



Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

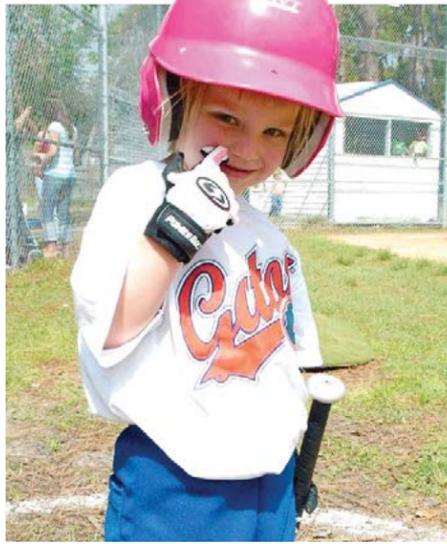
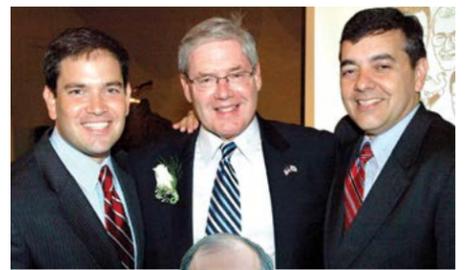
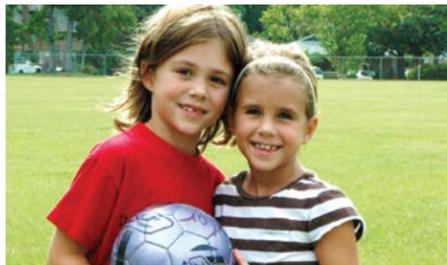
Riverside - Avondale - Ortega - Murray Hill



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January 2017, Vol. 11, Issue 01



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The Resident is one of my favorite sources of information; and I enjoy reading every issue. It keeps me well informed of all the wonderful organizations, people involved, and dates of present and future activities in Jacksonville. If you are out of town and can't attend an engagement, it is always nice to see good friends and others supporting our great city. There is no other place for getting such helpful information across our city. I don't know how they do it. It is marvelous.

— Betsy Lovett, Ortega



Publishers' Note

The Resident Community News Group has come a long way in 10 years. We are grateful that what began at our kitchen table a decade ago has grown into an enduring entrepreneurial venture.

Despite starting our company just months prior to the economic downturn in 2007, we've experienced rapid growth since printing our first 28-page issue. What began as a family operation with a single office space on Whiteway Corner, has blossomed into a thriving business that supports dozens of graphic designers, writers, and a full-time staff.

With its focus on the communities of Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill, the paper, which is free and mailed directly into residents' homes, was quickly embraced. We found the locals were hungry for a source of news that focused on the good works and concerns of the people and businesses within our tight-knit, family-oriented neighborhoods.

After its first year, *The Resident* was a fixture within our community, but we discovered residents on the other side of the river wanted a similar publication that reflected the unique nature of their own community. Early in 2008, we rolled out the San Marco, San Jose, and St. Nicholas edition.

Over the past 10 years, we have more than doubled our pages, extending our readership to more than 30,000 households on both sides of the river. Two years ago, we expanded our publications to include *Historic Life*, a newcomer's guide to Jacksonville's historic communities as well as *Circles*, a *Social Datebook & Charity Register*, which serves the philanthropic community of greater Jacksonville.

From our first issue, it's been our intention to become a community forum and provide a platform for clarifying neighborhood issues through sound community journalism. We are also committed to showcasing events and shining a light on selfless individuals and their achievements. It is our greatest desire to be a conduit for the community, the tie that binds, and we are grateful for the responsibility. The goodness reflected in the pages of our publications is only a reflection of the goodness within the hearts of those who live in our neighborhoods.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we extend thanks to our loyal advertisers, without whom we could not provide our loyal readers with page after page of newsworthy stories and features. If you've enjoyed *The Resident*, we hope you thank the advertisers with your business.

Pamela and Seth Williams

PUBLISHERS

Health of St. Johns River is everyone's problem

By Jimmy Orth
St. Johns Riverkeeper Executive Director

I wish I had a nickel for every time over the years that I have heard someone say how critical the St. Johns River is to our community. The river is often cited as a blessing, Jacksonville's greatest asset, an economic engine, the crown jewel, and even the reason for our community's very existence.

Despite the river's importance, we haven't always treated her with the respect and reverence that is warranted and implied by our words. Years of neglect, indifference, and abuse are now catching up with us, and it's not just the St. Johns that is threatened.

Most of Florida's waterways are suffering from significant pollution problems such as fertilizer runoff, poorly treated municipal and industrial wastewater, toxic chemicals and failing septic tanks. Combined with the impacts from a rapidly growing population that is projected to increase by another 14 million people over the next 50 years or so, we have a potential recipe for disaster.

Despite this gloomy outlook, the future of the St. Johns and Florida's waterways has yet to be written. We, the citizens to whom they belong, will decide what that future looks like. Will we accept the status quo and allow the health of our waterways to continue to decline or will we choose a more sustainable path forward?

To help answer that question, St. Johns Riverkeeper recently released a new documentary, "Troubled Waters." The film highlights the significant pollution problems that exist, the politics that are undermining our environmental protections, and the impending water crisis that we face. More importantly, it serves as an important call to action for all of Florida's rivers, lakes, springs, and aquifers.

Water is the lifeblood of Florida's economy and essential to our health and quality of life, yet we often act as if it is an infinite commodity that can be exploited and used indiscriminately. We simply cannot afford to continue to sacrifice our valuable water resources for the politics of the moment and the fortunes of a few.

We have an opportunity to right the ship, but we must act now by taking personal responsibility for our individual actions, speaking up and getting involved, and holding polluters, our government and our elected officials accountable.

Here is how you can get started at home and in your community. First of all, you can't take action if you don't know about the problems and issues that are impacting the St. Johns. There are many good sources to keep you informed. *The Resident* obviously does a great job covering river issues. The St. Johns Riverkeeper website includes extensive information and resources. The annual State of the River Report (www.sjrreport.com) from the University of North Florida and Jacksonville University provides an objective analysis of the current status and trends for numerous health parameters for the St. Johns.

Next, you can do a lot by doing your part to be River Friendly and reduce the impact that you and your family have on the river. By using less fertilizer, we can help prevent toxic algal blooms. By conserving water, we can protect our aquifer and springs and prevent the need for surface water withdrawals from the St. Johns. By conserving energy and choosing renewable sources, we can eliminate the mercury that is poisoning our fish and threatening our health.

Get involved in the local decision-making process. You can make a difference by making sure our waterways have a voice when zoning and comprehensive plan decisions are made. By speaking up, we can let our elected leaders know that we want to invest in our river by eliminating failing septic tanks, upgrading wastewater treatment systems, preventing polluted storm water from reaching the river, and providing access to the St. Johns.

We also have a critical role in holding our government agencies and elected leaders accountable. We must demand that JEA do a much better job of preventing raw sewage spills into our river and tributaries. By reporting violations to the appropriate agencies and following up, we can make sure that environmental protections are being followed, implemented and enforced. A perfect example is the construction-site runoff that silted in Willow Branch Creek and the citizens who stayed on top of the issue to ensure that the City took action to resolve the problem and address the damage that was done.

The bottom line is that clean water and good government require our participation. By getting involved and doing our individual part, we can save Florida's troubled waters. The future is up to us.

**Resident
COMMUNITY NEWS
GROUP, INC.**

**10
YEARS
2007-2017**

www.ResidentNews.net

Phone: (904) 388-8839 | Fax: (904) 423-1183
1650-302 Margaret St. #310, Jacksonville, FL 32204

PUBLISHERS
Seth Williams
seth@residentnews.net
Pamela Bradford Williams
pamela@residentnews.net

EDITORS
Managing Editor - Kate A. Hallock
News Editor - Marcia Hodgson
editor@residentnews.net

SALES
Debra McGregor
debra@residentnews.net
Tarryn Bradford
tarryn@residentnews.net

DESIGN: Joshua Garrett, Danielle Smith-Boldt

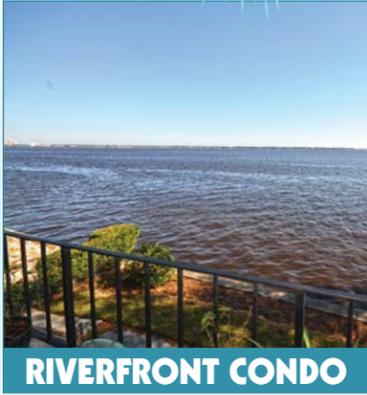
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Krysten Bennett, Julie Kerns Garmendia, Peggy Harrell Jennings, Kandace Lankford, Carrie Resch, Lilla Ross, Andrew Thurlow

The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of *The Resident*. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2017. Locally Owned and Operated

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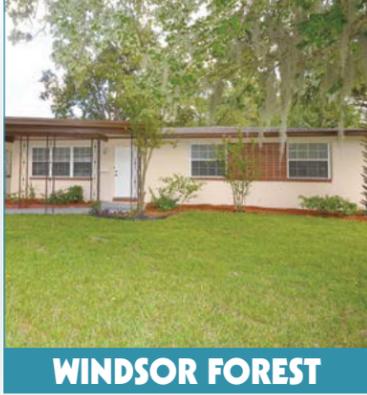
2017 is going to be a stellar year!
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RIVERFRONT CONDO

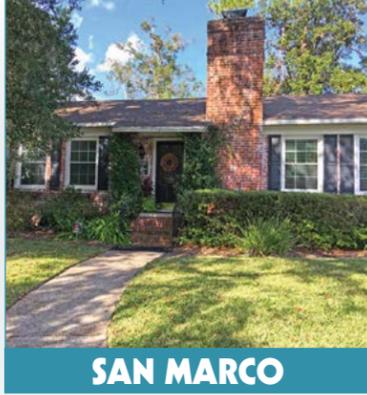
Tom Sandlin
904.237.0458

2950 ST. JOHNS AVE. #6 - \$279,000
Lovely 2/2.5 townhome in Rivershore Village



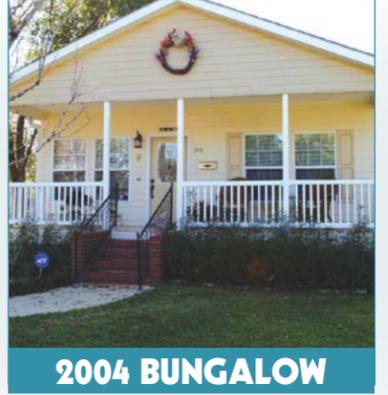
WINDSOR FOREST

5015 PERRINE DR. - \$109,000
Large lot, 3/1, 1336sf, freshly painted in & out



SAN MARCO

1727 KINGSWOOD RD. - \$279,000
Brick 3/1.5, charming inside & out, location!



2004 BUNGALOW

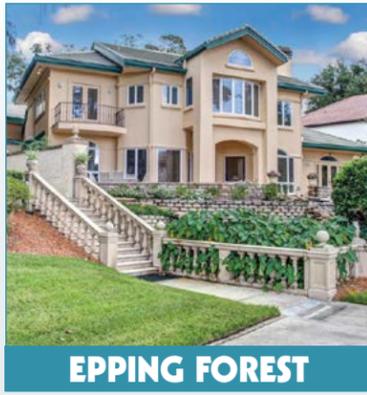
948 INGLESIDE AVE. - \$179,000
Adorable 3/2, 1352sf, in Murray Hill



NEW PRICE IN GRANADA

Ted Miller
904.463.1731

4028 CORDOVA AVE. - \$645,000
Brick 2-story 4/3, 3126sf, pool/poolhouse



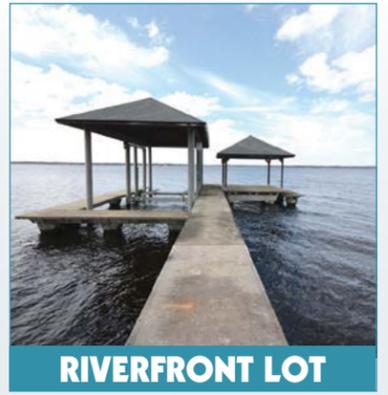
EPPING FOREST

7004 GAINES CT. - \$1,499,000
Spectacular custom 4/4.5, 4988sqft, river views



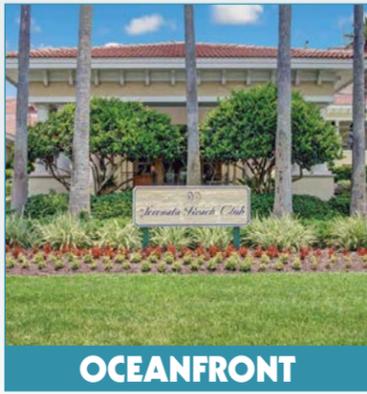
WATERFRONT + POOL

4333 VENETIA BLVD. - \$1,195,000
Amazing 4/5.5, 4428sf, pool/dock/lift



RIVERFRONT LOT

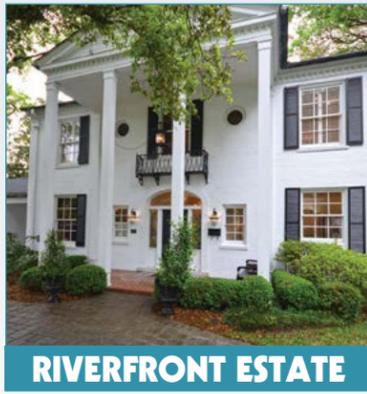
3190 STATE ROAD 13 - \$999,000
Gorgeous 1-acre lot in Rivertown, dock/lift



OCEANFRONT

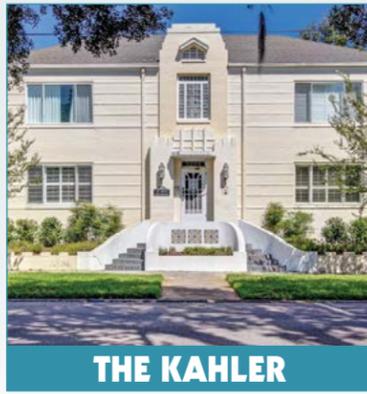
Nathan Miller
904.465.3001

220 N. SERENATA DR. - \$915,000
REDUCED! Gorgeous 4/3.5 1st floor unit, gated



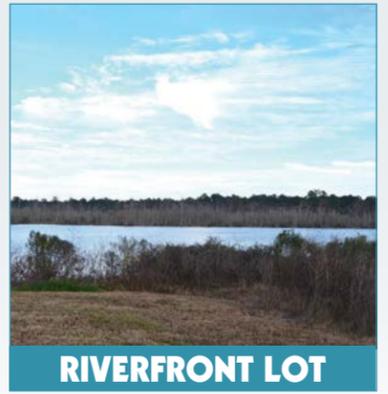
RIVERFRONT ESTATE

4091 TIMUQUANA RD. - \$1,775,000
Graceful 4/4 home on a 404' deep lot



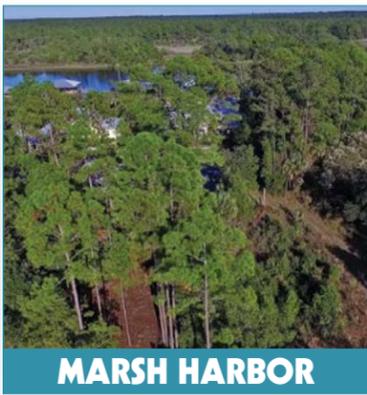
THE KAHLER

3225 ST. JOHNS AVE. - \$275,000
Ground floor corner, renovated, 2/2, 1385sf



RIVERFRONT LOT

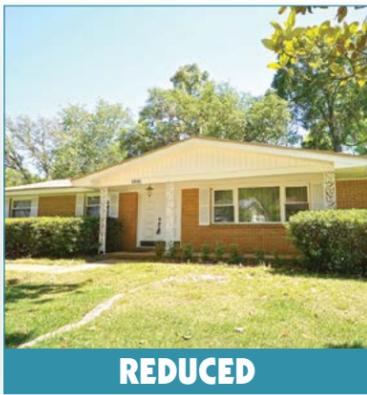
Lot 0, Ortega Cove Cir. - \$186,500
Build your waterfront dream home!



MARSH HARBOR

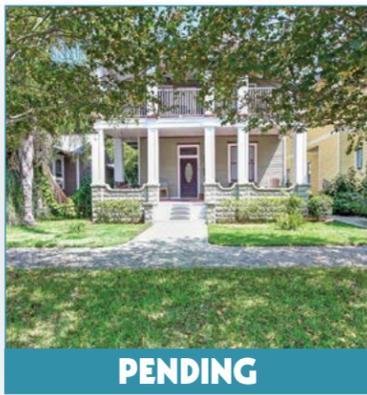
Fred Miller
904.699.6459

719 S. HARBOR LIGHTS DR. - \$224,900
Beautiful half-acre lot for your dream home!



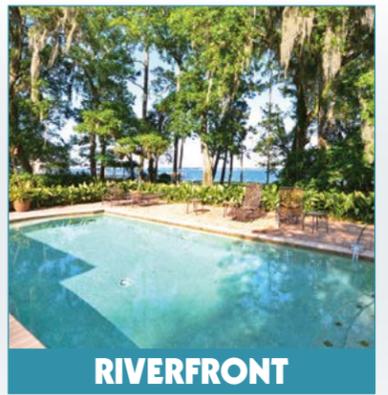
REDUCED

6846 MONTROSE AVE. N. - \$155,900
Lovely Hyde Grove Acres 3/2.5, 2010sqft



PENDING

1443 MARKET ST. N. - \$279,900
Springfield Historic 1909 2-story 4/3, 2888sf



RIVERFRONT

4939 MORVEN RD. - \$3,100,000
Spectacular 1.25-ac + home w/4556sf, 5/4.5



Alise Ferranti
904.434.0767



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Cheryl Russell
904.742.6593



Nancy Nooney
904.710.4786



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904.655.7220



Lindsey Smith
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I love *The Resident* because it keeps me updated on local news, highlights my neighbors' adventures and accomplishments, as well as keeping me informed about fun activities in Jacksonville. I just can't wait for it to arrive every month! A big thank you and congratulations to Seth and his entire staff for 10 great years of serving and highlighting our fabulous community and its residents!

— Sally Parsons, Ortega



Walkable neighborhoods drawing retail, residential development

Historic charm spurs interest, economic growth

By Andrew Thurlow
Resident Community News

Development is spurring big changes in Jacksonville as the city's unique nature and attractive attributes are drawing many new investors to its urban core.

For example, a plethora of new projects and businesses have sprouted up across 5 Points, Riverside's bohemian neighborhood, and begun to spill over into the Brooklyn area, such as Unity Plaza – the brainchild of Alex Coley, principal and co-founder of NAI Hallmark Partners, and Brooklyn Station, a mixed-used development by Regency Centers.

When former Riverside resident Mike Nicolo came to visit Jacksonville for the second time in five years he was more than taken aback by what he saw.

"When did all these stores and restaurants get built?" Nicolo asked, referring to the explosion of restaurants in 5 Points and the new storefronts in Five Points Village on Margaret Street. "It's like a city inside a city," Nicolo added.

Five Points Village, the Sleiman-owned property which burned down a few years

ago, houses seven new storefronts, which include the popular burger joint M Shack, as well as the Kaika Teppanyaki Asian Fusion eatery and Community First Credit Union.

Although Jacksonville's footprint extends far beyond its downtown area, its surrounding urban neighborhoods are not unlike the walkable, small-town communities many planners adhere to today, said Miami developer Jeff Morr, who acquired the four storefronts last year at 813 Lomax St. in Riverside.

"I believe people should live above or very near restaurants or shops so they can get exercise and get to know their neighbors instead of getting in a car and eating among strangers," Morr said. "It's a healthier way of life."

Location was a factor as to why he decided to invest in Riverside, Morr said, noting 5 Points is more than just a quiet spot. "It's an active, pedestrian community."

"I think Jacksonville is split into two cities: the beach and the mainland. Both are very different in terms of people and places," he said. "But I'm an urbanite. I love downtown and the Riverside area. It's my favorite place to be."

Morr's passion for investing in the area became apparent last year, when he bought The Renaissance apartment building at



Vista Brooklyn (Rendering courtesy of Bristol Development)

2008 Riverside and the Fans & Stoves Antique Mall at 1059 Park St.

Morr said he plans to rent the Park Street building to a "top-notch" restaurant, and one day hopes to turn the complex into a boutique hotel.

Much like the beginning of many business deals, Morr's attraction to the area came by word of mouth from a friend. As luck would have it, artist and entrepreneur Steve Williams had just made headlines by purchasing the historic Peterson's 5 & Dime building, but wasn't too busy to give his friend a tour of the city.

