

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS



Resident COMMUNITY NEWS Riverside - Avondale - Ortega - Murray Hill



HAVING A HEART FOR JACKSONVILLE'S HOMELESS

Clara White Mission President/ CEO Ju'Coby Pittman gets hugs from Catherine Del Re, left, and Carol McManus, servers at the 23rd Annual Miracle on Ashley Street fundraising luncheon. READ MORE, PAGE 25



LOCAL DANCER WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

Jeanna Batt, above right, won the Senior Dancer of the Year award in the Celebration 2017 National Finals in Orlando, Florida. With the Ortega resident is Junior Dancer Daphne Eskew. Batt, a 2017 Bishop John Snyder graduate, has been dancing since she was four. After dancing competitively since 2010, this was her final year of competition and an ending to years of dedication to her craft. 'I'm so blessed for the talent that God has given me, and I'm so thankful to my wonderful dance teachers, friends, and family that have supported me during the whole process,' said Batt, who was awarded a dance and academic scholarship to Jacksonville University.



SUNSHINE CAMPERS RAISE \$5,000 TO BENEFIT ANGELS FOR ALLISON

Campers and counselors at the 4th Annual Camp Sunshine raised \$5,345 for the Angels for Allison Foundation. The week-long event for 24 girls, age 5 to 10, included activities such as baking, crafts, games, cheerleading, spa day, live ladybug release, painting angels and a pool party.

RiverVUE unveiled during groundbreaking ceremony

Councilman Love announces renewal of Fishweir Creek dredging during big reveal

By Kate A. Hallock Resident Community News

A groundbreaking and name reveal ceremony was held July 12 by Chance Partners for its property at the former Commander Apartments and St. Johns Village on St. Johns Avenue. The apartment development's new name, RiverVUE, was revealed by Kim Hyatt, regional manager for Pegasus Residential, which will handle all leasing and property management. Hyatt

said pre-leasing will begin in February 2018. 'The leasing office will be in the tower which is scheduled to be completed in April/May timeframe,' Hyatt said. 'Once the tower is completed and the leasing office is officially open, the Pegasus team will be working out of there.'

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by representatives from the City of Jacksonville, Davis Architects, Kimley-Horn Engineers, Pittman Landscape Architecture, Rogers Towers, P.A., LandSouth Construction, Ameris Bank, Riverside Avondale Preservation, and residents from the Fishweir, Woodmere, and duPont neighborhoods.

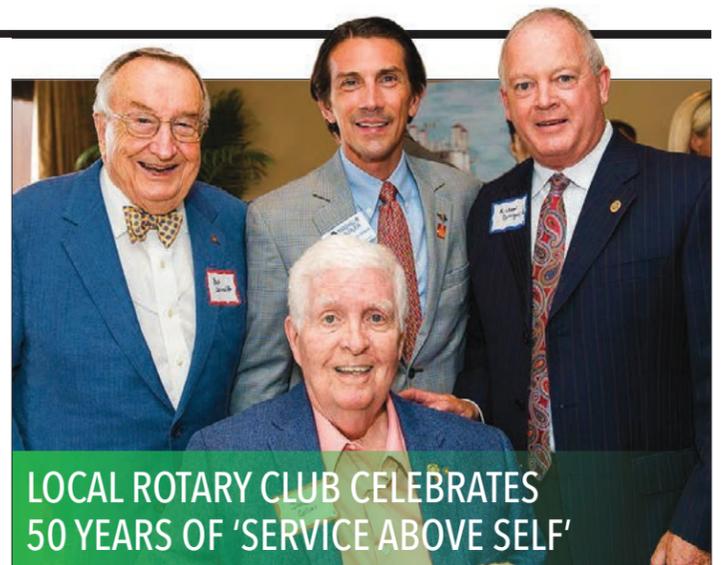
READ MORE, PAGE 11



James Anderson of Davis Architects, Buck Pittman of Pittman Landscape Architecture, Steve Lohbeck of Ameris Bank, LandSouth Construction President/CEO Jim Pyle, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, Chance Partners' Jeff Rosen and Judd Bobilin, Riverside Avondale Preservation Board Chair Keith Holt, and Bill Newell, Chance Partners, hoist shovels at the ceremonial groundbreaking for RiverVUE.

PUBLIC TRUST, CITY REACH SETTLEMENT

Flanked by environmental advocates, Andy Miller of the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida speaks about the settlement approved by the Jacksonville City Council that will change the City's urban forestry practices, create enhanced city transparency, and be a catalyst for planting of \$20 million worth of trees in Duval County. READ MORE, PAGE 13



LOCAL ROTARY CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF'

During the June 16 celebration of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville's 50th anniversary, past presidents gathered for a photo. Seated: Dave Collier; standing, Robert Shircliff, also a charter member of the club; Marshall Butler, currently Rotary District 6970 Governor, and Michael Corrigan, Duval County Tax Collector. READ MORE, PAGE 24

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Forbes.com recently placed Jacksonville as #2 on a list of Where to Invest in Housing in 2017. BusinessInsider.com rated Jacksonville as #2 on the list of top cities where everyone wants to live right now and Time.com placed Jacksonville in its list of top 25 cities where Millennials are Moving.

Local blogger, Amy West, recently wrote an article about Jacksonville rising in popularity as a culinary giant alongside Atlanta and Miami. There is growth and development all over the city. Westside, Southside, Beaches and Nocatee are ALL growing.

NE Florida Association of Realtors reports that the Average Sales prices have gone up dramatically since 2016. Take a look at these numbers!

Avondale/Ortega/Riverside up † 11%

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Southside up † 9%

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Beaches up † 10%

What does this mean for real estate? It's a great time to jump in as the city continues to grow. Or...enjoy the equity you've accumulated in your house and make a change! These statistics are good news for both buyers or sellers. Interest rates are still at historic lows (*good news for buyers*) and inventory remains VERY tight (*good for sellers*) -- so there's something in this market for everyone!

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Roosevelt Square Mall landlord issued \$68.5 million mortgage loan

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Although Chick-fil-A has recently re-opened after renovating the dining room, expanding its kitchen, and adding a drive-thru bypass lane, there has been no signs of any other development at Roosevelt Square Mall.

While no plans or construction schedules have been released, Dewberry Capital was issued a \$68.5 million five-year mortgage through Roosevelt Square Limited Liability Partnership.

Stein Mart did recently renew its lease through January 2029 for its current 46,000-square-foot space. The Jacksonville-based retailer intends to significantly renovate the store, and has already begun a new layout, adding more space for clothing and reducing the home goods space. The façade and roof will be upgraded as well.

Stein Mart, which has been a tenant at the mall since 1985, expects to be flanked by Ulta Beauty and PetSmart when the landlord completes major redevelopment.

The 56-year-old shopping center started as an enclosed mall, then after Dewberry Capital bought it in 1997, they converted it into an open-air mall. At that time, Publix was located where Stein Mart is and a pharmacy was in the end unit along San Juan Avenue. The end unit has been used off and on for pop-up seasonal stores, such as the Halloween Store, and may be the location of the new PetSmart.

Dewberry received an Environmental Resource Permit in March for "construction



Portion of a detailed plan submitted for a stormwater management system appears to indicate two new buildings (green) north of Chick-fil-A and an increased space (blue) where Chase Bank and Metro Diner are located.

of a surface water management system to accommodate re-development of a portion of an existing commercial site known as Roosevelt Mall. The receiving waterbody is Ortega River" according to documentation from the St. Johns Water Management District.

Recently engineers surveyed the parking lot behind Publix, preparatory to a stormwater management system on 5.2 acres at the southeast corner of the lot, next to the retention pond.

The former Belk store building is expected to be demolished, while there are plans for two new smaller buildings

between Chick-fil-A and the building which houses Chase Bank and Metro Diner. Construction plans submitted in March by Mark Dowst & Associates for a stormwater management system show those two buildings on the plan.

The Chase Bank/Metro Diner building is also shown on the plan to be increased in size, but sources at Dewberry Capital have declined to respond to inquiries.

There was also talk of a 300-unit apartment according to a September 2016 master plan shared with District 14 Councilman Jim Love earlier this year, but Dewberry Capital again declined to respond.

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National Historic Register status helps put downtown Jacksonville on map

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Another “district” was added last year to downtown Jacksonville’s growing list of named places. Joining the Spark District, the Cathedral District and the Sports District is the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District.

Approved May 2, 2016 by the United States Department of the Interior’s National Park Service, portions of downtown Jacksonville are now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The documentation indicates the area is “roughly bounded by North Pearl Street, Beaver Street, North Catherine Street and Independent Drive/Courthouse Drive,” about 56 blocks or 158 acres.

The project to inventory and document 179 contributing and 46 non-contributing resources built between 1901 and 1965 was funded by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), which paid historic research specialists \$50,000 to put the paperwork together and make the case for a downtown historic district.

While local historians, such as Wayne Wood of Riverside, have long decried the destruction of structures which typify the city’s rich architectural history, it wasn’t until San Marco resident Oliver Barakat served as DIA board chair in 2014 that a historic designation gained momentum.

“I’ve always been very distressed that historic buildings downtown kept getting demolished, and learned that at one time over 600 historic structures downtown had been torn down,” said Kay Ehas of Riverside. “I believe that if it weren’t for that, Jacksonville would have been unique among big Florida cities.”



Flanked by the Barnett Bank Building, left, and the Jacobs Jewelers Building, the 1901 Greenleaf and Crosby Clock made by Seth Thomas Clock Co. is one of two objects listed in the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District inventory. The other is the Hemming Park Confederate Monument.

“I feel more hopeful than I ever have that the community who cares most about downtown development appears to be embracing these historic structures.”

— Kay Ehas, Riverside resident

A study by the National Trust for Historic Preservation found Jacksonville still has the most buildings in Florida over 50 years old. “We have these unique assets that the city has never really celebrated, but instead sees them as an impediment to development and not part of the solution. Until we really start recognizing, celebrating and lifting awareness in the community, we’re going to continue to demolish these things and no one is going to blink an eye,” said Barakat, a senior vice president at CBRE, Inc. and current DIA board member.

“People were frustrated about not getting any traction for the historic buildings in downtown Jacksonville,” Ehas said, “so when Oliver was DIA Board Chair in 2014, I asked ‘Can we do something about trying to protect the historic structures that are left?’ He was very open to it and asked me to do some research on the pros and cons of National Register status.”

Ehas discovered a geographic area can become a historic local district, which is more regulated and restrictive but only addresses the exterior of structures, while listing on the National Register includes both interior and exterior, with a 20 percent investment tax credit as the carrot.

In addition, National Register designation doesn’t require City Council approval, but a local district would, and also requires property owners to vote for it.

Making the case for national designation

Barakat thought the way to go was to apply for a National Historic District, so in early 2014 they enlisted the help of Joel McEachin and Lisa Sheppard, members of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission, to help determine the geographic possibilities and create a presentation to the DIA board.

“We codified it into a resolution, and intellectually made the case for a historic district downtown,” said Barakat, then the resolution went into a “black hole” for a while. “It took a fair amount of behind-the-scenes advocacy to make sure the Planning Department and DIA were working in tandem to get it done; once the consultant was hired, it still required someone to keep it on track.”

Barakat said approval by the DIA, which is responsible for the revitalization of downtown Jacksonville, legitimized the

project. “They gave the effort muscle, money and city sponsorship,” he said.

There is no down side to having a historic district, said Ehas, but noted some opposed it.

“There may be some who see it as a step toward a local district one day, which has more regulatory hurdles,” Barakat said. “There may be some who just don’t care for historic buildings and don’t want awareness because awareness builds advocacy for preservation efforts. They want to do whatever they want whenever they want, and not create an appreciation for these buildings.”

Preserving history one building at a time

Ehas and Barakat agreed it’s surprising how a little bit of effort, such as speaking up at a public meeting, can make a difference in saving a building.

Sometimes, however, it takes a much bigger effort, such as the Cowford Chophouse, a massive renovation project Barakat said is a turning point in shifting the tide from demolition to renovation and repurposing.

“The community’s equation has always been ‘if it costs more to renovate than to build a new structure, then it’s not worth it’ but Jacques Klempf is spending ridiculous amounts of money showing the community that it’s not about that equation, it’s about something that’s scarce and about value,” Barakat said, referring to the restaurant under construction in the century-old Bostwick Building at the corner of Bay and Ocean Streets.

The price tag to maintain the historic integrity of the building is nearly \$6.5 million, but Klempf has been quoted as saying it’s been a labor of love.

“You can overspend on a piece of property, but the owner and community will value it equal to what they spent because it’s something that’s truly unique,” said Barakat. “Klempf changed the equation, and so did Marcus Lemonis with Sweet Pete’s; he could have built a much cheaper building next door but it would not have had the same value.”

Barakat said projects like those and designation as a National Historic District has “codified to the world we’ve got more historic buildings than any other city in the state. The Jacksonville Visitors Bureau should be shouting this to the world. We all know how popular history is with tourists.”

“I feel more hopeful than I ever have that the community who cares most about downtown development appears to be embracing these historic structures,” Ehas concluded.

