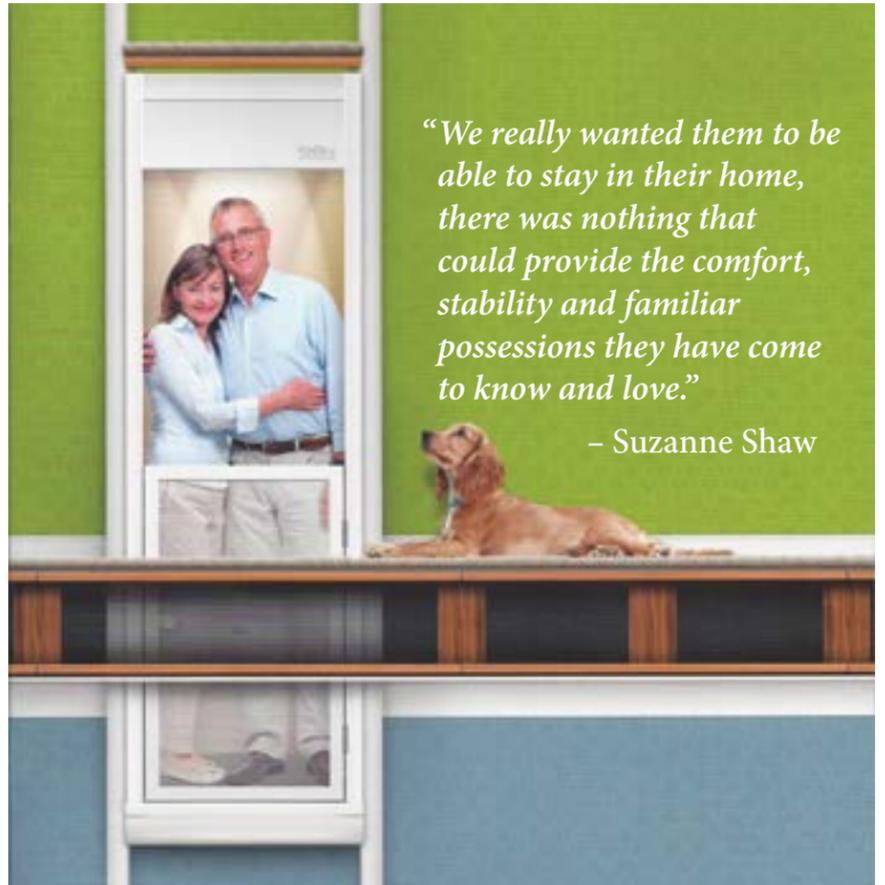
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"My sister and I were looking all over for a solution that could keep our parents in their home," shared Suzanne Shaw, a local resident of the Granada area. Suzanne lives just a few streets from where she grew up in the family home, a place her parents have lived since 1969.

Suzanne and her sister had been hard at work to accommodate her parents desire to stay in their residence. They thought they had explored all of their options and had just about given up when a friend recommended a stair lift. After the referral, Suzanne stumbled upon this amazing new system while browsing online for a different product. That's when the magic happened.

Suzanne never looked back after finding Stiltz of Florida's website, she made the call immediately after researching the website content about the Stiltz Home Lift products. Since the installation of her parents lift, she has felt compelled to tell her story. She jumps at the opportunity to help others going through the same situation.

"We really wanted them to be able to stay in their home, there was nothing that could provide the comfort, stability and familiar



"We really wanted them to be able to stay in their home, there was nothing that could provide the comfort, stability and familiar possessions they have come to know and love."

- Suzanne Shaw

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possessions they have come to know and love," said Suzanne. "The fact that they get to live out the end of their years, they get to stay in their home...they've worked so hard to get here."

It's been said that there's no place like home and for generations of Americans who have worked hard to pay down their mortgages, it's never been more true. With

the rising cost of quality elder care facilities, cost of living increases and construction costs skyrocketing, it's no wonder families are seeking alternatives. The most important part of aging in place is building forever memories and remaining in the home where they have been made. Let the Stiltz Home Lift system help you, or your loved ones achieve that goal.

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Senior ministry bridges gap in federal assistance

By Kim Lamb
Resident Community News

As a long-time Florida Gator fan, Miss Betty could not believe it. Here she was, sitting front-row, at the Deerwood Country Club as Pam Tebow, mother of former Gator quarterback and NFL player Tim Tebow, spoke about a local nonprofit dear to her own heart.

Betty was one of 130 people attending Hart Felt Ministries Sixth Annual Charity Gala, *Bridging the Gaps*, Sept. 17. Betty is also one of more than 550 seniors annually receiving assistance from Hart Felt. Another 400 remain on a waiting list – a list that sees new names added every week.

Tebow proved to be the perfect guest speaker. Her inspirational message focused on giving, serving and having a mission. “We told our kids, it’s not so much about how you earn your living that gives your life purpose, fulfillment, significance, it’s your mission,” she said.

Founded in 2004 by Jane Hart, the nonprofit helps Jacksonville seniors live independently and stay in their homes by providing minor home repairs, light housekeeping, grocery shopping, respite care, wheelchair ramp construction, yard work, companionship and more. For eight years in a row, Hart Felt Ministries has been named Best of Jacksonville for senior services.

Kelly Moorman Coggins, Hart Felt’s president and executive director and only full-time employee, shared Miss Betty’s story along with those of Mr. Curtis and Mr. James. All are disabled seniors whose lives have dramatically improved, thanks to Hart Felt services.

In 2011, Betty was diagnosed with spinal stenosis, a disability that left her without



Alan and Patti Weaver with Bobby Horne, Hart Felt Ministries treasurer and board member



Hart Felt Ministries Volunteer Gina Strong, Pam and Bob Tebow, with Miss Betty

use of her right foot and leg. Getting to the event wasn’t easy, but Betty wanted everyone to understand the impact Hart Felt Ministries has had on her life.

As Coggins finished her presentation, everyone in the room had a deeper understanding of Hart Felt’s significance in Jacksonville.

Hart Felt has two part-time employees, Julie Hart Peoples and Kristi Taylor. Together with Coggins, the three share one 12- by 10-foot office. It’s amazing the amount of work they accomplish, while relying heavily on assistance from their Board of Directors, donors and volunteers.