"From a bird's-eye view, the footprint of Riverside and surrounding communities is unbelievable," said Williams, who runs Harbinger Sign, a custom-sign fabricator company.

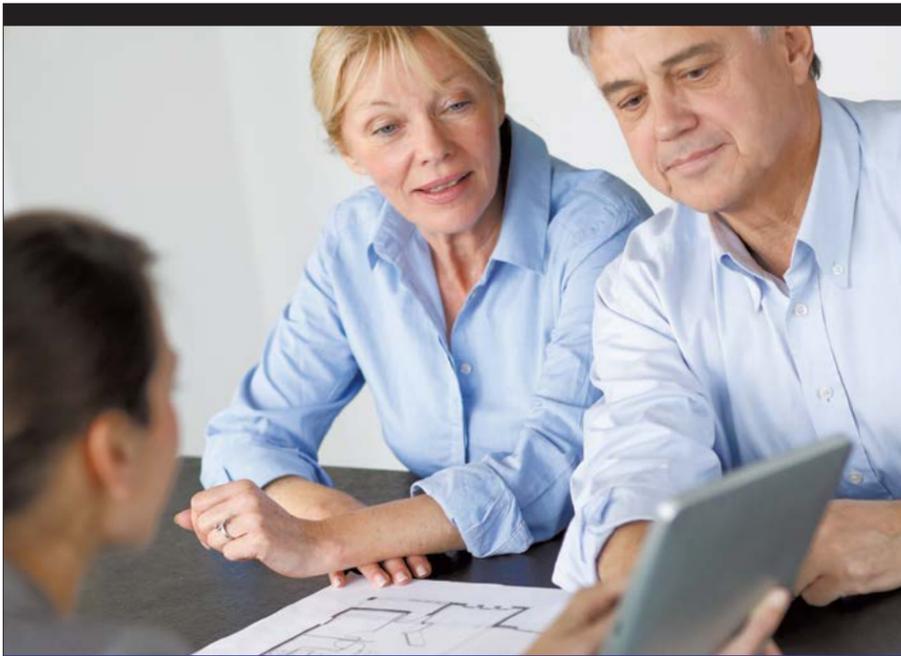
"In a second, all of it can be connected through walking, biking and even boating," Williams said. "The Native Americans used to take their boats down McCoys Creek to do their trading." McCoys Creek flows west to east, connecting the urban neighborhoods with downtown and the St. Johns River.

It was Williams' knowledge and familiarity of the city that ultimately influenced Morr's decision.

"Steve is the reason I came here," Morr said. "He gave me a tremendous tour of the city. I immediately fell in love with it."

The fact is that Jacksonville has its own identity, Williams said, and shouldn't be defined by what counts elsewhere, in

Continued on page 5



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I love *The Resident* because it's such a reflection of our local community. Reading about the new stuff that's developing, the businesses I use on a daily basis, and new businesses coming into the neighborhood really makes me feel like I'm a part of what's happening in Murray Hill.

— Brittany Bines, Co-owner, Ballroom Bliss, Riverside resident



Southern cities such as Savannah, Atlanta and Charleston.

"I think as a city, people are starting to wake up. Jacksonville is so historic and beautiful, and there is nothing else like it in the South," said Williams, whose new restaurant, Hoptinger Bier Garden & Sausage House, opens next month on the first floor of the historic 5 & Dime building.

"We're sitting right here on a river with all of these dilapidated buildings, and if we don't take advantage of them they're going to go away," he added.

As a new generation of developers work with, rather than against, an area's historic qualities, projects such as Brooklyn Station have served as a catalyst for the restoration of historic properties in the area and the establishment of a residential district for millennials who want more walkable neighborhoods with urban amenities and public transportation to downtown.

"The generation has switched. The people who weren't able to do projects 20 years ago are being replaced by a younger generation that brings (newer) talent," Williams said.

"Jacksonville is a city that has so many attractive opportunities and possibilities with a unique number of millennials. The more small projects, the more millennials, the more millennials, the more small projects," he said. "It has grown slowly, but there is a reason for that...we're super picky. If you build something with quality here, it's always successful."

Williams cited the popular restaurant, Black Sheep, as a demonstration of a successful model that simulates small business economic growth. "Small business projects are what is going to do it. A year ago, you couldn't count 10 things to do in Riverside, but now there are at least 10 things you can do on any given night," he said.

Last year, Williams bought Richards, the former 5 Points sandwich shop at 1030 Oak St., which he renamed Bread & Board. The full-service lunch and dinner eatery owned by Dwayne Beliakoff and Jonathan Cobbs is slated to open in February 2017.

From breaking bread to breaking ground

But it's not just restaurants that are breaking the mold. In late October, the Summit Contracting Group broke ground on the Lofts at LaVilla – a 130-unit apartment community at 995 Water St., near the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The structure will be 134,296 square feet and include a ground-floor parking garage. It is slated for completion in Fall 2017.

Plans are also underway for a 10-story apartment tower between 220 Riverside and Brooklyn Station. The project, dubbed Vista Brooklyn, is being developed by Bristol Development Group and NAI Hallmark Partners – the same partnership behind the 220 Riverside development.



The Lofts of LaVilla (Rendering courtesy of Vestcor)

The 300-unit apartment will feature 12,000 to 14,000 square-feet of retail space. The project is expected to break ground in June 2017 and will take about 18 to 20 months before it's completed, said Charles Carlisle, CEO of Bristol Development.

These new projects come as the demand for urban housing continues to grow across the country. But while the evidence of demand for urban living is apparent in Jacksonville, Carlisle said, the city is still behind in that market.

"What we're doing is not pioneering at all. It's [urban living] just not relevant yet in Jacksonville," he said.

For instance, in Nashville, Tennessee, there are 17,000-plus apartments in the urban area, Carlisle said. In Charlotte, North Carolina, there are 20,000-plus apartments,

and in Birmingham, Alabama, there are 3,236 apartments in the urban areas. In Jacksonville, there are only 1,290 apartments in urban housing stock, he said.

Carlisle, who cited the figures from a study by Cushman & Wakefield, said that out of 15 different metro areas, all the others are smaller than Jacksonville.

"A lot of the demand comes from the millennial age looking for that urban experience. A lot of people 50 years and older are also choosing to move out of their homes and into cities for that urban experience," Carlisle said.

"There is great opportunity in Jacksonville for urban-type living. Our conclusion is that Jacksonville is underserved when it comes to the demand for urban-type housing."

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1333 Silver Street
Stately 4BR/3BA historic Springfield home. Entry hall with fireplace, large eat in kitchen, granite countertops, hardwood floors throughout, laundry room. 3,858 sq. ft. \$380,000



2635 College Street
Nice Riverside Duplex. Each unit is 2BR/1BA. Living Area, Dining Area, Sunroom, Kitchen, Wood Floors and off street parking. Each unit has access to it's washer and dryer. 1,974 sq ft. \$264,500



2970 St Johns 3C
Beautiful 3BR/2BA in the Beau Rivage. The amenities are numerous, riverfront pool, fitness room, full time staff with 24 hour manned concierge. 1,822 sq. ft. \$244,900



4560 Royal Avenue
3BR/1BA Charming Bungalow in Murray Hill. Renovated and movein ready. Freshly Painted inside and out, new blinds, updated bath and updated kitchen. 1,176 sq. ft. \$169,000



2969 Downing Street
3BR/1BA Brick bungalow located in Riverside-Avondale. Open Floor Plan. The home could be a good starter home. 1,166 sq. ft. \$175,000



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Everyone knows that *The Resident* is THE community cornerstone for everything that's happening in and around our neighborhoods. What most of its readers don't get to see is the tireless commitment and professional dedication by its staff to promote our local charm, keep residents up-to-date, and engage visitors to the area to feel right at home. We are blessed to still have a neighborhood paper, much less one that's constantly looking to improve our sense of community.

— Lorri M. Reynolds, Vice President/
Managing Partner, Watson Realty,



Residents, businesses want design compatibility from Wendy's

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

After a public meeting was held Nov. 10 to discuss the razing and rebuilding of the Wendy's restaurant in 5 Points, District 14 Councilman Jim Love held a closed meeting in City Hall Dec. 7 to allow representatives from Riverside Avondale and local business owners to express their concerns with the proposed re-design.

The meeting began with a presentation by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) Zoning Chair Nancy Powell, who addressed concerns with site design, landscaping, building design, signage, and lighting.

"The current Wendy's was built in the 1974, and it is now surrounded by a vibrant, urban commercial corridor. As such, the Wendy's redevelopment is a critical opportunity for the future of 5 Points, whose master plan outlines an increase in walkability and traffic calming measures," Powell said in an email to *The Resident*. "Once built, this development will be there for the next 30-40 years, so it is an important opportunity to get it right and RAP will continue to advocate to see that happen."

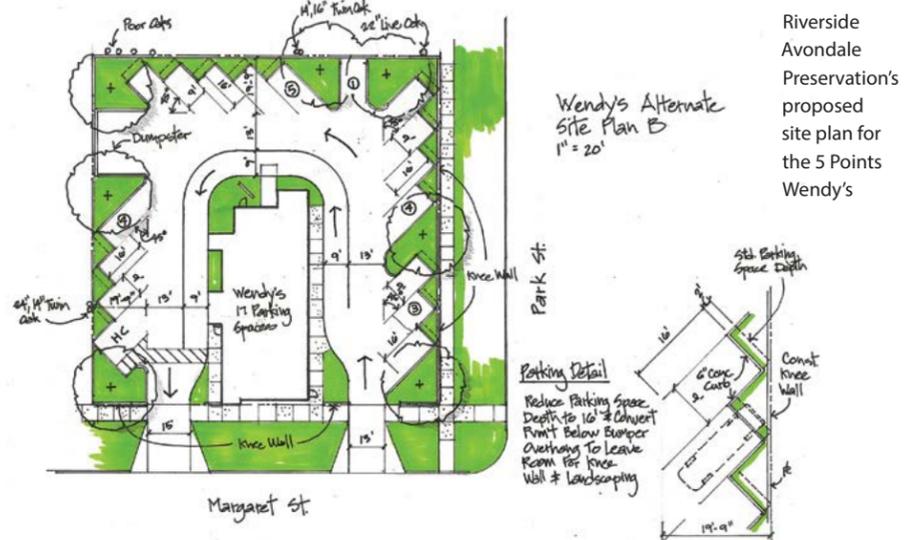
The proposed site plan leaves the Wendy's drive-thru entrance and egress on Margaret Street, creating a U-shape around the building, with additional entry from and exit to Park Street.

Powell said RAP's proposed example of a different site plan brings the building to the corner and pushes the parking to the back two property lines. "We have accommodated the drive-thru, and have shown that it can still maintain 16 parking spaces even though it is only required to have 12 parking spaces," Powell said.

The preservation group's proposal also requests "saw-tooth" parking to allow for the placement of shade trees along Park Street and the property's southern and western property lines. There would be 16 parking spaces, including two for compact cars and one for handicap-only parking. Wendy's plan provides for 17 spaces, including one ADA-accessible space.

RAP's zoning committee has been working to show the developers that there are more creative and better solutions than simply replacing a cookie cutter Wendy's building on the current site plan, which is not street or pedestrian friendly, said Powell. "In particular, continuing to place parking on the corner of Park and Margaret, with wide driveways and large amounts of concrete, is a hindrance to good urban design, walkability and pedestrian safety," she said.

Riverside resident and developer Ted Stein concurs, stating his biggest objections are two-fold: safety and a building design that does not cheapen 5 Points.



Riverside Avondale Preservation's proposed site plan for the 5 Points Wendy's

"There are two main factors that make the current Wendy's design unsafe and a liability to pedestrians," said Stein in an email to *The Resident*. "The first is the size of the entrance on Margaret [Street] so close to the intersection. For safety reasons this entrance must be shortened to reduce the risk of cars using the parking lot as a cut-through, and to have less of an area where speeding drivers can hit people walking by. "The second is not having a knee wall along the Park Street side," he continued. "Without this [knee wall] the overhang of trucks that pull up quickly can hit pedestrians in the sidewalk. It's unacceptable to not have a barrier between the parking lot and the sidewalk."

The corporate design for rebuilt Wendy's restaurants includes a massive red "blade" – a large, thin vertical panel on which the Wendy's logo and name would be placed. RAP has suggested modifying the blade by shortening the height not to exceed three feet above the roof, and by integrating it with the building to break up the mass of the panel.

Stein also said the blade was out of context with the nature of the neighborhood.

"My objection to the building design is the bright red blade that towers over the building," he said. "If they did a wood tile or brick I think this would work for the neighborhood. Having a highway-designed store in a historical urban neighborhood would be a disaster."

The design proposed by RAP also included a request for awnings, brick knee walls at the window base, and incorporation of

brick in what is otherwise a mostly glass and wood structure.

Jay Glatting, who owns commercial property across Margaret Street, is also concerned about blending the new Wendy's in with the neighborhood.

"I consider this to be a historic, charming area and would like the design to reflect what's going on there," he said. "It has a prominent spot at this intersection, so making their design in brick, with a height similar to other buildings and blending in while retaining the fact that it is a Wendy's would be the best."

During the 70-minute meeting, Steve Diebenow, attorney for the applicant (property owners Frederick and Daniel Brown) and, by extension, Wendy's franchisee Meritage Hospitality Group and The Wendy's Company, indicated the site plan would not change and neither would the parking design. According to Love, what Diebenow said might change, with Wendy's corporate approval, is the architectural design, landscaping, the knee walls and sidewalk.

"In discussions thus far, the developers have said they will consider our input, but indicated that it is very difficult to get variations through corporate Wendy's," said Powell. "They have not yet agreed that they will accommodate even minimum requirements such as building a knee wall or install proper landscaping, but we are hopeful they will see that these measures will not only increase the attractiveness of their site, but add to the success of the business and the community as well."




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Since I moved to Jacksonville I've become more involved in my community than I have ever been. I love *The Resident* because every time I open it I see the faces of people I know and care about who are doing great things in my neighborhood.

— Cari Sanchez-Potter, Riverside



Launching in 2007, *The Resident* transcended tough times

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Residents of the historic neighborhoods were amazed when Pamela and Seth Williams decided to start up a community newspaper during the recession 10 years ago. However, *The Resident* immediately sparked the community's interest with its fiercely local coverage of all things concerning Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill. Even better was the fact that it was free and mailed directly into residents' homes.

In no time at all, *The Resident* became embedded in the fabric of the community, with residents from the San Marco side of the river clamoring for a separate edition of their own, hence the San Marco edition was born in 2008, still within the grip of the economic downturn.

After publishing 120 issues of *The Resident*, the content continues to be valuable and enlightening, clearly targeted

to inform and empower the community through connection and awareness. Neighborhood residents have met each other, formed bonds, and discovered their local organizations, charities, clubs, businesses, activities and events in *The Resident's* monthly information-filled pages.

Two comments have often been repeated by readers over the past 10 years that perfectly describe the purpose of this community newspaper: *The Resident* is positive and finds the good news to report – often information that is completely overlooked by other media – and it communicates fairly on everything that is newsworthy within the historic district.

If a proposed new development or city ordinance could affect the historic district or *The Resident's* readers, the staff policy has been to cover, closely monitor and report on the issue in the newspaper.

The Resident continues to fulfill its early commitment to serve as a trusted voice for and to the historic district

residents and to welcome community input. Readers are encouraged to respond with a letter to the editor, a rave or rant, a correction or additional information, or to submit suggestions for articles or concerns about neighborhood issues.

During the past decade, The Resident Community News Group, Inc., has grown to publishing two monthly newspapers covering historic districts on each side of the St. Johns River, as well as an annual *Historic Life – Neighbors and Newcomers Guide* and *Circles – Social Datebook & Charity Register*. In addition, two websites share the news digitally. Readers can find a virtual copy of each monthly issue at residentnews.net, while circlescharityregister.com includes a comprehensive register of Northeast Florida nonprofits and a monthly calendar of benefits and fundraising events.

Share your news and opinions with us! Email editor@residentnews.net or call us at (904) 388-8839.



By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Much has changed within *The Resident's* coverage areas over the past 10 years. Development, renovations and growth in the historic district were hot topics throughout 2007 in the pages of *The Resident*.

1661 Riverside

Of the 90 residential units planned at 1661 Riverside Ave. across from Memorial Park, 80 were under contract and construction was near completion. A four-story stucco-over-concrete-block condominium building now sits above street-level retail stores on Margaret Street. The first residents moved in during March 2007, according to Wynn Fendig of Property Management Systems.

Chelsea Lofts

Chelsea Lofts, a three-story building comprised of 20 loft condominiums is tucked into its historic district location at 2064 Herschel Street at the corner of Goodwin. When *The Resident's* first issue launched, seven units had been sold. Completed later in 2007, the structure won awards for most historically compatible development and construction.

Bishopgate Lane

Bishopgate, a high-rise residential building of 80 new condominiums was planned for the site on Bishopgate Lane in 2007, according to William G. Pitts, president of W.G. Pitts Company. That project was never completed.

In November 2016 TriBridge Residential, an Atlanta developer, released plans for a multi-family apartment building and other amenities still in the planning stages, to be constructed on two sides of Bishopgate Lane. The 1.83-acre site comprised of two parcels included an historic home owned by Margaret Gould Weed, which was demolished in 2013 to make way for a planned unit development through Hallmark Partners, which pulled the plug a year ago.

Daughters of Charity move into new home

The Resident's February 2007 cover story reported the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent's Medical Center would be moving into their new Riverhouse home at 1878 King St. by the end of the month. The new residence replaced the nuns' former home at Powell Place, which then became a private residence.

The new Riverhouse provided living quarters for the nuns on the second floor, while the first floor included a chapel, riverfront patio and gardens, spirituality center, library, large conference room and two-story parking garage. In 2007 Sister Cora Anne Signaigo said that there was also some available lodging for out-of-town hospital patients and their families.

In 2007 Spirituality Center Director Jack Logue described the center as a place to support employees and associates in their personal wellness of body, mind and spirit so they can give their very best. The Daughters of Charity left St. Vincent's in 2014 for new challenges in other cities.



St. Vincent's Spirituality Center and Riverhouse

Construction at Willowbranch Library

Major construction at Willowbranch Library was undertaken in 2007 to repair damages from serious drainage and flooding problems, according to Kortney Mosley, Jacksonville public information office. Water damage was sustained on the lower library level to walls and carpeting, but no books were damaged because of the efforts of library staff, according to Stacie Bucher, Jacksonville Public Library communications manager.

In September 2014, heavy rains again damaged and flooded the library, and it was closed for more extensive interior and exterior repairs and renovations, according to Olga Bayer of the Jacksonville Public Library's Community Relations & Marketing Department.

"The basement windows and wallboard had to be replaced, new carpets installed with new circulation desk and lounge furniture. The upper floor's arched windows were removed and re-glazed. All frames were cleaned and refinished and everything was repainted," Bayer said about the oldest branch library in Jacksonville.



Repairs being made after water damaged the Willowbranch Library's lower level in 2007.

Murray Hill Park transformed

In February 2007, Murray Hill Athletic Association's President Richard Hamilton told *The Resident* that the formerly run-down park had been "transformed into a safe haven for children and a playing field for champions." By working in cooperation with the City over many years, Hamilton said the association was able to install three new baseball fields, a playground and a paved walkway. The new amenities were funded with \$200,000 from The Better Jacksonville Plan with the help of former District 14 City Councilman Jim Overton.

Ten years later the park sits in need of repairs to one of its two restrooms, the concession stand and the bleachers, according to new MHAA President Joshua Cook, who said the City wants to shut down the park for a year to change its layout, cutting out one of the five ballfields and the track.



A coach gives tips to members of a Cal Ripken Baseball League team at Murray Hill Athletic Association park.



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— Clark LaBlond, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Director of Career Development, Avondale



Commander Tower Apartments and St. Johns Village Center

Ten years ago, the proposed re-development of the Commander Tower Apartments and St. Johns Village, located on St. Johns Avenue near Fishweir Creek in Avondale, had been shelved while new development partners were being secured, according to Michael Balanky of Chase Properties, who was retained by the property owners to head their first development project. Land use approval for 166 residential units had already been obtained, with Jacksonville City Council approval.

In 2013, Balanky's plans were to demolish the Commander for new construction of 240 apartments, but the New York family who owned the property could never agree on the scope of the project and that plan, too, was shelved.

Finally, in 2016 the Commander apartments and St. Johns Village on Fishweir Creek were sold to Chance Partners of Atlanta for \$5.8 million. The new owners intend to completely renovate the Commander and add more apartments, according to Brian Moulder, CBRE Executive Vice President and the broker who handled the sale.



