



Trauma center, services save lives annually

UF Health Jacksonville CEO, Russ Armistead and his wife, Susan discovered 10 ways to celebrate the TraumaOne's men and women during UF Health's 10th Annual TraumaOne gala at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront.

Read more, page 23



Big evening for Berry Good Farms

Elaine and Mike Ashourian joined other generous patrons in support of the North Florida School of Special Education's Berry Good Farms Jan. 29. The grounds of the campus are transformed into a beautiful, culinary occasion for their annual fundraiser, Dinner on the Farm.

Read more, page 23

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS



Resident COMMUNITY NEWS San Jose - San Marco - St. Nicholas



DDRB approves concept for new Southbank high rise
This aerial photo shows the new design and location of a proposed 300-unit apartment building that Ventures Development Group hopes to build adjacent to the Aetna Building on the Southbank. The project includes a 20-foot Riverwalk and courtyard garden, which will be available for public use. Read more, Page 5

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Downtown Dwellers evolve into nonprofit PAGE 4 >>
More road work in store for San Marco residents PAGE 8 >>
Clowns go undercover PAGE 25 >>
Public schools celebrate Teachers of the Year PAGE 32-33 >>
Getting to know Lt. Jimmy Ricks PAGE 27 >>



Bolles celebrates Head of School

John and Alice Trainer with fellow Bolles supporters Julie and Dan Rice were just a few of the special guests invited to celebrate at a recent reception of Bolles alumni, donors and school representatives. The evening gathering honored the President and Head of School, Dave Farace, who recently completed his first year at the helm of the institution. Longtime donor Betsy Lovett hosted the reception at her home in Ortega. She was pleasantly surprised with the unveiling of a feature story in the annual Bolles magazine, About Bolles, where she is hailed as one of Jacksonville's leading ladies.



Locals rally for ACS at Taste of San Marco

A passionate group of San Marco residents, including Emily Dostie, Event Chair Heather Riley, Kelli King and Claire Melvin, showed their support for the American Cancer Society and its Relay for Life initiatives at a recent event in the Square. Alongside chefs from local restaurants and representatives from craft breweries, patrons paired wine and beer with delicious culinary creations. Stellars Gallery played host, as the wet weather altered the course of the evening's outdoor festivities for the Jan. 21 event. Read more, page 22

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Residents discuss need for historic district after demolition of historic home

For Leigh Burdett of Lakewood, the demolition of the 1927 Tudor Revival home at 1922 River Road in San Marco was akin to buying Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa and tearing it into little pieces. 'I see these historic homes as pieces of art,' Burdett said. 'You may buy the Mona Lisa, but that doesn't give you the right to destroy it. It gives you the responsibility to preserve it and enhance it in a way that maintains the integrity of the historic neighborhood.'

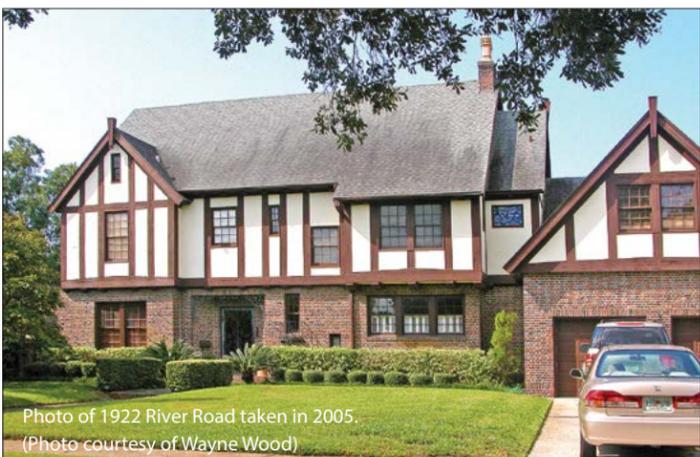


Photo of 1922 River Road taken in 2005. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Wood)

Continued on page 12



Residents share why pets are important

There's nothing better than a tail-wagging greeting at the end of a long day, especially for local attorney Dana Price, who brings George with her to the office.

Read more, page 28



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# Publishers' Note

When you love your neighborhood and you're passionate about where you live, it shows. When people stand up, and step up, for things they feel strongly about, changes are often implemented that better our community. It's this passion that helps to maintain the beauty, historic character, and uniqueness of our neighborhoods, which are a great place to live, raise a family, and to conduct business.

In this month's *Resident*, you'll find zoning issues and hotly contested projects on the horizon. Wherever beautiful places exist, their allure attracts investment, and growth often becomes a contentious issue. How much do we grow? And at what pace? What will we lose and gain? What price is to be paid...and what consequences will they bring? These are all great questions and we're fortunate in many ways to have these problems, yet at that same time, we're challenged to confront them for the best results and return on our collective investments as taxpayers.

*The Resident* will continue to report on these issues and bring them to light. When neighborhood meetings, zoning hearings and other deliberation are ongoing and/or

announced, we'll let you know so you can get involved and get informed, and exercise your right to an opinion.

As our neighborhoods continue to attract more investors and more growth, the growing pains will come with it. On the other side of the coin; more jobs, goods, and services will be made available. There will certainly be challenges. We'll be there to bring this news to you, reporting with balance on all sides of every issue.

At *The Resident*, we see change every day being brought about by individuals and groups of all stripes. Whether they are asking for sidewalks for safety, a less congested restaurant, consideration for historic character in our districts' structures and buildings, or they're tired of seeing developers put cash over quality of life, they do it out of concern and the love of where they live.

Regardless of where you stand, the debate usually seems to deliver better results. Often, the fight for less, or for more, ends in a mutually agreeable situation where both parties can come away winners. That's the beauty of debate, deliberations, and often, compromise.

Pamela and Seth Williams  
PUBLISHERS

## 10th Anniversary Contest Winner

Congratulations to Angela Lopez, a Granada resident, who won the "Why I Love The Resident" contest in celebration of *The Resident's* 10th anniversary. Lopez won a six-month individual membership to VERB JAX, a full-service, upscale fitness facility in 5 Points, with these kind words:

*"I love The Resident because it promotes community. It provides an opportunity for neighbors to let their opinions be heard thus making us all feel we are better connected to each other and to our area where we live. It is a catalyst for building up people and our surroundings."*



Angela Lopez

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# Dwellers group seeks to be 'voice' of Downtown residents

*Group works to obtain nonprofit status and influence within urban core*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

San Marco has the San Marco Preservation Society. Riverside and Avondale have RAP – Riverside Avondale Preservation. Numerous other Jacksonville neighborhoods have associations, but there is no organization that represents the relatively sparse number of residents that live Downtown.

Peninsula resident Sandra Fradd, and her downtown neighbors – John Smith and Tom Dumas of the Plaza and Susan Strauss, also of The Peninsula – want to change that. They want the Downtown Dwellers group to evolve into the “voice” of residents and merchants who reside within Jacksonville’s Urban Core.

“There is a vacuum right now for core residents,” explained Smith, who is vice president of The Plaza Homeowners Association. “I don’t think anyone would disagree that the key to a vibrant downtown is residents. We are the pioneers down here,” he said. “I’ve talked to residents and small businesses and I have asked, ‘Where is your voice?’ and they say, ‘We don’t have one.’ The opportunity is there to have associate memberships, sponsorships and supporters we would all benefit from.”

The Downtown Dwellers group is not new. It was started more than two years ago, when Fradd joined with Plaza resident Dorothy Merrick to provide a forum for

Downtown residents on both sides of the St. Johns River to meet each other, discuss common problems, and listen to City officials speak on subjects of interest to those living in the urban core. Under the duo’s leadership, the group met twice a year, in venues that rotated on both sides of the river.

During the group’s last meeting Sept. 27, 2016 at the Museum of Science and History, Fradd shocked everyone when she announced that she and Merrick, who was moving to Atlanta, planned to step down from their leadership roles after the meeting. Not wanting to see the group slip away, Dumas and Smith stepped forward, and Fradd, who was encouraged to stay, soon found help in Strauss, her neighbor.

Since then the foursome have met weekly to discuss ways to be proactive, expand the group, and build a sense of community for Downtown residents. They plan to convert the Downtown Dwellers into a nonprofit so it can accept sponsorships and raise money to fund activities.

They also want it to become an “umbrella” organization over other subgroups such as the newfound Friends of the Riverwalk, a band of residents seeking to “adopt” the Southbank Riverwalk for beautification and maintenance. “In the past, we talked about it and negotiated quietly, but now we’re getting more vocal about it,” said Fradd.

Fradd said the group is interested in enhancing Dweller lifestyle by monitoring the area near their homes for vagrancy and picking up trash. They also want to assist the City and become involved in groups that care for the river, such as City Council President Lori Boyer’s Waterways Project. “If the City’s shorthanded and we have a



Tom Dumas of The Plaza; Susan Strauss and Sandra Fradd of The Peninsula, and John Smith of The Plaza.

direct connection to whoever is in charge, we want to be able to organize our troops to do that work. We have people who want to help,” Fradd said. “We can’t have a beautiful river and not respect and take care of it,” she said.

“We’re stepping up. There is a new energy now partly because of what is more recently happening around us. We want to create a stronger, more specific organization of people who live Downtown, one that will directly give them a voice to what the City Council is doing, as well as the various committees in City government. We think the people in charge of those committees are looking to hear the voice of the people who live here,” said Strauss.

“Everyone is talking about wanting to build up Downtown and bring people into Downtown to make it more vibrant, but there doesn’t seem to be an emphasis on the dwellers that live Downtown,” said Dumas.

He said the goal is to develop the Downtown Dwellers’ influence so it will be recognized by City officials as an important group to be consulted about aspects of the City projects such as the Shipyards and the future of Berkman 2, an unfinished building on the Northbank, which Plaza residents lovingly call “Beirut.”

“We want to become more influential so that maybe they will listen to us,” Dumas said.

Smith agreed. “There is talk that a buyer might come and turn Beirut into a hotel. We don’t want a hotel. We want it residential, so there will be drug stores, shops, and grocery stores – things that support a community. I don’t want to have to go to

Riverside to buy my medicine,” he said. “We’re interested in building up the city infrastructure for the Dwellers because we will be here every day for the merchants, not just on the weekends or when the TaxSlayer Bowl is in town.”

“They think in terms of the tourist; the City doesn’t think about the people who live here,” said Strauss. “We appreciate the revenue stream that comes in developing activities for others to enjoy who come to Jacksonville, but it shouldn’t be so important to the detriment of also providing funding and services to those who live here. We’re the ones who create the vitality that causes others to want to come, and visit, and then stay.”

As the Dwellers’ group works to “structure” itself, the foursome hopes interested residents from other buildings will contact them through email, expressing concerns, where they live and their area of interest, said Strauss.

Presently, most members live in either The Peninsula or The Plaza, but the group is also interested in reaching out to residents of The Strand, San Marco Place, The Carling and The Lofts.

“We want to encourage people, even if they are not organized in their own residence, that they can contact us and come as individuals,” Strauss said. “We’ve already taken on organizing efforts in our respective buildings, so if someone is interested in coming as an individual, we can help them with outreach in their buildings.”

Anyone interested in joining the Downtown Dwellers can email the group at [TheDowntownDwellers@gmail.com](mailto:TheDowntownDwellers@gmail.com).

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# DDRB grants conceptual approval for proposed high rise on Southbank

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Downtown Development Review Board granted its conceptual approval with eight conditions for a proposed 13-story, 300-unit apartment building on riverfront property adjacent to the Aetna Building and railroad tracks on the Southbank.

In a meeting held Jan. 19 in the Ed Ball Building, the board gave its unanimous conceptual approval of a “Master Development Plan” for a project located at 841 Prudential Drive, presented by Ventures Development Group of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The developers will meet with the board again at a future time for final approval, and if successful, the project could become the first high-rise to be built on the Southbank since 2008.

Ventures Development had approached the board for conceptual approval during its meeting Oct. 20, but heeded the board’s suggestion that it discuss further the intricacies of the project during a workshop Nov. 17. At that time, the board’s main concern with the \$40- to \$50-million apartment complex had to do with its setbacks from the Riverwalk, “imposing” structural design – particularly its “brutal” façade facing the river – and its walkability, especially in regards to neighboring Baptist Medical Center and the Aetna Building next door.

During the Jan. 19 meeting, Steve Diebenow of Driver McAfee Peek & Hawthorne represented the Ventures Development, while representatives from the architectural firm Niles Bolton Associates and the engineering firm Connelly and Wicker, Inc. were on hand to answer questions.

Ventures Development Group holds a contract on the 2.9-acre parcel, which is owned by GV-IP Jacksonville Owner LLC. The parcel was previously the site of the proposed Hines Tower, a 43-story mixed-use condominium development, for which the board granted conceptual approval in 2005. The Hines Project was never built due to unfavorable real estate conditions in following years.

The proposed building will stand parallel to the railroad tracks and will be accessed from Prudential Drive. The building will tower approximately 180 feet, and will include 300 multi-family apartments, a pool, riverfront courtyard and a series of townhouses facing the river. Amenities include a fitness center and club room, leasing office, 59 surface parking spaces and a parking garage housing 300 spaces. A proposed dock/water taxi station is also included in the plans.

During his opening statement before the board, Diebenow pointed out there is no public access to the site, which is currently being used as a surface parking lot. On the west side of the project, adjacent to the Aetna Building, there is a city easement, for the public to access the 8-foot-strip of Riverwalk in front of the Aetna Building, he said.

Years ago, during the Hines Project, an easement for public access to the site was negotiated but never executed, and there is no public access to the project’s site today, although a 12-foot Riverwalk and an 8-foot sidewalk adjacent to the railroad tracks had been planned with the previous project. “Those easements and access points were never solidified or ever recorded,” said Diebenow.

A development agreement for the marina developer to provide those improvements does exist, he said, but is not able to be executed because the submerged land lease has expired and the marina developer does not have control of the project site, he said.

“There is no way for the public to get access to this property except through the process we’re going through today,” said Diebenow. “I’m not sure we made this clear at the last presentation. In addition to the variances we’re seeking, one thing the developer is offering in return is public access, which we know is a priority of the City, the DDRB and the DIA (Downtown Investment Authority),” he said, noting his client is willing to provide greater access than what was previously approved by the DDRB for the Hines project.

Ventures Development is proposing to build a 20-foot Riverwalk in front of its building and a 12-foot wide pedestrian path adjacent to the railroad tracks. Five feet of landscaping will be next to the building, making for a 25-foot setback from the riverfront bulkhead, Diebenow said.

The Riverwalk will be divided between a 12-foot upper tier and an 8-foot lower tier, all of which will be open to the public, he said.

At the suggestion of the board during its November workshop, the developers converted all 90-degree parking adjacent to the railroad tracks into parallel parking, enabling a 12-foot pedestrian path with 4 feet of landscaping on either side to run alongside the tracks.

“These modifications allowed us to increase our unit count to 300,” said Diebenow. The prior proposal offered 275 apartments including studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, a fitness center, club room and sky lounge.

In its Jan. 18 meeting, the DIA allocated 300 units to the project as well as a REV grant



Rendering of a 13-story, 300-unit apartment building proposed for the Southbank adjacent to the Aetna Building.

*“This is night and day from what we talked about in the workshop... This is a great project. We are looking forward to it.”*

— Frederick Jones, DDRB Chairman

to help the developers to pay for the improvements and generate the returns required to ensure the project is viable, he said.

The new design for the parking garage requires a deviation, but will work from a marketing perspective, he added.

Dramatic changes were also made to the building’s outer façade. Townhouse units now face the river, and a public courtyard garden space encompasses 30 percent of the building’s river frontage, he said, noting the setback from the bulkhead to the part of the building behind the courtyard is 43

feet, while the other 70 percent of the building stands 25 feet away from the river’s edge. A “green” screen will separate the garden seating from the parking garage.

“We will use the same materials that are used on the other parts of the Riverwalk for the pedestrian path,” said Diebenow. “People will identify this as part of the Riverwalk in general.”

“This is night and day from what we talked about in the workshop,” said DDRB Chairman Frederick Jones. “This is a great project. We are looking forward to it.”



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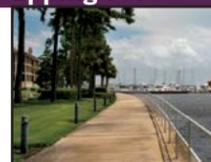


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# Neighborhood restaurant to open in Miramar

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The same folks who are planning to open The Roost in Riverside are going to open a small restaurant in Miramar.

Ted Stein, president, and Jack Charles "JC" Demetree III, CEO and chairman of Roost Restaurants LLC, intend to open The Local, a 65-seat eatery located at 4578 San Jose Blvd. across from the Miramar Shopping Center. Opening day is expected to be June 1, said Stein.

Hours for the restaurant will be between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. The eatery will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner, said Stein. "The Local will be known for its breakfast, lunch and tapas," he said. "We will be focusing on combining local fresh ingredients with unique takes on traditional dishes. We will have a wide selection of wines, along with craft beer, fresh-squeezed juices and espresso-based coffee."

The restaurant space, approximately half of the building, was formerly home to a martial arts training studio. The other half of the building is still up for lease.

In an email, Stein said he'd selected the location because of its close proximity to the Miramar neighborhood. "We are passionate about being as close to the neighborhood as possible," he said. "We look forward to people being able to walk down for a coffee or a glass of wine."



This building at 4578 San Jose Boulevard will soon become a restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

About a year ago, the property, which is owned by the Shops of Granada LLC, was rezoned to accommodate a small restaurant or juice bar.

Realizing residents might be concerned about noise, dumpsters and parking, City Council President Lori Boyer, who represents the San Marco area, inserted several stipulations into the re-zoning ordinance. The conditions stated the restaurant could not inhabit more than half of the existing building and that there can be no expansion onto the building.

Other conditions included in the ordinance were that a 6-foot to 10-foot stucco wall must remain and be maintained

between the building and the residences surrounding it; that no dumpster may be placed near the residences; dumpsters, which are positioned alongside the building or in the front of the building, must be screened so they cannot be seen from the street; the restaurant cannot sell alcoholic beverages, and must close by 10 p.m. Modest outdoor seating is permitted until 7 p.m., and no amplified music will be allowed.

"We want to keep it as a place for very modest restaurant use," Boyer said at the time. "With these conditions, it's a reasonable use of the property that may actually serve as a benefit to the community."

# Hendricks resurfacing to start later this year

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

As San Marco area residents continue to battle congestion with the Florida Department of Transportation's various interstate expressway projects, they may also find it to be slow going through part of this year on Hendricks Avenue (State Road 13), a road that bisects the heart of their community.

FDOT's resurfacing project for Hendricks avenue will be bid in June 2017 with an anticipated construction start date in late fall 2017, said Debbie Delgado, an FDOT spokesperson. The project is expected to take a year to complete and will most likely finish in the fall of 2018, she said.

There have been no changes to the plan since the last public meeting on the resurfacing project was held May 16, 2016. Included in the plans will be the removal of on-street parking and the construction of bike lanes from Cornell Road to Peachtree Circle North and from Dunsford Road to San Marco Boulevard.

On-street parking and bike lanes will co-exist between Peachtree Circle North and Dunsford Road, and to accommodate both, the roadway will be widened by reducing the median, Delgado said.

Also, included in the plan is the elimination of a dedicated right-turn lane onto Mitchell Avenue from Hendricks Avenue, said City Council President Lori Boyer, who also represents District 5.