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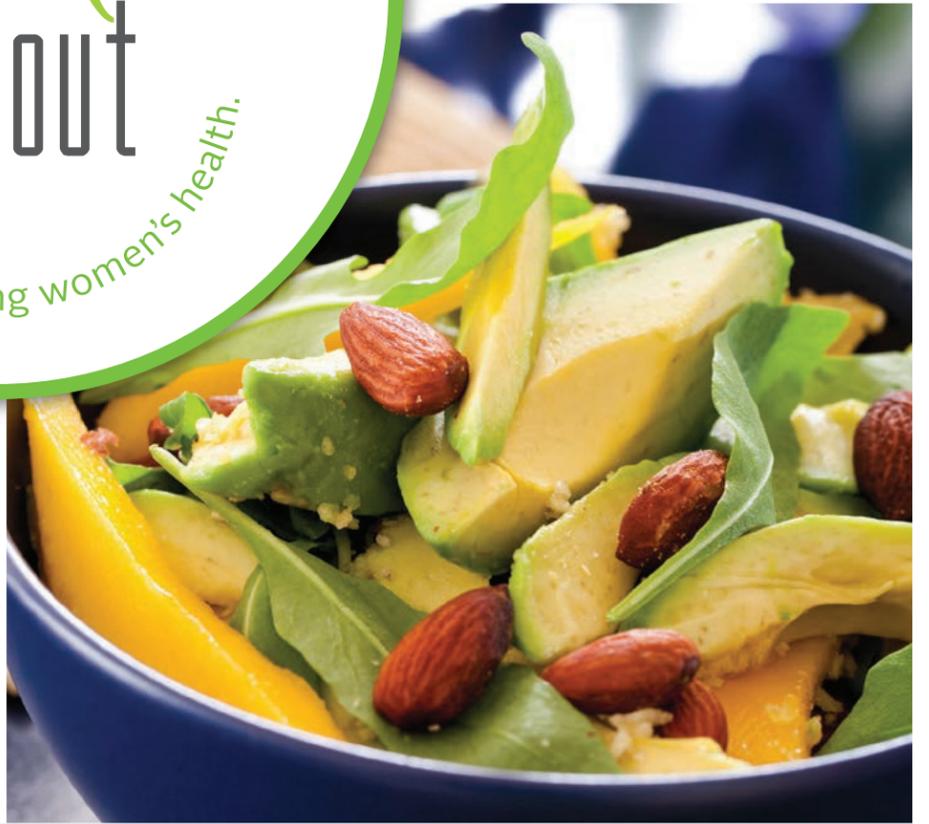
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The Marina at Ortega Landing was the former site of Graham's Boatyard, also known as Ortega River Boatyard. It was redeveloped in 2006 and included an eight-unit condominium.

Lakeside marinas announce changes

The Marina at Ortega Landing, owned by Chicago-based Bixby Bridge Capital LLC, will be under new property management effective Sept. 1. Currently managed by Mango Bay Vacation Rentals under the leadership of Warren Hickernell, the 10-year-old marina will be rebranded under Island Global Yachting Marinas (IGY Marinas), based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Occupancy of the 192-slip marina was under 50 percent in 2012 when Hickernell took over its management, but has been averaging around 85 to 90 percent for the past several years.

"At this newly-constructed marina I have had the pleasure of watching it grow from a low-occupancy start-up into a vibrant, thriving boating community," said Hickernell.

Also at that time, none of the eight units in the River Homes condominium had sold following the 2008 economic downturn. Under Hickernell's management, all eight condos were sold by first quarter 2014, and several have turned over profitably since then.

"I have also been very fortunate to have an outstanding staff who work hard to make every boater's experience a pleasant one here at the marina. Their dedication and willingness to do what is necessary to get the job done has been, well, just amazing," Hickernell said. "This loyalty is hard to find and shows that this is not just a job to them, but a desire to do their best in keeping the marina in top operating condition for all its boaters."

In January, the Lakeside-based marina had announced a rate increase of \$2 per slip foot for "full-time cruisers" up from \$14 per foot. Month-to-month rates went up to \$12 per slip foot from \$10.50 per foot.

Next door on Lakeside Drive, Lakeside Marina also recently increased its slip fees for the first time in five years, to \$11.50 per slip foot per month with a one-year contract. The property was purchased in 2004 by Frank Surface, who also owns Lakeside Dry Storage, to provide a fixed-dock, 24-slip marina as a wet-slip option for large sailboats.

Surface's dry stack boat warehouse also offers storefronts for marine retail businesses and he recently signed a lease with Jax Jet Ski rentals, according to Heather Surface, Lakeside Dry Storage spokesperson.

Big Fishweir Creek still unnavigable 10 years later

Army Corps of Engineers working on restoration plans

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

When *The Resident* launched its first issue in January 2007, the lead story on the cover focused on sediment runoff in Little Fishweir Creek, an urban tributary of the St. Johns River, approximately four miles south of downtown Jacksonville.

Neil Armingeon, St. Johns Riverkeeper at the time, worked with the City of Jacksonville's Environmental Quality Division to discover a water main break on Eloise Street was the source of increased turbidity in the creek.

At one time, Fishweir Creek was a deep waterway, but the buildup of sediment over the past 30 years has rendered it unnavigable.

"This tributary is tidally influenced," said Amanda Parker, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Public Affairs Specialist. "The contributing sub-basin to Big Fishweir Creek has been urbanized predominantly with residential land use, much of it occurring prior to promulgation of storm water regulations. Therefore, limited storm water management has been implemented in the sub-basin, resulting in sediment deposition in the creek. Urbanization included encroachment along the banks of the creek. Over time, sediments transported by storm events have covered the natural creek bottom. The sediment deposition and encroachment from urbanization have reduced the natural habitat in the creek and along the creek banks."

The Corps began a study in 2007 to restore Big Fishweir Creek, but 10 years later, the creek is still not navigable; herons and egrets are often seen standing in just a few inches of water as they forage.

According to Parker, the 10-year delay in restoring the creek is based on funding, both from the federal and non-federal side. At one time, the total cost of the project was

quoted as \$4.8 million, with \$3 million to be federally funded and \$1.8 million from state and local sources.

In July at the groundbreaking of the RiverVUE waterfront apartment complex, District 14 Councilman Jim Love announced the Corps was looking at the restoration project again, which could occur as early as 2019.

The overall goal is to restore a healthy aquatic habitat in the creek, Parker said. The project will include the removal of anthropogenic sediment accumulations, restoration of habitat for listed species, reestablishment of intertidal and sub-tidal benthic communities, removal of exotic vegetation, restoration of submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation functions, and restoration of wetland habitats.

The sediment that is targeted for removal consists of accumulated anthropogenic material in the stream bed. Removal of approximately 32,000 cubic yards of sediment will create two channels at the mouth of Big Fishweir Creek that will converge to form one channel heading upstream to the project limit.

The target depth of the channel(s) would be four to six feet below mean low water in the lower and central portion of the stream, and at least four feet in the upper channel. The pattern of the channels near the mouth of the stream would be routed around the proposed created marsh island before joining the St John's River.

Dredged material from the channels would constitute the foundation of the marsh island, and is expected to encompass some 2.3 acres at the mouth of Big Fishweir Creek. The material will be encased in geo-textile tubes that will be configured to form the foundation of the island. In addition, sand substrate from the upper portion of the stream will be used to cap the newly formed island, and will provide the proper medium for vegetation plantings. A sediment trap will be dredged at the base of the island to manage sediment loading by controlling current velocity, thus decreasing future maintenance of the stream.



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Scott Elliott
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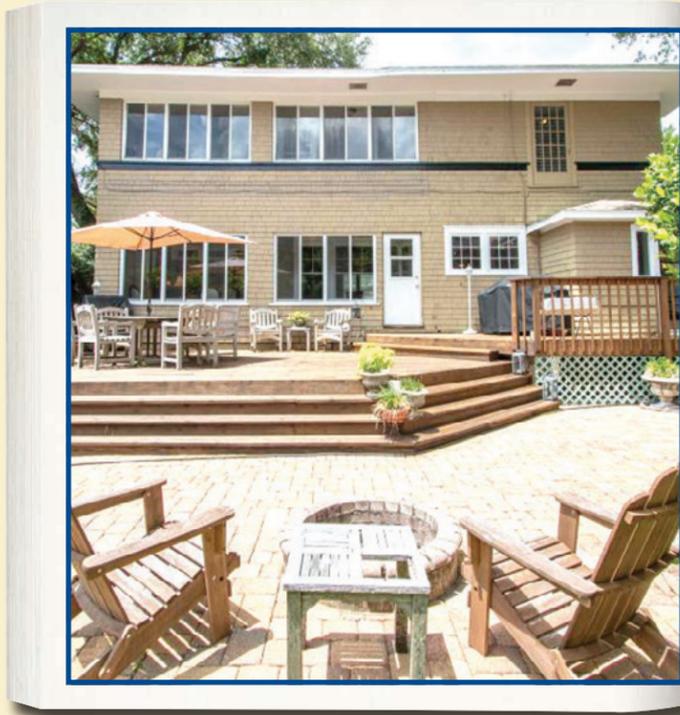


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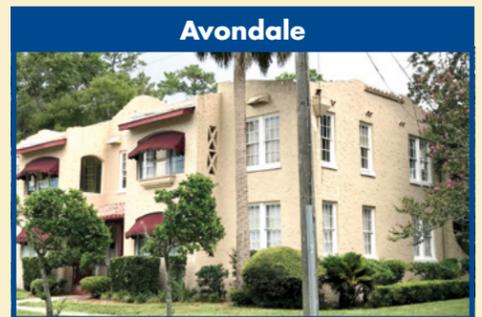
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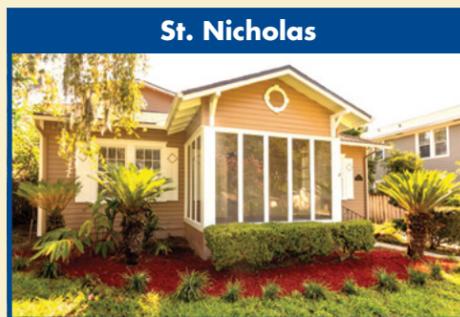
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FDOT hears concerns about proposed Overland Bridge landscaping

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

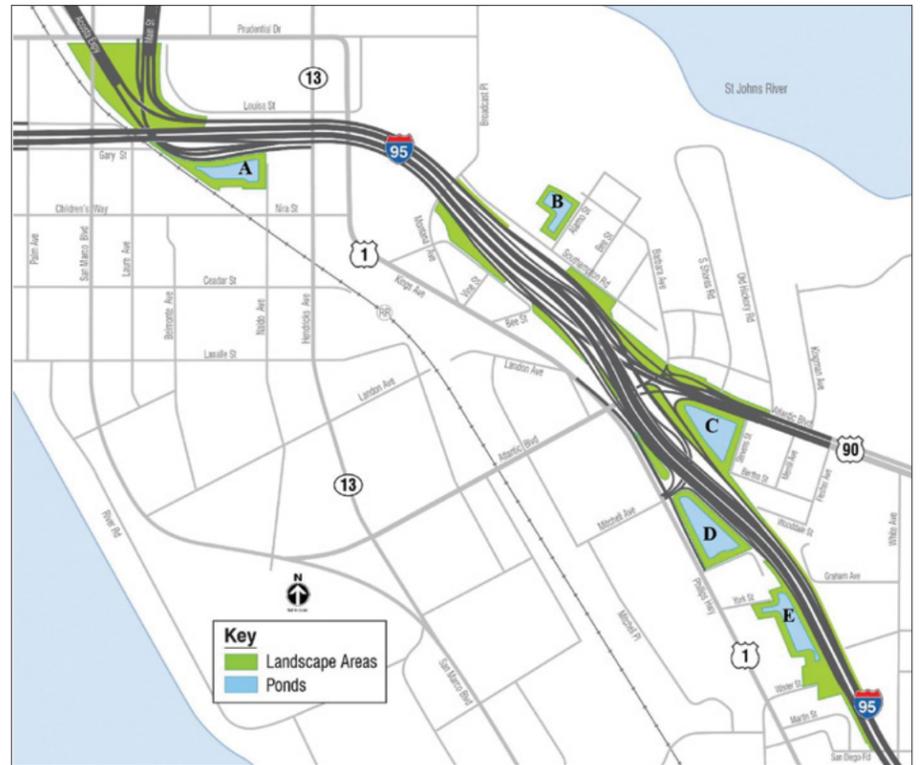
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) hosted an open house July 13 to gather feedback from the community for proposed landscaping of the Overland Bridge project. Conceptual landscape plans, including a proposed list of trees and shrubs, were available for review.

Dave Crawley, principal landscape architect and group manager at AECOM, was on hand to listen to concerns voiced by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer; Senator Audrey Gibson; Alicia Grant, president of Scenic Jacksonville; Tom Larson, treasurer of Sierra Club Florida; Janet Stanko, Northeast Florida Group Chair of Sierra Club Florida, and by residents.

The landscaping project will include plantings of numerous species of trees and shrubs, irrigation and other incidental work relating to the overall landscape for the downtown Interstate 95 corridor. Near the southern end of the corridor is the entrance to St. Nicholas, a historic neighborhood which has borne the brunt of the project's land acquisition, detours and other construction-related consequences.

"In the South Shores community, at a meeting two years ago we said that the most important thing is the visual entrance to St. Nicholas," said Boyer. "I'm glad to see there's no chain link fencing around Pond C, as I'm told, but I'm also concerned about the height of the berm so it doesn't obstruct the view."

A South Shores resident who wished to remain anonymous explicitly asked Crawley



Map of I-95 Overland Bridge landscape project indicates placement of ponds and landscape area, subject to change.



Dave Crawley, principal landscape architect and group manager at AECOM, points to a portion of the Overland Bridge project map as visitors to the public meeting discuss the landscaping proposal.

to replace the row of live oaks, holly and crape myrtles the community had purchased and installed 25 years ago, only to see most of them removed for the project.

"We spent our own money putting in those trees and we want to have them put back," the resident said. She also asked for consideration that a fountain be installed in Pond C and lighting installed under the overpass near Barbara Avenue, however, Crawley noted his company's responsibility is for landscaping only.