The Commander Tower Apartments

Ortega Landing Marina

Initial plans for the Ortega Landing Marina at 4234 Lakeside Dr., across the river from Old Ortega, called for 74 units, four penthouses and a 192-slip marina with clubhouse, according to Captain Kris Schmid, Harbormaster for the marina. The planned unit developed was scaled back to 40 larger condominiums, with groundbreaking in March 2007.

The development was started by MLG Capital, a Wisconsin developer who completed construction of a clubhouse with pool and marina in 2007. Also completed was the first building of eight condominiums in 2008, but due to the economic recession, construction plans were cancelled for the remainder of the approved residential units.

In 2010, the new owner, The Marina at Ortega Landing, Inc., opted not to build more condominiums and abandoned plans to sell "dock-miniums," referring to the sale of boat slips at the marina as floating home "lots." Instead, the 192 slips at the marina are lease-based and remain at high capacity year-round, according to General Manager Warren Hickernell.

"In the future, because the original PUD is still in effect, the remaining 2.5-acre site could be developed. It is currently for sale," Hickernell said.



The Ortega River Boatyard, also known as Graham's Boatyard, in 2005 prior to demolition.

Bed & Breakfast Inns

In 2007 *The Resident* reported that five bed and breakfast inns were operating in the historic district, however, a sixth bed and breakfast was inadvertently left out of that 2007 article. The Riverdale Inn B & B, which opened in 2003, is still a successful, family-operated business on Riverside Avenue. Of the five noted, Dickert House B & B, Jenks House B & B and the St. Johns House B & B also remain in business, while Downing Street B & B and The House on Cherry Street B & B have closed.

The Renovators

Mike Shad and his sons Jack and Bill finally completed renovations to the 5 Points Theatre building, reported *The Resident* in 2007. The building opened in 1927 as the Riverside Theater and was later renamed the 5 Points Theatre in 1949. In 2004, an extensive \$4.5 million renovation took place, converting the upper floors to 26 offices with retail shops on the ground floor, where local resident Drew Johnson's City Cycle, Procyon European bath and beauty products owned by Jana Hackel, and Keith Combs' Urbane upscale furnishings and décor were located.

In 2009, Procyon and Urbane both closed. Keith Combs, who owned Urbane until closing is a homeowner in the 5 Points area and works as intellectual property manager for Salt Life.

Johnson moved City Cycle to 2740 Park Street and sold the business in September 2015 to Brady Irwin, according to current store manager Alice Gould, an Avondale resident. She said a major reason for the move was the opportunity to have a freestanding building and more parking.



The iconic movie house in 5 Points before and after a \$4 million renovation

The Shad family still owns the 5 Points Theatre building, where the Sun-Ray Cinema opened in 2011 after proprietors Tim and Shana Massett put more than \$100,000 into renovating the moviehouse.



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My favorite thing about reading *The Resident* is that they have the best event coverage for the urban core neighborhoods. I always get to see photos of my friends at different events and when I'm involved in planning an event I know *The Resident* will be there to cover it.

— Daniel Austin, Riverside



Plans for new Riverside restaurant include rooftop dining

Rezoning application in review

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Two years after renovating three floors in the iconic Fletcher Building at 1000 Riverside Ave., Padgett Premiere Properties, LLC, has applied for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to rezone approximately 1.90 acres of property from Commercial Residential and Office (“CRO”) to PUD in order to install a new, full-service restaurant.

The eight-story building, designed by Mid-Century Modern architect Taylor Hardwick in 1963, was purchased for \$3 million in October 2014 by Padgett. The building, previously owned by Florida Physicians Insurance Company (also known as First Professionals Insurance Company) from 1995 to 2014, was renamed Summit Tower.

In early 2015, the property underwent a \$500,000 renovation of Floors 6-8 for Summit Contracting Group, an affiliate of Padgett. In 2016, Padgett spent another \$930,000 in tenant build-outs, alterations and repairs, as well as window and door replacements.

At the time of the 2015 renovation, Nicole Padgett, vice president and chief administrative officer, indicated the company had plans to turn the first floor of the office

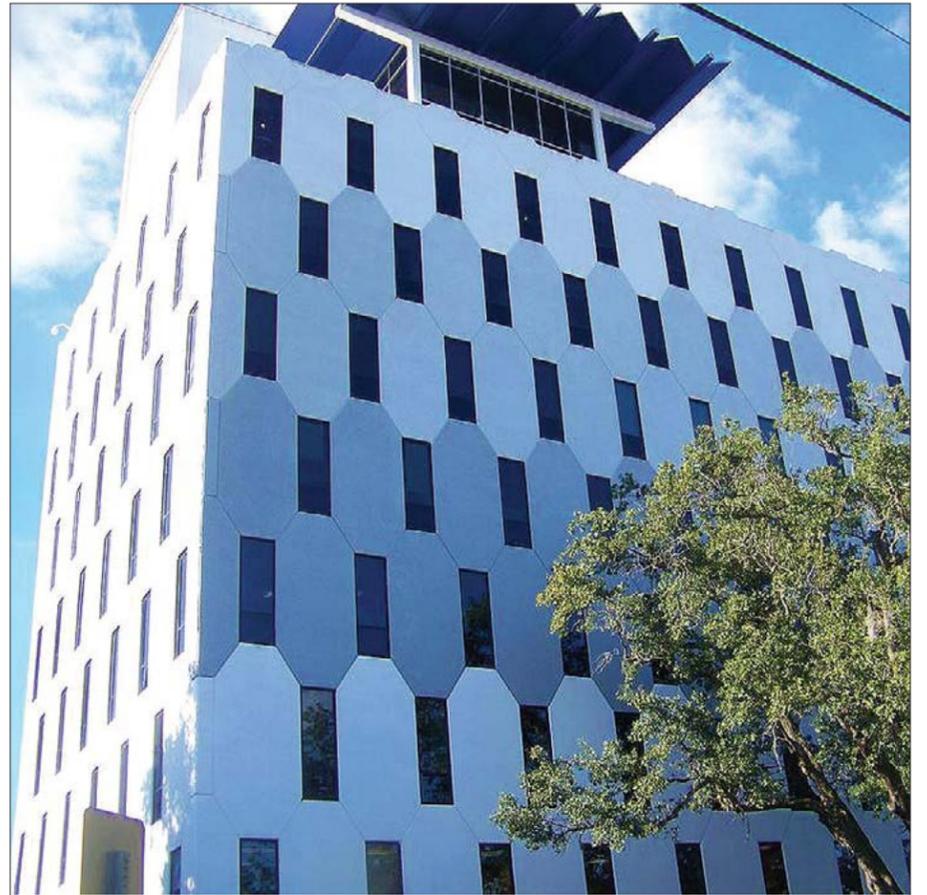
building into retail space, housing either a high-end gym or a sandwich/coffee shop.

The PUD application, filed Nov. 15, 2016 on behalf of Padgett by attorney Steve Diebenow of Driver, McAfee, Peek & Hawthorne, indicates the nearly 85,000-square-foot office building will serve as a mixed-use property with a 435-seat, full-service restaurant occupying the first and ninth (rooftop) floors and approximately 69,461 square feet of office space occupying the second through eighth floors.

The PUD will provide for new use as a restaurant with outside sales and service, including full service of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption only, which could not be accomplished through conventional zoning.

With onsite parking and an additional parking lot across Post Street, 159 parking spaces including five ADA accessible spaces will accommodate patrons of the proposed restaurant.

At press time, there were no details shared with *The Resident* about the type of restaurant or its hours. Public hearings by City Council, Land Use and Zoning Committee or the Planning Commission have not yet been scheduled. The PUD application was being reviewed by the city’s Planning and Development Department late last month.



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— Autumn Combs, Fairfax



Riverside welcomes Skyway expansion proposal

San Marco could be next

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

News that the Jacksonville Transportation Authority has decided to extend the Skyway to Riverside was greeted with exclamations of “Cool” and “Brilliant!” and lots of questions.

- Where are they going to put it?
- Where's it going to stop?
- When's it going to start?
- How are they going to pay for it?
- The answer: No one knows yet.

The new system, given the green light at JTA board's December meeting, would also go to the Sports Complex

and could include a route to San Marco when The District residential community opens.

“We call it Skyway, but it will be vastly different than it is today,” JTA CEO Nathaniel Ford told the JTA board.

The new system will use driverless cars that can travel on an elevated track or at ground level, thus making it much more flexible.

When the Skyway went on line 27 years ago, JTA had great hopes the system would transform public transportation in downtown. But the 2.5-mile system never really caught on even though it is free. And the once-advanced technology is now obsolete.

For the past year, a JTA committee has been studying options for the future. One thing is very clear — Brooklyn and Riverside are becoming a residential hub, increasing the need for public transportation.

“Anything that encourages transportation would be a good thing,” said Tim Massett, owner of Sun Ray Cinema in 5 Points. “People are talking about it. It's a start. People have a perception that it's difficult to park in 5 Points, but it's not as hard as people think it is.”

Allan DeVault, owner of Black Sheep restaurant, said he thinks the proposed expansion would be “awesome.”

“I can take it from Black Sheep to our new spot downtown and then on to BLK SHP [restaurant] at Intuition [Ale Works],” DeVault said.

JTA doesn't have a timeline yet for when Riverside residents can hop on the Skyway. The agency must figure out the engineering and funding, which could include private/public partnerships as well as state and federal funds.

Analysis on repurposing structures will aid preservation arguments

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Early last year, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund announced it had engaged the National Trust for Historic Preservation to conduct a county-wide analysis of Jacksonville's historic districts and identify strategies to

strengthen reuse of existing buildings throughout the community.

Following the February 2016 announcement, researchers from the National Trust were in town in November 2016 to gather data and tour the historic districts with Adrienne Burke, executive director for Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP)

and Christina Parrish-Stone, executive director for Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR), among others.

“I'm excited about this for two reasons,” said Burke. “First, this information could help the urban core neighborhoods when it comes to land use and zoning issues. And, second, sometimes data speaks louder to city officials than quality of life arguments. We'll be able to use this as a fact sheet to help preserve the historic districts.”

The \$100,000 grant awarded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund trustees will enable analysis of Jacksonville's older and historic buildings, with specific data on age, size and character, and detailed maps. According to the Fund, the analysis also will evaluate the social, cultural and economic characteristics of building clusters and highlight areas where targeted reuse could positively influence community development.

“Sometimes data speaks louder to city officials than quality of life arguments. We'll be able to use this as a fact sheet to help preserve the historic districts.”

— Adrienne Burke,
executive director for RAP

“We are still very much in the ‘gathering’ phase,” said Mary Kress Littlepage, spokesperson for the Fund.

The National Trust analysis will complement both the Fund's work in affordable housing as well as its work around energy conservation and sustainability. The Trust has performed similar analyses in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and Detroit.

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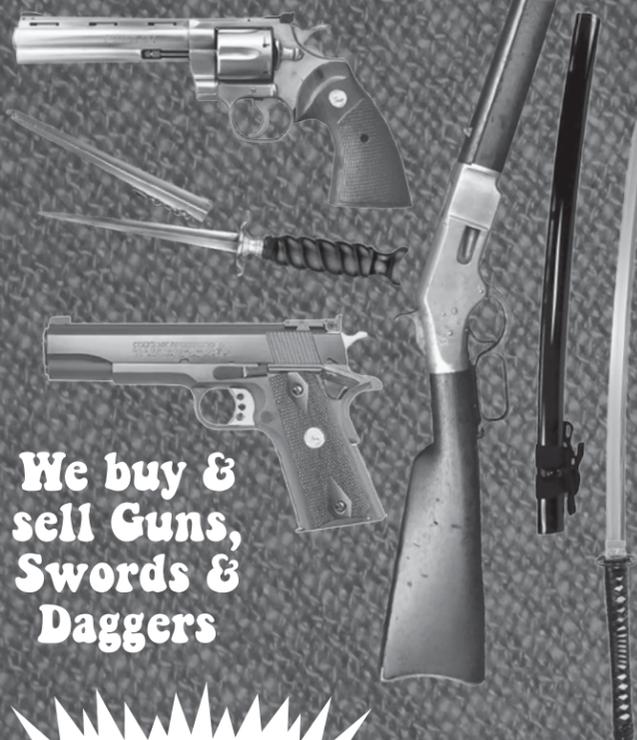
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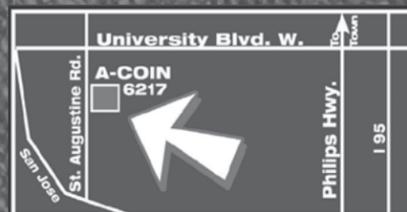
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The Resident is so tapped into my local community, a community that cares and seems to be genuinely working to make the area better. I always turn first to the Movers and Shakers section for inspiration on how we can all get involved.

— Dori Thomsen, Co-owner, Soluna Yoga, Avondale



Councilman lays out District 14 priorities for 2017

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

With 2016 fading into the rearview mirror, completing existing city projects and paving the way for new ones is on the agenda for 2017.

The focus of the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which contains 180 updated or new projects at \$1,088,893,075 for the next five years and beyond, is to maintain and build the city's infrastructure, and many elements of that plan directly affect our area.

District 14 Councilman Jim Love spoke in specificity about what his priorities are for the new year, including items in the CIP as well as some that aren't.

For starters, he plans to revisit and update the Riverside Avondale Zoning Overlay. Established in 2008, the overlay was put into place to protect the character, economic vitality, aesthetic appeal and historical integrity of the Riverside Avondale Zoning Overlay area by providing for supplemental zoning regulations and development standards that were established to support the area historic districts and their surroundings.

Love introduced a bill to City Council last May to make changes to the overlay, then refined it and introduced Bill 2016-580 to the council in August.

“The work will begin on the 5 Points intersection in the latter quarter of next year. The redesign is a \$750,000 project.”

— Jim Love, District 14 Councilman

“We are going to be making some minor changes to the overlay – it hasn't been updated for eight years,” Love said. “We will be holding workshops, inviting people to discuss what needs to be changed. We are on schedule to start in January.”

In the next fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1, it's in the CIP to begin working on the 5 Points intersection. According to the CIP, this project provides modifications to existing roadway infrastructure within the 5 Points area to enhance pedestrian utilization and improve vehicular safety. Within this area, the improvements will

impact Park Street, Post Street, Margaret Street, Lomax Street, Oak Street and Herschel Street. Improvements include turning Lomax Street into a one-way eastbound street, expanded sidewalk areas, and reduced roadway widths for safer pedestrian crossings and the retention of the historic beacon that sits at the heart of the Five Points Intersection.

“The work will begin on the 5 Points intersection in the latter quarter of next year. The redesign is a \$750,000 project,” Love said. “The road will be narrowed and the sidewalks will be wider; the beacon

will be slightly moved so it's easier to get around, Lomax will be a one-way street headed toward the river, and it will have new sidewalks, making it more pedestrian friendly. None of the parking spaces will be taken away.”

The Riverside Avondale Community Garden, which celebrated its grand opening last April after years in the making, is important to Councilman Love, who has been a proponent of the garden since the beginning. Located across from Willowbranch Park, at the corner of Park Street and Azalea Terrace, the park is so popular among residents that there is a waiting list for plots.

“I have set aside bond money to finish the parking lot at the garden. It may seem like a minor thing, but I want to get it done,” Love said.

In addition to the overlay bill, Love is also working on a crime initiative that would include education on how landlords can make their buildings less subject to crime, and could make them partially responsible for protecting the surrounding community from criminal acts of the tenants. For example, they could be found liable and fined for renting property to drug dealers.

Continued on page 15

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“They are doing it in Charlotte – we are looking at theirs and modifying it a little bit. We are working on that, and I hope to have it out next year,” he said.

To enhance the riverfront area at the end of Post Street, the councilman is looking for a floating dock to place there. Someone who wants to open a restaurant at 1000 Riverside Avenue suggested the dock to him.

“There is already parking there, so that makes it nice. The dock would be for boats or possibly a kayak launch. I don’t know if we can get it done by the end of next year, but I’m looking for a Florida Inland National District (FIND) grant, which we can spend on waterfront amenities like docks and bulkheads, as long as it can reach the ocean,” Love said.

Also in the works for next year is a J bill (a local bill that alters state law to allow or

disallow city/county specific initiatives) to allow smaller restaurants to have a full bar without having to pay an exorbitant price for a liquor license.

“I want to expand the bill to include part of Edgewood in Murray Hill. The bill would allow smaller restaurants to be able to survive by selling alcoholic beverages besides beer and wine,” Love said. “Instead of being required to have 150 seats to get the license, they could get it with 100 to 149 seats.”

Other projects in the CIP include designing and constructing a replacement bulkhead for the Willowbranch Creek system, a restoration project for Big Fishweir Creek, a new sidewalk along Lakeside Drive from Wabash Avenue to Herschel Street, sidewalk and potential drainage improvements along Yacht Club Road from the clubhouse north

to Ortega Boulevard and storm drain replacement on Osceola Street between Riverside Avenue and River Boulevard.

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Skyway expansion is another project that Love is excited about.

“The JTA is planning to bring the automated Skyway express to 5 Points. It won’t happen next year, but it will be in the planning stages. I’m anxious to be part of figuring out how to pay for it and how to bring it to 5 Points – it’s going to be exciting,” Love said.

“I’m looking forward to improving Jacksonville, particularly Riverside Avondale, whether it be through the Overlay or finishing up park projects like the community garden and Memorial Park,” he continued. “I look forward to 2017. I think it will be a great year.”

MPA sponsors film showing

The Memorial Park Association will sponsor a special showing of the 2014 documentary “Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America” in celebration of the nonprofit’s 30th anniversary. The film will be shown Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m., at Sun-Ray Cinema, 1028 Park St. A Q & A session will follow with Laurence Cotton, the principal researcher of the PBS documentary. To reserve your free seat, email mpaspecialscreening@mem-parkjax.org.



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Quit the Sit! The Hazards of Sitting for Too Long! 12:30-1:15 pm

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Mindful Eating - No More Food Fights! 12:30-1:15 pm

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— Genora Crain-Orth, Riverside



Talks renewed on restoration of Fishweir Creek

Effort will require matching funds, investment

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

It's been 10 years since *The Resident* reported that Little Fishweir Creek residents were dismayed to see a thick, milky white discoloration in the creek at its intersection with Park Street. The story appeared on the cover of its inaugural issue.

A three-year-old repair in a water main on Eloise Street had failed in a joint of the polyethylene pipes, according to Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, who was director of Jacksonville's Environmental and Compliance Department and chief of the Environmental Quality Division in 2007. Other leaks were subsequently found.

At that time, another ongoing problem was voiced by resident Mike Webster, concerning Big and Little Fishweir Creeks, which flow through a three-square-mile area that includes Avondale and Murray Hill. Webster was alarmed at the build-up of sediment from construction and development run-off that first created sandbars, then islands flush with foliage and trees. He pointed out the alarming fact that at one

time boats could navigate and be docked behind homes on Fishweir Creek, but the depth had become so shallow, passage was no longer possible. Over time these ongoing conditions have continued to alter the flow, depth and appearance of Fishweir Creek.

Assessing Fishweir Creek's status today, the news is both good and bad.

Matanzas Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon, who was St. Johns Riverkeeper from 2003 to 2012, said during his time as Riverkeeper in Jacksonville, there was a continual, immensely frustrating cycle of reports of creek pollution, sediment and contamination runoff issues, with no resolution despite studies and reports by officials charged with responsibility for the creek's status and environmental concerns.

St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman, who replaced Armingeon in 2013 and was a river advocate long before, said things have changed little since Armingeon made his last assessment of Fishweir Creek's problems in 2013.

"The good news is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did complete an in-depth study of Fishweir Creek with specific recommendations and they even secured funding, although with the requirement of matching funds, said Rinaman. "The individual who would be assigned to complete the recommended restoration of Fishweir

Creek is Eric Summa, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Chief, Planning & Environmental Policy, Jacksonville, who is a resident of the historic district. Summa just recently voiced his commitment to carry out the restoration if the matching funds are raised," she continued.

"The bad news is the required matching funds from the community, individuals or businesses have never been donated or raised. Worse, the Fishweir Creek Restoration study has a shelf life...it may have to be repeated, starting that process all over again, unless we come up with matching funds soon," she said.

The Army Corps of Engineers-Jacksonville study for proposed restoration of Fishweir Creek recommended removal of sediments and contaminants with re-establishment of submerged aquatic vegetation and wetland habitat. The plan would not only restore the creek's depth and appearance, it would improve water quality, wetland function and important fish and manatee habitat, according to Paul E. Stodola, biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville Division in 2013.