Don Halil, an Alexandria Place North resident who has a driveway that backs up to Mitchell Avenue, is currently polling his neighbors to see if they favor having a curb bump installed at the intersection of Mitchell and Hendricks Avenue as a traffic calming feature, said Boyer. If they request it, a town hall meeting will be held to get input from the broader community and neighboring South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. At press time, no meeting had been set scheduled.

# JCA evacuates due to bomb scare

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Jewish Community Alliance in San Jose, a popular community center that includes a gym, a day care and a preschool, was evacuated immediately after receiving a bomb threat Jan. 9. No explosive device was found and the center was reopened just over an hour later after a security sweep ensued.

Adults made their way to a safe distance away from the building. Students in the Michelle Block Weiner Gan Yeladim

preschool immediately sought refuge in the Congregation Ahavath Chesed's Temple, said Goldie Lansky, executive director of the Temple, in an email.

"Within moments of their call to Temple, the first JCA bus arrived with the younger members of the pre-school, their teachers and other JCA staff members. Within 10 minutes, the 'walkers' arrived, followed by two JSO cars," said Lansky. Temple staff immediately went into action, ushering the children into a safe location by different age groups, she said.

"I am very proud of our staff who re-prioritized everything they had planned to do today to focus on our JCA friends and provide them with both a safe haven and loving care," Lansky said. "We are appreciative of our JSO personnel who kept us informed of activities at JCA so appropriate plans could be made to return the children and teachers safely as soon as the 'all clear' signal had been issued."

The scare in San Jose came on the same day Jewish facilities in Miami; Nashville, Tennessee; Columbia, South Carolina; Baltimore and Rockville, Maryland, received similar threats. The week before Jewish centers in Tampa and Central Florida were also targeted.





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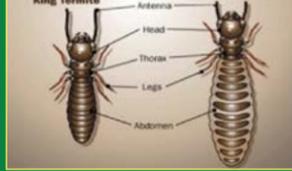
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# As one road project ends, another begins

## Multi-use path to be included in I-10/I-95 road improvements

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Drivers accessing I-95 through downtown Jacksonville are not out of the woods yet when it comes to battling road construction.

As the Overland Expressway and Interstate 95/J. Turner Butler flyover projects wind down toward completion in late spring and summer of this year, the Florida Department of Transportation plans to begin another major road project this spring, which will improve the Fuller Warren Bridge and exits near Riverside, causing congestion for I-95 drivers heading through the city.

However, taking a long view, many residents on both sides of the river will cheer the construction of a shared-use path dedicated for pedestrians and bicyclists that will straddle the river adjacent to the bridge, providing a safe connection between the historic communities on either side of the St. Johns.

### Overland Bridge project

Drivers heading westbound on Atlantic Boulevard were forced to use detours during several nights in early January as the old northbound ramp to I-95 was removed.

The project will soon be entering its landscaping phase, said City Council

President Lori Boyer, who also represents District 5. Included in the landscaping will be an “entrance feature” on the ground as drivers enter the San Marco area, as well as “buffering” in the section of the project near South Shores. “We may have palm trees alongside the highway on the area behind Overby’s (on Phillips Highway). They will be visible from the interstate but probably not seen from the surface streets,” Boyer said.

Scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2017, the \$159.2 million Overland Bridge project replaces a series of overpasses that carry traffic over Hendricks, Kings and Montana Avenues on Interstate 95. Built in 1959, the bridges were gradually deteriorating due to heavy rain over the years, according to the FDOT website.

Construction started on the six-phase project in early 2013. Once complete, the project will serve to remedy congestion through widening I-95 by providing an additional lane in the southbound direction as well as adding capacity with the addition of a two-lane parallel service road for northbound traffic and reconstruction of the existing southbound lanes.

Also included in the project is the widening of the south end of the southbound Fuller Warren Bridge to provide a two-lane exit ramp to the southbound parallel service road; adding bicycle lanes on Atlantic Boulevard from Kings Avenue to Stevens Street alongside the eastbound travel lanes and from Kings Avenue to Old Hickory Road alongside the westbound lanes; eliminating existing drainage ponds under the Fuller Warren Bridge with one remaining as a grassed lot and the other an improved parking lot.



A view of the multi-use path adjacent to the Fuller Warren Bridge between Riverside and San Marco that the Florida Department of Transportation plans to build as part of its I-10/I-95 roadway improvement project.

### Fuller Warren Bridge improvements

This spring improvements are scheduled to begin on the I-10/I-95 interchange area near Riverside.

Two years ago, on February, 26, 2015, FDOT held a public meeting at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd to discuss proposed improvements to the I-10/I-95 interchange area near Riverside and ultimately decided make substantial improvements to eastbound I-10 to southbound I-95, and northbound I-95 to westbound I-10 at a cost of \$128 million.

Included among the changes for motorists heading eastbound on I-10 and southbound on I-95 will be a new deceleration

area for the Stockton Street off ramp, the widening from one to two lanes of the I-10 eastbound exit to I-95 south, and the addition of two southbound auxiliary lanes to the Fuller Warren Bridge.

For those driving northbound on I-95 to westbound I-10, an additional auxiliary lane is planned to the Fuller Warren Bridge. Also in the works is a widening from two to three lanes of the ramp from I-95 northbound to I-10 westbound and a new fly-over from I-95 northbound to Stockton Street with ramp modifications within the interchange area to eliminate weaving on I-10 caused by the ramps from I-95.

Continue on page 9

**Shared-use path**

Also included in the project is a \$20 million shared-use path that will run adjacent to the south side of Fuller Warren bridge between Riverside and San Marco, which will be dedicated solely for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The path will have an “independent” ramp leading from the Riverside Arts Market up toward the Fuller Warren Bridge, said Odette Struys, a spokesperson for FDOT. “It will join the Fuller Warren Bridge before it crosses the water and will be separated by a traffic barrier,” she said, noting that a 10-foot shoulder will provide an additional cushion between the traffic and the barrier.

The multi-use path will be 12 feet in width – the same as a traffic lane. In addition to the traffic barrier there will be a tall fence, curved at the top to prevent items from being tossed from those using the multi-use path into the traffic lanes, she said, adding that on the side adjacent to the river a 4-foot-6-inch aluminum railing will separate the path from the river.

As the path nears the San Marco side, it will again separate from the bridge, forking north and south. Those choosing the north fork will be provided with a safe avenue underneath I-95’s southbound traffic lanes so they can reach Palm Avenue without having to cross any traffic, she said.

Meanwhile, those choosing to go south will connect with a ramp leading to a dedicated bike and pedestrian path behind Nemours Children’s Specialty Care. Nemours has already granted an easement to the City on its property behind its building so a connecting route from the multi-use path to Children’s Way in San Marco can be provided.

In its plans for the new Baptist MD Anderson campus, Baptist Health has included an eight-foot-wide, multi-use pedestrian and bike path along the north side of Children’s Way and Nira Streets, adjacent to its property from Palm to the railroad tracks, said Cindy Hamilton, director of public relations for Baptist Health. The path will not be open until the second quarter of 2018 when Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center’s new nine-story addition opens, she said. Ideally the city hopes to use this as a safe way for cyclists and walkers to loop through North San Marco making connections between Riverside and the Southbank Riverwalk.

“What’s nice about this is the bridge will connect the neighborhoods of San Marco and Riverside by giving access to either neighborhood,” said Struys.

**I-95/JTB Flyover**

Congestion for drivers heading south on Interstate 95 will ease up this spring when the I-95/JTB Flyover project is completed in late May 2017.

To improve traffic flow at the busy interchange between J. Turner Butler Boulevard and I-95, FDOT has been constructing a new two-lane, 1,400-foot flyover from southbound I-95 to eastbound JTB so drivers experience less congestion as they head toward the Town Center and Beaches. Drivers commuting to downtown will be able to take advantage of a small flyover from westbound JTB to I-95.

The \$66 million project, which began construction in August 2014, will also include a resurfacing of certain areas of JTB, widening and drainage installation for on and off ramps from I-95 and JTB, and new ponds for drainage within the projects limits.

# East San Marco slated to break ground in April

## Building permits were pulled in December

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It’s been a long time a coming, but progress may soon be in the works on the long awaited East San Marco development at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard.

Construction is expected to start by April 1, with “expected delivery on residential units” slated for early 2019, said Eric Davidson, a spokesperson for Regency Centers, which currently owns the 4.33-acre parcel, and a partner in the project. East San Marco is expected to be completed by July 2019, he said.

There are no specifics known yet as to which retailers will inhabit the ground-floor shops in the development other than Publix, Davidson said. “That will depend on their individual buildouts,” he said.

ArchCo Residential LLC, the primary developer of the project, was granted \$48 million in building permits in late December 2016. ArchCo Residential is co-developing the project with Whitehall Realty Partners of San Marco, which is the boots-on-the-ground partner overseeing the construction.

ArchCo Residential and Bluerock Residential Growth REIT, Inc. intend to

purchase the land from Regency Centers, then sell back the retail space to Regency once the project is complete, said Davidson.

The project will comprise 239 residential units, 46,000 square feet of retail space, including a 33,000 square-foot Publix, and a six-story parking garage, Davidson said.

With construction beginning in April, there will be “significant” traffic congestion throughout the building phase, said City Council President Lori Boyer during a meeting of the San Marco Merchants Association Jan. 18.

“It’s something everybody is going to have to be patient with,” Boyer said. “They have an obligation to maintain traffic during that period and will need to be getting their maintenance of traffic plan approved.”

Boyer said there will be an announcement of the specifics of the traffic plan in the weeks ahead.

*“It’s something everybody is going to have to be patient with.”*

— Lori Boyer, City Council President

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## J-Bill to lower seat minimums to sell liquor in San Marco

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

San Marco has been included in a Florida J-Bill, which applies only to Jacksonville, to grant smaller restaurants in the commercial corridors of Murray Hill and Springfield the ability to serve a full bar instead of just beer and wine.

The J-Bill, a piece of legislation before the Florida Legislature in Tallahassee, was put forth by State representative Tracie Davis. If passed, it would reduce the number of restaurant seats necessary to obtain an alcohol sales license from 150 to 100 in San Marco, Murray Hill and Springfield, said City Council President Lori Boyer during a meeting of the San Marco Merchants Association Jan. 18.

The state approved a similar legislation lowering the number of seats in restaurants on the Southbank and Downtown in 1987, and extended the privilege to 5 Points and other commercial areas in Riverside in 2011 and to the Shoppes of Avondale last year.

Boyer said the measure to cover San Marco, Murray Hill and Springfield has already been approved by City Council as Ordinance 2016-0783 and is in the hands of the state legislature, which took two sessions to pass a similar J-Bill pertaining to Avondale.

The bill changes the SRX (special restaurant exemption) requirements regulating restaurant size to encourage the reuse of smaller historic properties, and only impacts restaurants with the

following criteria: have at least 1,800 square feet of service space; at least 100 seats; sell at least 51 percent or more in food (rather than alcohol); will have a kitchen open while alcohol is being served; and already are licensed by the state to serve beer and wine.

Restaurants will still need to apply for a zoning exception for the sale of liquor and must meet other zoning requirements.

The J-Bill will promote re-use of historic properties and increases the viability of smaller restaurants, Boyer said.

"The concept from my perspective is that the 150-seat limitation is a real burden for those who want to reoccupy some of the existing small spaces we have in San Marco. It's a challenge to combine those small spaces or make those small spaces usable," she said. "This will encourage the re-use of existing spaces, and that's why I think it's important."

The change will only apply to the "transportation corridor" that is highlighted in the San Marco Overlay, she said. That includes the commercially zoned property in San Marco Square, on Atlantic Boulevard, and San Marco Boulevard from the Square heading north. Commercial properties in Miramar are not included in the change, she said.

*"The 150-seat limitation is a real burden for those who want to reoccupy some of the existing small spaces we have in San Marco."*

— Lori Boyer, City Council President

## Preservation Society to launch new website in early February

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

To become more "user friendly" and attractive, the San Marco Preservation Society website is getting a makeover this year.

"The website hasn't been revamped in years," said LeAnna Cumber, president of the Preservation Society. "The new website will be an improved conduit through which SMPS can provide information to its members and the community-at-large," she said. "The redo will complement our more active social media presence via our Instagram account, which has been active since summer 2016."

SMPS has retained Nuera Marketing, a San Marco-based agency, to update the website. It is expected to be active by late January or early February.

"We want to bring it up to date so we can display more information in an easier

way. Everyone looks at websites today. We want to bring it up to speed," she said. "We are very excited about the new website and think it will be very well received by the neighborhood."

### Brick sales

In other news, SMPS raised more than \$8,000 in its holiday brick drive, where patrons purchased engraved bricks on the patio near the Lions Fountain in San Marco Square in time for the Christmas holiday, said Cumber. All the proceeds from the sale have been earmarked for continued maintenance in Balis Park.

St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman will be the featured speaker in the second installment of the SMPS Speaker Series. Rinaman's talk will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14 in Preservation Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

## City seeks state funds to install pump station

The City of Jacksonville is seeking state funding this year to install a pump station on Lasalle Street to assist with drainage when flooding occurs along San Marco Boulevard.

During a meeting of the San Marco Merchants Association Jan. 18, City Council President and District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer said she is working on a request for funding from the state to help pay for the pump station installation.

Already pump stations have been installed on Children's Way and Landon Avenue, which has made a difference to residents

and merchants in those areas, Boyer said. "There has long been a proposal that is part of the original design to put another on Lasalle to alleviate flooding in that section and near Riviera Street," she said.

"If any of you have been impacted by this, any letters of support indicating that this is an ongoing problem for us and that we would greatly appreciate the state's support, would be helpful," she said, adding that she had already asked the San Marco Merchants Association to write a supportive letter.



Robert Hogan is active again after working with Physical Therapist Bruce Cathcart at Baptist AgeWell Center.

## Robert parked his wheelchair and got moving again

Walking used to be a difficult task for Robert Hogan. But thanks to the Balance Program at AgeWell, the former marathoner has parked his wheelchair and walker and is active again.

Robert has a neurological condition that causes fluid in his brain and throws off his balance. A physical therapist at AgeWell introduced him to the Balance Master system, a device that assesses and treats balance and stability issues with exercises tailored to a patient's needs.

"The Balance Master was impressive. It pointed out what I could and couldn't do and helped restore some of my balance and ability," said the 81-year-old Atlantic Beach resident. The therapy is one of many offerings at Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health.

A former long-distance runner with more than 200 marathons under his belt, Robert is now able to shop, cook and do more. He's even participating in adaptive race-walking competitions.

"I am amazed by how much more active Robert is," said his wife Gladys. "He walks 1 to 2 miles a day and is much happier, all around."

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# San Marco merchants consider lunchtime trolley service

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville Transit Authority officials shared some specifics of what it would take to bring a lunchtime trolley to San Marco during a meeting of the San Marco Merchant's Association Jan. 18.

JTA's Carl Weckenmann, senior manager of Systems Planning, and Lisa Darnell, vice president of transit operations, were invited to address SMMA at its meeting at Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco Square.

The San Marco Merchants Association has long been interested in finding an easy way to assist Southbank employees, particularly from Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, in patronizing San Marco restaurants and businesses during lunchtime without exacerbating the parking problem that has long plagued San Marco Square.

In studying the trolley concept, Weckenmann said he had reviewed the arrangement JTA had with Riverside/

Avondale, where it has supplied a weekend evening trolley to bring riders on a weekend circuit to bars and restaurants in the 5 Points, Park and King Streets, and Shoppes of Avondale shopping areas.

Realistically, to get workers back and forth to work and avoid long waits at the bus stop, the JTA would need to run at least two trolleys, Weckenmann said. The cost in "sponsorships" from the merchants would mirror what JTA charged Riverside/Avondale merchants, he said.

The direct cost of running two trolleys for three hours each weekday for a month would be between \$6,000 and \$6,500, approximately \$300 per day, he said. The merchants' "sponsorship" would cover the cost of the trolley operator and fuel, while all other costs would be borne by JTA, he said.

The fare charged by JTA to ride the trolley is \$1.50 per trip, Weckenmann said. All money raised from revenue generated by the service is credited back to SMMA. "If it's a

popular service, the subsidy won't necessarily be as high," he said adding, over a six-hour period a trolley needs to collect 120 individual fares to make operation worthwhile.

The design of the trolley route would be simple, Weckenmann said. It could run down Palm Avenue, San Marco Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue in a continuous loop. Approximately 10 to 15 minutes would probably be the longest any rider would wait at a stop between trolleys, he said. The trolleys could utilize existing bus stops along San Marco Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue, and it is "not a big problem" to add stops, provided they are American Disability Act (ADA) accessible, he said. "I believe you have a sufficient number of stops already," Weckenmann said.

To speed up the wait time between stops, it would be possible to add a third trolley, but the cost of the service would be more expensive, he said.

One hurdle with running the routes to Baptist Medical Center is the risk of getting

hung up at a railroad crossing due to the necessity for the trolley to cross the tracks so it can complete the circuit, Weckenmann said.

The parking lot between the two halves of Gary Street near San Marco Boulevard is currently being used by the medical center while Baptist MD Anderson is built, but will become available for public parking once construction is complete, said City Council President Lori Boyer, who represents District 5.

Currently Baptist is willing to allow public parking there nights and weekends, Boyer said. It could possibly be a convenient place for the trolley use as a turn around so it would not have to cross the railroad tracks. It can also be used as a hub for trolley riders to park if they are heading into San Marco Square, she said.

Discussion on the feasibility of offering the trolley will continue within SMMA, with perhaps one or two members tapped to spearhead a study of the initiative, said SMMA President Robert Harris at the meeting.

# McMorrow appointed to Millers Creek Board

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

With five out of six members in attendance, the Millers Creek Special Tax District Board voted unanimously to appoint Barbara McMorrow to fill the empty slot on its seven-member board during its Jan. 16 meeting at Havana Jax Café in St. Nicholas.

McMorrow, a Mayfair Road resident, will replace Dr. Kay Gilmour, who had resigned verbally during the November 2016 meeting. Gilmour, who was the only board member living on Gay Street, told the board she would be too busy traveling this year and didn't think it was fair if she could not attend on a regular basis.

At the December 2016 meeting, no quorum was reached causing the three members in attendance to discuss the chronic absences on the board and whether



Barbara McMorrow

it would be necessary to legally reduce the composition of the board to five. To make the change, the board would need to write a new ordinance, said Wayne Flowers, a lawyer who represents the special district.

However, only Dr. Danny Pulido was absent during January's meeting, causing his brother, Board President Dr. Rene Pulido, to mention that it is probably a good idea to drop him from the board, since his work in the Intensive Care Unit has caused him to miss more than half the meetings. During the discussion, no other board member made an indication they would be unable to attend on a regular basis this year, so no discussion of changing the numerical composition of the board ensued.

Board Secretary Sharon Johnson said McMorrow had reached out to her in writing, expressing her fervent interest in joining the board. "She very much wants to serve. She is a definite, definite commitment," said Johnson. "She's familiar with board work, and I think she is highly capable. She and her husband are very committed to Mayfair Road. I think she would be a good person to have on the board," said Johnson.

"My family has wanted to be on the water in this area for a few years now, so I have been very familiar with the dredging project," said McMorrow in an email to *The Resident*. "I am happy to commit to seeing this finally come to fruition."

A Mayfair Road homeowner since 2016, McMorrow is co-owner of Visiting Angels South Jax, a company that provides care givers and companions in private homes, assisted living facilities and hospital stays.

In her email, she said she has previously served on the boards of the Point La Vista Homeowners Association and Southside United Methodist Preschool.

"I hope to be an effective contributor and decision maker to this much-needed project as well as continue to serve my neighborhood," she wrote.