Grant, of Avondale, was not happy to see the list of trees includes Medjool date palms, which she called a "lollipop of green on a stick."

"They're making some progress with the landscaping around the ponds, but they still have not removed those Medjool palms along the roadways," she said, noting Scenic Jacksonville has been talking with FDOT about landscaping for two years.

"You'll not get any of the environmental benefits of temperature reduction and shade, air filtration, and water filtration from runoff into the pond, all of those

"Every part of Florida is unique and while palm trees may be well received and play very well in South Florida, north Florida has its own uniqueness."

— Audrey Gibson, Florida Senator

aesthetics and environmental benefits from having native trees that are canopy and understory trees," she said.

Grant and Larson said they want to see Live Oaks, Cathedral Oaks and other trees that produce shade.

"Someone had a vision of 'big and bold' and wanted to give tourists passing through our city an iconic Florida - South Florida - experience," said Grant, speaking about

Continued on page 9

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former Florida Secretary of Transportation Ananth Prasad.

The proposed landscaping project was developed through FDOT District 2's FDOTree program, a new initiative developed to promote communication and delivery of the FDOT's Northeast Florida landscaping program. According to its 2011 guidelines, "palms are the state's signature tree – what visitors and investors expect to see, what they pay to see."

The guidelines also state palms "are the only type of trees that can feasibly and effectively be transplanted (and re-transplanted if need be) when mature."

"This [group of palm trees] is not a natural form," said Larson, pointing to an area along a sound wall. "If you go into the woods you'll see a mix of palms, deciduous trees, understory trees; we ought to be trying to reflect that."

Florida Senator Audrey Gibson also stopped in to view the plans and comment. She, too, did not agree with the proliferation of palm trees indicated in the plans.

"Every part of Florida is unique and while palm trees may be well received and play very well in South Florida, north Florida has its own uniqueness and we should be looking at what is indicative of north Florida in terms of our looks," said Gibson. "When it comes to road projects, why do we have to be a cookie cutter state? There is no noise absorption with palm trees."

Construction of the 2.3-mile project on I-95 began in January 2013 and is expected to be complete later this fall, however, landscape construction is not expected to start until summer 2019 and is not part of the \$227 million Overland Bridge project budget.

To read FDOT's landscape branding guidelines, go to residentnews.net and search for FDOT.

Riverkeeper releases report, claims 'deep dredge is economically infeasible'

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Within two weeks of unanimous approval by the JAXPORT Board of Directors to begin the Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Project, the St. Johns Riverkeeper released a new report by a leading international port and shipping expert who "finds the proposed dredging of the St. Johns River to be 'economically infeasible.'"

According to the report, Dr. Asaf Ashar, an independent consultant and research professor (emeritus) with the National Ports & Waterways Initiative at the University of New Orleans, analyzed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) economic feasibility study.

In the meantime, on June 26, the JAXPORT board allocated the first phase of port funding for construction to USACE, with an early 2018 project start date. The \$484 million, 11-mile project is primarily funded by the state, with \$17.5 million in federal funds received recently. The JAXPORT board includes James Citrano, board chair; Ed Fleming, John Falconetti, John Baker, Dr. John Newman, Joe York and Jamie Shelton.

In his report, Ashar identifies numerous flaws in the USACE's methodology that he says resulted in a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) that is unrealistic and overstated. Ashar estimated benefits for the dredging project that are substantially less than those calculated by the USACE.

While the USACE study is primarily based on data from 2010, Ashar utilized recent

2017 data to provide a more accurate assessment of both the current situation and, especially, future changes of Jacksonville's shipping services and their impact on the economic feasibility of the project.

Ashar defined four scenarios that address the flaws in the USACE study and calculated a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) for each. A BCR is calculated by dividing the total economic benefits by the total economic costs. Ashar's BCR calculations range from 0.14 to 1.31 for a 13-mile channel. The USACE calculated a BCR of 2.66.

As a result, Ashar concluded that the "the BCR of JAXPORT's channel-improvement project is likely less than 1." Projects with a BCR smaller than 1.0 are considered economically infeasible. According to the USACE, "if the benefit cost ratio is less than 1.0, the total costs are greater than total benefits, which is not a good economic investment."

The BCR calculations for an 11-mile channel range from 0.19 to 1.76. "As seen in the scenarios considered by me as the most likely, Multiport and Feeding, the BCR is still below 1, indicating that the 11-mile Project is still economically infeasible," said Ashar.

The USACE has indicated no plans to update its studies for a project to deepen 11 miles of the St. Johns River instead of 13 miles, according to the Riverkeeper's release.

"This new report provides further evidence that the economic projections for the Deep Dredge have been grossly overstated," said Jimmy Orth, St. Johns Riverkeeper executive

"We can't afford to potentially spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars, cause significant harm to our river, and then find out later that the project wasn't beneficial or even necessary."

— Jimmy Orth, St. Johns Riverkeeper

director. "It also demonstrates the urgent need for a transparent community dialogue to fully vet the project before dredging begins. We can't afford to potentially spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars, cause significant harm to our river, and then find out later that the project wasn't beneficial or even necessary."

JAXPORT did not have an official response to the Riverkeeper's consultant's analysis, but instead supplied links to documents in reference to its position on harbor deepening.

"There are many years' worth of expert economic research results and peer reviewed analysis of deepening project available," said Nancy Rubin, JAXPORT spokesperson. "You can find many references to our position on deepening at Jaxport.com both on the harbor deepening page and in recent news releases posted within our newsroom."

Ashar's complete report can be found at www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/blog/expert-finds-dredging-economically-infeasible/

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13494 Stone Pond Drive
3BR/2.5BA Located in the gated Wolf Creek Townhome community with water views. Screened lanai with views of the lake, carpets and tile flooring, and attached garage. 1,660 sq. ft. \$219,000



1543 Azalea Terrace
3BR/2.5BA Brick home in the heart of Avondale. Features a Living room, dining room, family/media room, central heat and air, hardwood floors and carpet. 2-car garage. 2,350 sq ft. \$469,000.



8479 Lynda Sue Lane, East
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1,916 sq. ft. \$217,000



1632 Monument Oaks Drive
3BR/2.5BA with stone fireplace in large living room with parquet floors. Indoor laundry and screened covered rear porch, kitchen has granite counter tops. 1,631 sq. ft. \$165,000

DIA considers land swap with retail developer for Brooklyn property

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Three privately-owned parcels on Magnolia Street in Brooklyn – separated by a City-owned parcel and by another listed as owned by Shoppes on Riverside LLC – are being considered for a land swap by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) for a City-owned parcel on the corner of Riverside Avenue and Leila Street.

The corner parcel, called the Jug Handle, is used as a storm water retention basin and includes a turnoff for motorists exiting the Acosta Bridge and desiring to enter the Florida Times-Union property across Riverside Avenue.

The DIA has been approached to convey City-owned property to Ferber Company, a Ponte Vedra developer, in exchange for the privately-owned property, which was discussed at the DIA's July 19 meeting.

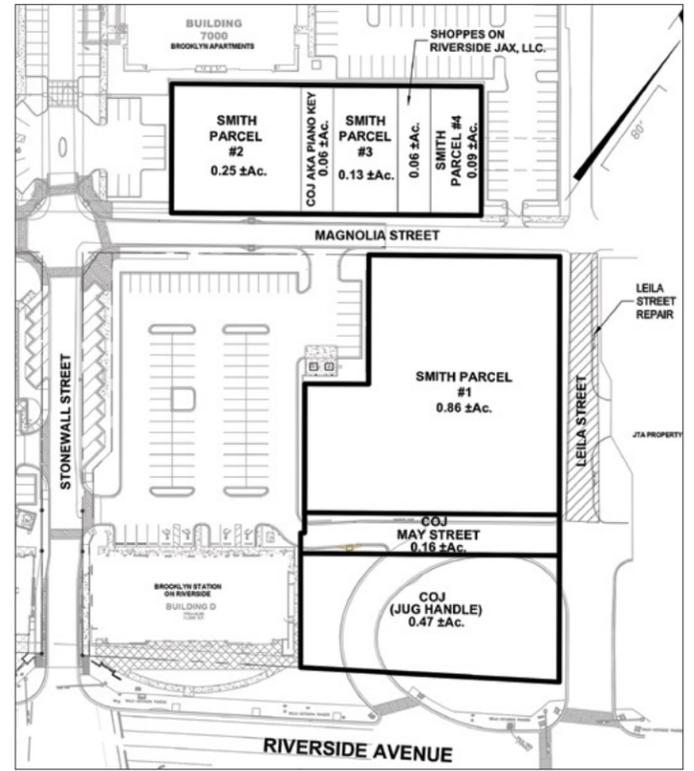
The three Magnolia Street parcels and a fourth parcel between Magnolia and May Streets are called Smith Parcels 1, 2, 3 and 4, so named because they are owned by members of the family of Cecil Mills Smith and Mildred Lyle Smith. The couple left 17 parcels of land, of which 11 are in the Brooklyn area, to their descendants.

According to a DIA memorandum, Ferber proposes to develop Smith Parcel 1 on Riverside and May, the May Street right-of-way and the Jug Handle with multi-tenant inline retail commercial uses, adjacent to Brooklyn Station. The proposed tenants will be national, regional and experienced local operators consistent with the existing Brooklyn Station tenant mix.

The Jug Handle parcel was part of a 2016 redevelopment plan for a pharmacy/



The Jug Handle, City-owned property, is being considered in a land swap with a developer.



Retail development is being proposed to the Downtown Investment Authority for Smith Parcel #1, a vacant lot in Brooklyn.

drugstore, but the end user rejected the location and currently remains uninterested, according to Ferber.

In return for the Jug Handle, Ferber will design and construct a public parking lot on Smith Parcels 2 and 3 and the Piano Key, City-owned property in-between the parcels. The DIA, through the Office of Public Parking, will operate and maintain the public parking lot.

Because those parcels are separated from Smith Parcel 4 by the Shoppes on

Riverside parcel, the fourth Smith parcel will remain as a gravel lot.

Regency Centers, dba Shoppes on Riverside LLC, bought the 0.6-acre property Nov. 3, 2016 for \$50,000 from an Atlanta-based real estate company. Two permitted exceptions are in effect for 20 years: no structure or improvement, other than light poles, can be greater than 15 feet tall; all parking on the property is subject to a 10-foot landscaping buffer from the property line to the edge of the parking surface.

To equalize the land swap, the City will contribute at no cost to the developer up to 1.67 credit acres of surplus Water Quality Compensatory Credits, the value of which has not been quantified. Legislation must be adopted to convey the credits to Ferber.

At the end of a required 30-day notice period, a proposal will be presented for consideration by the DIA Board to seek permission to negotiate a Redevelopment Agreement with Ferber Company.

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RiverVUE groundbreaking From Page 1

During comments, District 14 Councilman Jim Love announced plans by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to dredge Fishweir Creek. "It will be deep enough to bring in a small boat, a canoe, a kayak. That's in the works," said Love.

The Resident reached out to the Army Corps for details.

"We are currently working on executing the project partnership agreement (PPA) between the County and the Corps," said Amanda D. Parker, Public Affairs Specialist, USACE Jacksonville, in an email. "This agreement, scheduled for execution in October 2018, will allow us to proceed with design and permitting of the proposed project in FY18. During this review period, we will review the preliminary design proposed in the feasibility study and share any modifications with the public in a follow-up meeting (date TBD). Construction of the project could occur as early as FY19 subject to federal and local sponsor appropriations."

Chance Partners purchased the 5.86-acre property in March 2017 and began construction in May.

In June Chance Partners won the award for Outstanding Public Participation from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association for working with the community and surrounding neighborhoods on the project.

"The community was significant in this partnership," said Judd Bobilin, Chance Partners CEO and president, speaking about the award in his opening remarks. "One of the three tenets of our company is to partner with the community and be transparent, and we think that's very important. We had over 17 meetings with Councilman Love, with City staff and with the neighborhood groups, and we think we've come out with a great project."

The \$42 million infill project approved by City Council in October 2016 was the third attempt to redevelop the site since 2006 when Chase Properties first showed an interest in the property, which was owned by a New Jersey-based family.

In each proposed iteration of redevelopment, neighbors on nearby streets expressed a great deal of concern about scale, density, and increased traffic.



Kim Hyatt, regional manager for Pegasus Residential, unveils the new name and logo for the apartment complex under construction on St. Johns Avenue.

"When you're doing infill development, it's important to take the neighborhood into consideration," said Keith Holt, Riverside Avondale Preservation board chair. "These guys have been very inclusive of the neighborhood. Some things were big things and others were small things you don't notice, which makes it even more important. The street gets swept three times a day, so there isn't tons of dirt flying over the neighborhood. They have meetings with us once a quarter to give us a heads up on what's coming and we send an email blast to the neighborhood to let them know."

RiverVUE is expected to be open for residents by late spring 2018, and will have 228 luxury apartments, with 88-units in the 16-story high-rise, four two-level townhomes, four carriage homes and 132 units in the two four-story buildings along Fishweir Creek.

"Working with the neighborhood we were excited about the overall design of the project and hope this will complement the overall neighborhood," said Jeff Rosen of Chance Partners. "It's unique within the whole marketplace to actually be on the waterfront with over an acre that will be an outdoor oasis."

RiverVUE will have over an acre of dedicated green space and amenities for its residents, the most of any apartment complex in Jacksonville, including a resort style pool, dog park, event space, state-of-the-art fitness facility, modern spacious clubroom and meeting rooms for its residents.

Spark District loses One Spark festival to Sports District

The fifth annual One Spark Innovation Festival will be held at a new venue and during a new season this year.