Jim Suggs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Jacksonville, Continuing Authority Program Manager and a 28-year Jacksonville resident, said he has been overseeing the Big Fishweir

Creek Restoration project for the past eight years. He also shared that he previously lived in the area, his own children all attended Fishweir Elementary school, and he personally cares about this issue.

"In March 2013, an Army Corps of Engineers report was completed that recommended design and implementation (restoration) of Big Fishweir Creek should move forward," said Suggs. "In order for that to begin, a Project Partnership Agreement was required. Despite what seemed to be a successful public meeting about the issue at Fishweir Elementary school, well-attended by the community, environmental group representatives, public officials and including positive communication with then-mayor Brown, partnership funding was never approved," he said.

In 2016 Mayor Curry's city budget finally included partnership funding for the Fishweir project, which was approved and the City of Jacksonville became a sponsor and partner with the Army Corps of Engineers-Jacksonville. Suggs gives credit to District 14 Councilman Jim Love for his hard work and long-term efforts to secure the partnership and city funding which totaled \$900,000 to \$1 million.

Continued on page 17

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— Holly Keris, Riverside



The Big Fishweir Creek Aquatic & Ecosystem Restoration Section 206 is assigned to Jason Harrah, Fishweir Restoration Project Manager, according to Suggs. But, Suggs explained, because of the time lapse between completion and approval of the 2013 report, by 2016 it had expired and became invalid.

The Corps must now coordinate once again with environmental agencies to re-evaluate restoration recommendations and costs, which may have changed since 2013. That re-evaluation and update of cost will itself sap \$100,000 of the approved partnership funding from the city, according to Suggs.

A possible timeline would have that new update completed by March 2017, and approval of the new update should take up to six months, Suggs said. By fall 2017 a new Project Partnership Agreement – based upon that new update – should be approved between the city and the Corps, after it is blessed by the legal teams, he said.

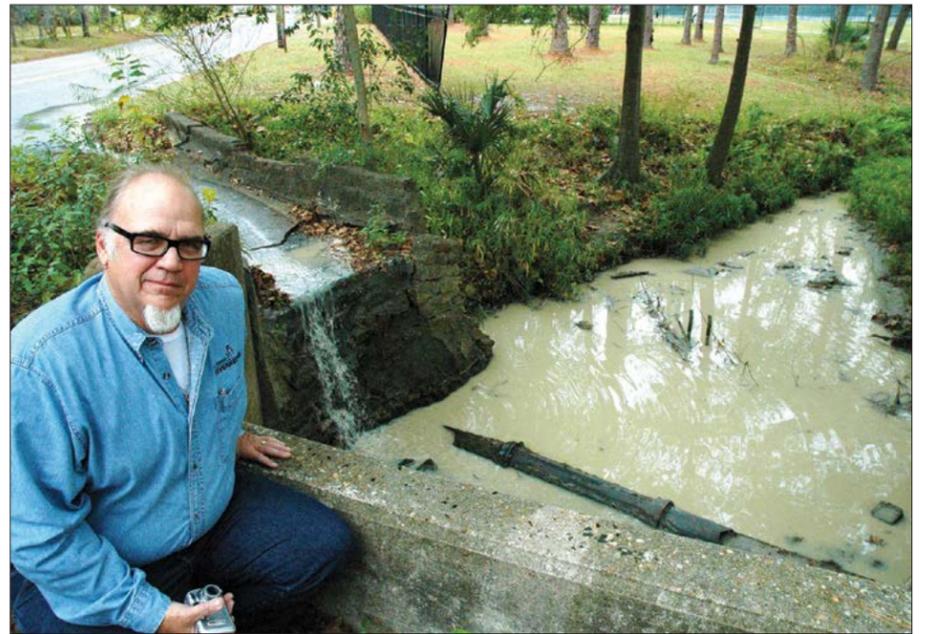
Sometime in 2018 Suggs said he expects all partnership funds and any supplemental monies needed from the federal government will be finalized. Once that is done, restoration design and specifications can be completed, which he said requires up to 12 months, bringing the project into 2019.

After the Fishweir design and specifications are finished, projected for some time in 2019, then the project can be advertised for bids and a contract awarded. The process could take three or four more months, bringing a realistic start date to late 2019 or early 2020 for the restoration project originally approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2007.

“The partnership and funding were the keys to getting this restoration work done,” Suggs said. “Now we have what we need to move forward, and if the contract can be awarded in a timely manner and construction goes well, which is projected to take 24 to 36 months, the restoration could be well underway or completed between 2020 and 2022.”

“Whatever is going on in [Fishweir] creek is flowing straight into the St. Johns River, so this environmental issue touches everyone.”

— Neil Armingeon



Former Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon looked on as sediment-clouded water poured from a broken water main into Little Fishweir Creek, before making its way along Boone Park toward Fishweir Creek, back in 2007.

Riverkeeper Rinaman and former Riverkeeper Armingeon said *The Resident* has been a tremendous friend to the river over the years.

“This newspaper helped the St. Johns Riverkeeper grow and made the public aware if they weren’t already, about what the condition of Fishweir Creek was and unfortunately continues to be. These were issues the Times-Union was not covering.

Of course, whatever is going on in the creek is flowing straight into the St. Johns River, so this environmental issue touches everyone,” Armingeon said. “The publisher, Seth Williams, cared enough to come and take photos and report on water issues every time I called him. *The Resident* really made a difference in keeping everyone informed and bringing all of us who care about the creek and river together.”

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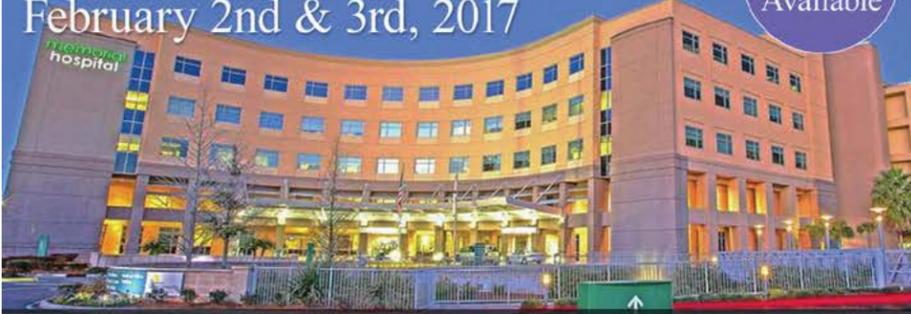
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Orlando G. Florete, Jr., MD
Pres., Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians and Medical Director, Institute of Pain Management.



Paul Gatenholm PhD
Dir. 3D Bioprinting & Biopolymer Technology, Chalmers Univ. Sweden
Adjunct Professor at Virginia Tech and Wake Forest in North Carolina.



Hee Young Lee MD, PhD
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Live Workshop on SVF, PRP and Bioprinting
4 CME CREDITS - Thursday 2/2/17

9:00 – 10:00 AM	Registration, breakfast and tour of clinic - Lewis Obi Plastic Surgery Clinic
10:00 – 1:00	Demonstrations: Live preparation SVF, PRP and Bioprinting. Concepts of Stem Cell Expansion and Storage
1:00 – 1:30	Lunch Break
1:30 – 3:00	Bioprinting cartilage for nose, ear and knee
Faculty: Paul Gatenholm PhD, Hector Martinez PhD, HY Lee MD/PhD, Lewis Obi MD Erik Gatenholm and Helmut Mackosh	

6:00 – 8:00 PM - Cocktail Party and Dinner at the clinic of Dr Lewis Obi Thursday 2/2/17
3599 University Blvd. South, #604, Jacksonville, FL 32216

Symposium Agenda - 8 CME Credits - Friday 2/3/17
Memorial Hospital
3625 University Blvd. South, Jacksonville, FL 32216

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction: Lewis Obi MD & Orlando Florete MD Stuart Williams PhD: History and Evolution of SVF - A clinical overview of stem cells
9:00 – 9:30	Curtis Beaugard MD: Regenerative Medicine - Today and Tomorrow
9:30 – 10:00	Paul Gatenholm PhD: 3D Bioprinting with Stem Cells
10:00 – 10:15	Morning Break
10:15 – 11:00	Lewis Obi MD - The New Frontier of Medicine
11:00 – 11:45	Orlando Florete MD: Integration of Stem Cells in Pain Management
11:45 – 12:00	Q & A
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	David Heekin MD - A Stem Cell Alternative Choice for Joint Replacement patients
1:45 – 2:15	Nathan Bryan PhD - Food, Nutrition and the Nitric Oxide Pathway
2:15 – 3:00	Hee Young Lee MD/PhD - Stem Cell Expansion and Storage
3:00 – 3:15	Afternoon Break
3:15 – 3:45	Helmut Makosch MSc - Stem Cell Therapies Outside of CSN
3:45 – 4:15	Sean Berman MSc - Mitigating Concussions with Stem Cells - Skype
4:15 – 4:45	Stuart Williams PhD - FDA Issues - Past, Present and Future
4:45	Round Table Panel of Experts - Entire Faculty
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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Ortega philanthropist named new YMCA board chair



Peggy Bryan

The YMCA of Florida's First Coast Board of Directors has elected Peggy Bryan as the first chairwoman to lead and govern the growth and operation of the First Coast YMCA association.

Bryan, who previously served as the board's vice chair, was also instrumental in the fundraising efforts for the new Winston Family YMCA, as well as the building of Gateway Community Services' new outpatient/administration facility.

The Ortega resident has been heavily invested in local philanthropic causes throughout her life and has won numerous volunteer awards over the years, including the Florida Times-Union's 2014 EVE Lifetime Achievement Award.

Prior to this position, Bryan was the president of Learn to Read, PACE Center for Girls, Greenscape of Jacksonville, Leadership Jacksonville and Youth Leadership Jacksonville. In addition, she serves on several other local boards, including the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, the Y's charter school—Tiger Academy and more.

"It's an honor to serve as chairwoman of the Y's Metropolitan Board of Directors," said Bryan. "The wide diversity of Y programs throughout the First Coast significantly strengthens the foundations of our community and touches so many people's lives, getting to be a part of this dynamic force is a very real privilege."



Cowford Ball announces 2017 chairs

Alan Creel and Heather Livingston Creel, of Ortega Forest, have been named chairs of the 2017 Cowford Ball, scheduled for Nov. 4, 2017 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium.

Heather Livingston Creel, the granddaughter of Betty and Buck Autrey, is a Jacksonville native and a graduate of The Bolles School. She attended University of Florida, where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, and the University of North Florida where she graduated with a degree in Business Administration. After college, Heather worked for Miller Electric Company as Branch Office Coordinator. Heather was the 2016 Cowford Ball Ticket Chair.

Alan Creel attended Jacksonville State University, where he majored in Electronics and Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems. He has worked for Miller Electric Company for 17 years, where he is the Vice-President of Pre-Construction Services. Alan is an Eagle Scout and a proud supporter of the Boys Scouts of America, United Way, and Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

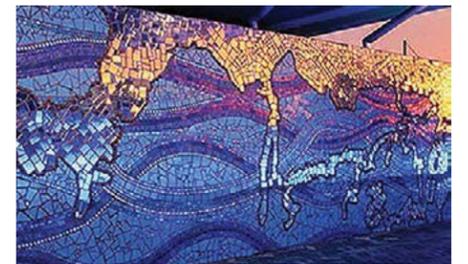
Alan Creel and Heather Livingston Creel
(Photo by Miguel Emmanuelli Photography)

Artists Guild sets program for 2017

Jacksonville Artist Guild announced its Winter/Spring 2017 programs and presentations by local artists, including Jenny Hager, associate professor of sculpture at the University of North Florida; Kate Garcia-Rouh, co-owner of RouxArt and former elementary school art teacher; Shaun

Thurston, mural artist; Brian Frus, assistant professor of art at Jacksonville University, and Kathy Stark, watercolor artist.

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4129 Oxford Ave., 5:30-7 p.m. Check www.jacksonvilleartistsguild.org for dates.



Mosaic under the Main Street Bridge by Kate Rouh



Glasswork by Brian Frus



Shaun Thurston working on a mural



Kathy Stark



Jenny Hager

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— James L. Schumacher, DMD, Family & Cosmetic Dentistry, Avondale

Morning Star breaks ground for new high school wing



Participating at the groundbreaking for Morning Star School's new high school wing were Father Mark Waters of St. John the Baptist in Mayport, Deacon Scott Conway, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Morning Star School Principal Jean Barnes, Bishop Felipe J. Estevez of the Diocese of St. Augustine and Father Lam Nguyen of Christ The King Church.

Morning Star School, the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine, broke ground for a new high school wing Nov. 29 at its campus at 725 Mickler Road, adjacent to Christ the King Catholic Church in Arlington.

Bishop Felipe J. Estevez, Father Michael Houle, Episcopal Vicar of Finance and Development for the Diocese of St. Augustine, and Deacon Scott Conway, superintendent of Catholic Schools, participated in the ceremony.

The school's \$1.5 million capital campaign project includes eight classrooms – four for middle school and four for high school – as well as a media and technology center.

"Our high school program will partner with Bishop John J. Snyder High School to provide a full and rich high school experience including individualized academic

programs, job skills, life and social opportunities," said Morning Star Principal Jean Barnes. "What a blessing this will be to families all over Northeast Florida who search each year for an appropriate educational placement for their children."

The high school was launched last fall with the addition of ninth grade. The new wing to the existing school will accommodate 48 students and is expected to open by August 2017.

Morning Star School currently serves 118 students from kindergarten through ninth grade, who have a diagnosed learning disability, attention deficit disorders, high-functioning autism, and mild intellectual disorders. With its new wing, it will join two other special education high schools in Jacksonville and is the only one that provides a Catholic education.

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— Jason Kuder, President, Rayware Hardware



Yoga class supports local nonprofit with Thanksgiving donation

Women's Center Executive Director Teresa Miles, Board President Lisé Everly, Alyson Foreacre, owner of Yoga Den, and Turkey Day Detox participant Dr. Rebecca Reeder.

suggestion, Foreacre agreed to donate the proceeds from the Turkey Day Detox class to the Women's Center.

"This amazing organization has been working tirelessly to bring much needed and valuable services to so many women, and we are honored to have the opportunity to help their cause," said Foreacre, who is considering holding a special workshop on breathing techniques for caregivers and counselors at the Arlington-based center.

"Wellness for caregivers is so important," said Teresa Miles, Women's Center executive director. "We just re-started our Lunch and Learn series again, so this might be a good opportunity."

The Turkey Day Detox, a 14-year tradition for members of Yoga Den, sets the attitude for healthy eating and generous giving with an early morning yoga class that also benefits a local nonprofit.

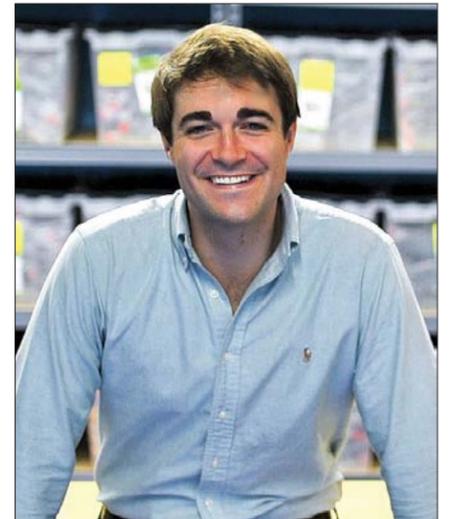
This past Thanksgiving, thanks to Yoga Den member Dr. Sheri Litt, dean of arts and science at Florida State College Jacksonville, a \$1,200 check was presented to the Women's Center of Jacksonville Dec. 6.

Yoga Den owner Alyson Foreacre said there were over 80 men and women who participated in the annual event. Upon Litt's

New board members named to Ronald McDonald House Charities



Sharon Wamble-King



Josh Bryan

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville has named Josh Bryan, of Ortega, to its Board of Directors, along with Sharon Wamble-King, of Queen's Harbor.

Bryan is president and CEO of HeroMe, a customizable toy company. Wamble-King is principal for Wamble & Associates, a reputation, crisis and stakeholder management consulting firm.

"Josh is well known for his vision, commitment and enthusiasm. Sharon is an active leader of the community and will bring invaluable judgment, professionalism and strategic insights into RMHC's mission," said Diane Boyle, RMHC executive director. "I welcome them to their new roles and look forward to all they will contribute to the Board as we further our mission of keeping families together."

Real estate firm continues spirit of giving throughout year

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty continued its long-standing tradition of giving back to the community and helping others during the recent holiday season.

The Northeast Florida real estate firm actively contributes to charitable efforts and philanthropic giving all year long, including a partnership with Dreams Come True and the company's annual Backpack Challenge, collecting hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies for local children. During the holidays, the spirit of giving was evident as each of the company's branch offices donated time, talent and financial sponsorships to many community initiatives.

The offices located in Avondale and San Marco/San Jose collected food and supplies for local food banks during the holidays and continue to do so throughout the year. In addition, the two locations are purchasing



Josh Nugent, Joy Walker, Nelson Higgins, Dylan Rigdon and Jane Slater with an office full of children's gifts for Holiday Helpers.

toys and gifts for 35 children supported by Holiday Helpers.

Associates supported and participated in several community holiday celebrations including Christmas in Avondale, Holiday Magic in San Marco and the Riverside Avondale Luminaria.



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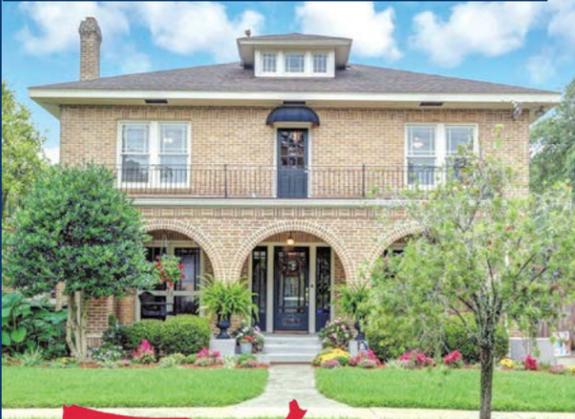
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I love *The Resident* because it provides the inside scoop on what's going on in the neighborhood at a level of detail you don't get in other publications.

— Jennifer Hewitt-Apperson, Riverside



CAP educator joins Theatre Jacksonville

Riverside resident Ron Shreve, program coordinator at Cathedral Arts Project (CAP), has joined the Theatre Jacksonville team as Education Director.

Theatre Jacksonville is one among many CAP community partners and, most recently, CAP and AGC worked with Theatre Jacksonville to create and grow a theatre residency program for students with communication and social skills needs at Southside Estates Elementary School, for which Shreve was the lead educator.

"Theatre Jacksonville couldn't be happier to have Ron back and on its staff full-time. Truly, the icing on the cake is that CAP is so

supportive of his decision," said Michelle Simkulet, general manager of Theatre Jacksonville. "This move is a definite win for the community – and for Ron, who is following his passion for theatre and arts education."

Shreve received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Florida in 2010 and has since integrated his theatrical experience with unique teaching methods to develop the creative minds of tomorrow. He has worked for several arts organizations around Jacksonville, including CAP, Theatre Jacksonville and Players by the Sea, and served on the board of the CAPtivators, CAP's young professionals group, for a year.



Ron Shreve

Couple ties knot despite hurricane



Heather Bailey Benfield and David Benfield (Photo by Stephanie Kloeckner)

Hurricane Matthew put a temporary crimp in wedding plans for Heather Bailey and David Benfield of Riverside but, in the end, the couple's special day went forward Oct. 8 without a hitch. Their backyard ceremony and potluck reception was live via Facetime for friends and family who couldn't attend the event.

"With the hurricane, about 80 percent of our wedding had to have alterations of some kind, but our friends and family stepped up to salvage the day and give us a happy beginning into marriage," said Bailey. "The night before the wedding was when the hurricane really hit, and so we had to do all of our set-up the morning of. We pulled everything together in a few hours (with help) and all of our guests said you couldn't even tell. It was a beautiful and sunny day, and we were so lucky to not suffer any serious damage."

Bailey, originally from Dallas, Texas, is a marketing specialist working for Bloom Realty. From Marietta, Georgia, Benfield is a digital editor at WJXT4/News4Jax.

Mayoral appointments heavy from historic districts

Several residents of Jacksonville's historic districts have been appointed by Mayor Lenny Curry to serve on a variety of commissions.