Although he has not formerly resigned, the Board also discussed who might fill the board slot if Dr. Danny Pulido chooses to resign. One board member mentioned a preference to balancing the board with residents who live on Gay Street, and Dr. Rene Pulido said he would contact a Gay Street resident to see if he is interested. Johnson noted another Mayfair Road resident, who was in attendance at the meeting, had mentioned to her she was willing to serve. The board will take up the matter again at its next meeting, Monday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Havana Jax Café.



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# Historic Demolition FROM PAGE 1

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The demolition of 1922 River Road in December 2016 was a wake-up call for many residents living in the residential core of San Marco. In December, Jon Singleton, a local realtor, raised a call of alarm on his Facebook page, which resulted in a flurry of more than 100 comments from concerned friends and local residents.

"San Marco is getting torn down," Singleton wrote, highlighting 711 Alhambra South, 1922 River Road, 2743 Green Bay Lane, 3941 Alcazar, 1214 Morvenwood, 1515 Alexandria Place North, 3505 Sunnyside, 1930 River Road, and 1030 Maple Lane, all homes in San Marco and its adjacent neighborhoods, Colonial Manor and Granada.

"The buyers of 1018 Maple Lane and 2611 River Road, which is under contract now, reportedly want to demo, and another is about to come down on Sorrento," he wrote. "Too bad no one cares enough to stop this. Soon we'll be 'San Marco Crossing' without our beloved architecture and charm."

More than 20 years ago, Jacksonville Architectural Historian Wayne Wood called for San Marco to pass an ordinance designating San Marco as a Historic District as a "way to protect the mindless remodeling and demolition" of its historic houses.

Calling the tear-downs a "cancer" sweeping through the neighborhood, Wood said more than 25 landmark houses have come under the wrecking ball in the last 20 years.

"San Marco is a very cohesive community. Most of its houses were built in the 1920s and 1930s and have nice architectural lineage," he said, noting prominent architects have designed many of its structures.

"It's not cohesive if these buildings get torn down, and modern houses are built in their place," Wood continued. The materials and style of the modern homes often aren't in "architectural sympathy" with the older homes in the neighborhood, he said. "Houses that are of unique architectural beauty should be preserved. A new house should not try to copy old historic homes, but be in sympathy with them."

Also troublesome is the building of "McMansions" where much smaller homes

once stood. "If you tear down one house, then you have an empty lot. Two houses might take its place, or one is put up that is too large for the character of the neighborhood," Wood said. "First it is one house, then a whole block, and then you lose the whole neighborhood. This is not to say that San Marco will become a slum, but it is in danger of losing its character, the very character that attracted people to move there to begin with," he said.

"Soon San Marco could become like any other gated community in Jacksonville," he continued, adding he hopes San Marco will revisit the prospect of designating itself as a Historic District to further protect the community. "People should prize the beauty of older homes and step in and do something about this. I urge them to wake up before it's too late. Once they're gone, they're gone."

## Advent of the Overlay

No laws or regulations are currently in place to slow down the process for demolition of historic structures in San Marco, Wood said. In the 1970s, when more than 60 percent of the residents in Riverside and Avondale elected to make their neighborhood a nationally designated Historic District to preserve its unique scenic, cultural, and historic atmosphere, San Marco had no interest in doing the same, said Wood.

In the 1990s, the San Marco Preservation Society hired a historical architectural research firm to survey the core San Marco neighborhood and identify all the properties that would qualify as "contributing structures" in case the residents decided to move forward in designating the area as an historic district, said Lori Boyer, president of the Jacksonville City Council. Structures had to be older than 50 years and meet other criteria, such as having no significant alterations, having been designed by a notable architect, or having been home to a famous person, she said.

"Not being a local or National Register district, any required review for demolition in San Marco would be limited to a few local landmark structures in the area (Chapter 307, Florida Master Site File), as well as the approximately 150 individual



The remains of the historic Tudor Revival home at 1922 River Road after it was torn down. Owned by Michael Ward, president of CSX, who owns three consecutive lots on River Road, the now vacant home lot will be converted into a side-yard garden to go along with the traditional white-brick home he plans to build on an adjacent vacant lot at 1930 River Road.

properties determined to be potentially eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places per the Florida Master Site File (Chapter 320)," said City Spokesperson Tia Ford in an email.

The proposal to make San Marco a nationally designated historic district was met with furious opposition by many homeowners who saw such a plan as an infringement on their property rights.

Because of resistance, the Preservation Society passed the list along to the Jacksonville Historic Commission and informed homeowners they would have a window of opportunity to opt out of the plan before their homes were automatically listed, said Boyer. If the homeowner chose to opt out and the Historic Commission did not oppose their request by a certain date, the home was automatically removed from the list, she said, noting this was the case with 1922 River Road.

The San Marco Overlay was instituted in 2005 after a rash of demolitions brought concern to neighborhood and city officials that the "rhythm and character" of the community would be destroyed without some form of zoning regulation, said Boyer. Instituting a concept first devised by then-District 5 Councilman Matt Carlucci of San Marco, the Overlay set standards for setbacks and height restrictions for new development in the area.

## Community expresses opinions

The demolition of 1922 River Road and Singleton's post promoted recent conversation within the community about how preserve the historic character and charm of San Marco and its surrounding neighborhoods.

San Marco resident Diane Martin said many San Marco neighbors were "shocked, saddened, and frustrated" to see 1922 River Road go down. "Some of us have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to renovate our houses, and we would like to keep the character of the neighborhood," she said.

On Singleton's Facebook thread, many opinions were expressed.

"Why are we doing this. Why can't this be stopped?" Pam Lloyd Ellis asked. "What makes this community special is being lost, and what's going up in its place is not always even with the style or craftsmanship of the rest of our beloved neighborhood. (Note I said not always, as some are trying to stay within the style and that's much appreciated.) We just preserved our home with a renovation that gave us a full update and insisted the contractor work to adapt to the style as much as we could. Please consider when buying or renovating what makes it special here. Builders, please don't knock down one home and stick two in when it looks too tight. Build to blend with the neighborhood."

"I want to cry every time I ride my bike by and see one gone," said Burdett, who owns a bicycle touring company that rides through Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods. "One of the biggest losses was Oriental Gardens. Even though all that was left was a pond and a little statue, it was a piece of now missing history," she wrote.

A proponent of historic preservation, Karen Rinaman Barakat said the new construction was not all bad. "All these homes are part of the story of our neighborhood, and that story is going away when people tear down those homes. I would like to see people honor our historic

*Continued on page 13*

*"People should prize the beauty of older homes and step in and do something about this. I urge them to wake up before it's too late. Once they're gone, they're gone."*

— Wayne Wood, Jacksonville Architectural Historian



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neighborhoods. That said, San Marco proper does not have historic designation, and it has been a tough issue for many years," she said. "Some of the neighborhoods are just turning over (especially Granada), so this is just a product of new families moving in and making their new home their own, and btw (by the way) making a major investment in the neighborhood. I've noticed some of the new construction is more in keeping with the Howard Company's vision for Granada than the original homes they have replaced. In some cases, great effort has been made to honor the 'pink curb' history here. I am thankful for that."

In the thread, Elizabeth Crabtree O'Steen, a realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, took issue with Singleton's calling out the demolished residences. She disputed the comments regarding 711 Alhambra Drive, where she knows the owner plans not to subdivide the lot but to replace the house with a "beautiful home, in line with the character and charm of the existing homes around it. There were foundation problems from trees on both sides that made renovation extremely difficult," she wrote. "I think all information should be gathered prior to making public remarks regarding someone's home and their intentions for it."

*"All these homes are part of the story of our neighborhood, and that story is going away."*

— Karen Rinaman Barakat

In his posting, Singleton, who works for Watson Realty in Avondale said the solution is for the area to pass a Historic District ordinance. "The scale of the new demo is frightening. I think it really is time to have some protection, like Old Ortega enacted in 2004, to address demolition permits," he wrote, noting by calling attention to the problem he may have committed professional suicide.

"To avoid the appearance (and counter accusations) of hypocrisy, I commit to never knowingly selling a property for demolition that conforms to the Jacksonville Historical Society or City guidelines," Singleton wrote on Facebook and reiterated in a phone interview. "I believe in this, and although I am in business, I won't help people destroy what I love for a buck."

Petitioning for a historic district, starting a design-review committee with stricter standards for new construction, or pushing for protection either by amending the Overlay or writing a new local ordinance, were suggested as solutions, as was education. "The only way we can stop people (from demolishing homes) is by educating them and making them care," said Barakat.

**Historic registration encouraged**

Aware of the community's concerns, in early January the San Marco Preservation Society posted a letter on its website encouraging owners of the historic properties mentioned in the survey, but not listed among the approximately 150 registered local landmarks, to voluntarily list their property.

If too many potential landmarks get demolished, San Marco may not have enough left standing to have the option of becoming a historic district if it chooses to in the future, said Boyer.

LeAnna Cumber, president of the San Marco Preservation Society, said her organization has been "actively monitoring" its residents' concerns.

"If the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission agrees that the site is appropriate for designation, it then recommends the site to the City Council for final approval. If a home is designated a Local Landmark the homeowner must obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for any exterior work done to the home. For extensive work to a Local Landmark, such as demolition or new construction, a COA must be approved by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission. For less extensive work, a COA can be issued by the Historic Preservation Section of the Jacksonville Planning and Development Department. A COA is required before a building permit will be issued for any designated Local Landmark," was posted recently on the preservation society's website.

"We see ourselves as a place, a resource for people," said Cumber. "Our purpose in doing the survey is to allow people in the neighborhood to make choices. We paid for that survey, and we are offering for people to see it again to see if they are interested," she said, noting SMPS is happy to provide any resident with "technical assistance" in registering their home.

Carlucci, who first conceptualized the idea of a zoning overlay, said he is in favor of reopening a conversation about designating San Marco as an historic district. "I would love to see my children and grandchildren grow up in the same San Marco I grew up in," he said. "The key is that a historic district can be tailor-made. They are not all one-size-fits-all. What people don't realize is we can tailor make it as strict or as flexible as we want," he continued.

"I like to see progress, but if we ever lose the historic fabric of the core of San Marco, we will lose the sense of community that we all love and enjoy," said Carlucci. "I don't want to see that happen."

Anyone interested in applying for a local landmark designation should contact SMPS at (904) 396-0081, or email info@smpsjax.com or call Cumber at (202) 355-8760.

# Garden to replace historic home on River Road



Historic 1927 photo of River Road, which at that time was known as Rialto Place. The house in the center is 1922 River Road, which was recently torn down by owner Michael Ward of CSX, to make way for a garden. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Wood Collection)

## Demolition of 1922 River Road legal

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Although San Marco residents may have been astounded the City allowed the new owner of 1922 River Road to demolish a beloved neighborhood landmark, what was done was completely legal.

Written up by Wayne Wood's bible of Jacksonville architecture, "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage, Landmarks for its Future," the historic residence at 1922 River Road "was not the most significant architectural gem in San Marco, but was a very important contributing structure to the overall historic neighborhood," Wood said.

The house was purchased recently for \$2.1 million by Michael Ward, chairman/CEO of CSX. Ward followed the city's requirements for receiving a demolition permit, said City Council President Lori Boyer, who represents San Marco.

A prior owner chose to opt out when informed the structure was going to be placed on the list of designated local or National Register historic properties, compiled by the San Marco Preservation Society in the early 1990s, said Boyer. Because the city's Historic Preservation Commission did not dispute the request at that time, the demolition request was not required to be forwarded to the commission for its review, she said.

Requirements to demolish existing structures in Jacksonville include a permit application signed by the owner and contractor with notaries; zoning approval; a plumbing permit for sewer disconnect or septic tank abandonment, and paying a \$54 fee, wrote City Spokeswoman Tia Ford in an email.

Ward said he owns three riverfront parcels on River Road – 1930, 1922 and 1908. On the vacant lot at 1930 River Road, his plan is to build a traditional white brick house, which is being designed by Avondale Architect Richard Skinner and Associates. "It is not going to be a McMansion but will be of a size in keeping with the character of the neighborhood," Ward said.

Meanwhile, next door at 1922 River Rd., where the historic 1927 Tudor once stood, Ward said he is working with a landscape architect and plans to plant a garden with lots of vegetation and many trees on the site.

"It will be a nice serene space next to my home at 1930 River Road," he said. "That house was in tough condition and really couldn't be renovated. It just happened to be next to the house I am building," he continued.

The 1908 property where a gray Cape Cod Style-house now stands and where Ward currently resides, he said he intends to convert into a guest house after his new home is built.

Ward said in the past he has owned other homes in San Marco and loves the community. "The real attraction of San Marco is the diversity of different home types in the neighborhood," he said.

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# Residents share mixed feelings about putting teeth in San Marco Overlay

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

The recent demolition of a historic home on River Road caused a lot of buzz within the community. At present San Marco has no specific limitations against razing historic properties and there are no protections for historic communities such as Colonial Manor, Miramar or Granada.

Do you think the San Marco Overlay should be amended so that homeowners cannot so easily raze historic buildings in the San Marco community?



**Peter Blay, San Jose**

I have a degree in history and I treasure historic things, but this could be an encroachment on homeowner's rights. I think a great effort should be given to educating and encouraging people to preserve the historic integrity of the neighborhood, but enacting laws that require it may not be the solution.



**Mindy Painter, San Marco**

I think there should be an ordinance. I think historic homes are precious and need to be preserved. If you tear down a 1928 home, you will never have it back.



**Nick Bonn, San Marco**

Yes, I'm in favor of an ordinance. This is a very historic place in Jacksonville. There is no other place and concentration of historic homes like there is here. There are many different communities where they are building new construction. There are places to put new things and places to put old things. I think it is important for our kids to see older homes and architecture because it's a tradition that is no longer in style.



**Tiffany Davis, San Marco**

I have mixed feelings. As a homeowner of a historic 1928 English Tudor on the river similar to the one that was torn down, it was heartbreaking to see it (1922 River Road) go. But our own English Tudor and these homes are hard to maintain and sometimes the feasibility of maintaining or starting over is a question every homeowner struggles with. We understand the historic importance of the home, and it was sad to see it go, but what will be built there will help our property values and the neighborhood and that I am excited about. I like the fact that we are such a melting pot of structures.



**Sherry Krol, San Marco**

I think in Jacksonville there needs to be more zoning in general. There is a double standard for what happens on the river side of San Marco Square and north San Marco, which has just recently come to everyone's attention that it is part of San Marco. On my street, they've torn down residences and allowed houses to become businesses. Zoning in this city is super weak throughout. I'd like to see rules that make sense and then enforce them. I've lived on the same block since 1981 and seen a lot of changes in San Marco. Now there is so much money involved, there is a lot of scrutiny. Before, no one at the city cared what you did. The city makes more tax money on new construction. Maybe that's why they don't care if you tear something historic down.



**John Michaels, San Marco**

Yes, if it is a historic building, but I don't want to be so restrictive that you can't paint your house. We have to do something to protect the old historic homes in San Marco.



**Patty Shannon, San Marco**

I think there should be some limitations but not so restrictive that it's like a homeowner's association where you can't do anything. There should be a review of what you want to put there before you are allowed to take things down. We should be able to preserve history, but if you want to add onto your house, you shouldn't have to have a whole lot of snooty people telling you what you want to do.



**Scott Parks, Miramar**

Yes, I think there should be something, however, individuals should have the right to do what they want with their property, but within the zoning restrictions. As there are zoning restrictions for commercial properties, there should be some zoning restrictions for residential that will help preserve the charm that makes San Marco what it is. I'm also okay with subdividing larger lots, but I do think the area is special for a reason, and we need to preserve the charm that is a net positive for the community.

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# Visit Jacksonville to offer free listings on its website

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Merchants in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods no longer need to purchase a partnership to be listed on the Visit Jacksonville website. They receive a free listing thanks to a new "inclusivity policy" mandated by the recently amended City's bed tax ordinance.

"Visit Jacksonville is no longer a partnership organization but an all-inclusive organization," said Katie Mitura, vice president of marketing and communications at Visit Jacksonville, during a meeting of the San Marco Merchants Association Jan. 18 at Theatre Jacksonville.

A six-percent bed tax was first instituted by the City in 1978, said Miruta. At that time, six pennies of every dollar from the tax was divided equally toward the Tourist Development Council, EverBank Field debt, and the Prime Osborn Convention Center, she explained.

In 2009, the bed tax ordinance was amended to put two percent towards improvements such as the new large scoreboards at the Sports Complex.

In November 2016, the City Council approved an amendment put forth by Council President Lori Boyer to the City's bed tax (Ordinance 22016-599) changing the Tourist Development Plan into seven components. The plan provides for the advancement, generation, growth, and promotion of tourism in Jacksonville both within Florida and outside of the state.

Boyer's amendment in 2016 divides Tourist Development Council's two percent of the tax money into funding seven components: 1) Tourist Bureau, which includes visitor centers within the city, comprehensive

listings in a data base, and the assembly of all available information; 2) Marketing of existing tourist-oriented facilities, attractions, activities and events; 3) Promotion of the City as a convention and meeting site; 4) Development and planning of additional tourist facilities and attractions in the City; 5) Special events grants for happenings such as the TaxSlayer Bowl and the Jazz Festival; 6) the acquisition of and improvements to certain publicly owned and operated facilities or facilities or owned and operated by a nonprofit that are open to the public; and 7) a rainy day reserve fund in case of an economic downturn.

Visit Jacksonville contracts with the Jacksonville Tourist Development Council to manage its marketing of the city as a tourist destination, its convention sales and services and its visitor centers and comprehensive data base, she said.

In the past, to get a listing with Visit Jacksonville, local businesses had to purchase partnerships starting at a base fee of \$399, Miruta explained. With the new amended ordinance, partnership fees are no longer required.

Visit Jacksonville is hoping to have the comprehensive database consisting of all tourist-oriented activities, retail businesses,

restaurants, hotels and overnight accommodations, museums, libraries, sports facilities, and even churches up and running by mid-March. The listings will be included on the Visit Jacksonville website as well as in its magazine, Miruta said.

In 2015, more than 20 million people visited Jacksonville, with 9.4 million staying overnight, she said. "I want to make sure everyone is getting their fair share of that business and that they are aware of San Marco (and Jacksonville's other historic neighborhoods)," she said.

Visit Jacksonville is also starting a new section on its website, which will be updated on a quarterly basis, called "What's New," she said. The new section will list all new restaurants and other businesses and activities, which might attract tourists. Nonprofits, provided they have events or do work that appeals to visitors, are welcome to join the listings, she said.

"We are all-inclusive and want to include anything related to tourism," she said. "Everyone will get the same and equal treatment. We need to know everything about everybody so we can tell visitors the latest and greatest of what's going on."

To provide a listing, go to VisitJacksonville.com/industry or call (904) 798-9111.

*"Everyone will get the same and equal treatment. We need to know everything about everybody so we can tell visitors the latest and greatest of what's going on."*

— Katie Mitura, Visit Jacksonville

## Bicycle and pedestrian safety emphasized during JSO deployments

To reduce fatal motor vehicle crashes involving pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycles, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is going to deploy more officers in four high traffic areas throughout the city, including Beach Boulevard in St. Nicholas, over the next four months.

JSO recently received a grant of \$50,176 from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for increasing its focus on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

JSO officers will be deployed along the US 90 corridor (Beach Boulevard) from St. Johns Bluff Road to South Shores Road, as well as 103rd Street from Hillman Drive to Blanding Boulevard, Atlantic Boulevard from Cortez Road to Arlington Road, and US 23 from I-95 to North Canal Street.