Kelly Moorman Coggins, Hart Felt Ministries president/executive director; Kristi Taylor, volunteer manager; Julie Hart Peoples, assistant executive director



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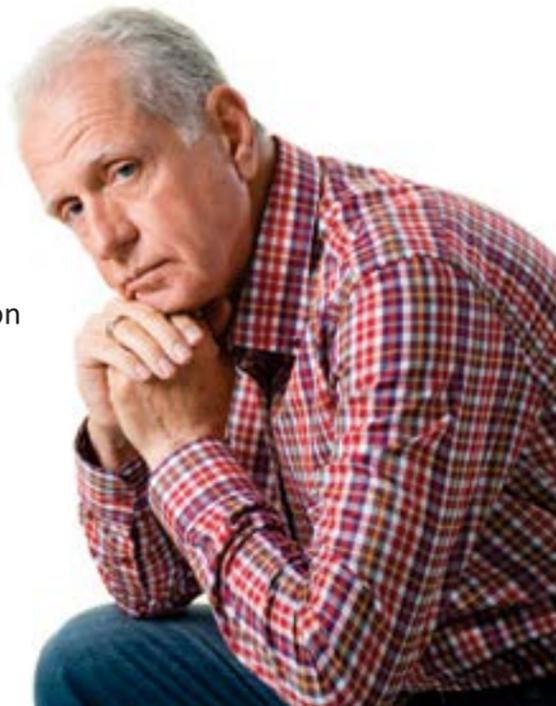
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THE WAY WE WERE: JAMES & LEE-MARGARET BORLAND

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

For more than five decades, a prominent Jacksonville gastroenterologist and a nurse-turned-professional photographer have explored the world together, but James and Lee-Margaret Borland said they have one more continent to conquer.

Although he turns 84 in November and they celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary in December, asked what they still might like to do in the future, this couple who have surely visited almost every corner of the world are in agreement: a trip to Antarctica.

James Loudon Borland, Jr. grew up in Ortega, where Borlands have lived since the mid-1930s. Lee-Margaret's parents, on the other hand, emigrated separately from Germany to New York, where Maximilian Vogel from Bavaria met Elizabeth Sehnert from Hessen working behind the counter at Schrafft's Restaurant in New York City.

Lee-Margaret Vogel was born in 1936 in Mt. Vernon, New York, where she attended first grade speaking no English and facing hostility and mistreatment because of her



Lee-Margaret with her parents, 1938, Rye, New York



Christopher, Donia, Jim, Lee-Margaret and Skip Borland at the 50th anniversary of American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, New Orleans, 1991

German heritage. The Vogels were part of a German-American gymnastic club that trained, performed and competed as the Mt. Vernon Turners (the German word "turnen" means "to perform gymnastic exercises"). Lee-Margaret was put on a balance beam at age three.

Max Vogel was an engineer and Park General Manager for the Rye Playland Amusement Park, one of the only government-owned amusement parks in the United States.

When Lee-Margaret was 10 years old, she returned from Girl Scout Camp to find that her mother had contracted polio and was hospitalized. Her mother was treated with the then-controversial Sister Elizabeth Kenny Treatment in Greenwich, Connecticut which rejected immobilization of polio patients' limbs, in favor of exercise, stretching and continuous hot compress treatments. Her mother completely recovered and even returned to gymnastics.

Around this time, when Lee-Margaret was in elementary school, her father gave her a Brownie box camera, creating a lifelong interest in photography. In her teens, Lee-Margaret traded the Brownie for an Agfa 35mm camera.

The family moved to Briarcliff Manor, New York when Lee-Margaret was a high school sophomore; she was an honors student, cheerleader, played hockey and tennis, managed and swam on a synchronized swim team and was president of the swimming club. She graduated from Briarcliff College in 1956 with an Associate of Arts degree.



Elizabeth and Lee-Margaret Vogel, with unknown woman at Nursing School graduation, 1962

A career in nursing initially trumped Lee-Margaret's interest in art and photography. While attending nursing school at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland, she met James Borland, who was studying medicine. Borland graduated in 1958 and began an internship at Johns Hopkins. After Lee-Margaret received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 1959 with honors, she remained there to teach senior nursing students.

In the fall of 1959 Borland invited Lee-Margaret for a Jacksonville weekend with his family on his father's 33-foot Chris Craft cruiser, The Jackpot. They decided to boat up to Georgia.

"They always towed a smaller johnboat. One evening Jim asked me out for a boat ride, just the two of us in the small boat. I remember the moonlight and Jim proposing to me, but mostly I remember looking up and seeing a big shrimp boat barreling right down on us!" said Lee-Margaret.

Despite their near-disastrous proposal experience, on Dec. 17, 1960 the Borlands were married in a Baltimore, Maryland Presbyterian church and briefly honeymooned in Washington, D.C. Borland completed a gastroenterology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in 1963, then couple moved to Jacksonville where Borland served as a U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. They moved into the Borland family home on Apache Avenue in 1968.



Jim Borland at 1950 graduation from The Bolles School

After completing his military service, Dr. Borland, Jr. entered private gastroenterological practice with his father, Dr. James L. Borland, Sr. in 1965. He is a former director of the Borland-Groover Clinic, founded by Borland, Sr. in the 1940s.

From the time they moved to Jacksonville, Lee-Margaret was active and held leadership positions in many charitable and civic organizations, enjoying what she calls "fun-raising" for charities. They were both Downtown Rotarians, and Borland was a Rotarian for 50 years, serving as president in 1997-1998.

"I did a great deal with the Duval Medical Society Auxiliary, Speech & Hearing Center, Heart Fund, the Children's Museum and Guild when it was in Riverside, the Jacksonville Symphony Guild, the Women's Garden Club, and I'm a sustaining member of the Junior League," Lee-Margaret said. "I was elected the first woman president of the Mental Health Clinic of Jacksonville in 1977-78, was on its board of directors and was committed to that organization because it served

Continued on page 39

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as the safety net for ex-patients of the state mental hospital in Macclenny, now Northeast Florida State Hospital.”

In 1983 the Borlands hired Gerald “Jerry” Pope to build their Ortega Point home. The couple designed the floor plan and hired the late Iris (Owens) Carneghi, a local interior decorator. After the home was finished Carneghi offered Lee-Margaret a job.

“Iris was six years older than me but we were like sisters. I can’t imagine anyone working together and getting along better than we did,” she said. “We traveled to market twice a year, flying to Chicago and New York and driving to Atlanta, High Point, North Carolina and Dallas. I always drove and Iris was the commander-in-chief.”

Lee-Margaret is also a professional nature and wildlife photographer and has photographed images of children, elderly faces, flowers, gardens and wildlife all over the world. She has captured underwater scenes from seven continents and most of the world’s oceans, many islands and Caribbean reefs.

She has won awards and honors in art and photography festivals and shows throughout Florida and elsewhere, including Jacksonville’s Best of Award and Bold City Best awards for her art gallery and nature photography. Her photography has been widely published and displayed in more than 38 states and abroad.

Lee-Margaret keeps long, heartfelt letters her husband has regularly written and sent to her throughout their 56-year marriage. She said he has always been an especially caring husband and father.

“We always had a weekly date night no matter what was going on and did as many things together as possible,” said Lee-Margaret. “Throughout his career when the children were young, he always took one child with him to the hospital on his rounds and would spend time one-on-one with that child... Jim made time to spend with each of his children no matter how busy he was.”

The Borlands had three children: James “Skip” III; Donia Elisabeth, and Christopher

Vogel, who was born prematurely and weighed less than three pounds. He struggled during his first year with infection, a hernia surgery and pneumonia, but lived to age 32, when he died in a tragic accident in 1998, leaving behind one son, Maximilian.