Cory Driscoll, of Avondale, has been appointed to the Art in Public Places Commission. Driscoll's appointment as a lay person runs through Dec. 31, 2018. Also, Suzanne Pickett of Springfield and Tracie Thornton, of Harborview, were appointed to the same commission as art professionals, with terms ending 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Riverside resident Jack Demetree III was appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission, replacing Barry Underwood for a partial term expiring March 4, 2018. Also from Riverside, Joshua Garrison was appointed as an At-Large representative to the Planning Commission, replacing Jerry Friley, whose term will expire Oct. 1, 2019.

Nicole Padgett, a Riverside business owner, was appointed to the Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission as a local planning agency representative, replacing Daniel Blanchard, whose term will expire Nov. 30, 2019.

Ortega resident Jill Dame, executive director for Leadership Jacksonville, was

appointed to the Jacksonville Public Library Board of Trustees as an At-Large member, replacing Erin Vance Skinner. Dame's first full term will expire Sept. 30, 2020.

From San Marco, Teresa Durand-Stuebben was appointed to the Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission as a county resident, replacing Dr. Mel C. Norwood, II, for a partial term expiring Nov. 30, 2018, and Jeffrey Rosen, also of San Marco, was appointed to the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority for a partial term expiring June 30, 2017, followed by a first full term expiring June 30, 2021.

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Murray Hill has had a lot of great things happen in the last couple of years and *The Resident* has been so supportive in highlighting all of the amazing growth our neighborhood has experienced.

— Katherine Hardwick, Murray Hill



Annual reading event celebrates 10th anniversary

A one-of-a-kind event for children up to age 10, St. Vincent's Read & Romp, celebrated its 10th anniversary Dec. 3 on the riverfront behind the Riverside medical center.

Hosted by the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center, the Winter Wonderland of activities included bounce houses, train rides, Christmas crafts, food, story time with Clifford the Big Red Dog, music and a visit from Santa Claus. Members of the Shircliff Society were on hand to help give away 500 stuffed animals, courtesy of Petsmart. Over 2,800 books were also distributed, provided from money donated from The St. Vincent's Physicians Giving Society, Publix, Black Knight Financial, NFL Player Julius Thomas, and the Durkee Foundation.

"Well over 500 children attended, most of those attending were from St. Paul's Catholic School, Pine Forest School of the Arts, Fishweir Elementary School, West Jacksonville Elementary School, and patients from St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center," said Dr. Sonya Dominguez, Associate Program Director, St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program.

"I would like to give a shout out to all of the Family Medicine Resident Physicians, the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center



Brooklyn Satterfield is captivated by Clifford the Big Red Dog at the 10th Annual Read & Romp Dec. 3 at St. Vincent's Riverside.

staff, and all of the teenagers and young volunteers that made the event possible," Dominguez said. "I would also like to thank all of the families that attended and made literacy at priority during this busy time of year."

CISV continues to build a more peaceful world



Marie-Claire Levy with CISV Chapter President Lynn Buff, Vickie and David Breedlove, Kathleen Slama, Leah Donelan, Joy Eckert and Tom Price

The local Jacksonville chapter of the Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) is spreading peace, one child at a time. The organization, whose goal is to inspire the youth of countries around the world to better understand one another's unique cultures and practices, gathered Nov. 18 to celebrate a milestone – its 40th birthday. The group of faithful supporters gathered at the River City Brewing Company on the Southbank to share in an evening of fundraising and camaraderie. Through the decades, more than 2,200 families have been members of the Jacksonville chapter.

During the celebration, CISV recognized 10 couples and nine individuals as honorary life members, including Dorothy and Howard Groshell, John and Gail Goode, Allen and Rosemary McCorkle, Marion Scarbrough, Marilyn and Maurice Oleson, Lad and Carol Daniels, Gene and Anne Fontaine, Walt and Harriet Courtney, Whit and Karen Hyde, Jack and Gena Taylor, David and Vickie Breedlove, Sadie Blanton, Eleanor Fails Hayden, Patty Pritchard, Susan Gordon, Val Chritton, Debbie Blackshear, Viky Divertie and Leah Donelan.



Jay and Caroline Busker with Dana and Jim Nolan, Eric and Josie Summa

Jacksonville City Council also adopted a resolution Oct. 11, 2016, honoring and commending the chapter for its 40 years of educating and inspiring action for a more just and peaceful world.

Participants hope that by learning the customs, cultural norms and traditions that exist in other countries, our youth can build relationships that cross continents and exist beyond borders. To learn more information about CISV and its mission to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world, visit www.cisvjax.org.



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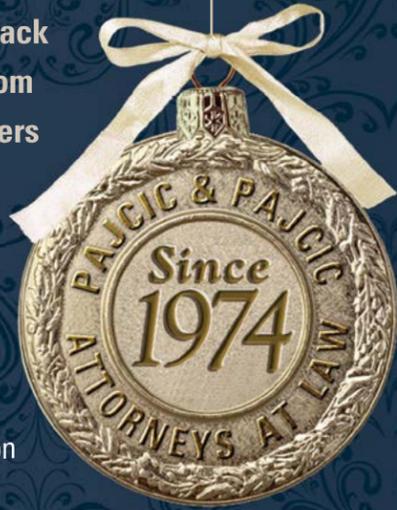
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My wife Kimberly and I rely on *The Resident* to give us the in-depth coverage of all the events happening around town and specifically in our area. They cover news and social events so well and it is always a treat seeing pictures and stories of friends we know. Seth and his team seem to be everywhere at once. We always look forward to the latest issue of *The Resident*. Congratulations on your first 10 years!

— Richard Sisisky, San Jose



RESIDENT COM

NEMOURS GATHERS TOP DONORS, FRIENDS

Nemours Children's Specialty Care held a donor reception Dec. 8 at Epping Forest Yacht Club for about 80 guests to recognize and thank top contributors for their support throughout the year. The group celebrated recent achievements and rallied around the Rodriguez family, who shared their story about four-year-old Vini's condition that continues to make their visits to Nemours so important.

"Nemours Children's Specialty Care relies on philanthropy to help provide additional resources to help children, expand community participation in our mission, and identify partners who can help Nemours meet the needs that are beyond what the Alfred I. duPont Testamentary Trust can provide. If it wasn't for the philanthropic support from donors, we could not continue to successfully fulfill our mission of treating every child, regardless of their ability to pay," said Michael Erhard, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Nemours Children's Specialty Clinic.

The Christmas party is an annual affair, one that recognizes the achievements of various donor programs while celebrating the season of giving at the holidays. The group is made up of the clinic's top donors, a group that contributes greatly to the care of children throughout our region.



David and Susan Gonino with Kimber Price and Jeff French of the duPont Trust



Bill and Sally Green with Nemours Specialty Clinic Medical Director Dr. Michael Erhard



Laura and Jon Temple



Brenda Jones and Abby Semel

SOCIAL R

ART AND ANTIQUES SHOW GALA

This year's Seventies-inspired theme delivered disco balls and dance moves at the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's annual opening night gala. This year was special, as the 40th anniversary marked the first Wolfson Boehm Exhibit back in 1976. Boehm was the first Women's Board event to raise funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital and, in its first year, was followed by the winter Antiques Show.

The gala, now called the Art & Antiques Show, is one of the most



Co-Chair Anna and Dr. Kevin Neal with Archua and Ron Pa... Gina Galani, Justin and Paige Terry, Catarina and D...



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I personally read the paper from cover to cover and I find it very informative about what is happening in our community. Frankly, a big part of the rationale for advertising is to give our support to the paper and the mission it fulfills in our neighborhood. *The Resident* gives us news about the neighborhood that we can't find anywhere else. It provides a balanced perspective between the concerns of the residents and the business interests in the community. I like the history pieces best of all. History is what makes Riverside and Avondale so special.

— Steve Pajcic, Avondale



COMMUNITY NEWS

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highly-anticipated events of Jacksonville's social season. Each year, the gala has a new theme and plays host to between 1,200-1,400 patrons, kicking off the weekend of festivities.

The weekend included iconic lecturers, from celebrities and designers to architects and party planners, as well as renowned antiques dealers from across the country and the world. On the final day, the Children's Fashion Show featured current and former Wolfson patients.



Erin and Shaun West, Anamika and Bryan Farford, Flavio Soares with Rachael and Chad Bunnell



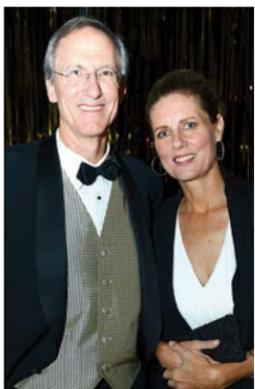
Co-Chairs Anna Neal, Dearing Thoburn and Heather Moseley with Grace Sarber, president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital



Michelle Preuss, Susan Feeley and Avery Williams



Juli Ann, Shelley and Alexandria Klempf



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I love reading *The Resident* because it's all about where I live and work. I always see people I know and it keeps me informed about things that are happening in the neighborhoods that I am connected with the most. *The Resident* keeps me informed about fun things as well as serious things and gives me insight for both business and pleasure. I also really enjoy the people who work with *The Resident* because they are involved in the community and appear to really care. *The Resident* is also good for our business because it gives us a chance to expose our listings to the people who love these communities, too.

— Sharon Willson, Broker/Manager, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, Avondale



BUSINESS PROFILE

Timed:Exercise makes a move into heart of Riverside

Owner shares his story, lives a life of exercise

Everyone has a moment in life when they realize change is imminent. For many, it occurs when a child is born, when they get married, when they change jobs or make resolutions at the New Year. For Chris Hutto, it was his 20th senior class reunion.

When Hutto returned to his alma mater, Bishop Kenny High School, he tipped the scales at 297 pounds and wasn't happy about his weight. He had vowed never to break 300 pounds.

Little did he know at the time, but a casual conversation with a close friend and former classmate would change his life forever. His friend referred him to Timed:Exercise, a local training facility, and after his first trial class, he was hooked, eventually shedding an astounding 80 pounds.

Oftentimes, he worked out twice a day, enjoying every minute he spent at the high impact interval training (or HIIT) facility. The training reminded him of the wrestling workouts he loved in high school, where he returned to state-level competitions year after year.

Not only was he a great student, but he exhibited leadership qualities, which

eventually earned him a spot as a substitute trainer at Timed:Exercise, when a trainer couldn't get to a class. Shortly thereafter, he decided to inquire about owning his own franchise. As it turns out, the franchise owners were ready to move on and made him a deal.

Fast forward a few years and Hutto is now the proud owner of three Timed Fitness franchises in Jacksonville. His goal is to help others realize their full potential at a top-notch facility. Since taking ownership of the Avondale, Jullington Creek, and Jacksonville Beach locations, he working to improve them all, one by one, to deliver the best workout experience in Jacksonville.

Relocation to Riverside, increased amenities

With the demolition of the St. Johns Village shopping center in Avondale, Timed:Exercise has moved to a space at the corner of Park and King Streets in Riverside. The new locale at 2655-57 Park St., provides a central location for many of his clients. "We're excited to be more in the heart of the Riverside and Avondale area," said Hutto.

With an increase in area from 2,400 to 4,000 square feet, the new training facility will offer two bathrooms with showers, and an open floor plan with no obstructions or supports. The layout incorporates 20 floor



stations or 'pods,' a better configuration for wall-anchored resistance stations and a private flex space for yoga, aerial fitness with silks, pole fitness and Acro Yoga.

In addition to more fitness offerings, Hutto plans to continue bringing innovative ideas to workouts and believes the Timed:Exercise concept will continue to offer clients a different variety of workouts in every class, every day.

Timed:Exercise concept, offerings

Timed:Exercise is unique. Its focus is on lean muscle mass and weight loss, and it caters to all levels of strength and experience. Each routine is designed to eliminate

predictability and burnout. "The big advantage to our workouts is that we believe there's no better workout that can help you burn calories, and build lean muscle mass all at the same time – in such a short time," said Hutto. With instructors leading the way and encouraging proper warm-ups, technique, good form, and motivation, the classes are sure to challenge the novice and the experienced member alike. The goal is simple – GET IN, GET FIT, GET OUT. This means in 30 minutes a member can warm up, work out and lose upwards of 700 calories per visit.

For more information call (904) 374-8740, or visit www.timedexercise.com for details. Try a FREE class today!

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— Mark and Charlie Fetzer, LakeShore Bicycles, Ortega residents



Murray Hill building provides large canvas for local artist

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Somewhere there must exist a variation of Murphy's Law about blank walls, such as "Every blank wall is a canvas waiting for paint."

For Jacksonville tattoo artist and muralist Thomas Berdugo, a blank wall is a challenge. "I'm trying to bring life to these blank walls around the city," said Berdugo, who has painted murals on the Hourglass Pub, the 1904 Music Hall, Nighthawks and, most recently, Magnolia's Pub in Murray Hill. The 32-year-old Miami-born artist said he began painting murals when he was 15 years old.

Restaurant owner Andrea Dahlia requested that Berdugo include a magnolia and the color purple in his 20-foot-wide by eight-foot-tall mural. "It worked perfectly with my vision," said Berdugo, who said he used approximately 15 cans of spray paint and a few buckets of paint on the 160-square-foot mural, which can be seen from Roosevelt Boulevard southbound.

The mural is one of several which have sprouted up in Murray Hill within the past six months, thanks to a project started by the Murray Hill Preservation Association last year. Other locations include walls on Tradewinds, Grater Goods, and the Murray Hill Theatre. Project coordinator Jason Tetlak indicated several other businesses have expressed interest in putting murals on their buildings, too.



Tom Berdugo puts finishing touches on a mural in Murray Hill.



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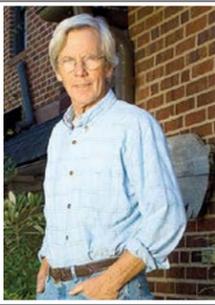
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I love *The Resident* because it captures the color and flavor of our wonderful Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill neighborhoods.

— Lee Norville, Norville Realty, Ortega



Cummer Museum commemorates International Day of Persons with Disabilities

By Carrie Resch
Resident Community News

To celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities Dec. 3, the Cummer Museum showcased two special exhibits: the annual Women of Vision show and paintings from visually impaired students at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB).

The Women of Vision program, which includes monthly art making and literary arts workshops for blind or low vision adult women, was instituted by the museum in 1998. In celebration of Art Beyond Sight month, the women have a chance to highlight their work with an annual exhibit beginning in October.

Museum Educator and Accessibility Coordinator Matthew Patterson has been involved in the Women of Vision program for the past four years.

One of the challenges in working with the visually impaired is finding ways the artists can be more independent, Patterson said, adding that when painting on a canvas, a string can be tied around the canvas to create a horizon line that the artists can use to “touch and feel” their way around the canvas. Paint can be placed in different containers, such as a glass jar for one color and a plastic cup for another, so that the artists can make their own choices and work much more independently, he explained.



During a Dec. 3 visit to the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Meredith Brown holds a friend's daughter, who is fascinated by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind artwork on display.

The museum also is designated as the Jacksonville affiliate of VSA, an international organization that provides opportunities in the arts for individuals with disabilities.

As part of the 2016 VSA outreach program, Patterson worked with FSDB blind or low vision elementary and middle school students for 12 weeks on art projects including painting, drawing, collage, sculpture and ceramics. At the end of the program, the students took a field trip to the museum and participated in a “touch tour,” a hands-on tour of some of the museum's sculptures.

Some of the students' work is currently on display at the museum as part of the annual VSA Festival.

“The kids loved it,” Patterson said of working with the students. “They would come in and be interested in what we were

going to be doing and making and, more or less, all of them were successful with the projects they came up with.”

Working with students from FSDB differed from the participants in the Women of Vision program because that program is comprised of older adults who lost their vision later in life.

“Their experience with art is a little bit different because they still have memories of color, they still have memories of visual things they've seen in their life,” Patterson said.

In contrast, some of the young students Patterson works with at the FSDB were born blind.

“Their work is pretty different; it's not as focused on realism or concrete objects,” he said. “It's a little bit more loose and abstract in some cases.”

In addition to Women of Vision and the VSA outreach program, the museum partners with the HEAL Foundation, a local nonprofit for individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorders.

The museum was recently recognized for its disability programming, receiving the 2016 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts “Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Community Asset Award” and “The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs 2016 “Diversity and Inclusion Award,” funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The Museum has long advocated that all people who have an interest in arts and gardens should have access to these resources,” said Holly Keris, chief operating officer and chief curator of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. “From arts education for students, to access for those limited by their ability to pay admission fees, to individuals whose disability makes it impossible to experience a museum in the same way that others can, the Cummer Museum remains committed to developing new and innovative opportunities for everyone in the spirit of Mrs. Cummer's original vision to create a center of beauty and culture worthy of the community.”

The Women of Vision exhibit will be on display at the museum through Jan. 29, 2017, and the FSDB artwork will be on display through May 2017.

Thank you to our clients, and best wishes for a wonderful year in 2017!

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I'm one of those people who reads *The Resident* cover to cover because I don't want to miss a bit of news about my neighborhood. I can read articles about city decisions that impact the neighborhood, local grassroots concerns, social and philanthropic events both big and small, and just a little gossip to keep it spicy! Thanks to *The Resident* for keeping us all informed about the issues that affect our neighborhood."

— Pamela Telis, Avondale



|||DO SOMETHING

Want to get involved in the community? Sometimes people just need a little nudge to do something, so each month we plan to feature a nonprofit who can use help through the smallest gesture to the grand donation.

Gateway—Steps to Recovery

By Carrie Resch, Resident Community News

The last week in January annually marks National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week, an event intended to counteract the myths teenagers may have about drugs and alcohol in the hopes of preventing teen substance abuse.

For adolescents, adults or veterans who suffer from alcohol or drug addiction, the road to recovery is not easy. But one local

nonprofit, Gateway—Steps to Recovery, is seeking to help all individuals, particularly those individuals without the means to pay for rehabilitation services, get the help they need.

There are several opportunities for adults to volunteer their time at the facility in a number of capacities – from caring for the Gateway Vegetable Garden, to administrative

and office support or helping teach basic computer skills, resume writing, or job interview skills.

Both teenagers and adults can volunteer as classroom assistants at the Kids' Success Center, a daycare for the children of clients in treatment.

Businesses and group volunteer opportunities are also welcomed. Examples of past business volunteer opportunities have included everything from groups coming in to do makeovers to bank employees teaching money management skills.

For those wishing to give to the nonprofit in ways besides volunteering, monetary or in-kind donations of new or gently used household items are also accepted.

Gateway also accepts gifts of stock. Additionally, the community can show support through the purchase of the Keep Kids Drug Free auto tag.

To volunteer, visit www.gatewaycommunity.com and fill out a volunteer application or call (904) 387-4661. Gateway is located at 555 Stockton St. in Jacksonville.

Anthony Collins
GATEWAY VOLUNTEER

What motivated you to do something and why are you doing it for this nonprofit?
I used to stay here. I like this facility a lot and they taught me a lot. I got a lot out of this facility. I wanted to be able to be a service to Gateway. I love the staff members, I love the clients, and I love to assist in any area that I can.

How long have you been volunteering at Gateway?
For almost three years now. It's something that I dedicate myself to. I'm here for maybe 60 hours a week or better, Monday through Sunday.

What types of volunteer work do you do?
Anything that needs to be done. I volunteer myself to be of service anywhere they are shorthanded. Wherever they need me at, I'm available.

We DID something



Wounded Warriors Daisy Biggs, Naomi Hart, Jerry Thomas, Lonni Maddux and Durant Spencer gathered after dinner in the private dining room.

South Kitchen and Spirits donated its new banquet space and dinner to a group of 50 wounded veterans who took part Nov. 18 in the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride® Jacksonville 2016.

Soldier Ride is a unique four-day cycling opportunity for wounded service members and veterans to use cycling and camaraderie to overcome physical, mental, or emotional wounds. Warriors of all ability levels can cycle on Soldier Ride. State-of-the-art adaptive hand cycles, trikes, and bicycles accommodate warriors with various injuries and disabilities; unmodified road bikes for riders not requiring adaptive equipment are provided free of charge.

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CHEERS!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



I love reading *The Resident* because it plugs me into my neighborhood and my community.

— Robert Arleigh White, Avondale



Christmas comes early, thanks to local surgical practice

The children in a local VPK and early learning program were surprised by Santa at an early morning appearance in classrooms on the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church campus in Riverside. Complete with singing stuffed animals and a mysterious storyline twist, Santa magically appeared to deliver teddy bears to classrooms full of children. After an eventful appearance and grand entrance, students at the Early Learning Center at Good Shepherd Church danced in delight and hugged their new furry friends.