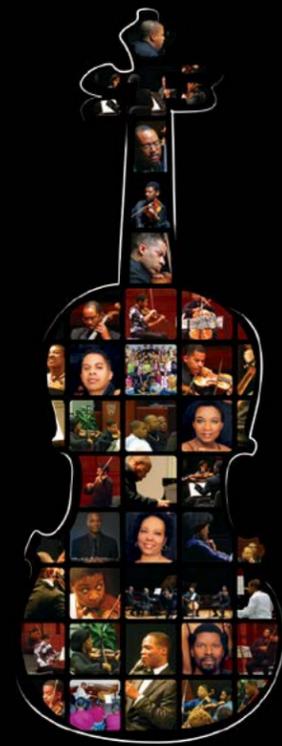
The deployments by JSO officers will include enforcement and citizen/driver education regarding impaired and distracted driving and overall roadway safety. The agency will collect data on the deployments for submission to FDOT.

At a minimum, one deployment will take place per week at one of the locations. At least one deployment is scheduled to take place at each location every month.

The first deployment is scheduled to take place on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the corridor from Hillman Drive to Blanding Boulevard.

"There will be a higher presence of officers in the area during the deployments," said JSO Officer Melissa Bujeda, adding that the officers will be seeking to educate everyone using the roadways on how to be safe.

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Jacksonville residents take part in global workout

On January 14, 2017, fitness clubs all around the world celebrated the 100th release of BODYPUMP™ with the world's biggest one-day workout. The event began in Auckland, New Zealand, where BODYPUMP originated, with several YMCAs and other fitness clubs in Jacksonville hosting group exercises with the barbells.

BODYPUMP releases a new workout every three months, coinciding its 100th release with its 25-year-anniversary of the program created by four-time Olympic athlete Les Mills, who started his first gym in New Zealand in 1968.

Unity Plaza was the site for a group exercise Jan. 14, celebrating the 100th release of BODYPUMP™, a 25-year-old workout program.



Mauri Mizrahi

### Former employee returns to River Garden in new capacity

River Garden Hebrew Home welcomed lifelong Jacksonville resident Mauri Mizrahi to its staff as assistant administrator. Mizrahi is a physical therapist and board-certified geriatric clinical specialist and has a long affiliation with River Garden. Beginning as a teen volunteer with a Jewish community youth group, Mizrahi also worked in the Rehabilitation Department for several years.

Mizrahi said she was "honored and humbled by this incredible opportunity" to return to River Garden in a new capacity. River Garden Senior Services is located on a 40-acre campus in Mandarin and has been the recipient of the Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long Term Care eight out of eight times.



Jody Giles

### San Marco CPA launches kickstarter campaign for book

Jody Giles, a San Marco certified public accountant, certified financial planner and mother of two says the time to plan for "later" is now.

Giles launched a Kickstarter campaign Jan. 4 to fund her new book, "The Missing

*"Planning now is the best gift you can give your loved ones."*

— Jody Giles

Pieces Plan." The book addresses the "softer issues" of traditional financial planning efforts that are often overlooked. Giles offers ways for individuals to "leave a legacy, not a mess."

"The Missing Pieces Plan was created to help people live a fulfilled life now and gain a peace of mind by planning for later," Giles said. "Planning now is the best gift you can give your loved ones and the Missing Pieces Plan is here to help!"

For more information on "The Missing Pieces Plan," check out [www.missingpiecesplan.com](http://www.missingpiecesplan.com).

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# Honorary chair recalls lifesaving efforts at St. Vincent's

A rich history of patient care at Riverside-based St. Vincent's Medical Center has availed many stories from the halls of medicine throughout the years. This year's honorary chair of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Red Rose Ball, Betsy Lovett, is no exception.

Lovett remembers falling deathly ill as a child and going through painful procedures, wondering if she would ever be cured of her malady. Having to undergo the trials and tribulations of experimental medicine in the 1930s, she desperately needed a cure.

With a lack of modern medicine's diagnostics, patients like Lovett experienced the literal practice of medicine. By experimenting on patients and trying everything within their power, physicians were working to

deliver positive outcomes for patients and their families.

Ironically, a sulfa drug shipped in the mail to save another child stricken with meningitis didn't save that life, but saved the life of Lovett. Along with a transfusion from a local fireman who lay arm to arm dwarfing the young 9-year-old, the drug blessed Lovett with the miracle of life.

"I am forever thankful to St. Vincent's for the care that I received as a child and I have a fondness for the hospital's mission - to serve everyone in this community, never turning any patient away," said Lovett.

The Red Rose Ball will be held Friday, February 3 at the Jacksonville Marriott at Southpoint.



Betsy Lovett (Photo courtesy of Head Shots Studio)

*"I am forever thankful to St. Vincent's for the care that I received as a child and I have a fondness for the hospital's mission- to serve everyone in this community, never turning any patient away."*

— Betsy Lovett

## Golfers raise funds for Morning Star school



Roy and Joann Leskanic, Jim and Jaime Terry, with Father Rafael Lavilla, Rick Barnes, John Dotson and Kevin Fitzgerald

The Morning Star School golf tournament held Nov. 14, 2016 at the San Jose Country Club included 80 golfers who supported the 60-year-old school while spending time with friends and raising much needed funds.

Over \$15,000 was raised to help supplement the budget, provide enhancements to classrooms and purchase up-to-date educational tools for the students.

"Our golf tournament was a huge success, and raised more money than ever before! It's always amazing when people come together when needed - and that's exactly

what happened," said Maria Johnson, Director of Development. "We asked for support to build a high school, and the community responded. Truly a magical day amongst friends, for a wonderful cause!"

The school was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine to provide a Catholic education for students who were physically handicapped. It first opened in Riverside, then moved in 1968 to its current site in Arlington, and now focuses on children with specific learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, dyslexia, and mild emotional handicaps.

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## Gorak to head Cancer Medicine at Baptist MD Anderson

One of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center's founding oncologists, Dr. Edward Gorak, DO, MBA, MS, FACP, of Ponte Vedra Beach, has been named Head of the Division of Cancer Medicine at the cancer center in San Marco.

Gorak, who began working at Baptist MD Anderson in August 2015, will continue with his clinical practice while taking on his new administrative duties as physician-in-chief for medical oncologists and other physicians who work at the cancer center.

"I'm looking forward to being part of the team who will bring comprehensive,

quality cancer care to northeast Florida," he said. "We plan to strengthen existing programs such as our breast cancer program and continue to expand high-quality research. Our partnership with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston is going to be critical in utilizing some shared research and new technologies."

At Baptist MD Anderson, Gorak will also lead in building new programs in cancer treatment and quality improvement as the center looks to recruit leaders in medical oncology and in oncology specialties such as lung, colorectal and gastrointestinal cancer among others.



Dr. Edward Gorak

## Grateful donors give \$6 million to neurological efforts at Baptist Health

Thanks to grateful patients and other generous corporate and private donors, Baptist Health will expand its research and education efforts for stroke and brain aneurysms.

A total of \$6 million has been recently received by Baptist Health including a \$1.1 million gift by an appreciative, anonymous patient and spouse to establish the Ricardo Hanel, MD and Eric Sauvageau, MD, Chair in Neurovascular Surgery at Baptist Neurological Institute. The donation will be matched by Baptist Health for a total endowment of about \$2.5 million, which will provide permanent, ongoing funding for brain treatment and research.

A Riverside resident, Sauvageau is director of the Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. Hanel serves as director of the Baptist Neurological Institute.

Also funded by the \$6 million in donations from corporate and private donors will be endowments focused on clinical program development for treating cerebrovascular conditions in adults and children as well as expanding community outreach and awareness for stroke and brain aneurysms.

Contributing to the \$6 million total was also a \$1.5 million donation from Cheryl and Tom Rackley of the Beaches, who designated \$1 million to support neurological needs for Beaches residents and \$500,000 to the Baptist Neurological Institute. Cheryl was treated by Dr. Hanel for a brain aneurysm in 2015.

"The generosity of these gifts is really inspiring," said Hanel. "The donations allow us to continue doing advanced research and education while providing the best cerebrovascular care in the region for all ages and all socio-economic levels, especially to the under privileged."

## Haley named Dean of UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville

Leon L. Haley, Jr., M.D., MHSA, FACEP, C.P.E., a resident of The Peninsula on the Southbank, has been named dean of the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville.

Haley comes to Jacksonville by way of Atlanta, where he served as professor of emergency medicine and executive associate dean for Emory School of Medicine and as key administrator at Grady Memorial Hospital, the city's safety-net hospital.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of northeast Florida's premier medical and academic organizations," he said. "The University of Florida is regarded throughout

the country as one of the leaders in educating physicians, providing cutting-edge research, and UF Health has become a symbol for providing the best most compassionate health care to everyone who needs it."

Haley joins UF Health Jacksonville just as it is on the verge of expanding its reach into north Jacksonville with the opening of a new inpatient hospital. The 92-bed unit is set to open in mid-2017 and will complement UF Health North's medical office complex.



Dr. Leon L. Haley, Jr.

## FirstAtlantic brings in new commercial banker

Mike Dailey has joined FirstAtlantic Bank as vice president, senior commercial banker at its San Marco office on Hendricks Avenue. His responsibilities include developing new customer relationships in the bank's targeted markets of businesses and professionals.

Dailey brings 25 years of financial services experience to his new position. He was most recently with SunTrust Bank. Dailey received a Bachelor of Science in business administration from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Mike Dailey

"We are very pleased to have Mike join our team," said FirstAtlantic President and CEO Mitchell W. Hunt, Jr. "His wealth of experience and knowledge of the industry will be instrumental in helping our company continue to grow in northeast Florida."



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Shirley Clifton

### Clifton retires as Southside Baptist preschool director

After more than 50 years working in the Baptist preschool ministry, Shirley Clifton of Southside Baptist Church is ready to retire.

A Callahan resident, Clifton, who's last day was January 31, has worked at Southside Baptist Church, where she is a member, as Preschool Ministry Director for 15 years. Prior to her service at the San Marco church, Clifton served for 15 years in the preschool at Cedar Creek Baptist Church and for 20 years at Argyle Baptist Church in Argyle Forest.

Clifton said she has nothing special planned as she heads into retirement other than spending time "four-wheeling" with her eight grandchildren. She has been married to her husband Ray, also a Southside Baptist member, for 52 years and has two sons, Scott and Chris.

As she retires from being a Southside staff member, Clifton said she expects to miss her preschool students and still wants to keep her hand in at the church as a volunteer.

"I've been putting retirement off for a while. I still want to be involved with the preschool ministry but just as a volunteer. I also want to get involved with a women's ministry," she said.

"It's been such a joy, privilege and an honor to work with so many committed and dedicated volunteers at Southside Baptist Church," she said. "I will especially miss the preschoolers – their smiles and their hugs. Preschoolers just love you."

Meghan Weir, a Southside Baptist Church member, will be taking over for Clifton as the preschool director.

## Five named shareholders at Rogers Towers

Beginning January 1, five new shareholders were named at Rogers Towers, P.A.

Gabriel Crafton, a member of the Construction and Bank Litigation Departments, joined the firm in 2008. The San Marco resident earned his Juris Doctor from Florida State University College of Law, summa cum laude.

Samuel L. Horovitz, a member of the Labor and Employment Department, joined the firm in 2010, and earned his Juris Doctor from the Levin College of Law - University of Florida, magna cum laude. He currently resides in the Beauclerc area.

Scott J. Kennelly, of San Marco, joined the firm in 2009 and is a member of Rogers Towers' Litigation Department and of the firm's Banking and Financial Services Practice Group and Alcohol Industry Team. He earned his Juris Doctor from the Levin College of Law - University of Florida, magna cum laude.

E. Carson Lange joined the firm in 2011. Ms. Lange, of Avondale, is a member of



Samuel L. Horovitz, Gabriel Crafton, Scott A. Padgett, Scott J. Kennelly, E. Carson Lange

Rogers Towers' Litigation Department and concentrates her practice in the areas of commercial litigation, torts, and civil trial practice. She earned her Juris Doctor from the Levin College of Law - University of Florida.

Scott A. Padgett joined the firm in 2008 and his practice is focused on commercial litigation, with an emphasis on property and business disputes. The Deerwood resident earned his Juris Doctor from Florida State University College of Law.

## Baptist Health CIO recognized nationally for second straight year

For the second year in a row, Baptist Health Chief Information Officer Roland Garcia has been recognized by "Becker's Hospital Review."

Garcia, who lives in San Marco and joined Baptist Health in 2001 as a senior vice president and CIO, was named to Becker's 113 Hospital and Health System CIOs to Know for 2017. It is the second consecutive year Garcia has received this honor by the prestigious national publication.

He was recognized for being an early adopter of Electronic Medical Records beginning in 2005, before EMR technology was a regulatory requirement, with the opening of Baptist Medical Center South hospital. Due to his foresight, Baptist Health patients benefit from a single EMR system integrated throughout its five-hospital system. Baptist Health's more than 60 primary care and specialty physician practices are also digital, with EMR and practice management solutions in place.

Garcia has also taken the lead in the development of technology strategy for the rollout of Baptist Health's clinically integrated network, Baptist Physician Partners, which currently has more than 700 participating doctors.

"Roland and his team are engaged in every major initiative within our health system," said Baptist Health CEO and President Hugh Greene of San Jose. "His vision and leadership are invaluable as we position ourselves for the future of health care delivery."



Roland Garcia

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## The Women's Board names San Marco woman president

The new president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital is San Marco resident Elizabeth Harrell Langley, a member of the organization since 1996. Langley served as the chair of the Art & Antiques Show in 2007 and the chair of The Florida Forum in 2012.

The Women's Board raises more than \$1 million annually through its two primary fundraisers, and with additional donations and matching grants now gives the hospital more than \$2 million a year. To date, the nonprofit has raised more than \$28 million for Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Langley, who has lived in Jacksonville for the last 35 years, graduated from The University of Florida with a degree in business administration and moved to Jacksonville where she worked for



Elizabeth Harrell Langley

AmSouth Bank. She has been a member of the Junior League since 1986 and served as president in 2000-2001, is chairman of the board for The Cathedral School at St. John's Cathedral, where she attends church. Langley is a member of the Leadership Class of 2000 of Leadership Jacksonville, and has served on the boards of The American Cancer Society and The Heart Association. She was awarded the Pam Paul Community Service Award and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

## Harris elected SMMA president

Robert Harris, a partner at Harris, Guidi and Rosner, P.A. in San Marco, has been named president of the San Marco Merchants Association.

Harris took over for Anita Vining of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, and started his two-year term Jan. 1.

Harris, who has received many laurels for his lawyering abilities over the years, also currently serves as chairman of the University of Florida Regional Advisory Board. He was president of the South Jacksonville Rotary in 2008.

A resident of Epping Forest, Harris said this year he will focus on finding ways to improve the parking situation in San Marco. He also hopes to bring more activity into Balis Park and San Marco Square. "We will be trying to do concerts and entertainment more frequently," he said after his first merchants' meeting Jan. 18.



Robert Harris

## Former Avondale resident ties knot with White House aide



The wedding of Helen Pajcic, daughter of attorney Steve Pajcic of Avondale, will be one the family – and nearby neighbors – will not soon forget.

Attending the top secret ceremony Jan. 7 between Pajcic and Marvin Nicholson, long-time White House aide was President Barack Obama, who served as a groomsman.

President Obama's 10th visit to Jacksonville since his first in 2007 permitted no media coverage at the Pajcic home in Avondale along the banks of the St. Johns River. The officiant for the marriage ceremony was Secretary of State John Kerry.

Traffic along St. Johns Avenue was restricted during the hour the president was at the Pajcics' home, but the street was lined with throngs of people hoping to catch a glimpse of Obama.

The bride, a graduate of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, worked on Obama's 2008 campaign, and is a special assistant at the U.S. Department of Education. Her new husband held the title of White House Trip Director and was Obama's personal aide and golf partner. Nicholson also served as Kerry's personal aide during his 2004 run as the Democratic presidential nominee.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Helen Pajcic and Marvin Nicholson, President Barack Obama at the Avondale home of Steve and Anne Pajcic on Jan. 7. (Photo courtesy of Chris Torres/6 of Four Photography)



Steve Pajcic with his daughter, Helen, on her wedding Jan. 7, at Pajcic's Avondale home. (Photo courtesy of Chris Torres/6 of Four Photography)

Unsubstantiated commentary on social media sites indicated tuxedoed Secret Service agents were sitting in the trees in the Pajcics' backyard during the hour-long visit.

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**7125 CATALONIA AVE**  
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**1320 SAN AMARO RD - \$300,000**  
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Erica Schiavone, James Phabulous and Rachael Morris



Robin and Kevin Miller of Bold City Brewery with Linsey Haas of Taverna



Missy Hager with Scott Riley, Maureen Regas, Katie and Rich Joseph and Scott Riley, Jr.



Lance Smoak of Aardwolf Brewing Company with Mishayla and Michael Schmidt and Chad Munsey of The Bearded Pig



Jenny Parker with Michael Brumback, Chandra and Lee Hutchins, Michael and Morgan Roberts

**Patrons come out for a Taste of San Marco**

The San Marco Square was buzzing with activity during a recent fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The Stellers Gallery was packed with advocates who rallied in support of the local Relay for Life programs, one that has strong organization in the San Marco area. Chair Heather Riley, a local resident, was proud to serve for her second time as chair of the annual event, one that pairs food with beverages from local restaurants and brewing companies.

"I'm into being fit and fitness; I'm also a cancer survivor," shared Riley. "I love the idea of walking and physical fitness that's a part of all of this."

Riley, who battled skin cancer 10 years ago, came out on top after her own battle with melanoma. She was referring to the Relay for Life events that bring families and communities together to embrace their collective power to free the world from the pain and suffering from cancer. By engaging in the Relay for Life events, individuals and businesses gather to raise funds by walking mile after mile, with funds pledged for the benefit of cancer patients and their families.



Cindy Weiss with Sandy Shapiro

**SOCIAL R**



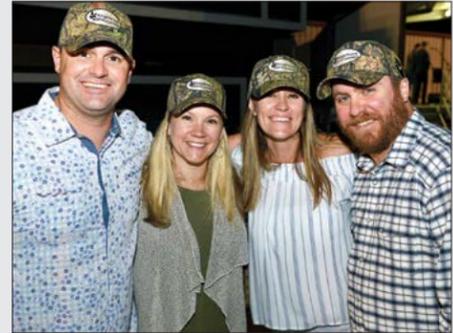
Joan Gallett with Michael Southerland



Kari Terry with Ashley English, Rhonda Gwin, Cindy Selock and Cindy Farlow



Emily Robbins with Abby Wilcox, Annie Tuttle and Tera Lageman



Matt and Abby Wilcox with Annie and Greg Tuttle

**Angelwood celebrates Silver Anniversary**

There were stompin' boots, big belt buckles and donors clad in denim, as Jacksonville-based nonprofit Angelwood had a barn stormin' good time at a recent fundraiser. Passionate supporters rallied for the capital campaign and funds that help Angelwood serve children and adults with developmental disabilities in our community.