The Borlands enjoyed travel and one of their favorite frequent trips over three decades was to the Big Horn Ranches in north central Colorado, owned by good friend A.D. Davis, one of the Winn-Dixie founders.

“Jim had ridden horses during medical school when he worked at a summer job in Golden, Colorado, teaching children to ride. Jim’s father rode and had gotten him into leading pack trips over the Continental Divide. Jim always wore his father’s chaps,” said Lee-Margaret. “He took week-long trips out to work on the Davis ranches in spring when the calves were born. He rode on cattle drives, de-horned, castrated, branded and vaccinated cattle.”



Lee-Margaret and Jim wearing chaps that belonged to his father at Davis Ranch, 1992.

Lee-Margaret had never ridden but after Davis put her on a horse, she learned to ride and began to accompany her husband out to Colorado.

“We started to return to Colorado in the fall for round-up time on the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) lands. We were in the saddle all day. I learned to give the cattle injections and got pretty good at that,” she said. “It was an unforgettable experience. We spent at least 25 years enjoying our



Lee-Margaret and Jim Borland at Davis Ranch, 1969



Venezuela, 2000

cowboy life. I will never forget the kindness of A.D. when my father died. A.D. arranged for me to fly to Tampa from Colorado to be with my mother.”

During this period, in the 1970s, Borland was named the Young Internist of the year in 1972 by the American Society of Internal Medicine “in recognition of outstanding contribution to the practice of internal medicine by a physician under 40.”

The Washington Post Parade magazine featured a photo and article about Borland in September 1977 regarding his diet plan that permanently healed recurring ulcers in his patients.

He was named an Honorary Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida School of Medicine, 1979 – present. He was a clinical professor of medicine at UF School of Medicine and at UF Health Science Center in Jacksonville.

During his 31-year career, Borland was dedicated to research and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases, the teaching of medical students and residents and

continuing medical education. After his retirement in 1996 from gastroenterology private practice and after two years of globe-trotting travel with his wife, in 1999 Borland embarked on a second career, working as Associate Chief of Staff for Outpatient Clinics at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System.

In 2000, Borland was awarded Mastership in the American College of Physicians (MACP), a lifetime honor awarded in recognition of personal character, positions of honor and influence, eminence in medical practice, medical research or other accomplishments in science and medicine.

During that time, Borland also served as CMO for the Jacksonville Clinic. He was responsible for management of nine outpatient clinics and a workforce of 700 clinical, support and administrative personnel, for which he received a Distinguished Career Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He retired for the second time in 2011.



Jim, A.D. Davis, Lee-Margaret on Davis Ranch, 1969

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Riverside church celebrates 90 years of Lutheran heritage

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

While not yet its centennial, nine decades of serving the Lord and the community is worthy of celebration for members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverside.

A 90th Anniversary 1926 Garden Party is planned for Sunday, Oct. 23 at the Ortega River Club, formerly the German-American Club, a long-time social gathering place for Trinity members.

During this anniversary year, Trinity members celebrated with choral performances, a service led by its children and youth and a Heritage Sunday service, an “eat-one, share-one [with Sulzbacher Center]” pie/dessert event, among other fun activities. A cookbook, commemorative poem, slogan and banner were also created to note the milestone.

In the beginning

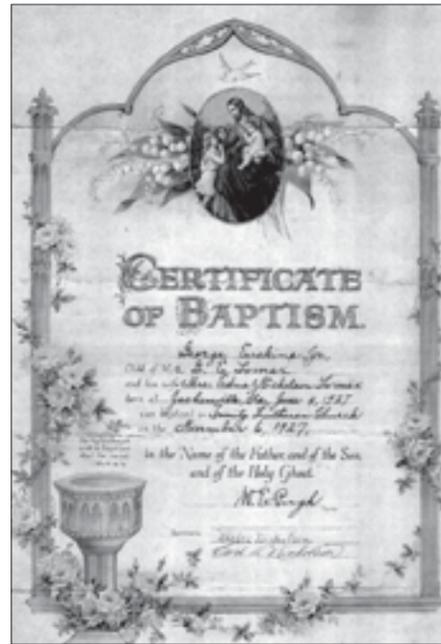
In 1926, as downtown Jacksonville grew and businesses began to surround St. John’s Lutheran Church, members living in Riverside decided to build a church closer to home, purchasing a lot at McDuff Avenue and Lydia Street for \$15,375.

Trinity Lutheran Church was officially organized with the adoption of a Constitution and acceptance of the Charter of Incorporation which took place at a meeting of the congregation on October 3, 1926.

A small building, fondly called “The Hut” by the members, was constructed to serve the congregation until the current church and Sunday School building were completed and dedicated on Feb. 12, 1928. The cornerstone of the building includes a list of

the members of the congregation, a Bible, Sunday school literature, and Luther’s catechism. The stone bears this inscription on its front surface: “The Trinity Lutheran Bible School.”

Many of the names of founding members are familiar ones in Jacksonville, such as Arpen, Braun, Holland, Lomax, Nease, Raabe and Witschen, of whom are named businesses, streets, and buildings. Of historical note, founding member Robert Kloepfel, Sr. spent \$1.5 million to build the Hotel George Washington in 1926. In 1927, Trinity’s first annual banquet was held at the 15-story luxury hotel.