Traditionally a Downtown Jacksonville event held in the spring in what was named the Spark District, this year the festival will be held Oct. 6-7 at the U.S. Assure Club West at EverBank Field. A concert at Daily's Place amphitheater will kick off One Spark on Thursday evening, Oct. 5.

"Over the past four years, One Spark has connected more than 1,500 Creators with the Jacksonville community to market test their ideas, make connections and promote their businesses," said One Spark Ventures President Chris Carter. "In partnership with Bold Events, One Spark 2017 will provide these same opportunities within the state-of-the-art facilities at EverBank Field. We couldn't be more excited for this year's Innovation Festival and the enhanced experience the U.S. Assure Club West will offer Creators who participate and those in the community who attend."

One Spark will accept applications through Friday, Sept. 8, for Creators interested in sharing their innovations at the 2017 festival. Up to 150 Creators will be organized by zones, including EdSpark, TechSpark, HealthSpark, SocialSpark and possibly a section for innovative ideas that fall outside of these targeted zones.

There is no cost to apply; however, selected Creators will be required to pay \$125 to participate in the event. Visit OneSpark.com to find a link to the Creator

"Over the past four years, One Spark has connected more than 1,500 Creators with the Jacksonville community."

— Chris Carter, Spark Ventures President

Application. All Creator zones will be open for application except for the HealthSpark Zone, which will open at a later date.

One Spark Ventures will also offer multiple Spark Tanks this year, with Creators being selected by a panel of judges to participate in Spark Tank competitions within each "Spark" zone. Judges will provide feedback and guidance during each Spark Tank, and will select the top Creator in each zone, who will be awarded \$5,000 and the chance to compete in the Spark Tank Championship.

The Spark Tank Championship will take place on Saturday in the stadium suite of Jaguars Owner Shad Khan. The winner of that competition will be awarded an additional \$20,000 and will be named Top Creator of the Innovation Festival.

For attendees of the Innovation Festival, advance registration online will cost \$5 per ticket. Same day registration and ticket purchases, online or at EverBank Field, will cost \$10 per ticket. Children 10 and under may enter the festival free of charge. The concert taking place inside Daily's Place on Oct. 5 will require the purchase of an additional ticket for admittance, which will be available online or at the gate, pending availability.

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City settlement over tree mitigation resolves issue, promotes beautification

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

In the welcome shade of the Treaty Oak on the Southbank, representatives of civic groups came together July 27 to celebrate the future of trees in Jacksonville and the July 25 resolution of a lawsuit against the city over the use of tree mitigation funds.

The suit filed in 2015 by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida challenged the city's use of the Tree Mitigation Trust Fund – approximately \$20 million – established in 2000 by charter amendment. Developers pay into the fund when they cut down trees and the money is supposed to be used to mitigate the loss by paying for new trees to be planted elsewhere in the county.

“There was no transparency about how much money was available in the fund,” said John November, Public Trust executive director. “The city failed to provide an accurate accounting.”

The settlement was the product of two years of discussions by November, Warren Anderson, Public Trust founder and chair, Lad Hawkins of Scenic Jacksonville, Tracey Arpen of City Beautiful Jax and Greenscape, Tom Larson of the Sierra Club, City Councilman John Crescimbeni, Chief Administrative Officer Sam Mousa, and several City of Jacksonville staff members.

“Sam Mousa was the chair of the settlement committee and accepted the challenge we brought,” Larson said. “The way he led the dialogue really helped us get more than we expected. From the beginning, we made it clear it was a friendly lawsuit. We wanted to bring attention to an area of opportunity that we felt was being neglected by the city.”



John November of the Public Trust speaks at a press conference, flanked by Tom Larson, Michael Rosselli, Lad Hawkins, Carly Shore and Tracey Arpen.

Anna Dooley, executive director of Greenscape, said she is confident the settlement will enable her tree advocacy group to plant another 300,000 trees around the city.

State Senator Audrey Gibson thanked the group for leading the fight. The Jacksonville Democrat was one of the original petitioners of the 2000 charter amendment that created the mitigation fund.

“Trees are the jewels of our landscape,” she said. “They are the finishing touches. They are so important to the quality of our air and water. They help deflect noise. They create spaces to help build community.”

The memory of the late attorney Bill Brinton, who died of cancer in June, was invoked repeatedly by speakers. Brinton was a tireless advocate for the beautification of Jacksonville and initiated the 2000 charter amendment.

“This was Bill Brinton’s baby,” Gibson said. “He had a way of pulling you in and keeping you in.”

“It’s hard to think of anyone who did more to make this happen,” Arpen said. “At least he knew about the settlement before he died.”

The settlement, which was approved by City Council last month, has several components:

- **Tree Commission:** The commission will be an advisory board, comprising a City Council member, the city planning director and five residents with some expertise in trees, three to be appointed by the council and two by the mayor. November expects the commission to be in place by Oct. 1, the start of the new City budget year.
- **New city staff:** The City also will hire an urban forest manager, who will oversee the urban forester and a new position, city arborist. The job of the arborist will be to plant trees and the urban forester’s job will be to do maintenance to keep the canopy healthy.
- **Tougher penalties:** The settlement also toughened the penalties for developers who don’t get permits to take out trees. It doesn’t apply to private homeowners.

“If you are a repeat offender, the costs will double and triple over time,” November said. “And now it’s not just the property owner who is liable but the contractor, too. That’s new.”

For instance, November said, if you remove 100 inches of trees (calculated by the diameter at chest height), you pay

\$113 an inch for the permit. or \$11,300. Without a permit, that same 100 inches could cost \$22,600.

“We think it’s a major problem. For some people, it’s worth it sometimes to break the law and just pay the penalty but by closing this loophole we hope we will get them to pay it,” November said. “Major developers aren’t the problem. It’s the mom-and-pops. But we think we have put the pieces in place so we can track it and see who the violators are. If it’s unpermitted, we can file a complaint with the city and get a stop-work order and cite them.”

The new Tree Commission and city staffers will have at their disposal the data from a comprehensive tree canopy survey of Duval County being done this summer by Plan-it Geo, with a grant from the City’s Environmental Protection Board.

“It’s really more than a survey,” November said. “Plan-it Geo is doing a one-meter resolution map that will show where the plantable areas are.”

As trees are planted, the map can be updated to show the new projects. Overlays will give further details about wildlife corridors, heat islands, storm water and other data that will help with the planning process.

“People will be able to access the map and look at the canopy in their neighborhood. We want citizens to get engaged.”

Trees paid for with the mitigation fund must be planted on public property but citizens can suggest projects to their council members, he said.

The grant also included money for an education initiative directed at children.

“We’re going to be going around to schools and doing presentations to get kids excited about learning about the benefits of trees,” November said.

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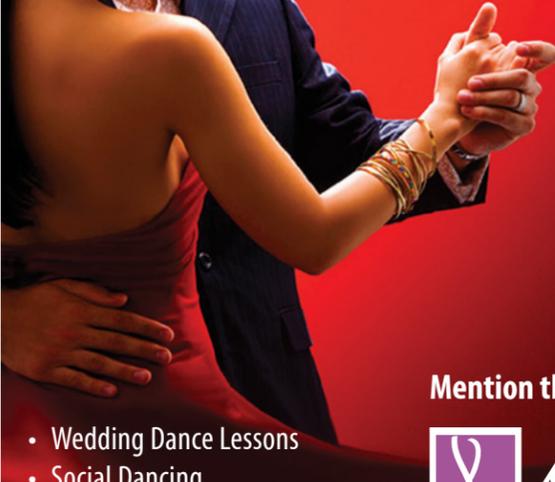
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Neighborhood parks get helping hands from community

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

With more than 400 parks and recreational sites under its supervision, the City of Jacksonville often welcomes a helping hand in the form of a public-private partnership to help maintain any given park.

“Jacksonville’s park system is a unique treasure given its size and diversity, and

we are fortunate to have community partners who recognize the positive impact our parks have on our quality of life,” said Mayor Lenny Curry. “Managing more than 400 parks requires a great deal of resources and funding. Public-private partnerships boost our capacity to maintain and improve our local parks, and broaden the programming and amenities we are able to offer Jacksonville residents and visitors.”

Riverside Park gets a friend

In response to a Times-Union editorial in February, which stated that Riverside Park was neglected and it was time to establish a “Friends of Riverside Park,” Riverside resident Cathleen Murphy did just that.

Murphy, who was instrumental in organizing the acquisition of the new playground in Boone Park on St. Johns Avenue, started the group in late February to address issues such as an algae- and trash-filled pond, the lack of grass, and graffiti on the playground equipment.

The growth in the pond was so pervasive earlier in the year it began killing the waterfowl. Two days after the new Friends group posted a photo of two ducklings swimming in the pond, the lifeless bodies were seen floating in thick green scum.

The City responded by repairing the pond’s aerators and putting a request for two more into the 2017-2018 budget. The pond was last drained and cleaned over 10 years ago.

“It’s time to revive this historic park – the second oldest in the city – and make Riverside Park a destination and the pride of Jacksonville once again,” said Murphy.

“We are working with the City to look at viable options for cleaning the Duck Pond.”

With over 11 acres, two playgrounds, and basketball courts, Riverside Park is the perfect place for a pickup game of football, soccer or basketball, said Murphy.

Learn more by liking the Friends of Riverside Park Facebook page and stay up to date with news and events. A park cleanup is being planned for September 9, 9-11 a.m. Gloves and bags will be provided and volunteers are encouraged to bring water, sunscreen and bug spray.

Dog park seeking volunteers

Shortly after its Sept. 17, 2016 grand opening, the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park gained a “friends of” group to help the City maintain basic needs, such as waste disposal bags, and to inform the City when the water fountains were not functioning.

Now, approaching the first anniversary of the specialty park, maintenance has been sidetracked and, to add to the issue of keeping the grounds pet-friendly, the Florida Department of Transportation has temporarily taken over a portion of the

Large Dog section of the park for the duration of the I-10/I-95 project.

Although nearly 750 people have “liked” and follow the dog park’s Facebook page, just a dozen showed up at a July 15 meeting hosted by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) to discuss both short- and long-term needs for the popular pet park.

Three in attendance – Jeannette Yacuub, Doug Keeling and Brooks Andrews – indicated an interest in taking a lead role in addressing the park’s needs, which include keeping the pavers clean, picking up trash, looking for and reporting unlocked gates, loose fencing, and landscaping needs, among others.



Betsy Gaines is one of many dog lovers who have enjoyed the John Gorrie Dog Park since it opened nearly a year ago. With Gaines are Flash, Stupie, Dexter and Ethel, not shown.

RAP Board Chair Keith Holt said long-term needs include a storage shed, an informational kiosk to alert park users to clean-up days, alternative ground material for the Large Dog section, and fundraising strategies.

Keeling, owner of Bad to the Bone Pet Care, offered to supply the waste bags, while Yacuub stated that some businesses have indicated an interest in providing services, such as spraying for bugs.

The day after the meeting, Holt and Jack Bobeck, owner of Happy Hound Dog Resorts, power washed the pavers.

Murray Hill playground stalled

The push for a playground in Murray Hill is in a temporary stall as the City of Jacksonville’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department determines where to install the playground.

Originally, park proponents asked for the small playground to be located in the southeast corner of Four Corners Park, in safe walking distance to many homes in the area.

Although the City had only received one complaint – over parking concerns – in June, they decided to “pull back” on the project for now and are considering an alternate location, Herbert Bayer Park behind the Murray Hill Arts Center, said Candace White, organizer of the effort.

“The majority of folks who support the playground idea agree that Four Corners Park has ample parking and feel that walking will be the primary method of transportation for reaching the playground,” she said. “Additionally, the small parking area at Herbert Bayer Park is used by patrons of the Arts Center and this location has far less on-street parking compared to Four Corners Park.”

At the suggestion of District 14 Councilman Jim Love’s office, White circulated information about an online petition to garner support for the playground. To date she has more than 150 supporters.

“I can honestly say that I have only heard of three people who do not support the playground idea,” said White, indicating one person was worried the playground would attract drive-by shootings.

“That is absurd. While I agree that in the first few weeks the new playground will attract more traffic than usual, I am confident that this will not continue and people will not drive from miles away to use this playground that is very conservative in size,” said White. “I think the best benefit is that parents and grandparents can let their children play while they walk around the park. It will help everyone in our community stay active and get to know each other, which should actually help prevent crime long-term.”

Water accessibility underway

In other park news, construction is underway along the Northbank Riverwalk for a handicap-accessible kayak launch at the Sidney Gefen Park in Brooklyn.

The wooden footbridge has been removed and the \$205,000 project is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2017, according to Tia Ford, City spokesperson.

The footbridge, which had deteriorated over the past 15 years, will be replaced by a path along the north shore on an inlet, connecting to a nearby paved walkway, with a spur leading to the kayak launch spot. Hager Construction Co., which created the John Gorrie Dog Park in Riverside Park, is the contractor on this project.

In addition, Parks and Recreation is beginning the design process for the ADA kayak launch area on the Southbank Riverwalk, near the Duval County School Board building on Prudential Drive.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Million dollar Lakeside bridge replacement out for bid

Nearly two years ago, *The Resident* reported the bridge over an Ortega River inlet behind the Roosevelt Square Mall would be replaced beginning in early 2016. The cost at that time was estimated to be \$700,000, an appropriation approved by City Council in May 2015.

During the design process, the Public Works Department discovered the original appropriation was not going to be sufficient for the full replacement of the bridge, according to City of Jacksonville spokesperson Tia Ford. An additional \$493,000 was appropriated via City Ordinance 2017-0264 in May, she said.

In the meantime, some repairs have been made to Lakeside Drive, including one in late March 2017 when strips of asphalt were laid across the road on both sides of the bridge to build up road settling where the pavement meets the bridge deck.