Thanks to the robust support of Ancient City Brewing Company, Watts Juicery, Tree Steakhouse, Firehouse Subs, M Shack, Happy Grilled Cheese, Peterbrooke Chocolatier and many more kind sponsors – the evening was a big hit. With tunes from Grandpa's Cough Medicine being plucked on stage and barbecue and other eats served alongside some tasty suds, nobody went home hungry. The 25th anniversary celebration was chaired by Dan and Robin Wahby.

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Darlene Hinson with Sheila Collier, Lena and David Winslow



Jay and Tammy Demetree



Post-graduate student, Carson Quisenberry, with Ellen Hiser, director of the Berry Good Farms



Sally Hazelip with Fran Hickenbotham, Jill Morrow, Camille Ott and Patti Joyce

## Dinner on the Farm provides forum for student chefs

A change in date due to the antics of Hurricane Matthew did not deter North Florida School of Special Education's annual Dinner on the Farm from being a sold-out affair.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and a sumptuous dinner prepared by transition and post-graduate students Jan. 29 on the school's Arlington campus. School Chef

Brett Swearingen assisted the students in planning a menu that took advantage of fresh, seasonal vegetables and herbs from the school's Berry Good Farms.

Live music and the sale of original artwork by the students capped the affair, which raises money to benefit Berry Good Farms as it strives to become a self-sustaining micro-enterprise. The school's horticulture and culinary arts programs provide meaningful training for North Florida's students, who may eventually seek careers in related fields.



Dr. Ahmad Kasraeian with Dr. Shahla Masood



Debra Malinis with Anna Dooley and Judy Bryan



Barbara and Larry Jaffe with Bonnie Kurosko, Betsy Tillis and Tony Kurosko



Dr. Michael Nussbaum with Dr. Andy Kerwin



Leon Haley M.D., Dean-UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville with UF Health Jacksonville CEO, Russ Armistead

## TraumaOne supporters celebrate 10 years of giving

It was a celebration of 10 years of giving back to UF's TraumaOne team as donors enjoyed dinner, dancing, and the knowledge their support has provided lifesaving care to more than 4,000 trauma victims annually, during UF Health's 10th Annual Night for Heroes gala at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Jan. 28.

Over the past decade the gala has raised more than \$1 million for the region's only Level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center.

During the evening, Brian K. Lynn, an epidural hematoma survivor thanks to the heroic efforts of TraumaOne, shared his story. The crowd was also treated to the traditional presentation honoring the 500 UF Health physicians, nurses, technicians, flight crew, rehabilitation specialists, fire, rescue and police officers – all heroes – who perform lifesaving critical care at UF Health daily.

Speaking at the event were UF Health's Russell E. Armistead, chief executive officer; Dr. David S. Guzick, senior vice president for Health Affairs; and Dr. Leon L. Haley, Jr., who was introduced as University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville's new dean of medicine.

Chairing the gala were Amy P. Meyer and Jean Tepas, who are members of the TraumaOne Heroes Council.



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# For the love of laughter

## Undercover clowns make life easier

By Christina Swanson  
Resident Community News

Barbara Anderson of San Marco loves to make people laugh. For her it is not just a hobby or a pleasant thing to do, it's her passion.

Anderson joined Gator Clowns in 1998 to provide an outlet for her mirth-making. Gator Clowns of Jacksonville is the oldest, active Clown Alley in North America, according to the group's Facebook page. A nonprofit group with the mission to promote the "art of clowning," the alley's members educate themselves in "the art and enjoyment of clowning" to provide free services to civic, community and charity organizations.

Now retired after 38 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, much of that time as an engineer technician, Anderson can be found at Corps family events and other Jacksonville charity functions as her alter-ego,



Cricket (Pat Dedicos) and Sheriff Giddy-up (Jackie Knight)

Bow, dreaming up fun stories to accompany a child's specific face-painting request.

Anderson is one of those who, although officially a volunteer clown for almost 20 years, said she has really been an "undercover clown" her whole life. Always sensitive to others' emotions, especially in serious and difficult situations, such as emergency operations after a natural disaster, Anderson has used her clowning skills to lighten the mood in off-beat but respectful ways.

Recently Anderson was walking in a San Marco round-about when she noticed a mom trying to keep up with her two kids, one on a skate board, going a different direction than his sister. Anderson said she helped the boy pretend his skateboard was a sleigh and he was a reindeer so they could catch up with his sister, who they pretended was Mrs. Claus. The mom was so grateful, she said.

"I'm not the best face-painting artist, but I always have a fun story to share," said Anderson. "Clowning - undercover or as Bow - is a relief valve. Injecting humor to lighten someone's load is something we all need."

San Jose resident Pat Dedicos, aka Cricket, joined Gator Clowns in 2011. After a year of training and performing, as required, she also joined the Wolfson Children's Hospital auxiliary group. Here she volunteers in various capacities, including helping with fundraisers and also clowns as part of Wolfson's clown unit called the Goofie\*atrics.

A retired librarian with the school district, Dedicos said she joined the alley because she wanted to continue working with young children. When she saw a feature about Gator Clowns on the news one day, she realized this was the perfect thing for her to do.

"When I learned clowning, my whole life changed, because no matter the activity, you get so much more back than you give," said Dedicos. "It is the biggest blessing; I might be tired or down in the dumps, but I put my clown face on and my day turns around."

So enthralled, in her second year Dedicos became Gator Clown's First Vice President in charge of scheduling their events.

A big occasion for the Gator Clowns each December is entertaining foster children at their annual Christmas party at the zoo.



Gator Clowns Sprinkles (Carole Jennings), Bounce Around (Robyn Fischer), Miss Clown (Martha Wyrick), Shorty (Sean Jennings) and Bow (Barbara Anderson)

"Sometimes when face painting a child at this event, you can feel their need to be loved and when they stand up to go they reach back and give you a tight hug," said Dedicos. "It's such a sweet moment knowing that a little thing as painting some flowers on a cheek brought them so much joy."

Incoming Gator Clown President Carole Jennings, aka Sprinkles, feels clowning makes her a better person and gives her a more enjoyable life.

"Being a clown has taught me new and interesting ways to bring joy to people which makes me happier," said Jennings, an Arlington resident. "The more you serve others the less time you have to think about yourself, which improves the quality of your life. Like our motto states, 'Clowning is an art from the heart.'"

Jennings, retired from claims work with Aetna Insurance, and her husband Sean, or Shorty, a Vietnam Army veteran, started clowning at the same time as Dedicos. They enjoy the variety of causes they serve and places they visit with Gator Clowns - from marathons and church festivals to nursing homes and children's hospitals.

"Once you learn proper clowning procedures, make-up, and other skills you can also clown on your own for any group fundraiser, marathon or wherever you want to help," said Jennings.

That's what Jennings does with her friend Mary Ann Fennell, or Chatter Box, who

weekly volunteers at Nemours Children's Specialty Care by sitting in the lobby in character, painting faces and sharing smiles.

"Here in Jacksonville, we're lucky to have one of the oldest clown schools, called "alleys," in the entire U.S. with hundreds of members that promote laughter, share their skills and ultimately make our community a better place to live," said Jennings.

Everyone can learn to be a clown, she said. Gator Clown members ages range from 8 to 80, but when they transform into their chosen characters, with makeup and costume, they are ageless. Clowning around helps to lighten a person's load and enables them to forget about their troubles in the process, she said.

Sometimes the tables are turned. At an outdoor school event, Jennings had a difficult time painting a boy's face because it was so cold and damp. When he looked in the mirror at her work he promptly said, "You probably need to apply yourself more." She's still laughing about that one.

At Gator Clown school, which starts April 7, several essentials are taught, including the history of clowning, clown etiquette and rules, makeup application, how to design your look based on the type of clown you choose to be (hobo, white face or auguste - the fool or joker clown), face painting, balloon sculpting and skit preparation, she said.

To learn more about Gator Clown School call 1-800-735-0747.



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# Meet your neighbor

## San Jose's Lt. Jimmy Ricks

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Lt. Jimmy Ricks is the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Lieutenant in charge of the bicycle squad in downtown Jacksonville. His other duties include supervising the traffic officers, Community Service Officers (CSOs), the front desk at Police Memorial Station on East Bay Street, a squad of Community Service Officers and a walking beat unit that handles park issues and problems Downtown. A native of Jacksonville, he has lived with his wife, Missy Halil Ricks, and two children, Christian and Madison, in San Jose for the past four years and previously called San Marco home.

### What is it like to go to work on a bike?

When I ride, it is always with four or five guys. We ride around in the downtown area, and we make contact with somebody or we have a dispatch call that we need to handle that's in the downtown area. You have to be looking out, but bikes are more stealthy; when you're driving up, people don't know you're there until you are right on top of them.

### Why did you join the police force?

I grew up in a family catering business. We had a restaurant – Jimmy's Hog Heaven Barbeque, named after my father – at St. John's Bluff and Atlantic Boulevard. I'm Jimmy Ricks IV. My uncle worked for the Clay County Sheriff's Office; I rode with Officer Mike Gardner and instantly fell in love with police work.

### What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you on the job?

Responding to something when you don't know what the real deal is, like a person who is shot. One time we thought we were responding to a child who had been shot, and it had nothing to do with a child. The suspect had shot her alleged boyfriend at the time, but we didn't know what it was. That was probably the scariest time.

### What is your life like apart from being a cop? Do you have hobbies?

I spend my time with my 9-year-old son, Christian, and a 6-year-old daughter, Madison. My kids go to San Jose Catholic, and we do a lot with the church and a lot with the school, which is right there. What I enjoy the most is when they have sports, and my favorite sport is basketball and right now I get to coach. This is the first year I've gotten to coach my daughter; she's in kindergarten, so it's pretty nice to see her around there. I coach my son, also.

### Is biking something you have always done? Is it something you would do if you were not connected with the JSO bike squad?

Yes, and again, looking back on the kids, just in the past two weeks I taught my daughter to ride a two-wheeler. She's now on it, and we've been riding to the parks that are close by. She's a sport. I didn't think she would pick it up so quickly, but she did, thanks to the Bicycle Buddy, a little handle that you hold onto so you can run with them.

### In your personal life, what kind of bike do you ride?

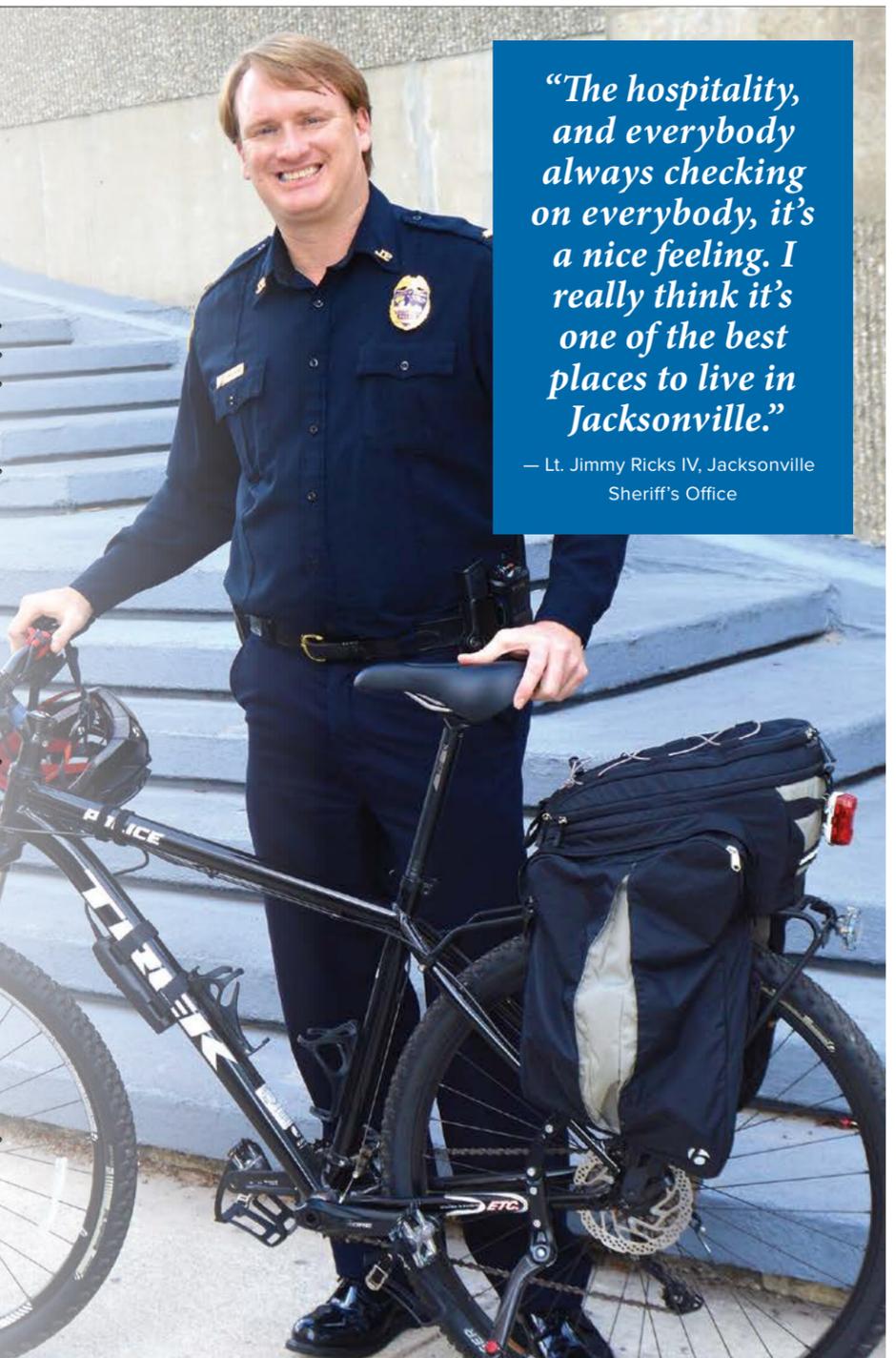
It's kind of funny. My bike came with a truck that I had. It's called a Hummer Bike, a limited edition red tactical bike. I got rid of the Hummer truck and kept the bike.

### What is the last book you read?

One of the kid's books. Dr. Seuss, with my daughter.

### What do you like about living in San Jose?

You can walk to everything. I love the parks. All the parks close by are really beneficial to kids. Having the ability to ride your bike or walk your dog up to a park is very nice. When we first moved in to the area, we were greeted by an older community, by people who had lived there 30 years. They were bringing us cookies. The hospitality, and everybody always checking on everybody, it's a nice feeling. I really think it's one of the best places to live in Jacksonville.



*"The hospitality, and everybody always checking on everybody, it's a nice feeling. I really think it's one of the best places to live in Jacksonville."*

— Lt. Jimmy Ricks IV, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office



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# BARKING BESTIES AND PURRFECT PLAYMATES

## Why we love our family pets

By Krysten L. Bennett, Resident Community News

When 85 percent of all dog owners consider their pet to be a member of the family, according to a study by Pew Research Center, it's no wonder Jacksonville has seen a proliferation of pet boutiques in the past decade. Even more revealing, Jacksonville ranked 18th out of 100 cities for the amount of money its residents spent on their pets, according to a 2016 WalletHub study. Although dog owners outnumber cat lovers by nearly two to one, we are just as fond of our feline friends as we are of our canine companions.

To find out just how much love is out there, *The Resident* took a quick look at the reasons why pooches and pussies are so important to their masters.

### BRYAN COX AND TRICIA MCCAULEY-COX, San Marco with Bug, their Weimaraner

"To paraphrase C.S. Lewis, 'The way dogs love us is the way we should love God.' It's so beautiful how much dogs can teach us about unconditional love. They're just wonderful creatures."



### LINDSEY AND SHAWN BROOKS, San Marco, with their Spaniels, Emerson and Anna Belle

"We love our dogs because they just do whatever they can to get your attention and give you affection. No matter how rough your day is, when you walk in the door they are always excited to see you."



### KATHERINE SCHNAUSS NAUGLE, of The Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Lizzie

"I practice in the areas of elder law, estate planning, guardianship and probate. Typically, if people are coming to see me it's a stressful time for them. Lizzie, our two-year-old Cavalier, comes to work with me most days and is always happy to make my clients feel better!"



### ANN TIEFENTHALER AND MARC JACKSON, San Marco, with their cats, Lizzie, Pepper and Chrissy

"We have two outdoor cats that came with the house when we moved in. They're fun because if I'm doing a project outside they follow me around and stare. I like having the company. They're the only people here willing to help me with the yard work." – Marc Jackson

### DANA PRICE, Price Family Law, with her Coton de Tulear, George

"The love of a dog is so pure. They're the epitome of selflessness and are instant mood raisers. Court can often be highly stressful and coming back to the office where George is there to greet me just makes everything better."



### JOHN PAULEY AND LINDA STRICKLAND, San Marco, with Joey, a Feist

"Joey and I walk about three miles a day, which is good for both him and me. I meet a lot of people around the neighborhood when I'm out with him. Everybody in San Marco knows Joey." – John Pauley



### CAROLYN HAWTHORNE, The Write Touch, with her Golden Retriever, Nicholas

"I can't remember a time in my life that I wasn't completely in love with dogs. I love everything about them, their silliness, companionship, fur, warmth, eagerness to please and their kind, loving and loyal characteristics. I feel so lucky to be able to bring Nicholas to work with me every day."



### DIANE AND TIM MARTIN, San Marco, with their Rat Terrier, Ricky Martin

"Ricky's been walking the loop for 15 years. People started calling him the Mayor of San Marco. He knows which shops have treats, water and other dogs. He has so much personality, and he loves everybody. He's been our connection to meeting people."

Continued on page 29

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**KRISTA, JACK AND SHAY EBERLE,** Krista Eberle Boutique, with their rescue dogs, Prince, Sophie and Teddy

"I've loved dogs since I was a little kid. They're my favorite animal. I just love them. One secret about dogs: If you treat them good, they'll treat you better!" (Quote by Krista's son, Shay)



**LEIGH BURDETT,** Lakewood, with her Chihuahua, Rudy, Happy Black & White Dog, Charlie, and Coonhound Mix, Henry

"Having a dog makes everything better, no matter what happens. Dogs want to do all they can to make you happy, it's ingrained in their duty and purpose. Once you know how to understand their behavior, you have a best friend for life."



**CHRISSEY BERSAMIN,** San Marco, with her Goldendoodle, Daisy Rey

"We love having Daisy Rey in our life! She is always a happy puppy with lots of energy and the best personality. She loves to play and learn and makes us laugh every day."

**ELIZABETH AUGUSTUS,** San Marco, with Max, her Maltese

"I never thought I'd like having a little frou-frou dog after having a 100-pound Golden Retriever, but Max is a mellow yet very macho man in a small body. He's been by my side through a lot of life changes, including becoming an empty nester. He's family to me."



**JOHN AND DEBRA PATAKY,** San Marco, with their Goldendoodles, Lexie and Kosmo

"Fun, funny, family sums it up. Kosmo and Lexie are members of the family who entertain us and themselves and are always the hit of the dog-walking scene. They're great companions for us and for each other. They prove the point that two dogs in the home are better than one."

**HOLLY, NORAH AND CRAIG KOBRIN,** San Marco, with their Goldendoodle, Ginger

"Ginger greets you at the door with a toy every time you come home. She's calm and she listens, but she's always ready to play or snuggle and she's a great dog to have around the house or to go on walks. She's just the perfect family dog."



**MORGAN MURPHY,** Groomingdales, with her Standard Poodle, LuLu

"Dogs are just awesome. They're playful and loving and always there for you. I consider myself lucky to get to hang out with all the dogs from the neighborhood and make them pretty and clean and play with them every day."