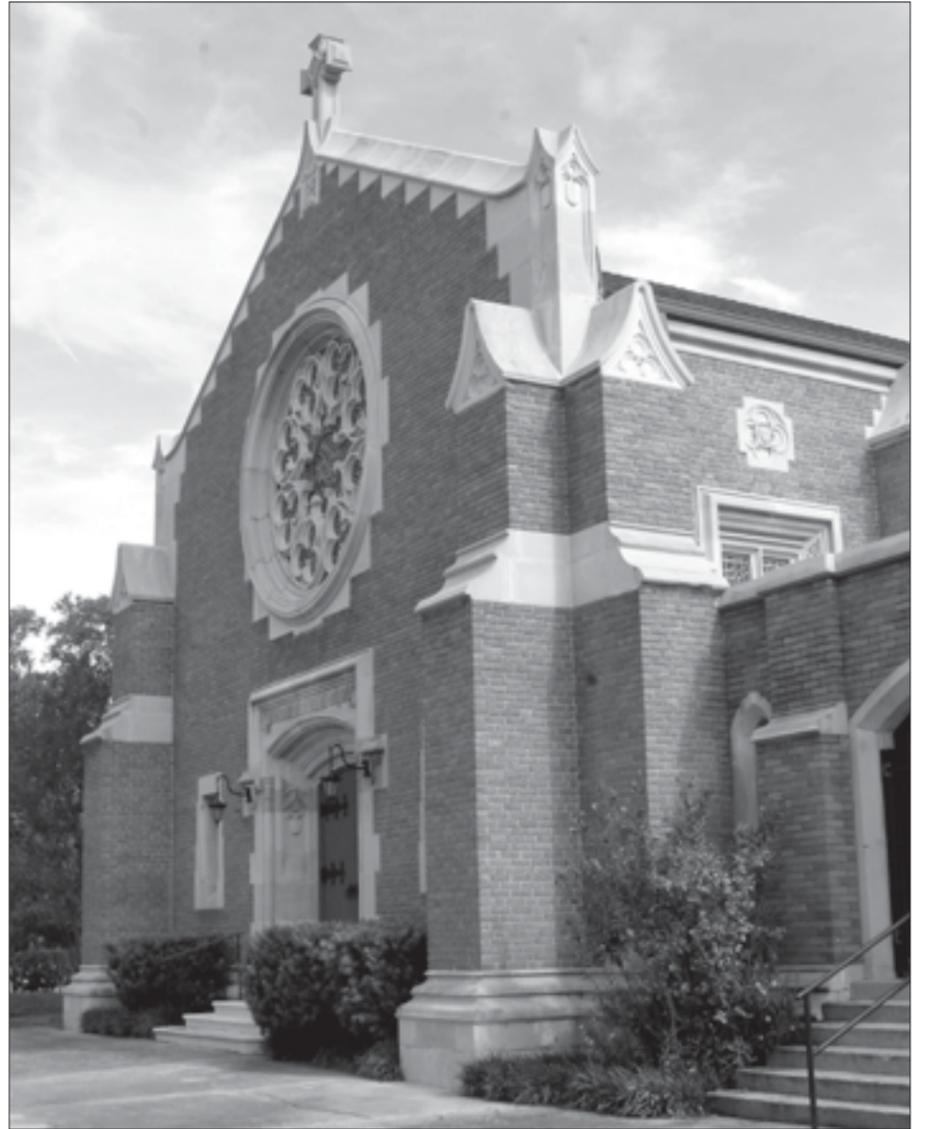
Baptismal certificate for George Erskin Lomax, Jr., who is listed first in the baptismal register at Trinity Lutheran Church in 1927.

Anne Lomax Billy, 87, was baptized, confirmed and married at Trinity Lutheran Church and is the oldest church member from a charter family. Her mother, aunts and grand-parents were all charter members. Her brother, George, who passed away in 2007, is listed first in the parish baptismal register.

Anne’s husband, Bill Billy, tells the story about their courtship while he was serving in the Navy at NAS Jacksonville.

“Barbara Chapell tried to introduce me to Anne saying ‘I want you to meet this nice young man.’ I think Anne said she didn’t want to meet any nice young man. Little did she know. I learned about Luther League meeting on Sunday evening so I planned on going there,” said Billy. “Anyway, the next Sunday I was in front of church and Barbara brought Anne over and introduced her. I attended Luther League that night and the romance started. We were married by Pastor Pugh, Trinity’s first pastor, on April 7, 1953.”

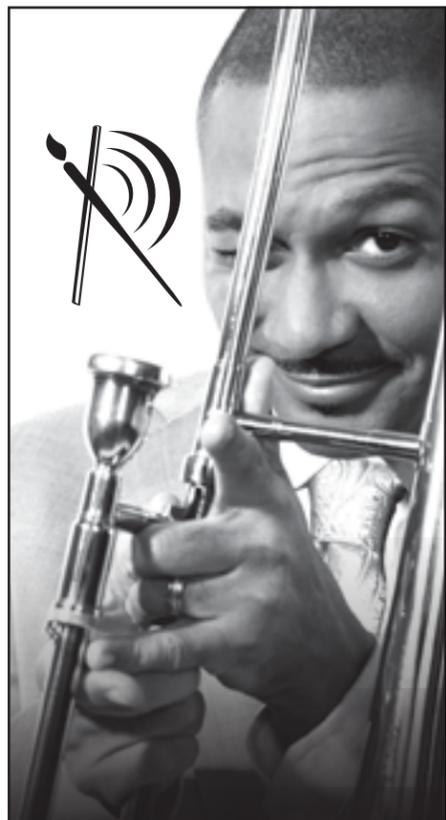
Continued on page 41



An inscription over the front door of Trinity Lutheran Church reads “Ye Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free.”



The Rev. W.E. Pugh with Trinity’s first Confirmation class, April 1, 1928, composed of Doris Brubaker, Virginia Leonore Davis, James Oscar Delcher, Gertrude Lydia Graessle, Richard C. Grove, William Stuart Holland, Ada Margaret Nicholson, William Gerhard Rorden and Charlotte Margaret Wilson



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The Trinity Food Pantry serves homeless and food-insufficient families in Riverside five days a week.

Building, not resting, on its laurels

Throughout its 90-year history Trinity's congregation has kept up an almost constant program of expansion and improvement, including the acquisition of more property in the 1940s, construction in the 1950s and 1960s, and renovations from the 1980s through 2006, when the kitchen was remodeled.

Two of the most notable phases in the building programs included the Riechmann Educational Building, which was built at a cost of \$53,182.35, and the Fellowship Hall and Recreational Annex. Named the "Hall of Memories," this building was constructed in 1962 at a cost of \$72,000.

The Hall of Memories, which can seat 600 in a meeting or serve 300 at a meal, has been used for church services and activities, community meetings, voting precincts, neighborhood and children's outreach activities and miscellaneous sports activities.

The sanctuary has been home to three organs, beginning with the original Moeller Pipe Organ, which served the congregation for more than 40 years. During a 1966 remodeling, a Rodgers 440 Electronic Organ was installed in the new balcony, dedicated as a memorial to Ernest G. and Anna Fink Reinhold. In 2002, a new Allen Protégé Electronic Organ was placed near the chancel.

During the 1960s Trinity also purchased a two-story house on Park Street. At one time the second floor was used as living quarters for the various vicars who have interned at Trinity. The house also served previously as home to Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida's mental health program and is currently used for the Trinity Food Pantry House.

Continuing to build on the generosity of its parishioners, new classrooms and meeting space were added in 1985, then in the early 1990s the church offices were remodeled and a colonnade was constructed to create covered entrances and to connect the sanctuary and the Hall of Memories. The



A memory garden in a colonnade connecting the sanctuary and the Hall of Memories was completed in 1994 and provides for a cinerarium used for the interment of ashes.

memory garden, part of work completed in 1994, provides for a cinerarium used for the interment of ashes.

The sanctuary itself underwent renovations in 1995 when a wood and glass wall was added under the balcony to create a narthex at the entrance to the sanctuary. The apse and altar areas were remodeled to incorporate a new organ and a choir box at the front of the sanctuary. The foyer at the entrance to the office suite and Hall of Memories were remodeled to create a more functional and attractive area.

Even after 90 years, the congregation remains vibrant and open to all in the community.

"I see Trinity Lutheran as a welcoming people that looks to share God's grace and love in worship and in the care for those in need throughout the community," said Rev. Robert Kinley, who was called to be Trinity's pastor in 2001 along with his wife, the Rev. Dr. Janis Kinley, who retired in 2012.