The school, administered by Episcopal Children's Services, welcomed Mrs. Claus and her helpful elves to classrooms on Dec. 15. The story was written and narrated by Elana Clayman [Mrs. Claus], as her husband, Dr. Loren Clayman, played Santa and their staff danced, sang and handed teddy bears to two classrooms full of students. In the end of the story, Santa was finally found after hearing the call of bugles through the snow.

Dr. Clayman's Plastic Surgery Center and Miracle Spa staff members Tina, Laveese and Emily with Casey Price, preschool director, Dr. Loren Clayman, Elana Clayman and staff member Rebecca with 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds in Virginia Dawson's classroom.



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A Beautiful Life at Any Age

Baptist's AgeWell Center helps seniors live more independent and productive lives

When Rose started coming to AgeWell, she had several concerns about her health. Fatigue, memory and an unsteady gait were just a few.

She was relieved to learn she could get help for all these issues at the Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health, where adults 65 and older can get outpatient primary care and more.

"Everything is in one place and the staff is good about talking to each other about all of my needs. My care is very well coordinated," she said.

AgeWell has two geriatricians, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a clinical pharmacist, a nutritionist, nurse practitioners, social workers and care coordinators. The team also includes nurses, medical assistants and eldercare advocates. Physical, occupational and speech therapists are part of the AgeWell team.

The Baptist AgeWell Center is a unique doctor's office with a team of professionals who can help older adults:

- Manage medications
- Cope with declining memory
- Manage emotional issues and depression
- Improve mobility and strength
- Building independent living skills
- Improve nutrition

Because Rose had limited mobility and a fear of falling, an AgeWell physical therapist worked with her on balance training and ways to improve her strength and posture. Rose's mobility has improved along with her endurance.

Occupational therapy helped Rose strengthen her hands so she could return to cooking and sewing—two things she loves to do.

Rose also had cognitive therapy to address her memory concerns. Part of her therapy was to write short stories, a task she enjoyed so much she continues writing and keeps all of her stories to pass along to younger relatives.

"I am very blessed and I feel better than I have in a long time," Rose said.

To make an appointment, call **904.202.4AGE (4243)**.



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— Jacqueline West, DMD, West Dentistry, Riverside



Celebrating a milestone in medicine for Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center

A major announcement was made last year in Jacksonville when the leadership of two major health systems teamed up to deliver world-class cancer care to the region. As MD Anderson, based in Texas, signed on with Baptist Health, the duo created a powerhouse for fighting cancer, making cancer history.

While celebrating the relationship and a one-year anniversary Nov. 29 in the US Assure Club at EverBank Field, leaders spoke of the journey to today, the building of the new seven-story center along San Marco Boulevard and the future of the partnership.

"This is the inaugural fundraiser for our new cancer center and cancer program. Defeating cancer is a huge undertaking

and we are poised to take on that challenge," said Hugh Greene, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "There are only three other similar partners in the country, which highlights the faith and commitment MD Anderson has in our health system."

The Evening of Celebration included a testimonial video by three Baptist MD Anderson patients, as well as speakers, including Greene, Mayor Lenny Curry, and Bill Putnam, MD, medical director of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The event, coupled with the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center Golf Classic on Nov. 30 at TPC Sawgrass, will combine funds raised from both events to start an endowment which ultimately will raise \$2 million during the next five years.



Celebrating the big day with leaders of the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center were First Lady Molly Curry, Mayor Lenny Curry, Hugh Greene, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health, Tabitha and PGA Tour Professional Jim Furyk of the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation.



Richard and Cindy Hamilton, director of public relations for Baptist Health



Nicola Barnack, Macky Weaver and Nicole Brose



Mimi Hwang, Charlie and Courtney Remaley

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The Give Hope a Home campaign to build, furnish and operate a no cost lodging facility for cancer patients and their caregivers is nearing completion. Special thanks to all of our founding supporters, who have paved the way during this campaign with their generous gifts of \$10,000 and greater.

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— T. Jerry Snider, Attorney & Counselor at Law, James and Snider, Riverside office



Kids on Santa's 'nice' list enjoy shopping spree at Target

Five teens and 30 younger children took to the aisles at the Roosevelt Boulevard Target Dec. 14 during the 9th annual Sanctuary on 8th Street holiday shopping spree.

Paired with chaperones, the students in Sanctuary's after-school program checked out toys, clothing and items for gifts, carefully calculating when they reached their \$75 limit.

Most of the funds were donated by the chaperones and other supporters, such as Emily Davis of San Marco, who was an after-school volunteer and summer camp counselor before graduating from Stanton College Preparatory School to attend the University of South Carolina.

"This is my first shopping spree," said Davis. "It's fun to hang out with the kids. Many of them are shopping for their families."

Several of the chaperones were students from Episcopal School of Jacksonville, such as Jackson Ravis and siblings Kelsey, Carter and Ally Stankard, all from Ortega Forest. Ortega residents Whit Hodge, Sarah Page



Emily Davis, a graduate of Stanton College Preparatory School and volunteer with Sanctuary on 8th Street, gets ready to assist Kendyl with some holiday shopping at Target.

and her brother Henry cruised aisles with Sanctuary students as well.

Rick Cartledge, new executive director for the long-running after-school tutoring and mentoring nonprofit, said the field trip was granted to those students who attended every day and exhibited good behavior.



Whit Hodge, a Bolles School graduate, helps Jeremiah from Sanctuary on 8th Street shop.



Kelsey Stankard with shopping buddy Aniya



Sanctuary on 8th Street Board Chair Robert George with Ally Stankard and Emani at Target for the annual shopping spree.

Huge book drive makes early Christmas for students

Christmas came early for 300 students at West Riverside Elementary School and with it an important lesson in servant leadership for students at Bolles Middle School on the Bartram campus.

After Bartram Teacher Librarian and Media Specialist Jaime Sanborn put together a wish list of books for each West Riverside student, she shared it with the Bolles community. Thanks to their generosity, 400 books and \$250 in Publix gift cards were donated.

Through a bake sale, Bartram Media Ambassadors raised \$764 toward the purchase of any outstanding books on the list, then wrapped each book, wrote out cards and helped sort the books into classroom bags. On Dec. 15, more than 16 ambassadors, dressed in matching purple T-shirts with "Bolles: Promoting the Love of Libraries" on the back, delivered the books to West Riverside Elementary School.

For many students at the school, the book is one of the few gifts they will receive this holiday, Sanborn said.



Bolles Bartram Media Ambassadors with Jaime Sanborn, librarian and media specialist, and Mark Meyers, computer teacher, at West Riverside Elementary School



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I love that *The Resident* delivers current neighborhood news straight to my door.

— **Cindy Hamilton, Baptist Health, Director of Public Relations, Avondale**



Centennial celebration for bank building launches new historic recognition program

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

It was a double celebration Dec. 15 at Regions Bank in historic 5 Points as well-wishers commemorated the centennial birthday of the bank's building at 1604 Margaret St. and witnessed the unveiling of a new fundraising program for Riverside Avondale Preservation.

Not just the Regions Bank building, but many in Riverside and Avondale are also coming up on their 100th anniversary, said Andy Goshen of Avondale. He stated that each year for the next several years 100 to 150 houses will hit their centennial birthdays.

To commemorate the occasions, Riverside Avondale Preservation will offer special plaques, metal or bronze, to be purchased for display on buildings when they achieve centennial status.

The bank's historic home was originally built in 1916 for a dentist, Dr. Frank Robinson, who lived in the Henry Taylor-designed Prairie-style home for a few years before moving to Ingleside Avenue. The next resident of the home was Jerome Foley, a founder of Foley Lumber Company, who lived there until 1940.

For the next six and a half decades, the house was home to a variety of businesses, including the Florida College of Music,



Centennial logo design team: Terence Rohrer, Andy Goshen, Peter Mackey, David Wolters

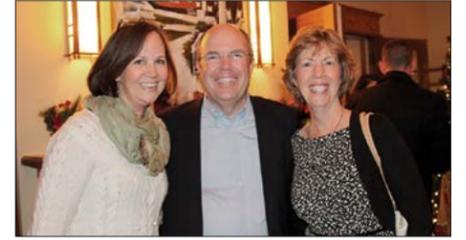
which added a large one-story addition, the Jacksonville office for the Florida Tuberculosis Department, and a home for unwed mothers under Volunteers of America, until it was bought by a bank.

Ten years ago, when AmSouth Bancorporation bought the property then merged with Regions Bank, the bank opted to restore the structure to its original architecture, according to local historian Wayne Wood, who spoke at the celebration.

"The courage and insight into re-utilizing an old building and restoring it exquisitely was pretty remarkable," he said.

The idea for the commemorative plaques originated, in part, when Lydia Street resident David Wolters began researching the history of his own centennial home and shared his efforts with Goshen.

"Andy pitched the idea to Wayne Wood and to Adrienne Burke, conceived and roughed out the initial plaque design (which



Carmen Godwin, Keith Holt, Pamela Telis



Jacob Danner, Tiffany Manning, Richard Ceriello

was changed very little), made the contacts, coordinated the final artwork [with Mackey Creative Associates] and arranged for the sign fabrication," said Wolters.

Regions Bank has underwritten the production of the first round of plaques, which can be purchased at the RAP office, 2623 Herschel St. Metal signs will cost \$40 and are ready now, while the bronze plaques will be in Phase 2 of production.

Upcoming Events at the Florida Theatre

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January 15 at 3:00pm

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January 29 at 7:00pm

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January 19 at 8:00pm

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The Resident Community News has been an integral part of our company's media plan since its inception because it is THE voice of Riverside/Avondale/Ortega and Murray Hill, and we always enjoy reading it cover to cover. We feel that it is the best way to keep up with news of the area where we live, work and play, and it's also a great source of historical information on our beloved neighborhoods! It's always fun to open the cover and read articles and profiles of the people who make our community the greatest place to call home, and Seth, Pamela and Debra are an incredible team of professionals who are a dream to work with.

— Fred and Carol Miller, Fred Miller Group, Ortega



What life change are you planning in 2017?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



Will Ketchum, Avondale

I'm continuing to enjoy my kids before they become adults. One has already gone off to college. I also plan to do some home improvement. I want to continue to grow and make an impact on Jacksonville in my marketing and advertising business, and to continue to love Avondale and to do everything I can to make it better and better.



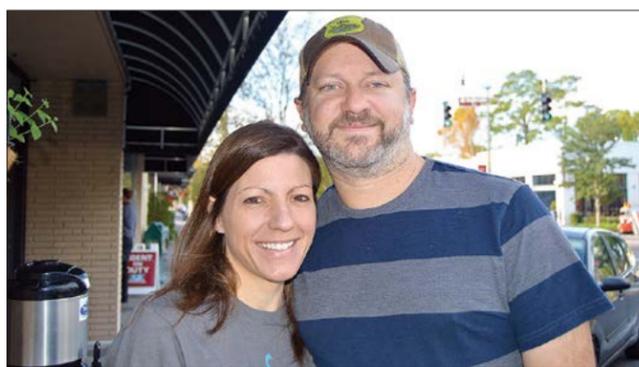
Christian and little Christian Minton, Riverside

We will be working on the ongoing pursuit of happiness. We're just going to focus on that.



Mark Zeigler, Ortega

2017 to me is going to be a breath of fresh air. I'm excited about the leadership that's coming into the country and the changes that have already started. My business has already gotten better. I'm a small business owner and things are just more positive. It feels like we're coming out of survival mode and into growth mode.



Elizabeth and John Keane, Ortega

Hopefully our boys will go to school. They are Parker and Finnley, ages four and two, so it will be a little more restful part of the day around the house.



Terry Coyle, Fairfax

We just got a new grandson. He's our first one and his name is Jack. The game plan is to spend lots of time with him.



Stephanie Welchans, Avondale

I'll just be so happy to have 2016 over. Amen. It's been a tumultuous year. Let's head for more friendliness and less hate.



Natalie Wells, Ortega

I'm getting in shape and we're going to have another kid, too.



Alex Hayward, Riverside

I'm selling my home because I'm getting divorced and we'll see what comes next.



Kevin Russell, Ortega

I'm buying my son, Quinn, a car. He's turning 16.

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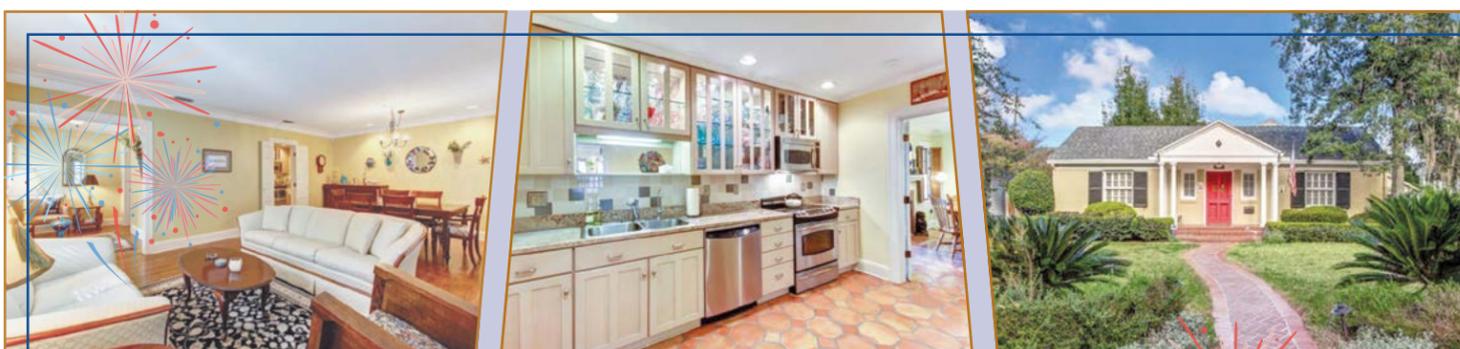
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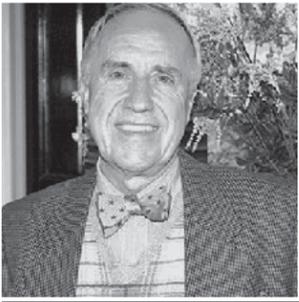
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The Resident Community News has been the best community newspaper since returning to Avondale 15 years ago, where I grew up as a child. Living in the historic area with the finest restaurants, shopping, walking, running, and just seeing some of the finest architectural designs in various homes, gives us enjoyment to participate various activities.

— John Layton, Avondale



— In Memoriam —

Kimberly Stordahl

November 20, 1969 – October 20, 2016

By Krysten L. Bennett
Resident Community News

Jacksonville's animal welfare community is mourning the loss of one of its most beloved members following the passing of Kimberly Dawn Stordahl on Oct. 20 after battling ovarian cancer.

Stordahl is best remembered as the founder of The Old Dog House, a nonprofit rescue organization whose mission is to give older and senior dogs a second, sometimes third, chance at living out their lives in dignity. Her belief that aging canines deserve love despite their age and frailty inspired many to provide forever homes for dogs that may otherwise have never made it to the adoption floor due to their age.

Stordahl is survived by her husband, Erik, with whom she partnered in her rescue efforts and who will continue to operate The Old Dog House in her memory. Erik will have strong support in his efforts, as

many of Kim's peers have vowed to continue her work in her honor.

"Those of us left behind will gladly march with him and carry the banner she so valiantly carried to the end," said Susan Towler of Kamp Kritter Rescue Foundation. "She was a team player whose compassion and love for all those around her, human and canine, was grand. Her loss is a huge one and has left a hole in the heart of many in the rescue community and agencies she helped."

Towler's sentiments were echoed by others who spoke warmly of her qualities of compassion and humility. "I remember Kim as a kind and gentle soul. She was quiet and humble, never tooting her horn but rather quietly doing everything she could to help as many senior dogs as she could," said Sandy Golding of St. Francis Animal Hospital. "In some ways, she seemed like 'an old soul' herself. Perhaps that is why Kim was driven to help the senior dogs."

"Kim did everything she could to provide a place for older dogs from various shelters and other situations by finding them homes. If they couldn't find a permanent home, she and Erik promised to keep them safe and provide a sanctuary for them until it was time to say goodbye," shared Dione Garnand, who first met Kim as a volunteer at Animal Care and Protective Services.

As president of The Jed Fund, which assists animal welfare groups in funding projects that save more lives, Garnand participated in fundraising efforts for the installation of fencing around property recently purchased by Kim and Erik for an adoption facility.

A memorial celebration was held at the future facility's site the week following her passing, allowing those close to Stordahl to celebrate her life in the space in which her legacy will actively live on.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Old Dog House in remembrance of Stordahl's life and work. To support the organization's continued efforts, visit theold-doghouse.org/donate.



"She was a team player whose compassion and love for all those around her, human and canine, was grand."

— Susan Towler, Kamp Kritter Rescue Foundation

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— Anne Burpee Rain, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Ortega



THE WAY WE WERE: ACCIDENTAL INNKEEPERS

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Thanks to the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926, a Riverside establishment, fondly called The Woodshed, was home to a significant number of tenants during a 35-year period.

However, as three local descendants of “accidental innkeepers” Guy and Elma Wood recall, the roots of the imposing three-story Colonial Revival mansion at 1035 Riverside Ave. began in the Episcopal Church.

Siblings Margaret “Margie” Wood Fox and John Wood, and their cousin Dr. Wayne W. Wood, shared remembrances of times spent

at their grandparents’ grand home on The Row, the nickname for a portion of Riverside Avenue known for its more than 50 spectacular mansions during the early 1900s.

The mansion was built after the turn of the 20th century by the Episcopal Diocese of Florida for its third bishop, Reverend Edwin Garner Weed. The “Bishop Weed Mansion,” as it was called, was fronted with four classical Doric columns facing Riverside Avenue and a lot that extended to the river. After Bishop Weed’s death in 1924, the house was bought by his daughter, Mrs. J. Russell Ingram, and became a leased property.

Enter Guy “Bobo” and Elma “Woo Woo” Wood, Georgia natives who lost their investment in the South Florida land boom and their home to the 1926 Miami hurricane, which caused the Woods to return to Jacksonville where they had first begun their married life in 1914. Much of what follows was documented in a memoir by the couple’s oldest son, William, who was four months old when the family fled Miami.

Elma had an inherent business sense and entrepreneurial vision that was always acknowledged by her family. She was the one who first had the idea to rent a spare bedroom in their Dellwood Avenue home when they returned to Jacksonville. That decision set the couple on their successful life course.



With a deposit of \$50, in 1938 Guy Wood bought The Weed Mansion for \$9,000. Photo circa 1961.

The Dellwood home was near the streetcar stop on Myra Street that Guy rode downtown to his job as a sales agent for Equitable Life Insurance, where he worked for more than 30 years until his retirement in 1958 at age 65.

The family soon had to move to a bigger house at 2103 Ernest St. to accommodate more boarders, and to “provide a nice home away from home for girls and boys who work downtown,” according to Elma in her son’s memoir.

Word soon spread about the friendly couple with rooms to rent, good food to eat

and the motherly lady of the house whom everyone called Mom Wood. Soon, more boarders came.

Although barely making ends meet themselves, Guy and Elma extended credit to their young tenants who fell on hard times. They told their sons, Bill and Guy Jr., that only one or two tenants failed to repay them in all their boarding house years.

“They added on a room, then kept moving to bigger homes to house more tenants.

Continued on page 41



The Wood Family: Sons Bill (back) and Guy Jr., Elma and Guy Sr.

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I love the in-depth community and people stories! One of my favorite segments is "The Way We Were." Great stories!

— Scooter Cavins, Venetia



Their boarding house business just kept growing," grandsons Wayne and John both recalled. In 1936 their grandparents leased, then in 1938 bought, the mansion at 1035 Riverside Ave.

John Wood, chairman and CEO of Sally Corporation, still has the original yellowed sales deposit slip for \$50 signed by his grandfather, Guy D. Wood, to finalize the contract for purchase of 1035 Riverside Ave. for the sum of \$9,000. The slip, dated May 5, 1938, is printed on a Tucker Bros., Inc. rental agency deposit slip.

After the Woods moved into the former Weed Mansion, their tenants soon renamed it The Woodshed. Many tenants who boarded with the Woods got engaged (some to other tenants) and married at The Woodshed. There were eight to 10 weddings annually and one spring 13 couples held their nuptials there. Elma was an irrepressible matchmaker who enjoyed that immensely.

The Woods' six grandchildren not only were thrilled to visit their grandparents, they couldn't wait to stay at The Woodshed. Its location put them in the heart of everything, and they walked or rode the bus everywhere.

"Our parents were very social and traveled. When they would go out of town, we got to stay with our grandparents. The Children's Museum was on the corner of Riverside and Lomax with a helicopter in front," said John. "5 Points and the YMCA were right down the street. It was easy to catch the Number 3 Ortega bus and ride downtown, where we watched movies at Center or Florida Theatres and played tag inside of Sears."