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# Volunteers serve to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy

Celebrating a day on instead of a day off, more than 900 Wells Fargo team members and community volunteers joined together to live Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream Jan. 16.

With the support of dozens of nonprofit organizations, HandsOn Jacksonville, LISC Jacksonville, Habijax, and United Way of Northeast Florida arranged more than two dozen Wells Fargo-sponsored community service projects while also informing residents about free tax preparation and financial education services provided by United Way's RealSense.

Focused on the Springfield, East Jacksonville, New Town, and Northwest Jacksonville neighborhoods, volunteers united to increase financial awareness, clean up buildings and streetways, landscape blighted areas, distribute food to those in need, paint murals and more.

"Dr. King represents the power of hope, strength in communities and the importance of service to others," said Michelle Braun, United Way of Northeast Florida president and CEO. "We share Dr. King's vision and are working to build communities of hope and are so thankful for the partners, volunteers and supporters who help strengthen Northeast Florida every day."

"At Wells Fargo, caring for our local communities is embedded in our culture," said Kelly Smith, Wells Fargo North Florida Region president. "We strive to make a positive, lasting impact on our local communities through our ongoing philanthropic efforts, and we appreciate the strong relationships we have with the nonprofit organizations who help make that possible across North Florida."



United Way of Northeast Florida volunteers, in partnership with LISC Jacksonville and Jacksonville Cultural Development Corporation, created hubcap flowers to be placed in housing projects, parks and community gardens for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



Members of United Way of Northeast Florida's Women in Local Leadership (WILL) affinity group participated in landscaping and painting projects at Fort Caroline Middle School for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



United Way of Northeast Florida volunteers, in partnership with Feeding Northeast Florida and Arlington 20/20, distributed more than 5,000 pounds of food in the Woodland Acres community for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



Members of United Way of Northeast Florida's Builders Society installed a Born Learning Trail at Cuba Hunter Park to promote early literacy and physical activity for young children during Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



Wells Fargo volunteers, in partnership with Habijax, cleaned the streets of the New Town Success Zone community and assisted homeowners with cosmetic home improvements for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

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**7:00 PM**  
 with  
**Shari Rabin, PhD**

Dr. Rabin is a historian of American religion and modern Judaism, and a Jewish Studies faculty member

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## Haskell hosts AIA meeting, speaks on abstract art

Preston Haskell, founder of Haskell Company, shared some thoughts about his collection of Abstract Expressionist Art at the monthly meeting of AIA Jacksonville. The local chapter of the American Institute of Architects met Jan. 19 to enjoy extensive hors d'oeuvres at the Haskell Building in Riverside.

At the meeting AIA Jacksonville President Christopher Allen shared ideas for addressing the city's next big architectural challenges and, in support of redevelopment, announced a new River of Lights initiative the chapter plans to present to City Council and the Downtown Investment Authority. "2017 will see the continued redevelopment of Downtown, and that will open new opportunities for thoughtful design," said Allen.

The chapter is recommending the addition of more activity nodes, such as Friendship Fountain, The Landing and the Southbank's Lone Sailor statue.



Preston Haskell, founder of Haskell Co. and AIA Jacksonville Chapter President Christopher Allen.

Joining experienced architects, interior designers, and artists were students from the Robert E. Lee High School ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) program. AIA members toured Haskell's extensive collection of 20th century abstract expressionist art at the chapter's January meeting. "Art is a stimulus, especially for people working in a creative field," Haskell said. "It gets people thinking outside the box. That's certainly what architects need to do."



Marjorie Weibe-Reed, AIA Jacksonville chapter director, Michael Compton, treasurer, Jennifer Suharmadji, president-elect



Tom Beeckler, Allison Brown, Zimmermann Boulos

## Interfaith service held at St. John the Divine Church

Twelve clergymen representing various denominations throughout Florida joined together to celebrate the 2017 Ecumenical Vespers at St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in St. Nicholas Jan. 17.

The service kicked off a Week of Prayer of Christian Unity, an international ecumenical observance that takes place eight days between Jan. 18 and 25. During this time, the entire Christian community throughout the world is invited to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one." (John 17:21)

The biblical theme for 2017 Week of Prayer of Christian Unity was Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us. The theme was chosen by the Council of Churches in Germany, as 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenburg Castle Church on October 31, 1517.

The Ecumenical Vespers in Northeast Florida was an initiative started in 2014 by Bishop Felipe J. Estevez of the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine. The annual event is rotated among various churches.



Front: Rev. Alexandra Hedrick, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of St. Augustine, Presbyterian Church (USA); Bishop Felipe J. Estevez, Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine; Bishop Emeritus Dimitrios Couchell of Xanthos, Metropolis of Atlanta, Greek Orthodox Church of America; and Bishop Robert G. Schaefer, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Florida and Bahamas Synod. Not pictured: Bishop Samuel J. Howard, Episcopal Diocese of Florida. Second row: Dr. Nicholas Louh, pastor of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church; Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, executive director, Florida Council of Churches; Deacon Chancellor David Williams, Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine; Rev. Alberto Esposito, Diocese of St. Augustine. Back: Fr. Nick Marziani, Pastor of St. James Catholic Mission; Dr. Milton Magos, associate pastor of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church; Rev. Fr. Philopatier Younan, Coptic Orthodox Church.



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# Public Schools celebrate Teachers of the Year



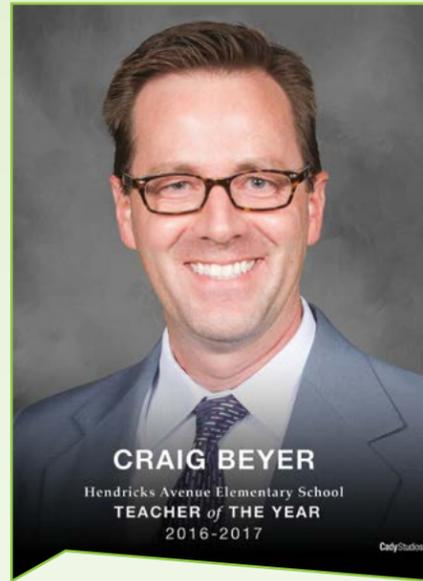
By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Hillary Hogue of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Amy Boyter of San Jose Elementary, Ralph Bickham of Wolfson High School, Craig Beyer of Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Pamela Lively of Julia Landon College Preparatory School and Alycia Williams of Alfred I DuPont Middle School have been named Teachers of the Year for 2016-2017 for their respective schools.

Honoring Duval County's most exceptional educators, the EDDY Awards, now in its 26th year, has evolved into a year-long initiative building a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in the community and who work to improve the public schools, accelerate student achievement, and elevate the teaching profession.

Leading up to the Teacher of the Year, each Duval County Public School recognizes its own stellar teacher. The process by which each school selects its teacher of the year is determined by each school's shared decision-making team, so it can differ depending on the school, said Deirdre Conner, director of advocacy and communications, Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

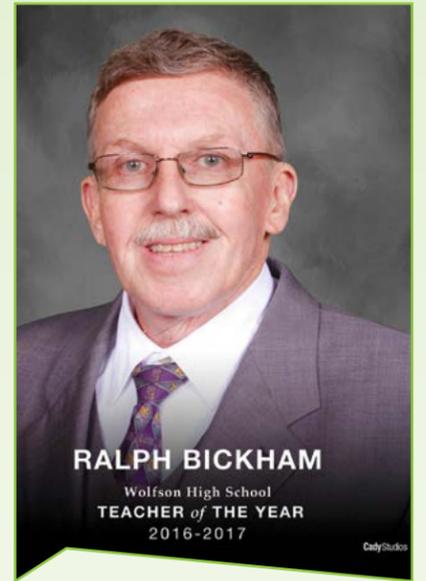
Fifteen teachers from throughout Duval County were named as semi-finalists for the 2017 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year at EverBank Field at the Dec. 24 Jacksonville Jaguars game. Of the 15, the field was narrowed to five finalists and the winning 2017 Florida Blue Teacher of the Year will be honored at the 26th Annual EDDY Awards Gala Dinner on Friday, Feb. 24 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.



Formerly a nurse, Beyer began his teaching career at Hendricks Avenue Elementary nine years ago, where he teaches fifth-grade math. It is his first time receiving Teacher of the Year honors.

"I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of a school where our families and the entire community come together to deliver a first-class experience for our students," said Beyer. "We live in Mandarin, but I gladly make the trip to be part of such a wonderful school."

Kate Hurst, secretary for Hendricks Avenue Elementary, said she was not surprised to hear Beyer had been selected. "He's a phenomenal teacher. The kids really like him. He has a heart for the children," she said. "There is so much nurturing in his classroom. He is patient and kind. He's just a lovely man. The kids respond so well to him."



A math teacher who has spent all but six months of his 17-year teaching career at Wolfson, this year was Bickham's first to be honored Teacher of the Year.

"Mr. Bickham is an outstanding math teacher who holds the highest expectations for all students," said Wolfson Principal Terrence Connor. "He currently serves as a teacher and instructional coach and is the ultimate team player. He is very deserving of such recognition, and I am proud he is representing Wolfson as Teacher of the Year!"

Bickham said he was thrilled to receive the honor. "Considering there are so many outstanding teachers at Wolfson High, I was totally surprised, overwhelmed and humbled by being selected," he said. "I am never so proud of an award as I am with this one."



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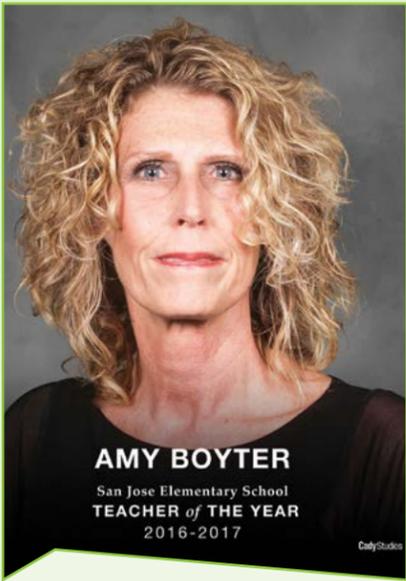


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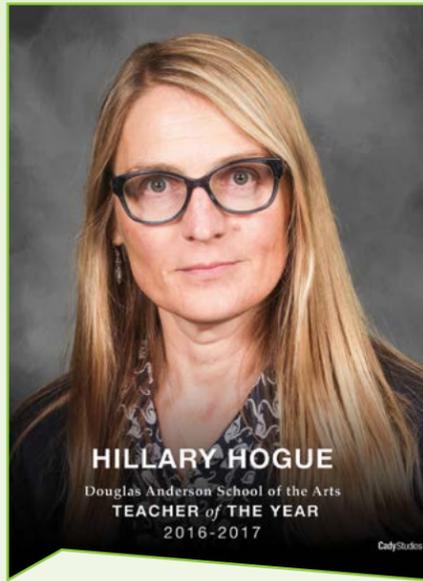


**AMY BOYTER**  
San Jose Elementary School  
**TEACHER of THE YEAR**  
2016-2017

A woman who's worn nearly every hat at San Jose Elementary over the past 19 years including parent, volunteer, paraprofessional and fourth-grade teacher for six years, Amy Boynter makes learning come alive every day in her classroom, said San Jose Elementary Principal Paula Smith.

"Her students are always enthusiastic, and you can hear them repeating her catch phrase 'hot diggity dog!'" said Smith. "Amy Boynter exudes Panda Pride as a fourth-grade reading teacher at San Jose Elementary. Students leave her class with valuable strategies on how to become life-long learners."

A first-time honoree who is also co-club sponsor of TOTs (Teachers of Tomorrow), Boynter said after she was asked to reflect on what it means to be Teacher of the Year, she decided to dedicate time to the Community Connection program at Sable Palms apartments, where many San Jose Elementary students live. "I came to the realization that I am not doing enough," she said.

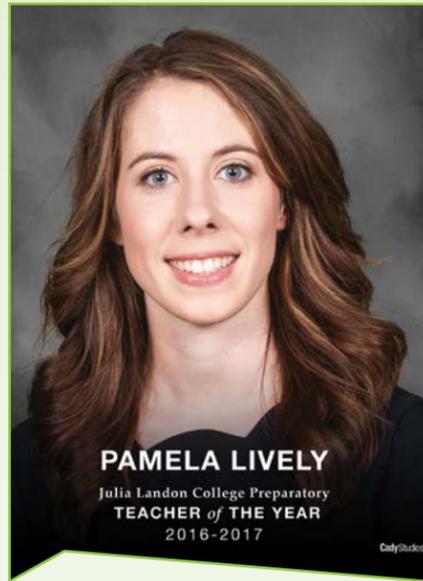


**HILLARY HOGUE**  
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts  
**TEACHER of THE YEAR**  
2016-2017

To be selected as Teacher of the Year by her peers, all of whom are also accomplished artists, was one of the highest honors the 17-year veteran and chairman of DA's Visual Arts Department said she could imagine. "The teachers here are so dedicated and creative and go above-and-beyond the regular standards of the country. When I was selected (as Teacher of the Year) by my peers, I felt it was the highest honor. To me, there is no better place to teach," she said.

"Hillary Hogue has been an extraordinary drawing and painting teacher," said Douglas Anderson Principal Jackie Cornelius, noting that Hogue has exhibited her own artwork in galleries all over the United States.

"Drawing upon her remarkable skills as an artist herself, Hillary has taught DA students the intricate skills in the fine arts and inspired them to capture national awards and matriculate to the leading arts conservatories and universities in the nation, she said.



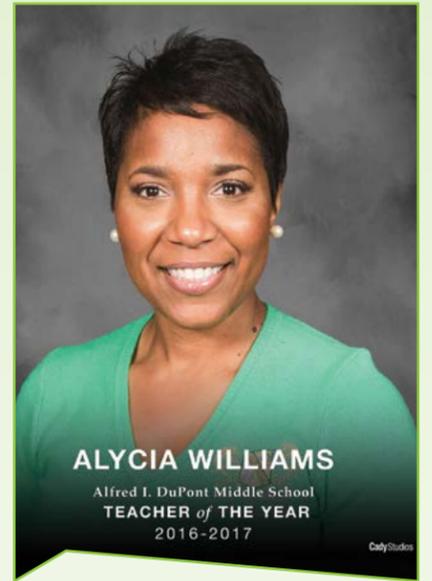
**PAMELA LIVELY**  
Julia Landon College Preparatory  
**TEACHER of THE YEAR**  
2016-2017

Pamela Lively is the first one to arrive and the last one to leave school each day so it comes as no surprise she was selected at Teacher of the Year at Julia Landon College Preparatory School.

"In my 16 years of teaching, I can't think of a teacher more dedicated than Pamela Lively," said Kristopher Beckstrom, Landon's band and choral director and last year's Teacher of the Year. "Not only does she care about the success of her students, she cares about all the students, as well as the teachers and the staff in the school."

Lively, a social studies teacher who has worked at Landon seven years, also serves as the director of the school's community education program. During her tenure, she has been a coach, served on the PBIS committee, the Sunshine Committee, the RTI team and many other committees that serve students and staff at Landon, Beckstrom said.

Lively said she is honored to be recognized. "Teacher of the Year carries so much weight and importance. It's one I feel both honored and humbled to have received. Teaching is something you do because you love it, and I truly love what I do," she said. "I feel humbled to know that my peers think so highly of me when I feel I have so much left to learn and do. I truly feel I have only become who I am because of each of them, through their support and guidance."



**ALYCIA WILLIAMS**  
Alfred I. DuPont Middle School  
**TEACHER of THE YEAR**  
2016-2017

DuPont's English Language Arts chairman said she has always yearned to become DuPont's Teacher of the Year and this year finally got her wish. "I vividly recall colleagues receiving Teacher of the Year honors and prayed that one day I would be recognized by my leaders and colleagues for what I consider a gift," she said. "Not a monetary gift, but the gift of knowing how to change lives through teaching, faithfulness, and the love of inspiring students."

For Williams, being recognized as Teacher of the Year "is not just about my name being called over the intercom or receiving beautiful flowers," she said. "It is representing what my school stands for and ensuring that it is evident in my work with students. There are many careers in the world that we honor every day but, there is only one where students are honored for making us great, and that is teaching."

Over the years, Williams, an 18-year veteran who has taught at DuPont four years, said she knew her reward would come later in her career. "It is not immediate as a doctor curing a patient's cold, or even a football team winning a game," she said. "It's when former students return to say these simple words, 'Thank you Ms. Williams!' To me, that is where the honor of being a teacher comes into play."

*"Teaching is something you do because you love it, and I truly love what I do."*

— Pamela Lively, Julia Landon College Preparatory School

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# Jr. Residents

## Bolles/HAE students among winners in essay contest

The annual two-day presentation held Jan. 17-18 at the Main Library for nearly 1,600 Duval County fifth graders was also an opportunity to sharpen pencils and write essays about the historical speaker. This year two of the eight essay winners included Emma C. Lee from Hendricks Avenue Elementary School and Isabel Bassin from The Bolles School.

Professional Lincoln presenter Dennis Boggs, of Nashville, Tennessee, returned to Jacksonville for a repeat of his 2011 performance telling the story of President Abraham Lincoln at the 11th annual historical presentation hosted by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Florida.

The Dames sponsor the yearly performances, which are underwritten by the Roger L. and Rochelle S. Main Charitable Trust.

Boggs has been presenting Lincoln for over 16 years, averaging more than 250 performances per year. As Lincoln, Boggs called two Bolles students up to the stage as “props” for his production: Lucas Harris, who demonstrated how Lincoln lifted his stepbrother up to put dirty shoe prints on the ceiling; and Amber Bansal, as an example of who might be President of the United States one day.

After his presentation, Boggs channeled Lincoln’s character to encourage the boys and girls in the audience to use the power of knowledge in waging different kinds of wars.

“You’re fighting wars every single day against hunger, poverty, and racism. You’re

fighting wars against crime, drugs, and violence, against diseases. My war and every war since then has been fought, won and lost with too many guns, too much blood and way too many human lives,” said Boggs. “I promise you that the wars you are fighting can only truly be won with one thing. And that’s knowledge. And that knowledge right now is locked up deep inside your young minds. And to unlock it you need a special key and that key is education.”

Each of the winners received a certificate and a portrait of Abraham Lincoln – a \$5 bill.



Abraham Lincoln presenter Dennis Boggs enlists Bolles student Lucas Harris in a demonstration of one of Lincoln’s boyhood pranks.



Fifth grade students from The Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus were seated in the auditorium at the Jacksonville Main Library awaiting the presentation on Abraham Lincoln.



Isabel Bassin, a Bolles School fifth-grader, one of eight essay winners, with her winning essay on Lincoln.



Hendricks Avenue Elementary School fifth-grader Emma Lee, one of eight essay winners, who wrote about Abraham Lincoln.

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For more information, visit [cummermuseum.org](http://cummermuseum.org).

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### DA to hold auditions Feb. 21

Prospective high school students with a desire for intensive study in the fine arts are encouraged to audition for admission to Douglas Anderson School of the Arts for the 2017-18 school year. Auditions will be held at the school, Tuesday, Feb. 21. An application for admission and audition details can be found on the school website, [DA-arts.org](http://DA-arts.org), or by calling (904) 346-5620.

Douglas Anderson is a Duval County Public School for students in grades 9-12 who have intermediate and advanced skill levels in dance, instrumental or vocal music, performance or technical theatre, cinematic arts, creative writing, and visual arts. DA’s high academic standard, coupled with a broad arts curriculum, offers students an opportunity to excel in a chosen discipline while preparing them for post-secondary education.