The Confirmation Class of 1953 included Jonathan Ahrens, Marion Barz, Lawrence Beyer, Robert Brown, James Hawkins, Robye Kight, Patricia McClure, Elizabeth Meetze, Henry Newman, Jr., Fay Norma Rudue, Charles Richards, Donna Rowe, Roy Schnauss, Frederick Seiler, Jacqueline Thurm



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Ortega teens named Merit Scholar semifinalists



Jared DeMarco



Alan Perry

Two Ortega teens are among nine in the Bolles Class of 2017 who were named semifinalists in the 62nd Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Jared DeMarco and Alan Perry join 16,000 semifinalists in an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$33 million.

About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, thus earning the Merit Scholar Title, according to National Merit Scholarship organizers.

“Last year’s PSAT was the first administration of the redesigned PSAT, so there was a little uncertainty among the students leading up to the test,” said Upper School Head Moya Marks. “While the content did not deviate greatly from the previous format, the way in which the concepts were tested was quite different. We are pleased but not surprised that our students did well.”

The seven other Bolles students also recognized include Kunal Kanaparti, Arthur Lee, Cassidy Mizell, Mercer Peek, Natasha Pillai, Ricky Thames and Journey Wise.

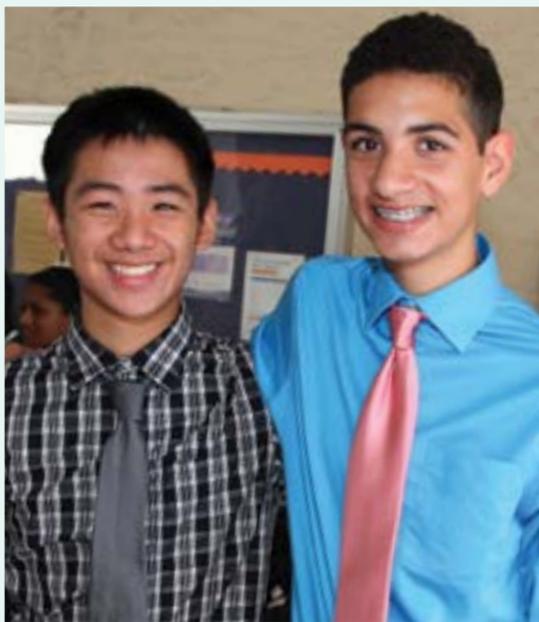
Jr. Residents

Camp Sunshine supports Angels for Allison



In its third year, Camp Sunshine raised \$2,200 for Angels for Allison, a nonprofit which provides funds to families suffering from the loss of a child. Founded by Annie Pentaleri and Sarah Page, the week-long camp run by high school girls hosted 24 campers ranging in age from 5 to 10 years old. The highlights of the camp this year were baking, water play, crafts, spa day, painting angels, dancing, games and a pool party.

Camp Sunshine campers gather around the banner announcing their donation to Angels for Allison. Back: Drew Haramis, founder of Angels for Allison, with camp counselors Olivia Kelly, Julia Preuss, Gracie Surface, Cameron Perry Walker, Gracie Morales, Sarah Page and Ashton Hannigan



FALL 2016 OPEN HOUSE DATES

Lower School (PK-5) Open House for Parents
Whitehurst Campus | November 9, 2016 9 a.m.

Lower School (PK-5) Open House for Parents
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus | November 15, 2016 6 p.m.

Middle School (6-8) Open House for Parents
Bartram Campus | November 8, 2016 9 a.m.
Bartram Campus | November 10, 2016 6 p.m.

Upper School (9-12) Open House for Parents
San Jose Campus | November 18, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

For more information and to reserve your space at one of our many Open Houses, visit www.Bolles.org or call (904) 256-5030.

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Promise Week funds new shaded playground

The fruits of a week-long social media campaign called “Promise Week” at Riverside Presbyterian Day School last spring were realized over the summer. When students returned to school in late August they were greeted with large shade structures over playgrounds and the Rice Sports Zone multipurpose area, which contains green-space, a track, a basketball court, the upper school playground and lunch areas.

During the “20K in May for Shaded Play” campaign, the goal was more than doubled when 166 gifts raised \$46,000.

After Headmaster Palmer Bell cut the ribbon on Aug. 30 to re-open the newly shaded and updated playground for pre-kindergarten students, RPDS’s youngest boys and girls celebrated with juice, cookies and, of course, lots of play in the shade.



Pre-kindergarten playground is now under shade, thanks to fundraising in May.



Headmaster Palmer Bell cuts the ribbon on Aug. 30 to re-open the newly shaded and updated playground at Riverside Presbyterian Day School.



On the Rice Sports Zone, students and faculty enjoy the large shade structure over the picnic tables and two benches on the field.

Catholic students celebrate Mercy Monday during Jubilee Year

Students at St. Matthew’s Catholic School celebrated Mercy Monday Sept. 12 during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. On this day in Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese of St. Augustine, there were hours conveniently scheduled for confession; there were also other forms of prayer and celebration to foster healing and the confession of sins as well as the receiving of God’s amazing grace of mercy.

St. Matthew’s Catholic prekindergarten classes presenting a rendition of the Our Father prayer.



Avondale teen represents Sea Cadets in India



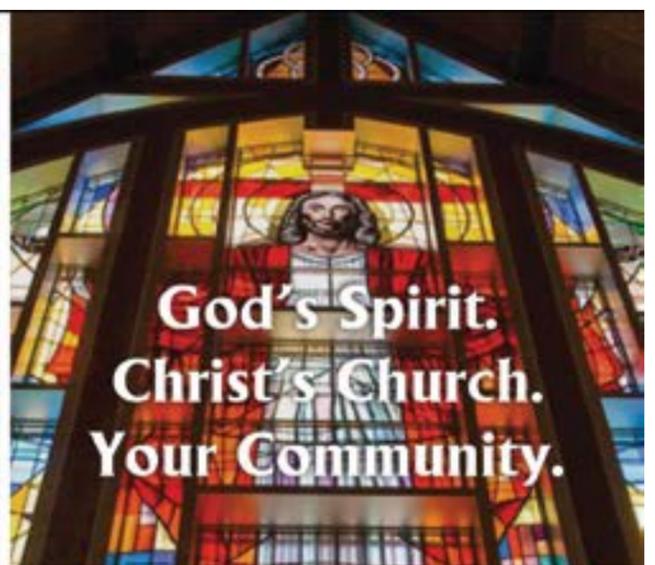
Vivian Dees

For two summers, Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Vivian Dees of Avondale served as a United States host for international Sea Cadets traveling here, but now it’s her turn to leave the country. Dees, a member of NAS Jacksonville’s historic F.D. Roosevelt Naval Sea Cadet Squadron, is one of only three cadets selected to represent the U.S. at the International Sea Cadet Regatta in Mumbai, India.

From Oct. 6-12, Dees will join cadets from around the world for the International Sea Cadet Association Regatta on Training Ship Jawahar in Mumbai, India. During the trip, Dees will take part visiting historic and cultural sites in and around Mumbai as well as interacting with the host sea cadets from India. Teams from each nation will also compete in a sailing, rowing and canoeing regatta.