"The Public Works Department has advised that there are some repairs underway for Lakeside Bridge that are in response to FDOT inspection results," said Ford. "The repairs are being accomplished by a Bridge Maintenance Contractor under contract with the City through a piggyback contract with an existing



Asphalt patch on Lakeside Drive at the small bridge over an Ortega River inlet.

FDOT Bridge Maintenance Contract for District 2, FDOT."

In regard to the delay, Ford also stated the project required a significant amount of utility relocations. "One of the most time intensive was for AT&T to relocate their utilities from the project area, so that the bridge could be replaced," she said. AT&T began that relocation project in late June.

The City is in the process of preparing bid documents for the replacement of Lakeside Bridge. "It has just undergone review by Procurement and is expected to be advertised for construction bids as early as next week," said Ford in early July.

JTA cancels Riverside/Avondale Night Trolley

A year ago, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's board of directors agreed to give the Riverside Avondale Weekend Night Trolley a six-month extension, beginning Sept. 1, 2016. Eleven months later, the JTA has finally pulled the plug on the service which ran on the first Friday and Saturday of the month from

6 p.m. to 2 a.m. At one time, the service ran every weekend.

A 2014 pilot program was deemed promising, but two years later the trip average was 150-200 when 500 trips were needed each weekend to continue the service. Recently ridership had fallen to 35 passengers for Friday and Saturday nights combined. July was the route's final month. The route closure is expected to save JTA \$17,000 annually.

Riverside-based nonprofit to move downtown

The North Florida Land Trust, currently headquartered in a 101-year-old house on Gilmore Street, was given approval by the Downtown Investment Authority to make the historic Brewster Hospital on West Monroe Street its new headquarters.

The land conservation nonprofit has run out of space in its 1,224-square-foot converted house in Riverside and seeks to lease a portion of Jacksonville's first hospital for African Americans, built in 1885.

City Council must first approve a five-year lease with an option for a five-year renewal and is expected to do so in August.

NFLT has agreed to pay for about \$250,000 in improvements to the building, which would include the addition of an elevator and other handicap requirements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a kitchen and small eating area for employees, an off-street parking lot, plus fencing, lighting and other security features. In return, the rent would be waived until the principle and accrued interest from the improvements has been retired.

An area on the first floor will serve as a memorial to the history of Brewster Hospital and will be available to the Brewster and Community Nurses Association for meetings and events.

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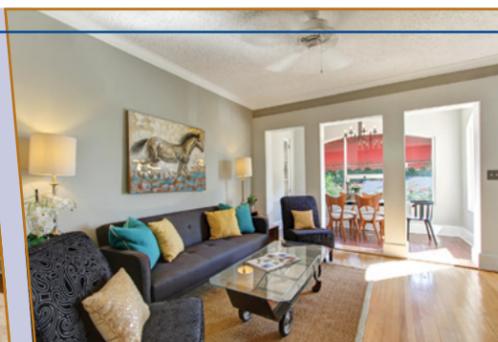
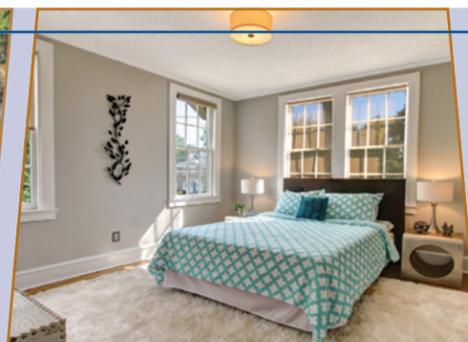
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Watson Realty Corp. offers opportunity for those in search of a career change

Team culture in a family atmosphere spells success

Starting a new job, especially a first job in a new career, can be a nail-biting, nerve-racking experience. When it comes to a real estate career, it doesn't have to be that way.

Thanks to Lorri Reynolds, Managing Broker at Watson Realty Corp. in Avondale/Ortega, new and seasoned real estate agents feel much differently about their choice of career and company.

From veterans, such as Terri Cornell with 14 years at the office to newer licensee Julie Dokken, who surpassed her first year goal under Reynolds' tutelage, the mentoring made all the difference.

"The atmosphere is always friendly, supportive and helpful in a way that fosters success and growth in business and family," said Cornell. "I chose the company because of excellent training but I have stayed because of the integrity, support, equipment and materials that we have at our fingertips in a spacious building that provides a setting that I am proud to bring my customers to!"

Debbie Sapp, also at the Watson Realty Corp. Avondale/Ortega office her entire career, echoes the sentiment. "I have loved the people there. They have always been willing to help, from my very first day in the office. We have an excellent admin staff, an open door with our Broker, with corporate, as well as other Watson offices," she said.



Debbie Sapp

"The atmosphere is always friendly, supportive and helpful in a way that fosters success and growth in business and life."

— Terri Cornell



Terri Cornell

For Dokken, Reynolds' leadership is indicative of the company.

"Watson has an office environment that is easy to learn and grow in. Everyone is motivated and upbeat and very willing to help," said Dokken. "My first year with Lorri as my broker, I



Julie Dokken



surpassed my goal for the year and have the confidence to aim even higher in 2017."

Not only do real estate agents find success working at Watson Realty Corp., the company itself is one of Florida's great success stories. In 1965, founder Bill Watson dreamed of building a people-oriented company, sensitive to the needs and concerns of its customers. So, he started a small office in Jacksonville and set about making that dream come true.

Today Watson Realty Corp. is one of the most respected names in the industry with nearly 1,400 sales associates, 450 employees and almost 50 sales offices throughout Central and Northeast Florida and South Georgia – and the company is still growing.

There are three big advantages to choosing real estate as a career, said Reynolds. "It has

low start-up costs, you decide how successful you will be, and it's both challenging and rewarding," she said. "Like many sales professions, 80 percent of the transactions are closed by 20 percent of the agents. This leaves plenty of room for someone willing to work hard and capture the business that is abundantly available."

Watson Realty Corp. is looking for people with character and the desire for excellence. In return, the firm provides continuous training and support in every facet of the real estate industry.

If you're considering a career move, now might be the right time to contact Watson Realty Corp. Give Lorri a call at (904) 612-8952 or stop by the Avondale/Ortega office at 4194 San Juan Ave.



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Katherine Schnauss Naugle named to Super Lawyers list

Ortega Forest resident and third generation Jacksonville native Katherine Schnauss Naugle was selected for the second year for the 2017 Super Lawyers list. No more than five percent of lawyers are selected in Florida.



Katherine Schnauss Naugle

Schnauss Naugle is an elder law attorney with the Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, P.L. in Riverside. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and guardianship. She is past president of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association and is a member of the Florida Association for Women Lawyer's 2014 class of Leaders in the Law.

Active in the community, she is chair of The Woman's Club of Jacksonville's Heritage Committee, which provided college scholarships, a reading program and a music program to West Riverside Elementary and Fletcher High School. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Junior League of Jacksonville and provides pro bono services to Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.

Schnauss Naugle is a graduate of The Bolles School, Emory University, Stetson University College of Law and Stetson University School of Business Administration, where she received an MBA.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

West Dentistry expands for enhanced customer service

West Dentistry, 2301 Park St., is undergoing a nine-month expansion project to make dental appointments even more comfortable and relaxing.

The 1,400-square-foot addition will include two new operatories and a new waiting room, as well as additional parking, according to Lisa Peery, scheduling coordinator for the practice founded by Dr. Jacqueline West in 2005.

The current space will have some modifications to make the addition flow better for patient care, said Peery. "This new space will give our patients more one-stop treatment. Procedures that we typically may have to send out for will potentially be able to be completed in-house because the new space will allow room for equipment," she said. "We're happy to have patients stop in just to follow the progress.

The addition will extend from the back of the building into the courtyard and where the garage was originally located; the garage was removed from the property at the end of June.

"At this current time, it is not affecting our office hours, however, there may be a few days here and there that will have to be modified due to the construction," said Peery. "Our patients may want to follow us on Facebook for updates and special days that the business will be closed. Dr. West will always still be available for her patients during this time."

Dr. Jackie West "lends a hand" with construction at West Dentistry.



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2017 Art & Antiques Show chairs announced

The 41st Art & Antiques Show, presented by The Women's Board to benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital, promises to be regal with a touch of whimsy with its theme "London Calling... Britain Through the Ages." Longtime volunteers Frances Hutto, Jan Kirby and Kelley Kunz will chair the 2017 show.

The event will highlight British life, from English gardens and high tea to beer pubs and Beefeaters. Set for Dec. 1-3, the show will include a Friday night gala, "A Royal Affair," with the always-popular Rivertown Band playing best-loved dance tunes accented with a little English Rock.

Those seeking design inspiration will find fabulous sources with the show's 40 internationally known fine art, antiques and jewelry dealers. Or attend one of five lectures on design, including a return visit by British-born India Hicks, a resident of the Bahamas with her own line of furniture,

jewelry, totes and more. The grand finale will be the Children's Fashion Show, evoking "The Mad Hatter Tea Party," with a nod to Paddington Bear.

Kirby is vice-president of KirbyCo Builders, Inc. and managing partner for Y-Brik Properties, LLC. The avid volunteer is involved with the NEFBA, the American Cancer Society, MDA and The Bolles School.

She has been a Women's Board member for 10 years noting "I am blessed with three healthy children, but two have needed the medical services of Wolfson Children's Hospital on multiple occasions, especially my youngest son, who required time in the NICU upon birth. My family is very appreciative that we have a children's hospital of this caliber in Jacksonville."

A longtime Women's Board member, Hutto is uniquely committed to the organization as her mother, Marian Barnett Poitevent, is a founding member.

"I am honored to be a part of this year's Art & Antiques Show," said Hutto. "The hospital holds a special place in my heart for what it has done for my children personally and what it continues to do for the children of our community."

Hutto lives in Ortega with her husband and three teenage sons. She also volunteers at her church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the Colonial Dames, CISV and the Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Ortega resident Kunz is a physical therapist and Pilates instructor with her own private practice/concierge service. She is active in her church, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, and her children's schools, and has chaired Delicious Destinations and served on the Red Rose Ball committee benefitting St. Vincent's Outreach Ministries. "London is calling you!" said Kunz about the upcoming show. "Come and enjoy everything royal to kick off your holiday



Kelley Kunz, Frances Hutto, Jan Kirby

season and support Wolfson Children's Hospital, the only hospital that is specifically designed and dedicated for the care of our kids!"

All events will be at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center. For tickets and more information, visit artandantiquesshow.com or call (904) 202-2886.

Angels for Allison names Festival of Flight chairs

Event chairs for Angels for Allison's 7th Annual Festival of Flight are Meredith Hines, director of customer experience at MedMal Direct Insurance Company; Dearing Thoburn and Heather Moseley, 2016 Art & Antiques Show co-chairs, and Jamie Van Pelt, a high school English teacher and Angels for Allison committee chair for kids' crafts and community art projects since 2013.

The event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Riverside Arts Market (RAM), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will begin with a service of remembrance, and will include a Kid Zone, sponsor exhibits, Angel merchandise and beer vendor.

"Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to benefit our mission of helping bereaved families in Northeast Florida," said Sissy Crabtree Horn, Angels for Allison executive director.



2017 Festival of Flight chairs: Jamie Van Pelt, Meredith Hines, Dearing Thoburn, Heather Moseley

Since its establishment in April 2010, the nonprofit organization has helped 275 families and distributed over \$320,000 to provide financial assistance for expenses associated with the death of a child. The

Festival of Flight is the organization's largest fundraiser and proceeds from the event make this community outreach possible. For additional information visit www.angelsforallison.org/festival-of-flight/

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Florida Blue supports Y's Safety Around Water program with grant

YMCA of Florida's First Coast was one of four statewide YMCA associations to receive a grant which will support the critical need of swim safety and drown prevention. Jacksonville-based Florida Blue donated \$310,000 to provide free swim lessons and mobile aquatics programs for more than 5,000 children and families through the Y's Safety Around Water program.

YMCA of Florida's First Coast will receive \$100,000. The announcement was made July 18 at the Winston Family YMCA in Riverside/Brooklyn.

"This doesn't happen without a great relationship with our partners," said Eric Mann, YMCA of Florida's First Coast President and CEO. "When we can wake up every day and know what we do is the



Eric Mann, Susan Towler, Darnell Smith

opportunity to save a life, that's what this is all about."

"All of Jacksonville's children should be able to safely enjoy a day at the beach, fishing on a pier, boating on the river or having a pool fight," said Darnell Smith, Florida Blue market president. "The grant provides funding for eight lessons per child, the hiring and training of instructors, transportation, and lesson coordination."

As a leader in water safety and swim instruction, the Y's Safety Around Water program is designed to teach children how to reach the water's surface if submerged, safely reach the edge of a pool, exit any body of water and respond to unexpected water situations.

"Drowning is a preventable tragedy and we have a responsibility to help parents and caregivers understand the importance of teaching themselves and their children how to survive in water," said Susan Towler, Florida Blue executive director of corporate social responsibility. "Swimming can be a lifelong source of fun and exercise."

At the presentation, 10-year YMCA volunteer and chair of the Brooks YMCA Advisory Board Josh Harrison spoke about his own life-altering drowning experience at age 3. He talked about the search party, the nearby doctor who pulled him out of Doctor's Lake and began CPR, the paramedics who intubated him in the ambulance, the Life Flight, and the doctors who saved him, referring to them collectively as his 'support system.'

"Programs like this, with the support of our partners, help the kids in the city who don't have a similar support system," said Harrison, who introduced the Walker family with a testimonial about the program.