"We were four blocks from Memorial Park and two blocks from the duck pond where Bobo walked us to feed the ducks," said Margie, who owns Foxy Foliage, a landscape design company.



Guy "Bobo" and Elma "Woo Woo" Wood



Guy Wood with a string of drum, sheepshead, and croakers, circa 1949 at Devil's Elbow fish camp.

Old-fashioned pastimes at The Woodshed included parlor games: Carrom, Monopoly, Fiddlestix and Anagrams. The tenants were interesting, especially a gentleman who carved wooden ducks. Miss Iris, a lady with severe rheumatoid arthritis, is remembered because she always took them to the park.

Guy had a favorite spot to sit and swing on the shady back porch in the summer, overlooking his concrete-walled, oval garden. The garden's wall protected it from cars parking in back of the mansion. He liked to relax, smoke a cigar after dinner and listen to a baseball game on the radio.

At the mansion, Guy had a desk in the front hall just outside the dining room, where he paid bills, did paperwork and wrangled with the wartime Office of Price Administration, which controlled prices of meals at boarding houses. Any increases had to be approved, a process that constantly lagged behind food costs that stretched the Woods' budget to the breaking point.

On top of Guy's desk in the front hall sat a handmade wooden mail station with slots for every tenant and family member. The mail slots were the most popular spot in the house when all the tenants returned home after work and stopped to check for mail.

The grandchildren loved to race up to the third floor to drop pillows down to the ground beside their grandfather's desk to startle him and make him laugh. "We grandkids thought our grandparents were

rich. There could be 60 people seated for dinner every night," said John. "Christmas at The Woodshed was amazing. We never knew until years later how they struggled to meet the monthly mortgage of \$100. The boarding houses were never a financial boon, but provided a comfortable life."

The enterprising Woods afforded long summer vacations by renting a beach house that could also accommodate paying boarders. They were able to welcome their extended families, and Elma's relatives held their annual reunions at the Woods' beach house.

Because Guy and Elma loved to fish, they often took their 15-foot rowboat, dubbed the EL-BO, or later a rented boat to go saltwater fishing. There were regular weekly fish fries with mouthwatering hushpuppies, where everyone was welcome.

The many cooks and staff who worked for the Woods during their boarding house years were treated like family. They accompanied the family to the summer beach houses. At 1035 Riverside the last couple that worked for them, Leonard and Naomi Jackson, lived in the two-story garage apartment behind the main home.

Margie remembers the cooks would swing her up onto the kitchen counter for a cookie. The grandchildren were treated like royalty by staff and tenants alike.

When Guy and Elma closed their boarding house business in 1961, they rented the mansion to S. C. Henderson & Son for a French restaurant, La Maison. The restaurant had a fire and closed within the year. They continued to rent the mansion until 1971 when it was demolished for construction of an Independent Life Insurance Co. office, but the property is still owned by the Wood family.

In 1974, in reaction to the escalating demolition of historic homes and structures in Riverside and Avondale, Wayne, an optometrist, founded Riverside Avondale Preservation to provide protection and preservation of the architecture, history, cultural heritage and economic viability of Riverside and Avondale.

"Growing up in South Florida in a one-story concrete block home, coming to visit my grandparents in their Riverside mansion was like a fantasy world beyond my wildest dreams," Wayne said. "I still frequently have dreams of being in that house."

Guy and Elma bought their final home at 4129 McGirts Blvd. for \$12,000 after leaving the mansion. The Ortega home was next door to Elma's brother and sister-in-law, Charlie and Lula Talley.

"We loved visiting them at the McGirts house too," said Margie. "When I was in junior high I remember them letting me play Kick-the-Can in the street until 10 p.m. with my friends. When it was hot out we'd come in the house all sweaty and no matter how late it was, Woo Woo would make us delicious Coca Cola or root beer ice cream floats. We loved being in the kitchen with her. She never cared if we made a mess."

The Woods never drove or owned a car until Elma inherited her brother John Talley's 1958 Ford and learned to drive at age 72. After Guy's death in 1967, Elma bought a new Ford station wagon and took a cross-country trip out West with close friends, Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Cowart, and their grandson, Brooks. At age 75, Elma traveled to Alaska with another lady friend and said she enjoyed the small float plane ride so much she should have gone sooner.



Wayne Wood, Margie Wood Fox and John Wood, with a photo of The Woodshed on the mantel

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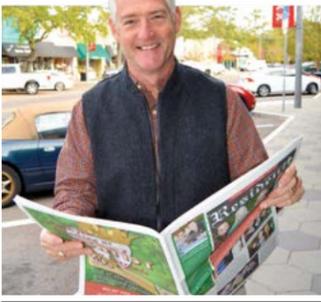
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The Resident is such a well written newspaper, especially with controversial things. The reporters always take the time to write everything so thoroughly, and there is no hidden agenda.

— Mark Zeigler, Ortega



Home from Capitol Hill

A conversation with Ander Crenshaw

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

It is an unheard-of breach of protocol to interrupt a congressman who has the floor at the U.S. House of Representatives while in the middle of closing arguments for a bill.

When proceedings were halted July 8, 2016 so the entire U.S. Congress – Democrats and Republicans alike – could give Rep. Ander Crenshaw a standing ovation, he was amazed.

Crenshaw was in the middle of presenting arguments for a \$21.7 billion appropriations bill when Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader, remarked they were not rising because it was Crenshaw's last bill but "to recognize the representative from Florida who has been a gentleman and statesman for eight terms and to wish him well in his retirement and as a scratch golfer."

"This just never happens," said Crenshaw, who recently stepped down from the 4th Congressional District of Florida. "My Chief of Staff was crying; it was pretty overwhelming."

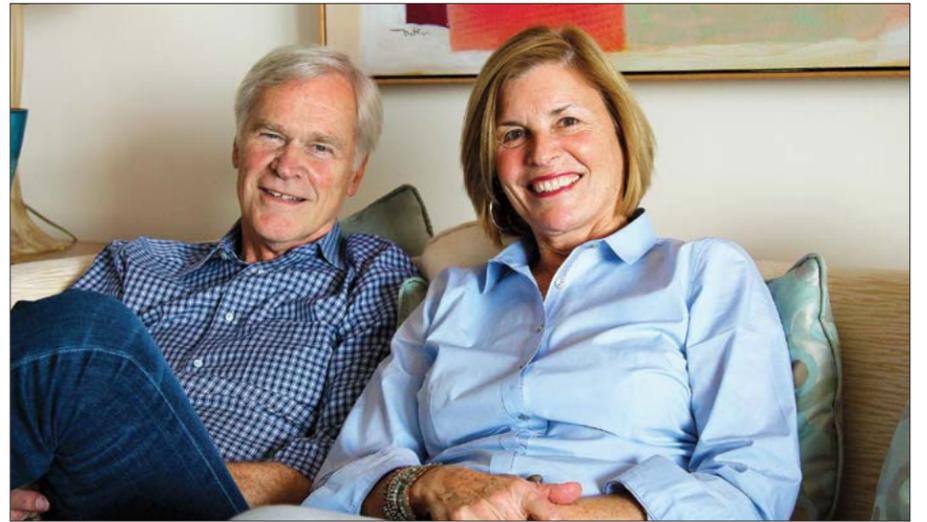
Crenshaw's advocacy for the military, the disabled, VA accountability, procuring mosquito nets to prevent malaria and funding to combat Zika are just a few of his major legislative accomplishments.

"Everyone in Washington is so aware of what Ander has done – here no one has a clue," said his wife, Kitty Kirk Crenshaw. "He oversaw and funded subcommittees on IRS, FEC, OMB, FCC, SBA and the U.S. Supreme Court and the Federal Judiciary," she said, rattling off an alphabet soup of agencies. "I am so proud of him," she said.

Making his mark

Growing up in Riverside, Crenshaw attended Robert E. Lee High School, where he was student body president, graduating in 1962. After attending law school at the University of Florida, Crenshaw entered politics as a young lawyer in practice with his father.

"Ander saw the impact politics had on every part of our lives by watching my dad when he was governor, so Ander ran for the Florida House and served from 1972 to 1978, then later served in the Florida Senate for eight years," Kitty said. During his time as a senator, Crenshaw served as



Ander and Kitty Crenshaw at home

the Senate president, the first Republican to do so in 118 years.

Crenshaw's influence has run the gamut from A (the ABLE Act) to Z (Zika funding) and some wonder how he decided where to put his time and energy.

"It is a world of conflicting sorrows. There is never enough time or money so I had to pick and choose," he said about the subcommittees and causes he chose to support. "You see things that can make a difference in someone's life."

Crenshaw was instrumental in passing the ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience) which gives individuals with

disabilities opportunities to have tax free accounts to use for education, housing and transportation. He promoted and obtained funding for the National Veteran's Cemetery in Jacksonville, then pushed for the already funded Veteran's Affairs Outpatient Clinic to be built.

When he first took office in the U.S. House of Representatives 16 years ago, Crenshaw instituted the Veteran's Special Recognition Ceremony.

"It doesn't sound like a big deal, but I realized that veterans of the Normandy

Continued on page 43

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Rose Hardaway, 90, moved to Jacksonville about nine years ago after the passing of her beloved husband, to live with her daughter, Lola, age 71. With Lola as primary caregiver and a senior herself, she reached out to Aging True to help both herself and her mom with this transition.

Ms. Hardaway receives many Aging True services, from a Senior Companion – whom she refers to as her friend and "company keeper" – to personal and in-home care, as well as Meals on Wheels. She enjoys her daily, nutritious hot meal, and says, "it looks like they prepared it just for me; this food is absolutely delicious."

Both Lola and Rose are thankful for the help of Aging True.

"I've enjoyed this program," says Ms. Hardaway, "to come and serve like this, we just love it and everyone is so beautiful."



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I think *The Resident* has been so supportive of issues involving our river and has recognized its importance to the communities which *The Resident* covers. That has been one of the things professionally for me that is wonderful. I'm a resident and I love the news I get as a resident, but also, I love the news I get professionally about what's happening to our river and the coverage I get in *The Resident*.

— Jimmy Orth, Riverside



“Everyone in Washington is so aware of what Ander has done – here no one has a clue.”

— Kitty Kirk Crenshaw

invasion were eligible for a medal. The only drawback – they had to go to France to get it,” he said. “I thought why not replicate the medal and give it to them here?”

The first ceremony 15 years ago was very moving for Crenshaw and his wife. “One man said he had to lose 38 pounds to wear his old uniform,” said Kitty. “Another put down his oxygen tube and his walker and had his son walk up with him to get his medal.”

Recently Crenshaw escorted newly-elected Congressman and former Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford around Washington and gave him some advice. “It’s no secret. It is about relationships, about building bridges – being humble and promoting bipartisanship in relationships,” he said.

Although Crenshaw cast his last vote in Congress on Dec. 8 he said he is not really retiring, just making a transition.

“I feel very good about the decision. All good things must come to an end, and I’ve done a lot of things that I set out to do and stayed longer than I had planned,” he said. “Kitty and I talked about it and feel that change and growth are synonymous.”

“Ander has the best staff, and we will miss them. People think politics is awful but you get to know the most phenomenal people,” said his wife.

Crenshaw laughed, “I won’t miss the circus, but I’ll miss the clowns.”

Some of those “clowns,” his dedicated staff, helped him celebrate with a hilarious mannequin challenge at a staff party before he returned home.

Focusing on family next

Family has always been a priority for Crenshaw.

“When I served in the Florida Senate, I could drive home from Tallahassee in time to tuck (daughters) Alex and Sarah in at night. I’ve been commuting to the Hill since I’ve been in Congress,” Crenshaw said. “I am fortunate to be in a district where I was born and raised. I’m coming home, but I actually never left,” he said.

Concerning their transition, Kitty remarked she has been “unspeakably blessed to be beside him. There is no clue what’s next.

“We are trusting and taking a step into never...never...” Kitty said. “I had to let go of the old trapeze, float through that Never-Never Land, trust God and grab for a new one,” she continued, quoting from her recently published book, “The Hidden Life: Awakened.”

With good humor, Crenshaw related the story of a short-lived acting career when he had an opportunity to be in the movie “The Legend of Bagger Vance.” While milling about on the set waiting for a part, Director Robert Redford approached him and said, “Mr. Crenshaw, acting is a funny business. Careers come and careers go, and yours is gone.”

Kitty laughed and said, “In case you are wondering, acting is not his next career move.”

The Crenshaws look forward to their next adventure as they let go of the old trapeze and grab onto whatever it might be. But, Crenshaw’s priorities are in order.

“I’m so proud of Kitty. Maybe I can help promote her book, and I look forward to using my coupons to take our granddaughters, Kate and Riley, to the Dreamette for a good old-fashioned brain freeze,” said Crenshaw.



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I love *The Resident*. It's a very full-fledged newspaper and it covers everything whether it's a festive party or a charity organization that's doing a lot of good for the community. The articles are very well chosen and the photography is excellent. On every page that you turn there is something interesting and different that everybody wants to read about. It's about everybody living here and what's going on in the art museums and at Wolfson's Children's Hospital. It covers a variety of interests, which touches a lot of people. It's not just a social newspaper.

— Sister Utsey, Ortega



Keeping football on the air

Behind the scenes at EverBank Field

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Although Jacksonville Jaguars fans may rock EverBank Field with cheers and yells, for one man the real excitement is not in the stands or on the field but behind the scenes.

When George Birnbaum of Lakeshore says, "3, 2, 1, go!" as he pushes a single button, he takes the two largest high definition video screens in the world from black to live in seconds.

"It is amazing," said Birnbaum, who has worked as a production engineer at a Jacksonville stadium for 30 years.

Since the end zone video scoreboards were unveiled in July 2016, Birnbaum has worked every event at EverBank Field and still gets a thrill each time the two 362-foot-wide by 60-foot-tall Jumbotrons light up.

The Jaguars game-day producer creates the carefully constructed script for the event, Birnbaum said. "Every minute is accounted for beginning an hour before the game until after," he said.

"The adrenaline kicks in 10 to 15 minutes before we go live; we live and die by the clock," said Birnbaum. "Talk about an adrenaline rush! There is a lot of prep work and anxiety, and then there's no turning back!"

At a typical sports event there are five to 15 or more manned cameras set up. In addition to the Jaguars staff, it takes 43 people, all freelancers, to man an event at Everbank Field.

Birnbaum explained the stadium has a permanent production system, but there is still work to be done for every game; each of the cameras must be set up and tested for proper functioning.

"We come in, turn everything on, go around the stadium and install the cameras, make sure everything works properly," said Birnbaum. "It's Tim Derstine and myself. We are the guys who come in the door and get the show game-ready in about three hours."

There can be absolutely no pass interference when Birnbaum and the production team at EverBank Field take their places on game day. In a live sports environment, the producer and director rely on the engineer to make sure all equipment – cameras, play back, audio and sound equipment – is working properly. Troubleshooting or



George Birnbaum at EverBank Field

"firefighting" is the pass play of the engineers, Birnbaum said.

"If something doesn't come on we have to figure it out and fix it. The system is designed and built with enough redundancy that our goal for the fans is they wouldn't even know anything was wrong," said Birnbaum, who had input into the system's design and knows it backwards and forwards. "From the first picture until the last we don't want any blank spaces on the screen."

Birnbaum's expertise isn't confined to Jacksonville. As a freelance production engineer, the Lakeshore resident said he's been all over the country as the man who "makes sure television sports and entertainment programs are as seamless as possible, as well as being a great fan experience."

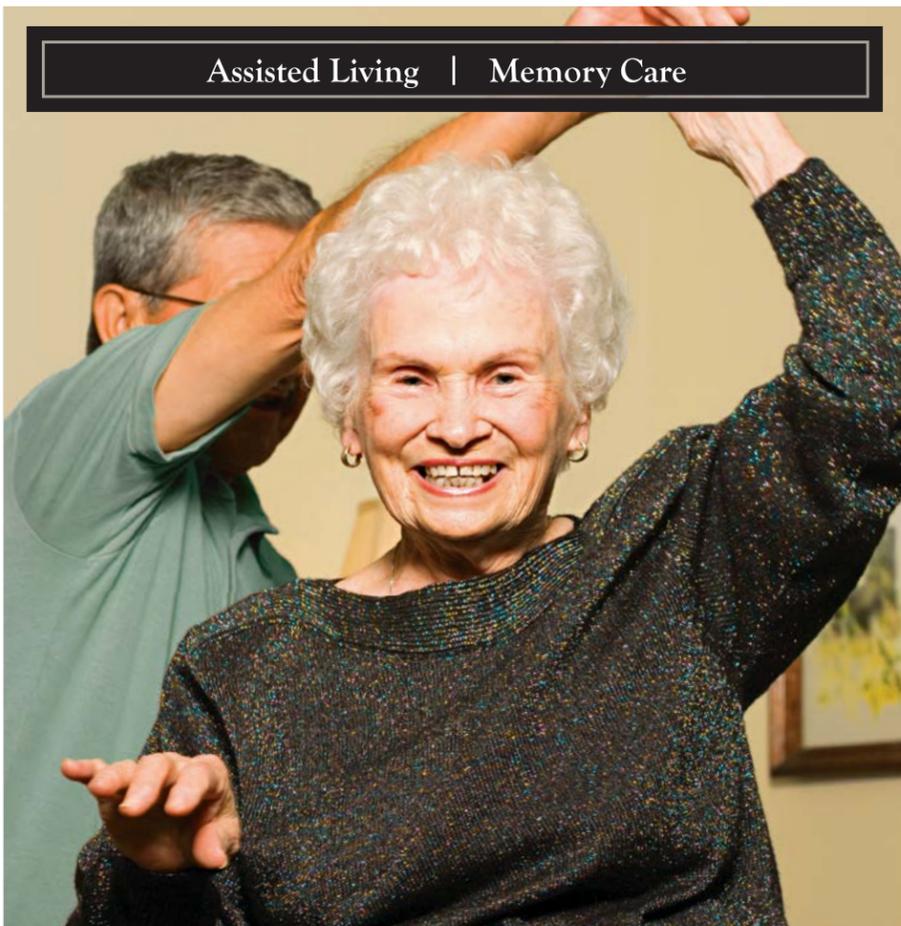
His entire career has evolved around electronics, beginning when he would pick

up old televisions from the trash, then take them home to dismantle and reconstruct them. "I loved that with electricity you can't see it but you can create a response," Birnbaum said. "I've always been fascinated with TV."

A testimony to his obsession with television – a prized 1952 swivel screen Philco television set – sits in the waiting room of GemStone Media, Inc., a television production company he co-owns.

Birnbaum also runs the sound and video equipment, as a volunteer, at Ortega United Methodist Church. He admits to being a workaholic, but said it's a fun business to be in.

"I love what I do. I mean, I was 10 feet away from Paul McCartney at the Super Bowl," Birnbaum said. "I've done Super Bowls, TPC, the World Series, the Firecracker 400, baseball, football, ice skating – you name it."



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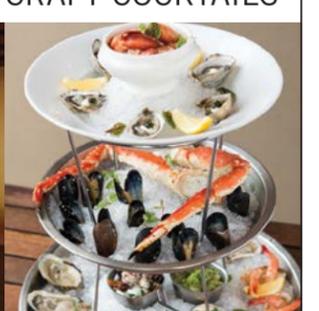
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Jr. Residents

Leadership class takes 'at risk' students into 'as hope'

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Alan McCullough, a 10th grade student at Robert E. Lee High School, was one of 26 young people selected nationwide from over 200 applicants for the Harvard University Advisory Board, a project of the Graduate School of Education called Making Caring Common.

The Board advises on strategies for exploring the ethical and moral issues of young people and establishing ways to make schools and communities "just, caring and respectful." The students represent 15 states across the nation from a diversity of backgrounds.

McCullough, who was nominated by Principal Scott Schneider and Rick Badger with assistance from Lee High Leadership teacher Amy Donofrio, completed the rigorous application process.

"We consider students normally identified as 'at risk' as 'as hope.' A lot of people have taken notice of Alan's abilities and helped him to believe in his own abilities," said Schneider.

One goal of Donofrio's Leadership class, EVAC - CAVE spelled backwards - is to lead students out of a cave of hopelessness and ignorance into leadership. To reach that goal the students in the class have met with State Attorney Melissa Nelson to find solutions on ways to reduce juvenile crime and violence and have participated in forums on Juvenile Justice in Washington, D.C.



Leadership teacher Amy Donofrio, Alan McCullough, Lee High School Principal Scott Schneider

EVAC classmate Bernard Thomas represented the group at a national Youth-Police Roundtable Nov. 15-16 in Kentucky at the invitation of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in partnership with the Department of Justice.