“I’m honored and excited to be able to represent the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps at this event, but also my unit and its host, NAS Jacksonville,” said Dees, who was also selected to represent the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet International Exchange in a short film about the program. The film followed her experiences at the inbound exchange, where she served as a staff cadet host to sea cadets from seven countries. The video can be viewed at youtu.be/1lwAmMnuLuc.

Dees, Class of 2017 First Vice President of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, plans to pursue a career in the Navy after high school. In the community, she volunteers for the Navy League, K-9s for Warriors, the Elks Lodge and the Riverside Avenue Children’s Arts Center.





Sophomore Hannah Prudencio with World History teacher Chris Keyser of Ortega, sophomore Emily Skyles and junior Hannah McConnell

Find your perfect pumpkin

For more than 20 years, youth at Ortega United Methodist Church have hosted a pumpkin patch, providing area residents with fall décor and photo opportunities. This year they hope to break a record in sales, bringing in two full truckloads of pumpkins in all sizes.

The first load, weighing 43,000 lbs., was delivered Sept. 24. More than 60 youth and adults from OUMC and Ortega First Baptist unloaded nearly 4,500 pumpkins in three hours. According to the truck driver, it took a full day to load the pumpkins at the farm in Texline, Texas.

“This patch has been going on for over 20 years, and there are a lot of memories of pictures taken in the past,” said Shane Williams, OUMC director of youth ministry. “It is neat to hear parents come up and say ‘I remember when I was little we took a picture right there.’”

The annual youth-sponsored pumpkin patch at Ortega United Methodist Church continues through Oct. 31. Patch hours are Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Oct. 16, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. beginning Oct. 17; Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Pumpkins are loaded into the truck in Texline, Texas, prior to a two-and-a-half-day journey to Jacksonville.

Bishop Kenny students support International Bowls project

Bishop Kenny students, faculty and staff joined forces with the school’s art club to create empty ceramic bowls in support of the International Empty Bowls project in the art room on Sept. 20.

The bowls serve as reminders of all the people in the world who do not have enough to eat and will be used to raise money for Bishop Kenny’s annual Thanksgiving Food drive. Empty Bowls is a grass roots idea that many artists have personalized worldwide to fight hunger on a community level, said Sheila Marovich of St. Nicholas, a spokesperson for the school.

The bowls will be donated and become part of a Coffee House event, Wednesday, Nov. 16, where students and faculty will perform for the student body. Ticket holders who attend the Coffee House will be given a handmade bowl to take home. In addition, a silent auction of donated bowls created by the school’s advanced ceramics students will be held during the Coffee House performance.



Junior Savanna Ludden



Youth from Ortega United Methodist Church get ready to unload pumpkins for their annual patch. Front: Gilly McKendree, Lindsey Bullock, Savannah Williams, Barley Hilpert and Lee Bullock, back: Charlie Hendrix, Bryce Williams, Shane Williams, Pressley Hendrix and Wheeler Handford

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Annual Festival of Flight honors memory of children

Angels for Allison's 6th Annual Festival of Flight soared at Riverside Arts Market Sept. 24. Bigger, better than ever, the fundraiser was well attended and well-staffed with dozens of eager volunteers. Executive Director Carissa Hogan estimated about 6,000 to 7,000 attended the market, many stopping by to join in the festivities, which included games, inflatable slides, a raffle and craft beer sales.

The festival, which began in 2011 as an Eagle Scout project, benefits the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation's efforts to provide assistance with funeral grants to families struggling with the loss of a child. This year the festival raised over \$70,000.

The event began with a memorial service to honor the nonprofit's "angel" children and families. The service included music by On Point, and a quartet from Florida State College Jacksonville, a blessing and a



Angels for Allison Festival of Flight Executive Director Carissa Hogan, with volunteers Mandy Poidevant, Colin Hogan and Erin Hogan

reading of 220 names of each child whose family has benefited from Angels for Allison.

The foundation began in 2010 and raises funds through its community-based art program, Angels for Allison, which encourages individuals and groups to paint metal angels, which are sold throughout the year.



Bennett Crabtree wouldn't crack a smile for the camera despite friend Gertrude Hetzel's best efforts.



Hogan siblings Edward, Sadie and Betty enjoyed an inflatable slide at Festival of Flight.



Two local junior sailors qualify for 2017 team trials

Junior sailors take their mark for the start of a regional regatta. (Photo by Marty Mason Photography)

The Florida Yacht Club, in conjunction with the City of Jacksonville, hosted the 2016 USODA Southeastern Championship Sept. 16-18. The regatta featured 165 Optimist class boats, which raced the St. Johns River to the delight of more than 200 visitors and spectators from around the globe.

Wes Myler and Patrick Kunz, representing Florida Yacht Club, were two of the 45 junior sailors who qualified for the 2017 USODA Team Trials. Eight others who sailed for FYC included Scott Busey, Tom Commander, Bridget Monahan, Mary Kat Monahan, Will Weinbecker, Downing Nightingale, Julian Galpin and Max Zhalilo.



Mary Kat Monahan waits for the start of the USODA Southeastern Championship Sept. 16. (Photo by Marty Mason Photography)

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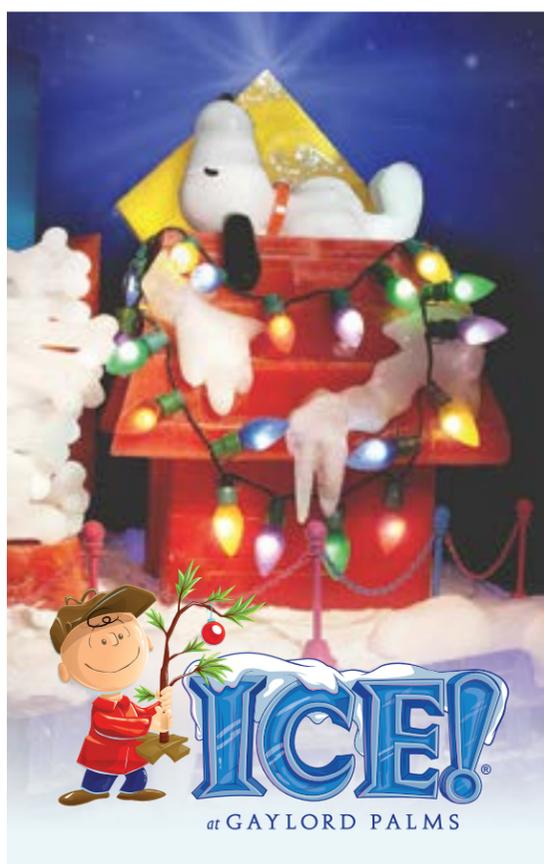


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Calling former Ruth Upson staff and students

Ruth N. Upson Elementary School, 1090 Dancy St., is continuing its 100th anniversary celebration with a salute to the school's historic past. All former students and faculty members are asked to contact the school to be part of a special commemorative event, sharing their recollections and anecdotes on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. in the school's auditorium.