"My children have taken part in the program for the last two years," said Angel Walker. "It's a fabulous program through an after-school program. I grew up not learning how to swim so it was important for my children to learn how to swim. When I asked Paris what she's learned, she said, 'Well, Momma, I learned how to not drown.'"



Michael McKinney Jr., a student in the after-school program at Sanctuary on 8th Street, hams it up at the YMCA's swimming safety class.

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Riverside firms take home architectural awards



Guest Juror Robin Elmslie Osler, Kevin Solomon and Richard Skinner of Richard Skinner & Associates, Rob Zinn, AIA Jacksonville Chapter President Chris Allen

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Jacksonville Chapter saluted members and projects with the annual Chapter Honor Awards April 30.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Jacksonville Chapter 2017 Design and Honor Awards winners include several from Riverside.

Haskell Architects won an Award of Excellence for a 67,000-square-foot student housing project at Embry-Riddle University, and an Award of Merit for the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) facility, a design/build project for the USCG in Houston, Texas.

Richard Skinner & Associates won an Award of Merit for a beach residence. Jeff Lane, of Lane Architecture PA, was recognized with the Mellen C. Greely Craftsmanship Award for his company offices at 904 Margaret St.

Additionally, Dorina Bakiri was presented with the Chapter’s Community Service Award for her design of the Riverside Avondale Community Garden.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer also received the Chapter’s Community Service Award for her service as Council President 2016-2017.

Among several other award winners, the as-yet unbuilt Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center scored an Award of Merit for POND, Michael Baker International.



AIA Jacksonville Chapter President Chris Allen, Jeff Lane, Erik Kasper



Marie Vogler, Haskell architect on Embry-Riddle student housing project



Jonathan Essa, Haskell architect on Houston Coast Guard facility project



Dorina Bakiri AIA Jacksonville Chapter Director Brandon Pouch

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Local artist opens “mini department store”

Artist Christianna White Fletcher, also art director at The Foundation Academy, opened Studio Apothecary May 27 after spending a year renovating the former Butler’s Cleaners at 1268 McDuff Ave. S. The grand opening was postponed when Fletcher gave birth to daughter Violet Wrenn in early May.

Calling her art gallery/studio a “miniature department store that honors the mind, body and spirit,” Fletcher offers art and craft from local and regional artists, including original prints, handcrafted jewelry, toys, pottery, candles, soaps, and more. Customers may also relax in the Zen Garden with a cup of tea and a pastry.

“I believe in my business and believe in products that are made in the U.S.A. and sourced as local as possible,” said Fletcher. “Seventy percent of the proceeds from the sale of each item go directly back to the person who made the product, so we are really supporting a localized economy.”



Christianna White Fletcher with her daughter, Violet Wrenn

Fletcher also plans to hold art openings, art classes, yoga and community events. Shop hours are Monday-Friday, 3-7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Vincent’s names VanOsdol new Chief Executive Officer

Tom VanOsdol, of Avondale, has been named president and chief executive officer of St. Vincent’s HealthCare after serving as interim CEO since January 2017. St. Vincent’s is part of Ascension, the nation’s largest non-profit health system. In addition to CEO, VanOsdol will also serve as Senior Vice President, Ascension Healthcare, and Jacksonville Ministry Market Executive.

VanOsdol joined St. Vincent’s in 2015 as Chief Operating Officer of Clinically Integrated Systems of Care. He previously served as the President of another Ascension health system in Indiana. He began his Ascension career in 1990 as a speech-language pathologist at the Ascension hospital in Anderson, Indiana. He later became Vice President of Operations at Anderson and in 2008 became Regional President.

“Tom has done an incredible job as interim CEO. The Board of Directors is confident he’s the right leader to represent St. Vincent’s and grow our footprint in the region,” said Paul Chappano, M.D., and Chairman of the St. Vincent’s HealthCare board.

VanOsdol is a past participant in the Ascension Executive Ministry Leadership formation program and is a graduate of the Ascension Leadership Academy. He earned a Master of Science degree in Business Management from Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana, and a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana.



Tom VanOsdol

“The Board of Directors is confident he’s the right leader to represent St. Vincent’s and grow our footprint in the region.”

— Paul Chappano, M.D., and Chairman of the St. Vincent’s HealthCare board

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty holds 18th Annual Backpack Challenge

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty’s 18th Annual Backpack Challenge ended July 31, but the rewards are only just beginning.

“Every child deserves to begin the school year with a new backpack and the supplies needed for school,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. “A new backpack filled with school supplies is a wonderful gift, providing every student with the confidence needed to begin a successful school year.”

Backpacks and supplies for students in kindergarten through grade 12 were collected at nine Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices office locations. Last year, partnering with community and local charities, the company donated more than 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for local children. The company set a goal this year to exceed last year’s contribution.



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Groundwork Jacksonville recognized for waterways cleanup

In one of her last official acts as Jacksonville City Council President, Lori Boyer recognized Groundwork Jacksonville as a 2017 Melody Starr Anne Bishop Award honoree at the Council's June 29 installation meeting.

The award was presented in recognition of Groundwork's efforts to clean up Jacksonville's waterways and its active involvement in the urban core.



Groundwork Jacksonville Board Chair James Richardson looks on as City Council President Lori Boyer presents the Melody Starr Anne Bishop Award to Acting Executive Director Alyssa Bourgoyne.

Groundwork Jacksonville is the city's primary nonprofit organization specifically created to clean and redevelop the Emerald Necklace and convert contaminated land into parks, playgrounds, trails, and other public greenspace.

"On behalf of Groundwork's Board and volunteers, we are so appreciative of this recognition. We also are proud to be in such great company with the other honorees, many of which we partner with on projects throughout the year," said Acting Executive Director Alyssa Bourgoyne, who was on hand to receive the award along with Board Chair James Richardson and Board members Darcel Harris and Kristina Nelson.

Named in honor of Melody Starr Anne Bishop, the award is given annually by the out-going Council President to recognize civic involvement and contributions to improving the City's quality of life. Other 2017 honorees were Clean Waterway Society, Rising Tides, Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol and the Island Keepers.

"I am so very proud to represent Groundwork Jacksonville and accept this award along with Alyssa Bourgoyne and



Board Members Darcel Harris and Kristina Nelson with Board Chair James Richardson and Acting Executive Director Alyssa Bourgoyne

our board members," said Richardson. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our volunteers and the leadership and determination that Alyssa brings to our organization."

Melody Starr Anne Bishop, who died in March 2009 at age 21 from ALS (Lou

Gehrig's disease), was well known for her devotion to her community, her church, and to numerous causes. In 2009, out-going Council President Ronnie Fussell established the Melody Starr Anne Bishop Award for community service by a citizen or organization.

Stalwart library supporters retire from FOWL board

The Friends of Willowbranch Library (FOWL) hosted a luncheon at Maple Street Biscuit Company in Murray Hill for two retiring board members, Elaine Starling and Elaine Burnett.

"It has been an honor to work with these two amazing ladies over the years in support of our great library branch and Jacksonville's library system," said Roxanne Henkle, FOWL president.

Burnett, a Riverside resident, has been a member of FOWL since its inception 25 years ago. "I found it easy to support the viability of Willowbranch library for all these years because all my life, books have supported me!" she said.

"The Friends of Willowbranch Board is an asset to our neighborhood helping to ensure needs and programs at Willowbranch



Elaine Burnett, Elaine Starling, Roxanne Henkle

remain viable," said Starling, also a 25-year-member and an Avondale resident. "I considered the Board of the Friends of Willowbranch Library a cause worthy of my time and commitment. As time permits, I have agreed to help the board with special projects."

Attending the event were Scott Adams, Willowbranch Library branch manager, Marshelle Berry, regional library manager, and board members Helen and Bill Lyons, Ruth Ann Hepler and Puddin' Varney.

Kristoff joins Hart Felt Ministries board

Hart Felt Ministries welcomed Kim Kristoff as the newest member of its board of directors. Kristoff is an Indianapolis native who now calls Riverside home. A Notre Dame graduate, she has a background in sales and operations and is currently working on a business transformation project within the IT Department at Acosta Sales and Marketing.

"After moving to Jacksonville in June 2016, I was eager to get involved in this tight knit community," Kristoff said. "I'm so thankful my journey led me to Hart Felt Ministries. Hart Felt has a phenomenal impact on the lives of the elderly, which is often a forgotten generation." Kristoff will serve on the fundraising committee.

Hart Felt Ministries utilizes a network of community volunteers to demonstrate



Kim Kristoff

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We believe the Walk-Off Charities of Jax has hit a home run with the idea of making it possible for every kid in Jacksonville to have the opportunity to play baseball. It's such an expensive sport with the need for gloves, cleats, bats, and uniforms. Many young people in our area simply can't afford to play.



was happy to step up to the plate and participate. There was a kick-off event at the baseball grounds last month that included a celebrity home run derby.



Radio talk show host and voice of the Jaguars Frank Frangie started a charity to change all that. The Pajcic Firm



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Rotary Club of West Jacksonville recounts five decades of local impact

The Rotary Club of West Jacksonville was founded June 16, 1967 with 24 charter members. At its 50th anniversary celebration June 16 at the Florida Yacht Club, the membership of 130-plus honored Robert T. Shircliff and William W. Gay, two of the charter members.

Also honored were Edward Lombard, the new president, for outstanding community service; Andrew Williams for outstanding service by a non-officer/director, and Robert Hyde, for outstanding service by an officer/director. In honor of the 50th anniversary, Hyde, a recent club president, compiled a coffee-table book, "50 Years of Service Above Self?"

Over the past 50 years, West Jax Rotary provided scholarships for local students in need, raised funds for disaster assistance, made charitable grants to local and international nonprofits, supported and participated in the Rotary youth exchange program, was a major contributor to Rotary International's polio eradication initiative and to a water safety/drowning prevention initiative, and has provided dictionaries each year to local third grade students.



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Kezia Rolle '88 with Angela Bell-Deems '88



Heidi Marshall '96 with Angela Roberts '95, Carol Grimes and former principal Jane Condon and Herbert Caswell '96



Former principal Jackie Cornelius with Dr. Charles Westmoreland '89 and his wife, Nicky Westmoreland



Emily Greene Clark '95 with Jennifer Wagoner Walker '95 and Calder Corey '97

Alumni celebrate 30 years of magnet school for the arts

Graduates of the San Marco-based magnet school for performing, visual and language arts gathered July 22 at WJCT Studios to celebrate 30 years of creative impact. The first 10 graduating classes, 1987-1997, were the evening's celebrities but all alumni were welcome.

Many toured the campus earlier in the day before dressing up or going comfortably casual for the event catered by D'Vine Cuisine.

The school's heritage began in 1922 as South Jacksonville School No. 107, grades 1-9 for African American students, and was

renamed in 1945 after Douglas Anderson, a black community leader who spearheaded the building of the school. Not long after becoming a high school in 1955, desegregation closed it in 1968. After serving as a campus for Florida State Junior College for two years, then a seventh grade center, the school reopened in 1985 as the magnet it is today.

Notable alumni include Limp Bizkit musicians Wes Borland, Fred Durst and John Otto; Yellowcard musicians Benjamin Harper, Ryan Key, Sean Mackin and Longineu W. Parson III.



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Local, state, national politicians turn out for annual Miracle on Ashley Street

As long as Ju'Coby Pittman has been president and chief executive officer of the Clara White Mission, there's been a "miracle" on Ashley Street. Title sponsors for the 23rd Annual Miracle on Ashley Street held June 2 were CITI and Delores Barr Weaver.

The annual celebrity server luncheon to benefit the 113-year-old Clara White Mission raised over \$70,000 to help at-risk individuals gain new perspectives on life through job training, daily meals and more. Enterprise Holdings Foundation presented the mission with a check for \$20,000.

Among the nearly 200 celebrity servers were Senator Audrey Gibson, Congressman John Rutherford, Councilmen Aaron Bowman, Dennis Garrett, Reggie Gaffney, Samuel Newby, Matt Schellenberg, and Reggie Brown, Florida Representatives Tracy Davis and Kim Daniels, Bishop Rudolph McKissick Sr., Dr. Cheryl Brown, City of Jacksonville council secretary/director, Dr. Charles Moreland, City of Jacksonville director of community affairs, and "Doc Tony" Crothers.



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Donna Blackwell, Ari and John Jolly, Kristi Aiello, host committee and sponsor

Evening of Taste brings in more than \$75,000 for Children's Home Society

The Children's Home Society of Florida held its annual An Evening of Taste with Chef Matthew Medure on April 23, raising more than \$75,000 to benefit children and families in Northeast Florida.

Chef Matthew Medure presented an intimate atmosphere where guests sipped, savored and socialized. As guests mingled, the Gary Starling Trio entertained the outdoor patio with live music. Guests bid on exciting auction packages and get-a-ways while learning more about how they can help build a stronger First Coast community.

The event was hosted by Dr. James and Kristi Aiello, Brian and Merry Anne Crooke, Trent and Kristen Gavazzi, The Honorable Melissa Nelson and Jason Nelson, Craig Smith, Dr. Shreena Patel, Tarik Minor, and Melanie Lawson-Minor, who also served as emcee.

Sponsors included CSX Transportation, Suzanne G. Crittenden, Eisman & Russo, Florida Blue, Gary McCalla, BBVA Compass, Brian and Merry Anne Crooke, LeAnna Cumber & Associates, M. Richard and Melissa Lewis, and Clarence and Joya Wilkerson.

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Holiday card art exhibit kicks off annual fundraising for homeless shelter

Original paintings created by six homeless children living at the Sulzbacher Center, and professionally framed by Reddi-Arts, were on display for the 20th Annual Give a Good Night Children's Holiday Art Exhibition. The event was held at the Ritz Theatre and Museum, where six local judges chose a winner for the Center's annual holiday greeting card.