McCullough had an opportunity to speak at the White House when his class went to Washington, D.C. in October to participate in Senate committee hearings concerning juvenile justice reform.

"A year and a half ago I didn't see any hope. I was surrounded by negativity and violence," said McCullough. "Now I have spoken at the White House, am on this board. We even got to attend a meet and

greet with President Obama. I am ecstatic - it seems unreal - like one big dream."

McCullough's one-year commitment to the Harvard Board involves organizing a team of students from Donofrio's EVAC class to present a summation of "What kindness means to me." Technology allows the students and the directors to communicate through virtual meetings, conference calls, and twitters.

"I never expected to be doing all these things," said McCullough. "It's amazing how we started small and just keep growing and growing. Now we feel that what we have to say counts. There are a bunch of opportunities for me."

Basketball game raises funds for brain tumor victim



Bishop John Snyder basketball player Madison Jaeger (center) is flanked by Melanie and Casey Sembach, a Jacksonville police officer, and two of their children at a basketball fundraiser for the Sembach family.

The Twitter hashtag #lightitupforlucy drove a big crowd to the Demetree Gymnasium at Bishop John J. Snyder High School on Dec. 6. That evening the girls' basketball team, the Cardinals, hosted Eagles View Academy, and all proceeds from the evening were donated to the family of Lucy Sembach, a two-year-old who recently underwent surgery for a brain tumor. Over \$2,000 was raised for Lucy and her parents, with special thanks to Tijuana Flats, who donated burritos and chips to be sold in the concession stand. The Cardinals beat the Warriors 46-22.



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I work for the City's Parks Department and its director, Daryl Joseph. One of his priorities is improving parks throughout the City of Jacksonville and one of his big projects has been in Memorial Park. I love reading about the Memorial Park restoration in *The Resident*. It is covered very well. *The Resident* also covers a lot of nonprofit organizations including The Humane Society's event at EverBank and the Cummer's entertainment. It has a lot of great information.

— Alison Miller, Avondale



Ortega exhibits show student ingenuity, creativity



Twins Kody and Konnor Bailey with science projects about sound energy and pitch

Parents of Ortega Elementary Magnet School students enjoyed a holiday concert Dec. 8 of songs and pieces by the Ortega Steel Band before touring science projects and museum exhibits displayed throughout the school.

A few of the displays featured an emphasis on Greece, including an exhibit on Greek Inventions – Then and Now, and another on Honoring the Greek Gods, while others emphasized the sciences.

First-grader Bethany Geiger explained the

concept of a Venn diagram by showing the intersections between “royal” fairy tale characters such as Cinderella, Rhodopis, a Greek courtesan who marries the king of Egypt, and Billy Beg, the son of an Irish king.

Fifth-grade student Brendan Roes of Ortega developed a study exploring memory issues within age groups, while fourth-grade twins Kody and Konnor Bailey, of Ortega, looked at sound energy and pitch by creating instruments, such as Kody’s “triodrum” and Konnor’s box banjo he named a Konjo.



Bethany Geiger points to a Venn diagram as part of a display on legends.



Brendan Roes with his science project on memory and age

Local school student advances to county spelling bee

Alison Tippins of San Marco was the champion of the Riverside Presbyterian Day School 2016 Spelling Bee. The sixth-grade student correctly spelled the word “integer” in the final round. Fifth grader Robert Elrod of Venetia was the runner-up in the annual competition. Tippins will move on to the Duval County Public Schools Spelling Bee Thursday, Jan. 19 at 5 p.m. at Julia Landon College Preparatory School, 1819 Thacker Ave.



Alison Tippins, Robert Elrod

100 years of excellence

Fishweir Elementary School is seeking artifacts for its upcoming centennial celebration. If you have old photos or newspaper clippings, or other items of interest, contact Kathy Brantley or the school office at (904) 381-3910. The celebration is set for Friday, May 19, 5-8 p.m. at the school, 3977 Herschel St.



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I LOVE *The Resident*. I look forward to receiving it every month. It has so many interesting articles about people who live in my community. I love the fact it focuses on the schools. There is such a wide variety of reporting. I think they do a wonderful job.

— Heather Surface, Ortega



Fishweir students first-time gingerbread builders

The Fishweir Elementary School 4th grade Art Club students were “first-time builders” with two gingerbread creations, “100 Years of Fishweir Elementary” and “Mrs. Plauche’s Classroom,” complete with tiny chocolate laptops, entered in the Jacksonville Historical Society’s Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza. Students Ian Cherneski, Andrew Royce, Anjel Harris, Isaac Newman Ciara Dunn, Maddison McInnish, Sawyer Weakland, Mia Garces, Miles Conley, Marlee Vonschlichten, and Alex Taylor made the confectionary displays of crackers, pretzels and Swedish fish candy, under the direction of Art Teacher Marie Myers.

Also during the holidays, in memory of Fred Rogers, Fishweir Elementary School was one of many which participated in the 14th Annual Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood Sweater Drive, in partnership with Duval County Public School PTA, WJCT and VyStar Credit Union. Gently used sweaters, jackets and blankets were collected by public schools, and the school which collected the most received a special prize.



Fishweir Elementary Art Teacher Marie Myers with Ian Cherneski, Anjel Harris, Sawyer Weakland, Maddison McInnish and Mia Garces.

Students learn about disabilities through art

Blindfolded student at Central Riverside Elementary School created self-portraits using Wiki Stix, strings coated with wax, then showed each other their art by allowing the other to feel the lines of their drawing. The EDGE program (Enhancing, Developing, and Generating Excellence) is an enrichment class offered as part of the 100-year-old school’s Magnet Program.



Jack Bibbee, fifth grade, gets a sense of what it’s like to make and share art as if he was blind.

Relic gift tours diocese, makes stop at St. Matthew



During a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage to Italy for the Jubilee Year of Mercy in February 2016, the Capuchin Friars of San Giovanni Rotondo gifted the Diocese of St. Augustine with a relic of St. Pio of Pietrelcina.

The relic qualifies as a first-class relic as it is a piece of Padre Pio’s shirt containing his own blood from the stigmata wound in the side of his chest. A first-class is a part of the saint’s body (in this case, his blood). A second-class is a piece of the saint’s clothing or something used by the

saint. A third-class relic is something that has been touched to a first-class relic.

Bishop Felipe J. Estévez made the relic available to the diocesan parishes, and it visited St. Matthew’s Catholic Church and School the weekend before Thanksgiving. Students and faculty were fortunate and blessed to be able to participate in the receiving of the relic at the Nov. 18 Mass. The St. Padre Pio relic resides at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine until it is requested by another parish or school.

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I think positive change starts in our neighborhoods. I read *The Resident* because it's a great way to plug in to what's going on and how to get involved so that we can lift up our whole community.

— Meredith O'Malley Johnson, Riverside



Local school sends bear hugs across state lines



Following the school bus tragedy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Fishweir Elementary School's second grade teachers were moved to reach out to the children and families of Woodmore Elementary School.

The second-grade teachers organized a Teddy Bear and Blanket Drive in an effort to reach out and offer comfort and support to this grieving school. Quickly, teddy bears, stuffed animals and fluffy blankets poured in, and the hallway collection boxes were overflowing.

Fishweir sent two huge shipments to Woodmore – the first was a carload, and the second filled four massive packing boxes. The second-grade teachers and students thank the Fishweir families and friends for generously supporting this outreach project.



Local girls' troop again supports Operation Christmas Child

For the third year, the Avondale American Heritage Girls troop packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The girls enjoyed Christmas music and hot chocolate Nov. 17 while they packed more than 30 boxes with essential items, fun toys, and school supplies for children overseas.

Every student has a role at holiday gala

Kindergarteners Maggie Caron, Saphira Montgomery, Cort Csar, Landon Vihlen, Fletcher Bettis, Lauryn Hicks, third grader Grayson Windley, and second graders Drake Thompson and Weston diStefano get ready to perform at the annual West Riverside Elementary School Holiday Gala Dec. 20, which featured 16 holiday songs from five continents.



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9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Services



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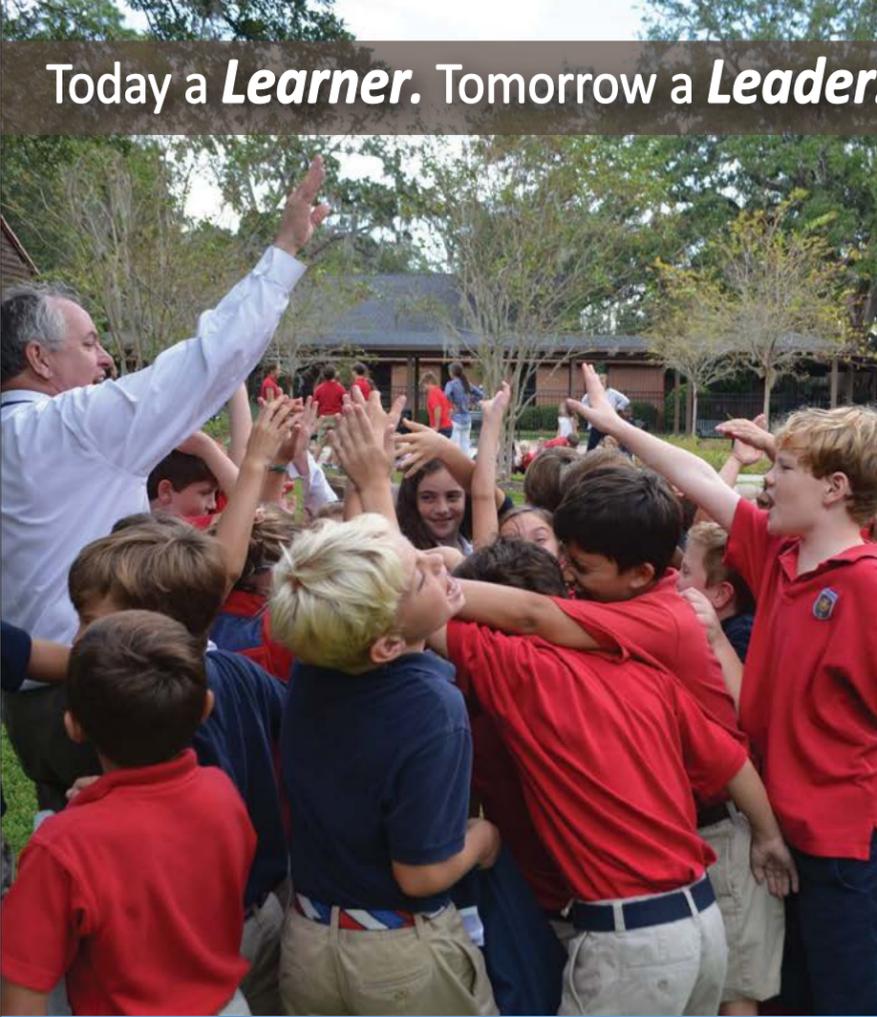
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The Resident provides me with local information with what's going on, whether it is new restaurants going in or parking issues because new restaurants are going in. It gives us local information about what's happening in Riverside, Avondale, and Ortega and that's where we live so it's best to have that. I also like to see how many times Helen Lane is within the pages. She deserves to be there. There are a handful of people that are always in there – the Weavers, the Shircliffs, the Van Vlecks, Betsy Lovett and Helen. They are so generous in so many ways. It is good to see.

— Jim Schwarz, Riverside



Students with autism get iPads for classrooms

After witnessing the progress students with autism are making with iPads, the HEAL (Helping Enrich Autistic Lives) Foundation launched its newest initiative, iHeal – iPads, purchasing more than 100 iPads and donating them to Exceptional Student Education (ESE) classrooms throughout Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

On Dec. 5-6, HEAL Founder Leslie Weed, Executive Director Jason Gurka and Office Manager Jodi Voy delivered 50 additional iPads to local ESE classrooms, bringing the total number of iPads donated in 2016 to 150.

The organization's goal is to gift an iPad to every local ESE classroom in the five counties surrounding Jacksonville. Each iPad comes with a protective case and an iTunes gift certificate so teachers can purchase educational apps for their students.

"HEAL has been helping our local autism community with grants and resources for a decade, and the HEAL Board of Directors is proud of HEAL's newest initiative – iHEAL - iPads Helping Enrich Autistic Lives. It's amazing to see the students' development with the use of an iPad. For many of them, it is their voice to communicate to the world," said Weed.



Students at W. E. Cherry Elementary, Orange Park, receive an iPad from the HEAL Foundation for their Exceptional Student Education (ESE) classroom.

Students artwork featured on notecards

The angel artwork of three Riverside Presbyterian Day School students was selected in the Angel Notecard Competition put on by Angels for Allison. Drawings by sixth-grade students Annie Hellman, Shelby McCart and Mason Montour were featured on notecard sets sold at Angels for Allison retail locations for the Christmas season.



Nancy Hudmon, Chair of the Halos Committee with the Student Leadership Council at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, with Shelby McCart and Annie Hellman. Not available, Mason Montour



Shelby McCart's winning artwork



Annie Hellman's winning artwork



Mason Montour's winning artwork



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I love *The Resident* because they get it exactly right.

— Jim Love, District 14 Councilman, Avondale



Holiday season properly launched with annual events

The holiday season was a busy one for local residents who enjoyed Christmas in Avondale (Dec. 3), Holidazzle at Riverside Arts Market and Holiday Magic in San Marco (Dec. 10), A Very Murray Christmas (Dec. 11), and Riverside Avondale Luminaria Night (Dec. 18), all within a two-week period. While the annual Murray Hill neighborhood gathering in Four Corners Park was a low-key, family-friendly affair, the other events drew visitors from all over Jacksonville.



Jered Jackson set up a raw oyster bar at the 5th Annual Very Murray Christmas Dec. 11. Chili, homemade holiday cookies and a fish fry were some of the many tasty treats in Four Corners Park.



Jason and Suzetta Waterhouse of Riverside walked to San Marco Square to participate in the Holiday Magic activities, including the Festival of Lights 5K Dec. 10.



Catherine Nichols, Sophie Busker, Ginny Kurlas, Madeleine Williams, Garland Rogers, all fifth-grade students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, enjoy Christmas in Avondale.



Students from the Ronan School of Music, Liam Bloch and Charles Hines, practice on the alto sax before a concert during Christmas in Avondale.

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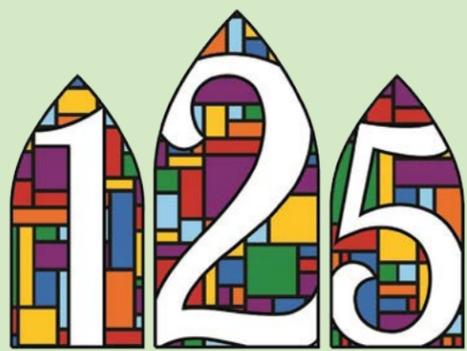
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Classes are 1 hour each week, January 18th-March 15th; No classes March 1st.

\$5.00 DISCOUNT FOR REGISTERING JANUARY 11TH!

For Children

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

5:00 P.M. CLASSES

Handbells for 3rd-5th Graders

Learn to play handbells in a fun setting. No previous musical experience required. Children must be available for a few performances during the year. No Charge.

Christian Karate

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

Dance: Ballet and Tap

Professional Instructor, Karen Pfeiffer. Ages 3 and up. Minimum of 6 students required.

6:30 P.M. CLASSES

Martial Arts for Self-Defense

Instruction provided by United Martial Arts. This class is open to both children and adults and will focus on a more mature use of Karate for the adults but still appropriate for children. Minimum 6 students per class.

Children's Art

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

Learning is a Family Affair: Some Adult classes also are available to serious young students, especially with parental participation- such as Sign Language and Guitar.

5:00 P.M. CLASSES

Intermediate Yoga

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

Gentle Yoga

Instructor Jill Pagan, trained in Kripalu Yoga at Discovery Yoga in St. Augustine. This class offers gentle movement of breath and body. Motion is lotion. This class will focus on breathing with an introduction to simple modified poses. Class suitable for all levels. Minimum 5 students per class. \$35.00

Acrylic Painting

Instructor Reet London Bilanchone, a graduate of UNF with a BA in Fine Arts with 10 years of teaching experience as well as being a full time artist. Acrylic with mixed media painting class where students' own ideas are brought to life. Please bring a photo of your choosing to be translated into a memorable painting. Supply list furnished at registration. Minimum 5 and maximum 8 students per class. \$45.00

6:30 P.M. CLASSES

Line Dancing

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

For Adults and Youth

Martial Arts for Self Defense

See description under children's classes. \$35.00

Gentle Yoga

See description and price under 5:00 classes.

Guitar and Ukulele

Professional Artist/Instructor Arvid Smith. For beginners and intermediates. A warm, fun learning environment where both the instructor and the more experienced students willingly help novices. Acoustical guitar, electric guitar or ukulele needed. Two 45 minute sessions: Beginners 6:00-6:45; Experienced 6:45-7:30. \$45.00

Acrylic Painting

See description and price under 5:00 classes.

Introduction to Sign Language

Leanne Triplett, 7 years of ASL studies, 3 years experience teaching deaf students and a year of high school instruction. This is a six week class and will begin on Feb. 1st. Minimum of 6 students required. All materials furnished. \$25.00

Bracelet Making for Margaret's Memories

Volunteer experience/no cost class. Help make bracelets, footprint cards and memory boxes donated to grieving families of newborns, free of charge through local hospitals and Community Hospice. All materials furnished. Find out more about this ministry at www.margretsmemories.org.

Tai Chi

Sponsored by the Taoist Tai Chi Society. Taoist Tai Chi® incorporates stretching and turning into a sequence of 108 movements that reduce tension, improve circulation and balance and increase strength and flexibility. Students will learn the first 17 moves of the set in this introductory class. \$45.00

Investment Basics and Strategies

Instructor, David Leavitt. This series of seminars provides fundamental knowledge on a variety of financial topics to help you achieve your financial goals. Topics include Budgeting, Mutual Funds, Stocks and Estate Planning. Attend one or all sessions. Each session- \$5.00; All 8- \$25.00.

Creative Needlecraft

Enjoy an hour of time with your favorite craft. Work on quilting, cross stitch, knitting, crochet, embroidery and more. Try a bit of all or concentrate on one. Shirley Davis will guide you every "stitch" of the way. \$20.00

Go Green Crafts

Make crafts using items you already have around the house, such as plastic bottles, old tee shirts and coloring pictures. Work at your own pace, on one specific craft or try them all. \$20.00

Plant Based (Vegan)/Healthy Food Choices Lifestyle

Instructor, Chef Jonathon Addington. This class will offer instruction about plant-based, healthier food items, as well as giving resources to find ways to live an informed, yet critical lifestyle. The class will largely be lecture/discussion but will offer several food demos along the way so you can learn to create delicious dishes. \$45.00

Faith Discovery "Light and Life: Windows to the Gospel"

Facilitated by Pastor Emily Knight. The stained glass windows in our sanctuary tell a beautiful story. Join us as we zoom in on the details, the meaning and message of four of them. Spend two weeks on each of the four windows that specifically cover the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, including the window behind the altar. Come and see so you can go and tell. \$5.00

Having trouble choosing?

You can "sample"- that is, participate in- four of the following classes for two weeks each for \$25.00. You are also welcome to observe any class in CCAL one time at no charge. If you want to enroll in one of the classes that you have "sampled", then the regular tuition for that class will be prorated according to the number of remaining sessions. Sample Choices: Plant Based Lifestyle, Line Dancing, Gentle Yoga, Faith Discovery- Light and Life, Crafting, Investment Basics and Strategies, Martial Arts for Self-Defense.

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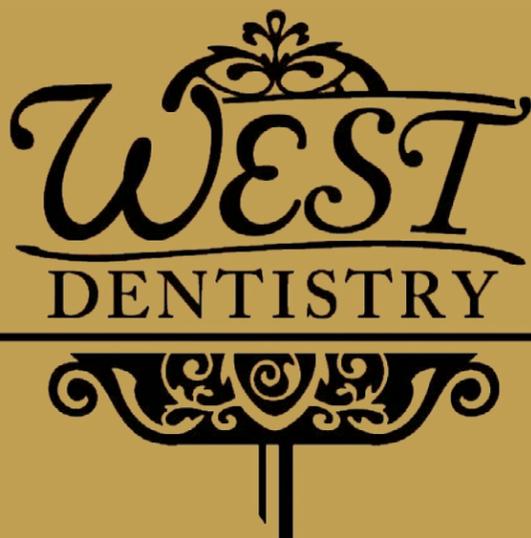


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