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# Celebrity chef stops at Bolles to entertain students



Students on the Bartram Campus enjoyed judging Chef Jet Tila's culinary creations. Four lucky students took to the stage to critique his cooking skills following the live demonstration.

## Superstar teaches, shares personal insight into culinary world

Thai cuisine was on the menu at The Bolles School's Middle School Bartram Campus and San Jose Upper School Campus on Jan. 24 but it was Thai like no other.

Students and staff enjoyed recipes from Food Network star Chef Jet Tila, who spent an entire day at Bolles visiting with students, working with FLIK Dining to prepare special Thai meals for the Bolles community and sharing a special live cooking demonstration.

After signing autographs during three lunch periods, Tila concluded his visit to the Bartram Campus with a live cooking show in Parker Auditorium. He instructed students on cutting fruits and vegetables and how to make shrimp stir fried rice, and talked about food preparation and presentation.

At the San Jose Campus, Tila worked with kitchen staff on a Thai dinner for boarding students and families in the Bolles Resident Life Program.

Tila's parents were among the first people in the United States to open Thai restaurants and stores during the early 1960s in Los Angeles. He shared stories of his background growing up in the family restaurants and his rise to preeminence among Thai chefs.

## Friends of Hendricks awards \$8,000 in teacher grants

Friends of Hendricks, a nonprofit group that raises money to support Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, recently approved the donation of \$8,000 in grants to teachers at HAE.

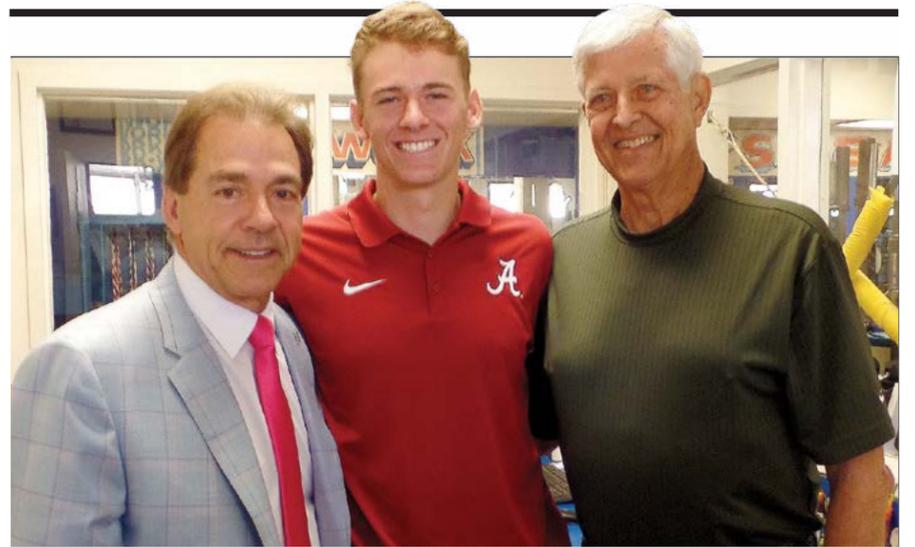
The donation brings the amount of money awarded for teacher grants to \$15,000 this school year. The grants provide classroom and school resources, which benefit all grades and include covering the cost of 117 new books for the school library.

Friends of Hendricks held Dunkin Donuts/Baskin-Robbins Spirit Night Jan. 24, with 20 percent of the proceeds going into the Friends of Hendricks Fund. In

November, Spirit Night at Tijuana Flats raised \$420 for the school.

### Walkathon

The HAE 2017 Walkathon kick-off will be held early in the morning on Friday, Feb. 3. During the kickoff event, Principal Lacy Healy will announce how she plans to challenge her students to raise money in the walkathon. When the student body met her challenge last year, she spent the day working on the roof of the school's cafeteria. The walkathon will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the HAE track.



## Bolles quarterback signs with 'Bama

Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban stands with Bolles Quarterback Mac Jones and his coach Corky Rogers during a visit to the Bolles School Jan. 18. Saban arrived on a helicopter, landing on the field at the school in San Jose. Jones, who lives in Mandarin, has committed to playing at Alabama after he graduates.

## San Jose Elementary advances to regional robotics competition

The San Jose Elementary School robotics team had a strong showing during a FIRST LEGO League robotics qualifying tournament at Landon Middle School Dec. 3. San Jose's team, the PandaBots, won the robot design competition and placed third overall among 10 teams. The success allowed the PandaBots to compete in the Northeast Florida Regional FLL Championship at the University of North Florida Jan. 28.



Members of San Jose Elementary's PandaBots team include Rico Simmons (front); second row: Alexa Sanchez and Davian Barnes; third row: Erika Cordova and Kaylee Nguyen (holds trophy); fourth row: Louisa-Elena Elios-Sowers, Lizbeth Perez, Marliesa Madden, and Julius Graham; top row: Rebecca Geoghagan and Keisha Rodriguez.

## Three from Landon receive trophies at science fair



Jasmine Roncevic, Blake Caven and Chace Caven

With 20 of its students competing, Julia Landon College Preparatory School came away with three winners during the Duval County Secondary Science Fair.

Winning the eighth-grade competition was Jasmine Roncevic. Her classmate, Blake Caven of San Marco was runner-up. Caven's brother, Chace, placed first in the sixth-grade division.



## Lions' robotics team wins Judges Award

The Julia Landon College Preparatory School Robotics team was recognized in two divisions during the SMEDS Classic, a robotics tournament, at St. Mark's Episcopal School in Ortega Dec. 17.

Landon's team – the Light-up Lions – won the Judges Award for an outstanding job constructing their project called The SmartBark. The Lions were also recognized in the Core Values category.

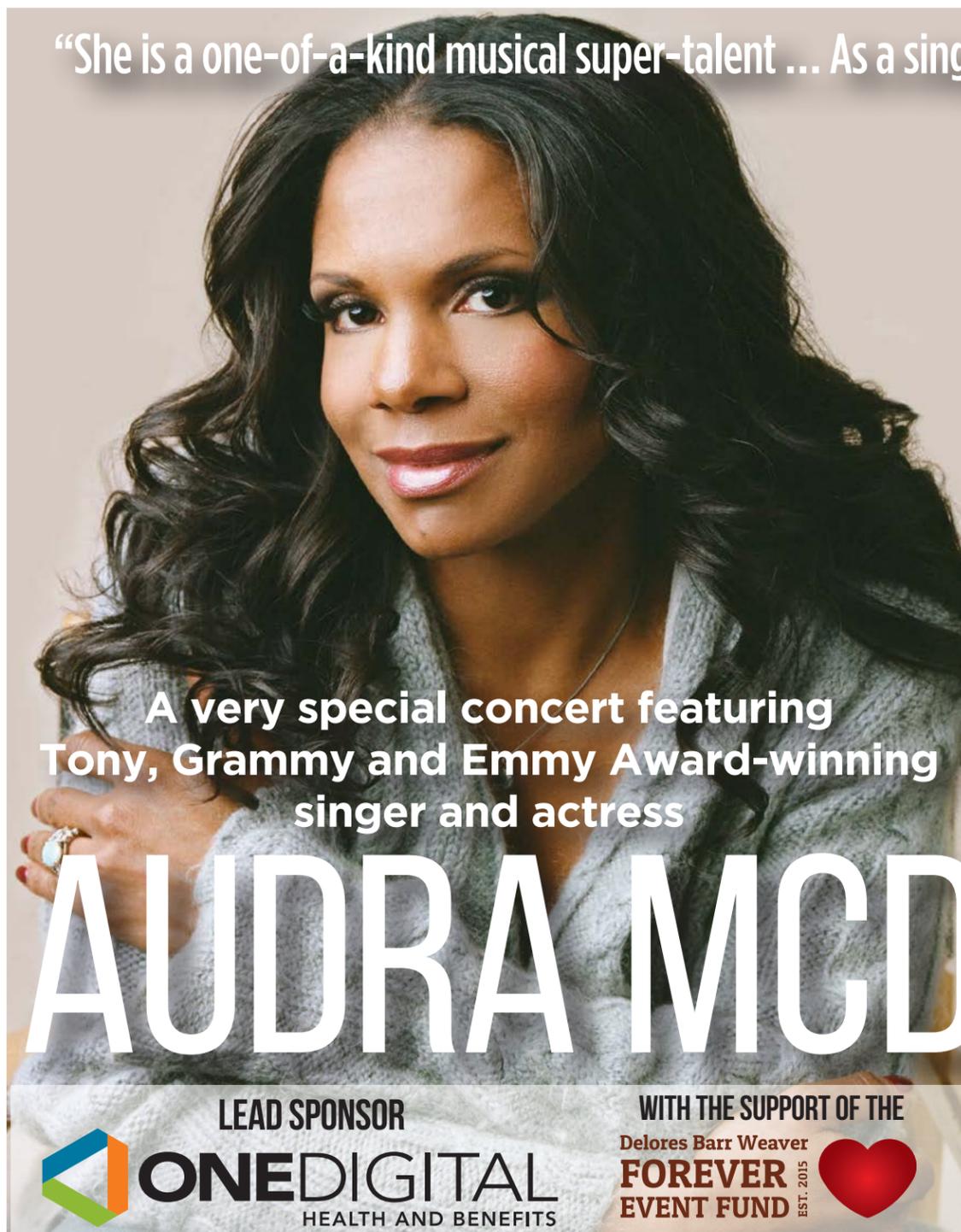
Competing for Landon were Madeline Clark, Naman Goyal, Rashmi Ketepalle, McKenna Geoghagan, Ava Ondish, Kyle Beckstrom, Sean Yates, Cibi Anbarasu and Jaden Flood.

Listed as a "wild card," Landon was unable to advance to the regionals because their number was not drawn, according to Daniel Geary, eighth grade teacher and robotics coach.

Madeline Clark, Naman Goyal, Rashmi Ketepalle, McKenna Geoghagan, Ava Ondish, Kyle Beckstrom and Sean Yates. Not pictured: Cibi Anbarasu and Jaden Flood, who had to leave before the awards ceremony.

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# HAE fifth grader competes in County Spelling Bee final

Quinn Gray, a fifth grader at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, survived the preliminary round to be one of 23 students selected to compete in the 2017 Regional Spelling Bee finals Jan. 19 at Julia Landon College Preparatory School.

Gray, who won the Hendricks Avenue Elementary School spelling bee by spelling "enchantment" correctly, made his way to the final round after surviving the preliminary round at Landon by taking a written 100-word multiple-choice spelling test against 100 fifth- to eighth-grade challengers from other public and private schools in Duval County. In the finals, he faltered on the word "inadvertently" and was eliminated during the second round.

School champions Ria Saldajeno of Assumption Catholic School and Marliesa Madden of San Jose Elementary also made

their way to the preliminaries at Landon but were not among the 20 selected to compete in the final.

Saldajeno, a seventh grader, won her school competition by spelling the word "excitement" correctly. Madden, a fifth grader in San Jose's dual language program, was named school champ after spelling "massive" correctly.



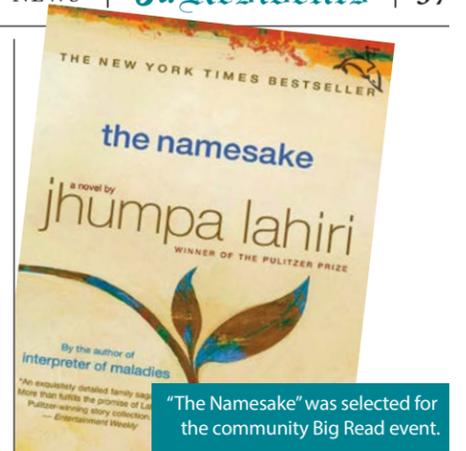
Marliesa Madden of San Jose Elementary



Ria Saldajeno of Assumption Catholic School



Quinn Gray of Hendricks Avenue Elementary



## Library kicks off Big Read event

JAX READS!/NEA Big Read wants to spark a community discussion by inviting everyone to read the same book at the same time and take part in engaging activities.

The selection for Jacksonville Public Library's JAX READS!/NEA Big Read communitywide reading initiative this year (Feb. 1 – March 11, 2017) is "The Namesake," a New York Times best-seller by Jhumpa Lahiri.

The Jacksonville Public Library was one of 77 nonprofit organizations to receive a grant to host an NEA Big Read project between September 2016 and June 2017.

Starting Feb. 1 through March 11, the Jacksonville Public Library will encourage the community to read the book and participate in programs that center around "The Namesake."

Every library location will have at least one program and/or book discussion group for tweens, teens and adults to explore themes in the book. The NEA Big Read finale will take place on March 11 with a visit from award-winning filmmaker, Mira Nair, director of "The Namesake," and other movies.

## Debutante Coterie presented at 140th Christmas Ball

The 2016 Debutante Coterie was presented at The Florida Yacht Club's 140th Christmas Ball on December 23. Debutantes presented were front row: Anne Arden Pomar, Elizabeth Almeida Rogers, Caroline Michele Cook; middle row: Eleanor Carol Howerton, Peyton Lee McDonough, Kylie Jane Geddes, Elizabeth Alice Davenport; back row: Michaela Leann Fox, Ally Hoffman Taylor, Amanda Delgado Howard, Frances Marie Rice, Katherine Bentley Forrester, and Hodson Dorscheid Wood.



# Bishop Kenny receives grant to forward CPR/AED training

A potential life-saving initiative, instituted at Bishop Kenny High School during the 2015-16 school year, is now fully funded, thanks to a grant awarded by a partnership between Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and the Michael Namey AED Initiative.

In early January, it was announced the partnership had awarded the school a grant of \$7,600 to be used to purchase equipment needed for the Hands-Only CPR and AED training, now integral components of Bishop Kenny's health curriculum. In addition, the funding allows the school to purchase two additional AED units to have on campus.

The partnership launched the initiative in memory of University of Central Florida freshman and Jacksonville native, Michael Namey, a graduate of the Bishop Kenny Class of 2015, who died suddenly during his freshman year of college.

"Our organization has joined efforts with Connie Namey, Michael's mother,

and Dr. Sylkia Martinez to raise awareness for sudden cardiac arrest on school campuses by providing CPR/AED training and increasing access to AEDs; creating an educated and prepared environment among students, faculty and staff," said a spokesperson for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

Trainers begin each session with prayer as well as a description of Namey's untimely death as they emphasize to students the importance of knowing how to respond to a cardiac emergency. Bishop Kenny is in the second year of a three-year plan to certify all current students in Hands-Only CPR, said Mary DeSalvo, a vice principal for the school. The staff at Baptist Health CPR Training Center, who initially conducted the training for students, has also trained and certified faculty members to be trainers. In addition, Bishop Kenny continues to provide annual

CPR training and recertification to its faculty and staff, she said.

"We are ecstatic at the thought of having sufficient resources to provide and expand training options well into the future," said DeSalvo, noting with Bishop Kenny's graduating class of approximately 300 students each year and the fact that nearly all students attend college, "the community impact will be widespread."

"Students have taken the training very seriously and with great enthusiasm, viewing it as an extension of their commitment to community service," she said.

To watch a video about the program, which was produced by Bishop Kenny Multimedia Design and NJROTC students, turn to <https://goo.gl/1cfn11>. In addition, the Initiative was featured on the Today Show on June 6, 2016, the first day of National CPR and AED Awareness Week. It can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/EZgQfO>

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# The Way We Were: Jesse and Linda Crimm

By Lilla Ross  
Resident Community News

It wasn't the most romantic of venues, but the impulse that Jesse Crimm acted on almost half a century ago has stood the test of time.

Jesse was driving his girlfriend, Linda Whitnell, home to Winston-Salem, North Carolina from Greensboro, South Carolina, where he lived when he decided the time was right.

He eased the 1966 Pontiac over to the shoulder of Interstate 40 and proposed marriage. She said yes.

Linda was taken off guard, but not really surprised. They were a good fit.

"We were very comfortable, very congenial," Linda said. "We had a lot of things in common."

They were both from small towns: Jesse from Greensboro; Linda from Paducah,

Kentucky. They were college students in Spartanburg, South Carolina: Jesse at Wofford, a men's college; Linda at Converse, a women's college.

They met on a blind date arranged by her roommate.

"The girls at Converse were watched closely, monitored, chaperoned," Jesse recalled. "To approach the shrine to pick up a potential date one had to sign in and then sit in the corner with other signees and wait under the supervision of the girl at the desk. The girl would be buzzed in her room that her date was waiting, come down and sign out."

All this to go to a fraternity dance where drinking wasn't allowed.

When Linda came down to the lobby, she saw three young men. She knew none of them, but picked the one she found most appealing and asked if was Jesse.

"I said yes and whisked her away in my '63 VW," Jesse said.

Linda graduated a year before Jesse and got a job as a social worker in Winston-Salem. Jesse had volunteered for the Army and was allowed to delay his enlistment and finish college.

By June 1969 Jesse was in the Army awaiting orders. They were hoping for Hawaii but expecting Vietnam. Linda quit her job and moved home to Kentucky.

Jesse got a weekend pass and a Methodist minister married them at Linda's home.

In September, he shipped out with the 82nd Airborne for a year as a combat engineer in Vietnam. He later transferred to the 1st Cavalry Division.

"That first year was the hardest," Linda said. "We decided that we could face anything else after that."



Jesse, Linda and Hampton Crimm at Hampton's 2005 graduation from Office Candidate School in the Navy.

"We wrote each other almost every day and we had little cassette recorders and made recordings every few weeks.

"Jesse was always very positive in his letters but I knew he was in helicopters and was going where the fighting was. You're constantly vigilant about a car pulling up in front of the house. That's how you found out they were dead."

While Jesse was in Vietnam, Linda moved to Fort Myers to serve as companion to her grandmother. "She was a calm, practical woman who had been educated at Converse," Linda said.

Her grandmother's father was a captain in the Confederate Army and she grew up in a South Carolina that was recovering from the war. Linda spent the year learning about the deep military roots of the family.

"I thought I was there to help her but my grandmother taught me about her war and helped me get through my war," Linda said.

Jesse came home in September 1970 and three months later got a job with JC Penney, which brought the young couple to Florida, first to Tampa where Jesse trained and then in 1973 to Jacksonville.

He got a plum assignment — the downtown store on Hemming Park.

Coming from small towns, Jesse and Linda were dazzled by downtown Jacksonville, especially May Cohen with its elaborately decorated windows.

Woolworth's, which was next door to Penney's, was a popular spot for lunch. You

*Continue on page 39*



Linda and Jesse Crimm at home in Miramar

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could smell the aroma of fried chicken in the women's apparel, Jesse said.

The couple started out living on the Westside. Money was dear. Their phone service was on a party line. And they worked out routes around town to avoid paying tolls on the bridges.

It was a church — Southside United Methodist — that brought them to San Marco.

Shortly after they arrived in Jacksonville, a couple with connections to Jesse's family in South Carolina invited them to church.

"That first Sunday they were having dinner on the grounds and we met three couples, who were 15 to 20 years older than we were, who became our lifelong friends," Linda said. "They mentored us. Jackie and Jim Bozard, Mary and Frank Inabnit and Bob and Jean Dart."

Little did the Crimms know but Southside Methodist and the friendships they made there would become a foundation for their life.

They decided to buy a house in Miramar in 1985. The big live oak in front of the last house on the dead-end street on Silverwood Lane caught their eye.