The paintings were created during an art workshop, in partnership with Cathedral Arts project, by homeless children living at the Center. Each painting expresses the youth artist's "dream home for the holidays."

The winner, Lani'a, age 9, is from Chicago and loves science. Lani'a's favorite food is melons and she wants to be a baker. "Home" to Lania is a "comfortable place that makes you feel warm and glad to be there."

"The creativity of the children living at our Center is always remarkable. Each child's 'Dream Home' painting is imaginative and touching. We are very proud of all who participated," said Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center President and CEO.

Give a Good Night is a crucial component of the Sulzbacher Center's seasonal fundraising. Proceeds from Give a Good Night holiday card purchases help support the Center's comprehensive services and programs for homeless men, women and families with children.



Lani'a, 9, was the winner of the Sulzbacher Give a Good Night holiday card art contest.



Brooks Dame, Ann Sulzbacher, Eileen Briggs, Campaign Chair Chris Stone, Linda Hemphill and Sulzbacher President/CEO Cindy Funkhouser

Celebrity judges were Frank Denton, Editor-at-Large, Florida-Times Union; Susan Gentry-Dearing, W.C. Gentry & Susan R. Gentry Family Foundation; Holly Keris, COO and Curator, Cummer Museum of

Art & Gardens; Dawn Lockhart, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Mayor; Keitha Nelson, Anchor/Reporter, First Coast News; and Sheriff Mike Williams, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Riverkeeper teams up with brewery in clean water campaign

For the sixth year, a campaign kickoff and clean water initiative to benefit the St. Johns River watershed was a team effort. SweetWater Brewing Company representatives and the Rising Tides, a young professionals group representing the interests of the St. Johns Riverkeeper, gathered on the rooftop bar at Hoptinger in Riverside to raise funds and raise a few pints.

As part of the Save the St. Johns River campaign, proceeds from donations associated with SweetWater brews will help fund the work of the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

According to Brendan Bledsoe, spokesperson for SweetWater Brewing Company, the clean water program started in Atlanta where an initiative called "Save the Hooch" was set up to help clean up and preserve water quality for the Chattahoochee watershed. The Chattahoochee provides drinking for millions, supplying metro Atlanta and the SweetWater Brewing Company's operations. "If you don't have clean water, you can't have clean beer," said Bledsoe, as he elaborated on the Save the Water program and shared the company mantra, "Where there's water, there's SweetWater."

The program has grown since kicking off in Atlanta 10 years ago and now helps to support other water-related programs for organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, the Tarpon Trust, and Coastal Conservation Association, to name a few. The campaign



Robert Field with SweetWater Brewing Company's Brendan Bledsoe and St. Johns Riverkeeper Outreach Director Shannon Blankinship



Kathy and Bill Nipper joined the group in support of the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

kickoff event took place June 1 and will run through Labor Day in Jacksonville.

Visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/blog/save-our-water/ to learn more details on how your business can grow the campaign and awareness efforts.



Jamey Williamson with Nicole Spradley, Jonathan Brown, Alicia Smith and Courtney Williams



Courtney Wood with St. Johns Riverkeeper Education Director, Emily Floore, Augustin Ayala and Megan Riggs.



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Murray Hill resident, artist makes her mark on neighborhood

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Murals and mosaics seem to be taking over Murray Hill. Between efforts by the Murray Hill Preservation Association and RouxArt, 15 buildings in the 100-year-old community are host to one type of art or the other, inside or outdoors.

About the time MHPA board member Jason Tetlak threw out the first call-for-artist for Mural No. 1 in April 2016, Kate and Kenny Rouh of RouxArt began an informal goal to tile Murray Hill. The Rouhs recently completed their sixth Murray Hill mosaic, a four-foot-high memorial pillar in the atrium at Murray Hill Baptist Church.



Memorial pillar at Murray Hill Baptist Church, created by RouxArt

Ironically, Mural No. 9, which sports both paint and bling, by Murray Hill resident and artist Brenda Kato, was supposed to be Mural No. 1 on a different building, but negotiations with the building's owner faltered.

Now, thanks to a collaboration by Kato and Springfield glass artist Mary Allegretti, the 25-foot-tall by 18-foot-wide mural, titled "Bloom Where You Are Planted," was unveiled July 8, sparkling in the afternoon sun.

Kato said sunflowers are a reminder to think positively and give back to the community.

"My sunflower paintings have become very popular because they are a lot of fun. They make people smile and have energy vortex spirals in the middle. I have always loved the huge, dramatic flower," she said.

Allegretti, whose son, Tony, is executive director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, added glass bling to the spiral vortex inside several of the sunflower faces.

Kato said Allegretti used to sell her glass work in the Bee Gallery Kato co-owned with a few other female artists. "We had a gallery in the Landing for two years as part of the Off The Grid downtown revitalization project," said Kato.

Located on the back-alley wall of the J&W Discounts building behind the Edgewood Diner, the 450-square-foot mural was rendered with 12 gallons of paint, not including spray paint, in 10 colors.

Working full-time as a senior digital marketing specialist for Syniverse, it took Kato over two months of evenings and weekends to complete the project with the help of family and friends who did everything from sweeping the alley and providing refreshments to painting and assisting with the rental lift expenses.

"I told my friends that if they helped me paint that I would put their name on a plaque next to the mural so they could share in the credit and go down in history," said Kato. "One of the coolest things is that it has brought out some of my friends I have not seen in 20 or more years."



Brenda Kato puts the finishing touches on a 25-foot-tall mural a week before its July 8 unveiling.

The artist grew up in Avondale, attended Fishweir Elementary, Lake Shore Jr. High, Robert E Lee High School and the Westside Skills Center. "I entered every art contest I could in high school, and won every one," she said. "My portfolio got me a scholarship to art college."

Kato holds a Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida, and has worked in a variety of "artistic" positions, including animator, website designer, art director, fine artist and book illustrator.

After living in Astoria, Queens, New York, "near some of the best street art in the world," Kato moved back to Murray Hill in 2015, to a home she had purchased three years prior.

When Tetlak put out the call-to-artists last year, Kato said she jumped at the chance to contribute to her hometown neighborhood's public art project but, in hindsight, said she would never do another outdoor mural in hot weather. "I would prefer February," she laughed.

Kato once taught art at Raines High School, and was thrilled when one of her former students came up from Orlando to help. A childhood friend and a high school buddy also brought family to help with the painting.

"I hope that people will enjoy this mural for a long time," said Kato. "The best is seeing people smile and want to take a photo or selfie."

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Parishioners preserve 'saintly' windows at local Catholic church

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The four Gospel writers – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – together with Saints Peter, Paul, Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, and Gregory are depicted beautifully in a series of stained glass windows – donated in 1941 by the Lester W. Foley family – at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Riverside.

After three-quarters of a century, the saints needed a little preserving.

Installed 76 years ago by the Rambusch Firm of New York, the same company who designed and installed the Ground Zero Memorial, the 10 windows were designed by Hugo Ohlms, a New York muralist.

Earlier this year, administrators at the parish appealed to the congregation to raise \$90,000 for the preservation project. Thanks to the members' generosity, the goal was exceeded and Lynchburg Stained Glass Windows was contracted for the job, which was completed in two weeks in May. Eight of the windows are 5 feet 4 inches wide by 15 feet high; the two transept windows are 7 feet by 15 feet.

"The windows were in bad need of cleaning inside and out, and were also leaking in some places. Some of the lead and solder needed some attention," said Tony Zeaiter, business manager. "The project was designed to protect from the weather elements and get many more years out of the stained glass windows."

Zeaiter said the project was more of a conservation effort rather than a restoration, to ensure they get many more years out of the windows. Clear, double-paned window coverings were installed on the outside of each window for further protection.

"The project was designed to protect from the weather elements and get many more years out of the stained glass windows."

— Tony Zeaiter, business manager

The cost of the project was not that much less than the cost to build the entire church – \$100,000, equivalent to \$1.3 million today – in 1940.

The 900-seat sanctuary, built in the Mediterranean Revival style with sun-bleached yellow bricks and Ludowici roof tiles, did not originally contain the Stations of the Cross, the beautiful paintings or the stained glass windows, which were added a year later. The architect was Gerald Barry of Chicago, the supervisory architect was John Reynolds of Jacksonville, and the contractor was A. L. Clayton of Jacksonville.

St. Paul's celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2013 and installed Rev. George Vaniyapurackal as their new pastor in February. Father George is the eighth pastor in the congregation's 94-year history.

The church was also granted approval June 28 by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission for installation of a handicap-accessible ramp, replacing a concrete driveway between two buildings on the 3.5-acre campus, and constructing a knee wall to hide mechanical equipment.



Tony Zeaiter points out some of the detail cleaning done on one of the 10 stained glass windows at St. Paul's Catholic Church.



The four stained glass windows at St. Paul's Catholic Church which depict the Gospel writers.

Riverside church certified as Earth Care congregation

Riverside Presbyterian Church was re-certified as an "Earth Care Congregation" by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Environmental Ministries again this year. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden of God's creation.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, Riverside Presbyterian Church began to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of its church life, including its worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Community tree plantings, expanded recycling, new energy-saving lighting and environmental education have all been achieved just this year.

"It is exciting that Riverside is dedicated to intentional care of, and action for, God's



On Earth Day, Riverside Presbyterian Church members were encouraged to walk, bike or carpool to church. Kathy Stark, Lisa Williams, Cameron and Matthew Garman and Pat Gurley participated in the Earth Day program.

earth. The congregation's activities and commitment will inspire others to answer God's call to care for the earth," said Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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Pineapple Prince of Ortega

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Sunny, warm, humid. No, it's not a weather forecast for a typical North Florida summer. Instead, it's the atmospheric recipe for growing pineapples.

While people and pets are wilting in the Jacksonville heat and humidity this summer, pineapples are thriving, and one Ortega man has a bumper crop.

It all began 17 years ago when John Allen's neighbor's daughter took a trip to Hawaii and returned with a pineapple for her parents and one for Allen and his wife, Donna.

A friendly competition ensued. Best friends as well as neighbors, Allen and Jon Jennings could be observed counting and comparing the number of oranges and grapefruit on their numerous fruit trees until they were too plentiful to count.

Then they started comparing pineapple plants. However, with over 30 plants and an average of 10 or more bearing fruit at any given time each year, it is evident Allen is the Pineapple Prince of Ortega.

"Growing pineapples isn't exactly rocket science," he said. "Remember how you used to put toothpicks in a potato and suspend it in some water to root out and grow a potato vine? It's that easy and I don't even put mine in water half the time. I threw some on the ground recently and they rooted out."

Allen said he lost about 10 plants a few years back during a really hard freeze. "They do not like really cold weather. Otherwise, this is a lazy man's fruit – hassle-free!" he said.

Allen's largest plant, the granddaddy of his original Hawaiian starter pineapple, is over three feet in diameter. He grows the pineapples in pots or tubs, sometimes in clusters so he can move them in case of freezing weather. Covering them with just a sheet will not do, as Allen knows from experience. A tarp and heater, even a light bulb, is necessary to protect them.

"It takes around two years to get fruit, so it has taken me about 17 years to get these many plants," said Allen.

What happens when eight or 10 ripen at once? "Eat them!" he laughed. "The most gratifying thing is the taste. They are sweeter and better than any other ones. Sometimes if there is a cold winter they might not be as sweet but most of the time they are the sweetest fruit ever."

Allen explained that pineapples need a lot of sun, not much water – especially since it's been raining so much, and some fertilizer. Allen recommends fish emulsion.

When asked how often he fertilizes, he laughed, "When I remember. Pineapples are bromeliads and get a lot of water and nutrition from their leaves. When they

bloom they have beautiful, brilliant purplish flowers. If you put a banana peel or half of an apple – anything that gives out ethanol gas – in the crown, that gives it a boost."

Allen said he buys cheap potting soil and mixes it with yard dirt or just uses plain old yard dirt. "You don't need to pay it a whole lot of attention and in a couple of years you'll have a pineapple," he said. "Usually they produce suckers and they can be planted, too."

The pineapple farmer doesn't spray with insecticide, over water, buy expensive fertilizer or potting soil. Instead, Allen takes a policy of benign neglect, fertilizing when he remembers, watering occasionally and protecting during a cold spell.

"Each year you plant from your previous year and build up your acreage," he said. "I have never had a plant die other than during that one hard freeze a few years ago. Have them get as much sun as possible."

The Allens' home in Old Ortega is surrounded by large oak trees, which produce a sort of terrarium effect and helps protect his citrus and his pineapples from most cold snaps. One of the peskiest problems? Raccoons, he said.

How to grow a pineapple plant in six easy steps

1. Cut the top off the pineapple plant. Strip off the bottom few leaves.
2. Place in soil and water it or soak it for a week or so in a glass of water until you see roots.
3. Plant it in a pot or in the ground in a sunny spot.
4. Fertilize with fish emulsion every few months. Trim off any dead leaves.
5. Protect from severe cold and frost.
6. The fruit will begin in the crown of the plant and turn yellow as it ripens. Cut, eat, plant the top and start all over again! It's that simple and any pineapple should work.

"When the fruit starts to ripen – and I like to leave them on as long as possible so they are nice and yellow – they give off a sweet smell that the raccoons love! I had about 10 plants down one walkway but had to move them off the raccoon path. They were tearing them up."



John Allen of Ortega with some of his many pineapple plants.

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Geocaching a high-tech game of hide-and-seek in Historic Districts

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Jacklyn Cogburn of 5 Points remembers her first “find” in the parking lot of the Golden Corral on Normandy Boulevard. She and her fiancé Beau had just started dating. He’s a serious geocacher with over 500 finds.