"This is a great way to reflect on the rich history of Ruth N. Upson Elementary by



having alumni and teachers share memories and stories about their time here," said Yvonne Spinner, principal.

Those interested can call the school at (904) 381-7484 or e-mail couturey@duval-schools.org for more information.

Seeking next generation of artists



The Art Center Cooperative has announced a call for young artists, kindergarten through eighth grade, for a Little Rembrandt exhibit at The Jacksonville Landing, Thursday, Oct. 20 to Friday, Dec. 2.

All forms of art, two- and three-dimensional, will be considered. Art should be ready to be displayed, and need not be framed although it is recommended. Prizes will be awarded and there is a \$10 fee to enter. Deadline to submit is Saturday, Oct. 15. Contact The Art Center at (904) 233-9252 or email info@tacjacksonville.org.

An opening reception is planned for Friday, Oct. 21, 6-8 p.m. at The Landing.

Local school recognized for giving spirit

Pennies added up earlier this year when students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School collected the copper coins for a cause. To recognize their giving spirit, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society presented RPDS with a special plaque for being the top fundraising school in north and central Florida during the Pasta for Pennies fundraiser held last February. Students, who raised \$7,784.59 to support this great cause, will be reminded of their accomplishment when they pass the school's main office, where the plaque hangs.



Girls' troop cleans up local park



The American Heritage Girls of Avondale after clean-up day in Boone Park.

In honor of American Heritage Girls' 20th birthday, the Avondale troop participated in AHG's National Day of Service, cleaning up Boone Park North in service to their community and to give back to a place that has brought lots of joy to the girls.

Six families came out early the morning of Sept. 17 and filled seven trash bags from the playground down to Herschel Street. The girls enjoyed fellowship, learning about protecting the environment and even discovered critters along the way (minnows, butterflies, and a snake). The day also coincided perfectly with the national Coastal Cleanup Day, as they picked trash out of the creek that runs along the park's west border.



Barbara Gowdy with son Fulvio and daughter Lorenza, and Erin Meyer with son Matthew at CDO on the first day of school.

Kids ease into learning at CDO

Avondale CDO (Child's Day Out) welcomes new students Fulvio and Lorenza Gowdy and returning student Matthew Meyer. "We are very excited to welcome our new and returning students to our school and look forward to a wonderful year incorporating the academic aspect in a very enjoyable manner," said Cindy Lawrence, director.

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Kindergarten Open House

Wednesday, October 19
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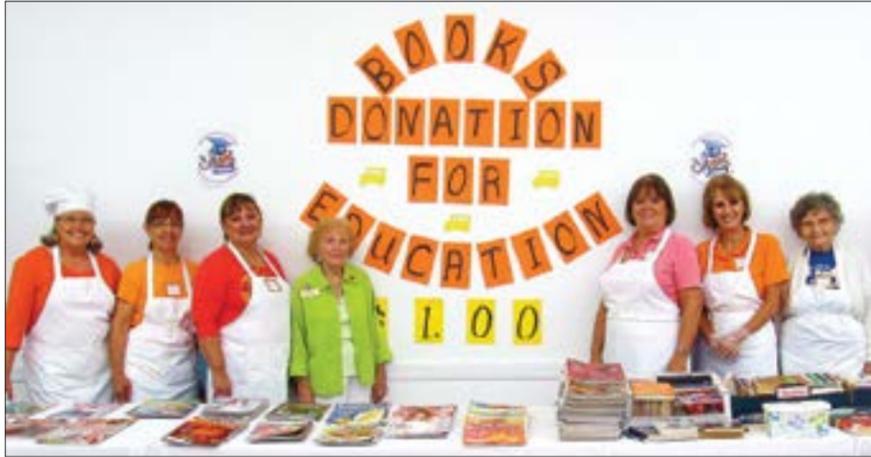
Community Happenings

Spaghetti Dinner benefits scholarship fund

The GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club will hold its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit its scholarship fund. The event will be held Thursday, Oct. 27, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at 2352 Lakeshore Blvd.

The spaghetti dinner is one of several fundraisers throughout the year for the scholarship fund. In 2016, the women awarded 10 scholarships to young women who graduated from local high schools.

At the start of the school year, Chris Buckley of Teacher Supply Depot, was the guest speaker at the September Soup, Sandwich and Sweets luncheon, where members brought school supplies to be donated to Bayview Elementary School and Lakeshore Middle School.



Nancy Ware, Pam Montean, Terry Laws, Millie Pierce, Paula Castleberry, Terry Ruberti, Ginger Barsamian at the 2016 Spaghetti Dinner.

International Observe the Moon Night

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) invites members of the public to participate in NASA's International Observe the Moon Night (InOMN), Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m., weather permitting.

Attendees will be able to observe the moon using telescopes that will be set up in parking Lot 1 at FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd. Lights in this area will be turned off for an unobstructed viewing experience.

Garden Club offers free events for men, women and children

- The Men's Garden Club meets Monday, Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave. The program includes Ladies' Night, a Mini Plant Sale, and "Use of Insecticides and Pesticides in Gardens" by Bayer Advance Representative Robin Allison.
- Glenda DuBose will present "Attracting Birds & Butterflies in the Garden" at the Women's Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave., Tuesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to noon. No reservations required.
- Budding Gardeners will meet on Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to noon at the Garden Club. Open to children, first through sixth grades, first come first served as space is limited. Register by called (904) 355-4224.
- Learn the art of Japanese flower arrangement at the Garden Club. An Ikebana demonstration and workshop is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to noon.
- Diane Seymore, Master Gardener with Duval County Extension Service, will offer a class on bucket gardening, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to noon. No reservations required.
- The Exotic Plant Sale begins Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairground Place, and runs through Nov. 13.
- The Men's Garden Club will hold its regular meeting with a plant exchange and a program on "AlterNative Plants" by Adam Arendall of the Native Plant Society, on Monday, Nov. 7, 7-9 p.m. at the Garden Club.

Play with clay

The Murray Hill Art Center will hold two ceramics classes, basic hand building and wheel throwing, in six sessions this fall. First, explore the aspects of creating with clay off the wheel. Instructor provides guidance for all levels of experience with special attention to newcomers. Then, learn how to wedge clay and how to throw basic forms. Visit artleaguejax.org for more information.

Trick or Treat events

- The annual Trunk or Treat at Ortega United Methodist Church, 4807 Roosevelt Blvd., will be held Sunday, Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m. The event is co-hosted by First Baptist Church—Ortega.
- St. John's Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Trunk or Treat, Monday, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m. in the parking lot at 4275 Herschel St.
- A Halloween costume contest will be held at Riverside Baptist Church, 2650 Park St., Monday, Oct. 31, 5-6:30 p.m., on the front steps of the church on the King Street side. The annual event is organized by the Park & King Merchants Association and Riverside Baptist Church.