"It's a one-sided street. No one lives across the street," Jesse said. "I can get my newspaper in my pajamas without anyone seeing me."

The house behind them has a deep back yard. "It's like living on a park," Linda said. "We have lots of birds and squirrels, and we get raccoons, armadillos and opossum."



Linda Crimm with two of her pre-school students in 2008

A quiet neighborhood was just what they needed because their lives were going in busy new directions.

Jesse decided that a career in retail wasn't for him. "You had to be hard-bitten to succeed," he said.

After working at JC Penney for seven years, he took a job at Baptist Hospital, where he would spend the rest of his career working in accounts receivable. "It's a place where you heard 'please' and 'thank you,'" Jesse said. "I loved it."

Jesse also rejoined the military by way of the National Guard 146th Signal Battalion.

"It was the perfect answer to a paycheck, retirement and just enough military to whet the appetite," he said.

Linda started out as a social worker for the state of Florida, but she found it difficult to work with children in crisis.

A friend from church suggested she try teaching.

"I got a job as a teaching assistant at Lackawanna No. 10 on Lenox Avenue," Linda said. "The teacher told me I should go back to school and so I did. I went to JU and got a master's of art and teaching. I loved it."

She taught for four years until their son, Hampton, was born in 1981.

"I was going to be a stay-at-home mother," Linda said.

But when Hampton was 2, the director of the preschool at Southside Methodist pleaded with Linda to start teaching again. It was only two days a week and Hampton could come, too.

Linda and Hampton both loved it. He already knew some of the children and he made new friends, some of whom he has kept 'til this day.

When Hampton moved on to kindergarten at San Jose Episcopal Day School and then moved across the street to The Bolles School.

He was active in sports — Lacrosse at Bolles and T-ball, baseball and soccer in city leagues.

Hampton and Jesse were involved in Scouting with a troop at Southside Methodist, all carefully documented by Linda in scrapbooks.

"Scouting changes lives, slowly, cumulatively," Jesse said. "The effect is irreversible, beginning with that first whittling chip."

Hampton became an Eagle Scout.

"When Hampton was interviewing for medical school about half the interview was spent talking about Scouting," Jesse said. "It does pay off."

Scouting also saved a life — his. In February 1995, Jesse, Hampton and some other Scouts were on a camping trip at Nantahala River in North Carolina. The raft that Jesse was on folded up, throwing him into the icy, fast-moving river.

"The boys had enough sense to paddle ahead and turn the raft sideways so I could grab it as I floated by and then paddle to a place where I could stand up," Jesse said. "It was a moment of maturity."

When Hampton graduated from Bolles in 1999, mom and dad wanted him to go to Wofford for college.

Hampton had other ideas. He went to the University of Florida and studied

chemistry. Hampton went to graduate school at the University of South Carolina, earning a master's in biomedicine and then decided to go to medical school.

He chose the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md., which meant joining the Navy and going to officer candidate school.

His graduation as an officer brought a special family moment. Hampton wore his Navy uniform for the first time; Jesse wore his Army uniform for the last, retiring from the National Guard.

"It was symbolic," Jesse said. "A transition had occurred."

The Crimms value symbols. Their Christmas decorations stay up long after the holiday.

"Christmas is such a sweet holiday," Linda said. "Some years I wait until March to take it down. It gets me through the blah days after the holidays."

The stockings are special, too. All hand-made with intricate beadwork and covered in pins commemorating military service, Scouting achievements, membership in one organization or another.

Linda said they have learned that rather than be ruled by traditions to make traditions their own. It's one of the things that helped their marriage endure.

"You need to let the other person pursue their interests," she said. "Let them shine."

"It's very simple," Jesse said. "On days she works I cook dinner and vice versa. And she doesn't interfere with my golf."



Jesse and Hampton, Easter Sunday, 1983



Jesse Crimm with Hampton (lower right) and the other Boy Scouts who saved his life in 1995

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– In Memoriam –  
**Louise E. Trower Carlucci McCreight**

April 5, 1928 – January 10, 2017



Victoria and Joe Carlucci, Karen and Matt Carlucci Sr., Louise McCreight, Michael Carlucci, Lauren and Matt Carlucci Jr.

*By Marcia Hodgson*  
 Resident Community News

A purple ribbon is tied to the Whatley Park “wishing tree” that Louise Trower Carlucci McCreight’s sons planted in her honor last April. Below, near the base of a bronze plaque commemorating their mother is a small yellow Solo cup filled with purple daisies – a simple heartfelt memorial to the woman who lived nearby on Avoca Place for 67 years.

McCreight died “as a candle would go out with a snuff, very peacefully,” said her son Matt Carlucci Sr. of San Marco. With her death, she leaves behind a close, blended family comprised of her sons, Michael Trower Carlucci, and Matt Carlucci, Sr., as well as Matt’s wife Karen; her grandsons, Matt Carlucci Jr. and his wife, Lauren, and Joe Carlucci and his wife, Victoria; and her great-grandchildren Matt Carlucci III and his sister Lillyana Kate Carlucci.

“What I feel, besides sadness, is most of all gratefulness,” said Matt Carlucci Sr. as he gave her eulogy during her funeral at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church Jan. 13. “Gratefulness that the Lord allowed my brother and me to have

such a warm, devoted, wise and unconditionally loving mother.”

McCreight, who married three times, graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and worked at Florida National Bank, American Bank, and Graybar Electric. She lived in Lakewood after her marriage to Michael’s father, Milton Trower, who was unexpectedly killed when the Navy plane he was a passenger in crashed in a cow pasture on Fleming Island. Married only four years, McCreight then moved with her three-year-old son, Michael, to Avoca Place, purchasing the house with money from the life insurance policy Trower insisted they purchase “just in case.”

A few years later, “with her son Michael’s permission,” McCreight married her second husband, Joseph Carlucci, and helped him establish his State Farm agency in San Marco. Carlucci was later elected to the first consolidated Jacksonville City Council and eventually the Florida Senate. McCreight was widowed again when Carlucci suffered a massive heart attack in 1986.

After her second husband’s death, she was appointed as the statewide chairperson of fundraising for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and raised more than \$100,000

for the cause. Four years later, she met and married retired Navy Capt. Major Israel (Mike) McCreight III, who predeceased her after 10 years of marriage.

McCreight’s greatest legacy was leading her family into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, said her younger son, Matt Carlucci Sr. An early adherent of the charismatic Christian Movement in Jacksonville, McCreight took it upon herself to counsel “hundreds” of young people, many of whom were “mixed up teenagers” toward accepting Jesus as their personal savior at Jacksonville’s first Christian coffee house, “The House of Maranatha” in the 1970s. “Leading people to Christ really lit her up in those years,” recalled Matt Carlucci Sr.

McCreight also helped organize the city’s first March for Jesus, which attracted more than 1,000 participants. As a longtime member of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, she was recognized with the annual Presbyterian Women’s Achievement Award.

It was McCreight’s last wish that, at her funeral, her son would read a letter she had left behind expressing of her love for Jesus and the depth of her faith. “I learned that He loved me enough to die for me and was concerned about everything, big and small,



Louise Trower Carlucci McCreight on the day she married her third husband, Capt. Major Israel (Mike) McCreight in 1989.

that concerned me,” McCreight wrote, and at the end of her missive, she signed off with these words, “The Father raised him up from the dead and now He lives everywhere and in everyone who asks him. Yes, He loved you enough to die for you... Who else do you know loves you enough to die for you? I pray you will ask Him in your heart today.”



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**Laveta Mobley, 68,** has been a Jacksonville resident for over five years. She is a member of the Golden Age Club at her church and has remained as active as possible over the years. However, with the deterioration of her eyesight, her physician felt that Ms. Mobley would benefit from outside assistance, and referred her to Aging True.

“I try to be an independent as I can with my eyesight,” Ms. Mobley says. She receives personal and in-home health care twice a week, making it possible for her to play bingo, exercise, and connect with her Senior Companion.

“I ended up with the best,” Ms. Mobley says of Aging True, “and I’m very happy.”



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# Monthly lunches reacquaint Landon Class of '71 alumni

Calling all members of Landon Junior High Class of 1971.

On the second Saturday of every month, members of the 1971 ninth grade class of the former Landon Junior High meet at European Street Café in San Marco at 11 a.m. for lunch.

The small group, which began getting reacquainted over a noon meal once a month after meeting in a Facebook group specially tailored for their class, is hoping to plan a much larger reunion in the area sometime in April.

The classmates have been meeting for lunch with a frequency of once a month "so

that we all can come once in a while," said San Marco's Patty Shannon, an organizer of the group.

On Jan. 14, seven classmates showed up to enjoy a mini-reunion at the restaurant on San Marco Boulevard. Included in the group were Shirley Lindsey of Mandarin, Sherry Krol of San Marco, Sammy Wanton and Virgil Thomas, both of the Westside, Lee Durban of Southside, Chyan Torelli of Lakeside, and Shannon.

Anyone interested in helping organize the larger reunion should call or text Patty Shannon at (904) 318-4791.



Shirley Lindsey, Patty Shannon, Sherry Krol, Sammy Wanton, Virgil Thomas, Lee Durban and Chyan Torelli.



Join us!

## Wellness Wednesdays 4her

**When:** 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm each Wednesday

**Where:** Y Healthy Living Center, Riverside

**Register:** [baptistjax.com/events4her](http://baptistjax.com/events4her)

Feb. 1

### Why Can't Everyone Act Like Me?

We often hear that "birds of a feather flock together." On the other hand, don't opposites attract? Why are some people so much easier to get along with than others? Join us to learn more about your own behavior style and how best to deal with the "opposites" in your life.

Feb. 8

### Simple Strategies for Setting Healthy Boundaries

Boundaries – we all have them, to keep out the bad and let in the good. Boundaries (or lack thereof) can affect all areas of our lives including the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional. Join us to learn simple techniques that will help you identify when to say yes and how to say no.

Feb. 15

### Mindfulness: The Art of "Being" not "Doing" Part One

When is the last time you sat – with no distraction at all – and experienced being in the moment? Mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) helps you learn to calm your mind and body to help you cope with stress, illness, and pain. This two-part series introduces you to MBSR tips to practice.

Feb. 22

### Mindfulness: The Art of "Being" not "Doing" Part Two

In this second session of MBSR, we'll continue with the "what" and "why" of mindfulness and practice meditation and guided imagery from the comfort of your chair. Although it is recommended, it is not required to attend Part One to attend this session.

No cost to attend but seat reservations recommended.



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# DO SOMETHING

Want to get involved in the community? Sometimes it just takes a little push to do something, from the smallest gesture to the grand donation. Get ready to get nudged.

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



The First Coast offers many opportunities to “do something” for its four-legged residents. Here the spotlight shines on four nonprofits whose focus is on the protection and welfare of pets, and that serve as a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

## The Jacksonville Humane Society

**Volunteer** – Be a dog walker. Help with office work. Become a foster family, a service that is especially needed April through October to care for underage kittens and puppies until they are old enough to be adopted. Participate in two major fundraisers, Mutt March (Saturday, March 4) and Toast to The Animals (held mid-September). Visit [www.jaxhumane.org/individual-volunteer-opportunities](http://www.jaxhumane.org/individual-volunteer-opportunities) or call (904) 725-8766 to find out more.

**Donate** – Give financial gifts to help care for the animals and for the new JHS building fund by visiting [www.jaxhumane.org/donate](http://www.jaxhumane.org/donate). There is also a corporate giving program called Paw Partners. Partners receive year-round recognition and can participate in two special events each year. A list of items needed by the shelter, such as pet food and blankets, can be found at [www.jaxhumane.org/how-to-help/donate/items-and-goods/](http://www.jaxhumane.org/how-to-help/donate/items-and-goods/)

## Friends of Jacksonville Animals

**Volunteer** – Help at FOJA’s adoption events held throughout the year or at one of its annual fundraisers, such as Doggie Gras (Saturday, Feb. 25) or Comedy For Critters (Saturday, April 22). Help through Animal Care and Protective Services by walking dogs, cuddling cats, being a foster family to an animal or doing day-to-day chores around the shelter. Visit [www.friendsofjaxanimals.com](http://www.friendsofjaxanimals.com) for details on all the volunteer opportunities.

**Donate** – Donations made to FOJA directly support Jacksonville’s city shelter which often lacks funding for urgent medical care for the animals. Financial donations help support and provide for the animals at the shelter. Donations of pet food and other items are also needed. Visit [www.friendsofjaxanimals.com](http://www.friendsofjaxanimals.com) for a list of needed donations.

## First Coast No More Homeless Pets

**Volunteer** – Mega Adoption events are held in July, October and December each year where volunteers can help make a difference. The adoption events help clear shelters while the Jacksonville Pet Food Bank helps families to be able to afford to keep their pets. Visit [www.fcnmhp.org/volunteer](http://www.fcnmhp.org/volunteer) to see all the volunteer opportunities or call (904) 674-0665 and to find out how you can help.

**Donate** – Donor-funded programs, such as the Angel Fund, provide subsidized treatments to desperate pets whose owners cannot afford necessary, life-saving care. Visit [www.fcnmhp.org](http://www.fcnmhp.org) or call (904) 674-0665 if you would like to donate funds or items needed to help the animals.

## Animal Care & Protective Services

**Volunteer** – Join the Kitten Army and be a foster family during “kitten season” to help thousands of orphaned kittens who arrive at the shelter. Visit [www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services) or email [acpsfosters@coj.net](mailto:acpsfosters@coj.net) for more information on fostering animals. Call (904) 630-CITY for more information on how you can help AC&PS by volunteering.

**Donate** – Purchase a Florida “Animal Friend” license tag. Proceeds from the tag sales help support the Florida Animal Friend, Inc., grant fund, which provides funds to AC&PS. You can also donate towels, blankets, cat litter and other items needed at the shelter. For a complete list of needed items, visit [www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services).



Amy Ploss-Samson, Friends of Jacksonville Animals Volunteer

## Amy Did Something

A fuzzy photo of an unwanted dog or cat may look like just a quick snapshot to some people. However, to Friends of Jacksonville Animals volunteer Amy Ploss-Samson, a photograph done well could lead to a loving home for an abandoned animal.

“A good photo can make the difference of an animal being noticed or being passed by,” said Samson who, along with her husband, started out volunteering at FOJA by walking dogs and photographing the animals for FOJA’s website. Samson now chairs the FOJA Marketing Committee and shared the two things that motivated her to “do something.”

“The animals and the passion,” said Samson. “I have never met a more passionate group of people with such kindness and love in their hearts.”

“The animals, well that goes without saying. I love my pets. They are like my children. Both are rescues, and if not for the people that run shelters and the nonprofits that support them, they might not be with me,” Samson said. “All pets deserve the opportunity to be in a loving home and FOJA works to give them that chance.” said Samson.

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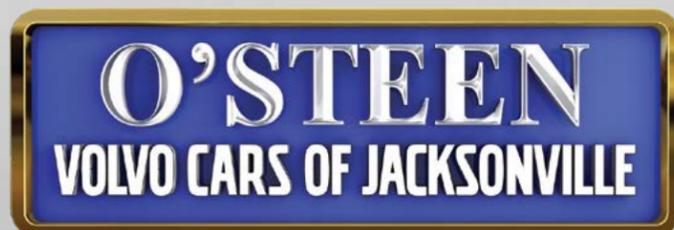


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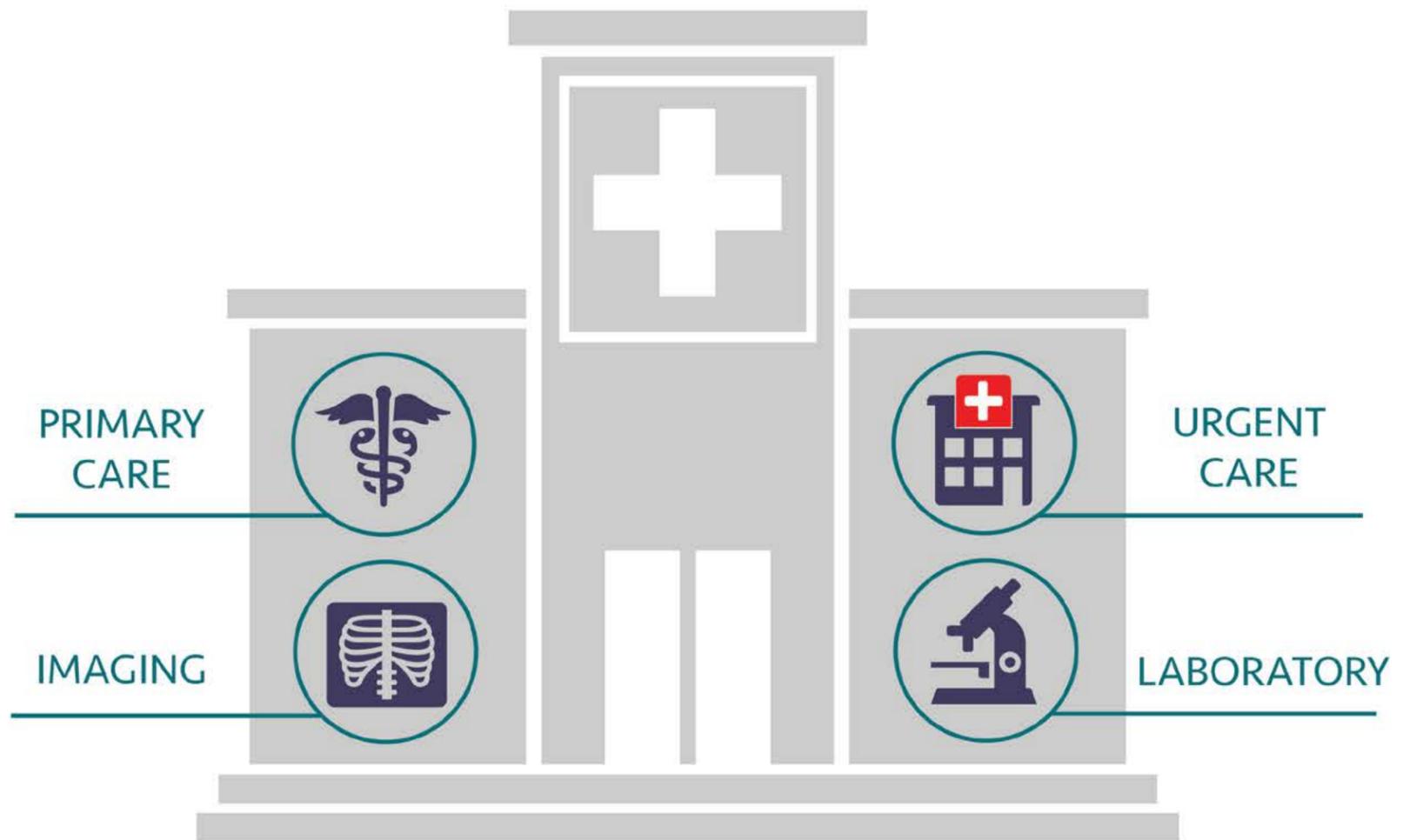
MSRP \$51,005, 39 months, 10K miles, \$3,000 due at signing. No security deposit with approved credit plus tax, tag and \$598.50 dealer fee. See Dealer for details. Expires 2/28/17.



# ST. VINCENT'S HEALTH CENTER

Coming Soon  
to Mandarin

*Comprehensive Care In One Convenient Location*



St. Vincent's will open a new Health Center in March right across the street from Target.

It will feature **primary care, urgent care, specialty care, imaging and laboratory services** in one convenient location.