Second annual Trail of Terror

The second annual Trail of Terror, sponsored by the Jacksonville Jaycees, will be held each weekend beginning Oct. 7 through Oct. 31. The very entertaining and often quite scary attraction is open to the whole family although children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and where to purchase tickets, visit jaxterror.com/scaryhauntedattraction/.

4th Annual Ryan's Run/Walk

Annual benefit to grow children's ministries in the Ortega community will be held Saturday, Nov. 5 at Ortega United Methodist Church. The 4th Annual Ryan's Run begins with a one-mile fun run at 9 a.m. and a 5K kicks off at 9:30 a.m. Run the beautiful tree-lined streets of historic Ortega and finish in the courtyard with a post-race celebration. Register at www.1stplacesports.com/ryans.html



7th Annual Moosehaven Heart of the Community Chili Cook-off

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Saturday, November 12th 2016

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\$Smart Women Make Change! is supported by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund, est. 2015.



Riverside Speaker Series launched

Following a successful trial, the Willowbranch Library, 2875 Park St., is rolling out the Riverside Speaker Series, featuring residents, business owners and others who share their stories about living and working in Riverside and Avondale the first Saturday of each month.

- Susan Miller, co-owner of Bold City Brewery, will tell her story of growing up a 'good Southern Baptist girl' to owning a successful family brewery, on Saturday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m.
- Neil Sindicich will speak Saturday, Nov. 5 about the upcoming Hall of Heroes, a new-to-Jacksonville comic convention, to be held Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Snyder Armory, 9900 Normandy Blvd.

Refreshments are provided by the Friends of Willowbranch Library and a local coffee shop. The series is free and open to the public, no RSVP necessary.

Free concert

The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville will hold a free concert, followed by a champagne reception, on Sunday, Oct. 16, 5 p.m., at St. John's Cathedral, 256 E. Church St. For more information, call (904) 513-1673.

Florida Master Naturalist Program offers Freshwater Systems Module classes

Adults at any knowledge level have the opportunity to learn more about Florida's freshwater environment through the Florida Master Naturalist Program's Freshwater Systems Module, jointly offered by the Duval County IFAS Extension and Amelia Naturally.

The course begins Tuesday, Oct. 25 and runs weekly through Nov. 29, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Yulee County Building, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd. The cost is \$230 per person; registration ends Wednesday, Oct. 19. For more information or to register, visit www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/

Annual ball to benefit Salvation Army

The third annual Red Shield Ball will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Deerwood Country Club. Honorary chairs are Helen Lane and Mary Virginia Terry, both of Ortega. Tickets for an evening of dinner, dancing and live music can be purchased by calling (904) 301-4845.

Free smoking cessation classes

A free six-week Quit Smoking class will begin Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2:30 - 4 p.m. and run through Nov. 8, at St Vincent's Medical-Riverside, 1824 King St., Ste. 100. Participants will get free patches, lozenges and gum with the free quit plan, workbook, water bottle, stress ball and more. Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189 to register and learn about more classes near you.



Free Sea and Sky weekend promises to wow audience

The most exciting air acts and military demonstrations in the world can be viewed in the skies over the First Coast on Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 5-6, at the Jacksonville Beach Oceanfront. The free event includes daily performances by the Blue Angels, the Geico Skytypers, F-16 Heritage Flight and more. Live entertainment, simulators, military vehicles and a kids' fun zone will also be available. Visit JaxSeaAndSky.net for more information.

Workshop for historic properties

Historic Preservation Process Overview Thursday, October 13, 6-7:30 p.m. Riverside Avondale Preservation Office, 2623 Herschel Street Free to all, but space is limited; sign up early at Eventbrite, search for Historic Properties.

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or have been here for a while, you may have questions about the City's process for historic preservation and how it applies to your home or business. The City Historic Preservation Planning staff will provide an overview of the process and how to apply to the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission for Certificates of Appropriateness for your project.

Car Show for a Cause

The Jacksonville chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presents "Car Show for a Cause," an event for the whole family. In addition to the car show, the free event features a fall-themed Kids Zone just in time for Halloween, plus artists, vendors, local food trucks, raffles and so much more. DJ Chris of Sunshine State Chevilles will emcee the event and provide the entertainment. Car Show prizes are "People's Choice," so everyone can get in on the action. The benefit will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at CenterState Bank, 1234 King St.

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Meet your neighbor, the new State Attorney, 4th Judicial Circuit

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

When Melissa Nelson takes office in January as 4th Judicial Circuit State Attorney, she will – in effect – be returning home. After graduating from the University of Florida law school with honors in 1997, Nelson spent 12 years working for then State Attorney Harry Shorstein before taking a job with McGuireWoods, an international law firm in Jacksonville, where she is Senior Counsel.

Since write-in candidate Kenny Leigh withdrew from the race the day after the Aug. 30 election, the position in the 4th Judicial Circuit is Nelson's. Before the new State Attorney hits the ground at a gallop, Nelson took a few minutes to share what makes her tick.



Melissa Nelson with her husband Jason, daughter Emory, sons Clem and Boyd, and family pet, Reeter

What initially motivated you to go into law?

My dad spent his career in law enforcement. I was inspired by him and his work

Having served both sides, defense and prosecution, how will that help you be a successful State Attorney in the 4th Judicial Circuit?

My experience prosecuting cases and defending businesses and individuals gives me an important and unique perspective and respect for the power of the State Attorney's Office.

Is there anyone in particular you would like to give a shout-out to regarding the campaign?

My Ortega friends and neighbors. They were amazing. I've been told we had historic primary turnout.

Not that you would have a lot of time, but...are you involved in any community organizations or efforts?

I'm involved with and love Leadership Jacksonville. [Nelson is a member of the Class of 2012, and was on the development team, 2012-2016.]

What reactions have your children had to winning this election?

They learned a lot about their city and Clay and Nassau counties. They are excited.

Do you have pets?

A retired canine companion, "Reeter," who is well known to our good neighbors in Ortega Forest.

How long have you lived in Ortega Forest, and what do you and your family enjoy the most about Jacksonville?

We've lived here since 2004 and we love the river!

What are some of your favorite places to have fun, relax, dine, etc.?

Our favorite places to relax is right in our own backyard! We love to dine at any of the restaurants in Avondale and Riverside. I enjoy being at the ball field watching my husband Jason coach and the kids play.

What would be the highest thing on your "If I had the time to..." list?

Spending time with the friends and family I love.

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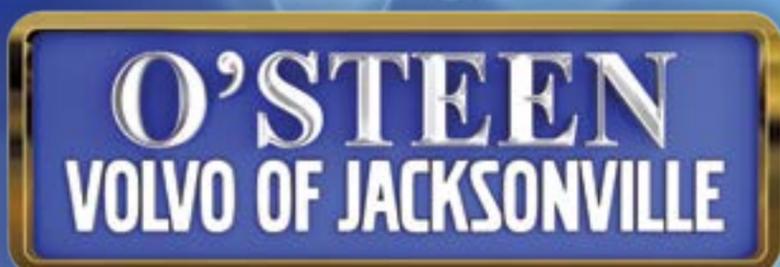
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