“We went to breakfast and he said there’s one in the parking lot, and we went out and found it,” Cogburn said. “I was instantly hooked.”

Evan Brown, a St. Nicholas resident, can’t remember his first find. He’s not even sure how old he was when his dad turned on the GPS in the car and took him on his first hunt. He thinks he was about 10, maybe younger. He’s 22 now and a student at Jacksonville University, where he’s majoring in music and minoring in geographical information systems (think digital mapping), a useful skill in geocaching.

What are geocaches? You pass them all the time. The water-tight containers or caches are secreted in parks, monuments, businesses, churches and in the middle of nowhere. They contain a logbook and trinkets, some of them trackable. The coordinates of their locations are posted on geocaching.com.

Brown calls geocaching “a geeky treasure hunt.”

Since it started in 2000, geocaching has grown in scope and complexity with about 3 million geocaches around the world. About 200 of the 800 in the Jacksonville area are in San Marco and Riverside/Avondale, Brown said.

Players, using smartphones or GPS devices, track the location. When they find



Evan Brown, geocache player

the cache, they write their name in the logbook and enter it into their device.

What’s the point? The thrill of the hunt, a chance to explore nature and new places and, of course, bragging rights.

Brown said he has logged about 200 geocaches, most of them in Jacksonville, but some he found during family trips to Indiana, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia. Cogburn has found about 50 in the year and a half she’s been on the hunt.

A geocache can be as small as a thimble or as large as a five-gallon bucket, anything at all really, as long as it is water tight. Ammo cans are a popular choice, as are plastic containers like Tupperware.

Some caches contain trackable trinkets. The rule is: Take one, leave one. Players exchange a trinket in a cache for one of their own with the understanding they will leave the trinket they’ve taken in another cache.

With the tracking number, the owner of the cache can follow the travels of the trinket. They can end up across town, or across the

country. Sometimes the owner of the cache has a destination in mind for a trinket. For instance, someone left a Snoopy toy in a cache in Texas and asked that it be moved along the geocaching network until it reached the Snoopy statue in St. Paul, Minn.

The caches are given a difficulty rating, from zero to five stars, mostly determined by the terrain. Most of the caches in the San Marco and Riverside areas are easily accessible in parks and around buildings. Brown’s friend hid a cache under one of the lions on the fountain in San Marco Square, and it took him a year to find it.

The five-star caches are more challenging. They can involve hiking or paddling, sometimes only at night, or require solving a series of puzzles to get the clues to find the cache.

“My favorite was one where you had to build something out of Legos and match it to the hint,” Brown said. “I’m a 10-year-old around Legos. That was such fun.”

Geocaching is designed to be an inexpensive family activity that gets people out in the fresh air, exploring nature and historic sites. It also provides fun lessons in problem solving and map reading. Both Boy and Girl Scouts have geocaching badges.

Jacklyn and Beau take his 9-year-old son geocaching. “Whenever we don’t have anything to do, we’ll go hunting for geocaches. It’s the most exciting thing for him. We’ll let him find it and sign the log. He’s gotten a cool card game, a Ninja turtle, bouncy balls. He loves it.”

Geocaching also is popular because it’s free, though a \$30 premium membership gives people access to group events and first alerts for new caches.

Group events often link geocaching to another activity such as community cleanups

or tree planting. JaxParks is having its sixth annual Geocaching Challenge from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 2 at Blue Cypress Park Community Center. The first 100 geocachers to complete the challenge get a trackable Geocoin.

But as with anything in life, there are rules.

Geocachers agree to keep the specifics of where caches are hidden a secret. Hints are okay, but no spoilers. And signing the log is important because caches that don’t get found get archived or marked missing. Oh, and that’s another rule – bring a pen.

Caches are sometimes raided for their trinkets or missing entirely. No one is sure whether the caches are stolen or just thrown away by someone who didn’t know what it was. “It’s heart breaking, you get to the hide and there’s nothing,” Cogburn said.

There are rules about hiding caches, too. Careful consideration is given to locations. Caches shouldn’t be too close together and property owners must be agreeable. A proposed cache is submitted to the website for approval and then posted. Premium members get first crack at the find.

Geocaching also involves housekeeping. Players replace logbooks that are filled or damaged and keep the area about the cache clean and looking undisturbed.

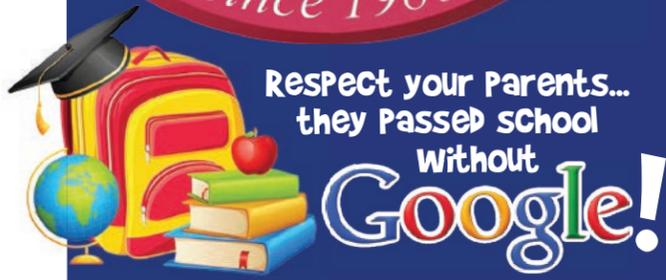
“I love the aesthetics of geocaching,” Brown said. “You can connect with nature and beauty. You can connect with other people. It’s absolutely my favorite apart of childhood.”

Brown shares one last memory.

“My parents and I were on our way back from Fort Clinch when I yelled, ‘stop the car!’ We were really close to a geocache and so my parents waited on the road while I went into the woods and found it.”



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Former youth orchestra leader starts new program

A new music education program for youth was recently established by Maestro Scott Gregg, former music director of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. The ensemble program, First Coast Youth Orchestras, will cater to young musicians age 7 to 21.

Gregg will conduct the program as a division of the First Coast Community Music School, a nonprofit educational institution founded in 2004 by Gregg and local philanthropist James Winston, according to Administrative Director Tami Chacon, and Camille Clement Gregg, director of marketing and development.

The First Coast Youth Orchestras will enroll up to 300 students, playing in five levels of ensembles covering a diverse range of abilities, starting with the youngest string players in Debut Strings and progressing through Intermezzo Strings and Aria Strings. More experienced players will join the two full orchestra programs. The Youth Philharmonic will be for advancing Middle

and High School instrumentalists and the Youth Symphony for advanced High School, College, and Pre-Conservatory students. A chamber music program will be offered for musicians in its top two orchestras.

Gregg will conduct both the Youth Symphony and the Youth Philharmonic and serve as Artistic Director of the FCYO.

“The enthusiasm this project has generated in student musicians all over the First Coast, along with the 60-plus years of combined experience our conducting staff has had nurturing a culture of excellence in young musicians, and the potential for innovative programming between the School and the Youth Orchestras is going to be a powerful combination. The most successful youth orchestra programs across the country are independent of any parent symphony and I’m looking forward to testing how far we can grow,” said Gregg.

Serving alongside Gregg will be Maestra Judith Steinmeyer, another veteran of area



Maestro Scott Gregg



Maestra Judith Steinmeyer

youth ensemble programs as well as an accomplished teacher. Steinmeyer will take charge of the Aria Strings.

“I was honored when asked to join the FCYO team. I could not pass up the opportunity to work with advancing string players in this newly formed organization,” said Steinmeyer.

FCYO’s season will run from September through May with regular rehearsals on the weekends. The season will consist of four concerts, with the Inaugural Concert being presented on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at the University of North Florida’s Lazzara Concert Hall.

Braille training offered at The Temple

For almost 60 years, Temple Sisterhood at Congregation Ahavath Chesed has sponsored a program that converts printed books into braille versions used by the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and other institutions serving the visually impaired.

The next training class of braille volunteers is forming now. Beginning on Thursday, September 7, volunteers will go through a free nine-month program in which they learn either to transcribe printed text into braille or to convert illustrations into raised images that can be interpreted

through touch. Interested adults are invited to come to an orientation meeting for the program at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 31 at Congregation Ahavath Chesed/The Temple, 8727 San Jose Boulevard.

The program is open to men and women of any faith who can attend classes every Thursday morning through June 2018. While no computer is needed for converting graphics, braille transcribers must have their own Windows computer.

“Using a special program on their home computer, they press different combinations

of six keys on their keyboard to create braille versions of each letter of the book they’re transcribing. When they’re done, another computer uses the digital file they’ve created to punch out the text in braille’s raised-dot format,” said Lynnette Taylor, long-time volunteer in the group. “Learning to braille is a unique challenge, like learning a foreign language, but all that’s really needed is basic computer skills and a dedication to serving people who need our help.”

Also, no computer is needed to create tactile versions of illustrations, said veteran volunteer Susie Coleman. “The pictures that go with the books are converted into

braille using different forms of crafts materials,” she said.

For more information, contact Lynnette Taylor (904-466-2129 or dandltaylor@att.net), Nancy Cohen (248-250-2406 or r4cohen@gmail.com), or Candace Richardson (904-607-7619 or candacerichardson@att.net).

“All that’s really needed is basic computer skills and a dedication to serving people who need our help.”

— Lynnette Taylor, volunteer

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Visually impaired since birth, Murray Hill resident plays piano from the heart

Jan Atchley Bevan releases second CD

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

In 1947, Jan Atchley Bevan was the smallest baby (at 1 lb. 8 oz.) ever born at St. Luke's Hospital. Although she is visually impaired as a result of her premature birth, Bevan has never allowed her blindness to cloud her vision.

Bevan's family moved to Murray Hill when she was five years old, and for the past 42 years she's lived in the house next door to the one she grew up in.

Although unable to read music due to her vision impairment, Bevan has played the piano and composed music since she was 13. "My music teacher suggested to my mother that I could play 'honky tonk' piano when I grew up," said Bevan. "My mother was not amused."



Jan Atchley Bevan, age 16

After graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in 1965, Bevan earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, and married her college sweetheart, Albert "Corky" Bevan, a teacher at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School.

Until their son, Patrick, was born in 1975, Bevan worked as a psychiatric social worker

at Northeast Florida State Hospital. She and her husband were both pursuing their master's degrees through an extension program at Loyola University at the time of Corky's death at age 44 after falling from a ladder on June 22, 1989 while painting their 1936 Murray Hill home.

Left with a teenage son to raise on her own, Bevan went on to earn her Master's in pastoral studies and theology from Loyola University-New Orleans, and was the first social services director of Emergency Pregnancy Services at St. Vincent's Healthcare.

As Author-in-Residence at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens for eight years, Bevan was a museum educator who worked with school children, acting as a role model to encourage them to follow their dreams regardless of obstacles.

She is also an accomplished poet, and has published three children's books, including one named for her late husband, "Corky, the Bathtub Who Couldn't Swallow."

Always involved in the arts, either directly or peripherally while involved with other careers, Bevan created her first CD, Heartstrings, in 2008, a montage of her poetry recited by British Canadian Penny Mitton, to classical chamber music performed by Sierra Ensemble of Berkeley, California.

Now 70, Bevan recently retired from her position as a medical/mental health case manager at the I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless to pursue her career in art full-time.

While at Sulzbacher, Bevan worked closely with the late Dr. Richard Christensen, long-time psychiatrist at the Center, who tragically died Nov. 26, 2015, while on a home-building project for Habitat for Humanity International in Lusaka, Zambia.

"Dr. Christensen was a man who spent his life helping others," said Bevan. "His death was so untimely and unexpected. It was just a shock to me and everyone who loved him. God gave me the melody for a musical tribute to the good doctor. I've named it 'Memories' and it is the first selection on my new CD, 'Variations on Joy.'"

This collection of original piano compositions played by the composer is available at the Cummer Museum Gift Shop, with all proceeds going to the Museum.



Jan Atchley Bevan

"In these times of trouble around the globe, it is so important that we cherish the beauty that surrounds us."

— Jan Atchley Bevan

Twice a past president of the National League of American Pen Women, a prestigious and historic organization of professional women in the arts, Bevan continues to strive for and achieve excellence despite life's challenges.

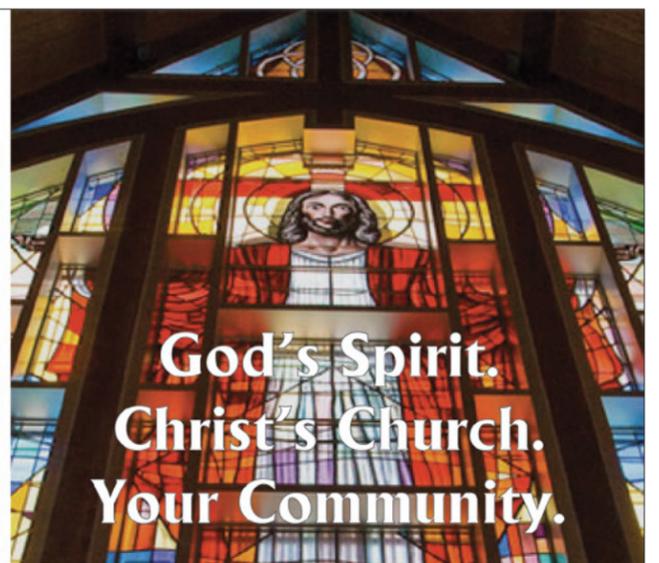
Mother, grandmother, musician, counselor and composer, Bevan expresses her indomitable spirit in the music she composes. "In these times of trouble around the globe, it is so important that we cherish the beauty that surrounds us," said Bevan. "My music is universal...it's a message of love and joy from my heart to yours."



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THE WAY WE WERE: GINA MARTINELLI

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Gina Martinelli can, quite easily, be called Jacksonville's version of Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Janis Joplin, Stevie Nicks or any of the other well-known Sixties female singers. Just like many in show business, Martinelli was not born with her current name. Piano bar engagements in the 1970s inspired her stage name and current persona.

"After being Jean, Italian last name unpronounceable, and then Jean, husband's last name, someone suggested Gina Martini. Then, uh oh, too many cat calls from the patrons at the bar, so I changed it to Gina Martinelli," said the purple-haired Avondale resident.

Born in Manhattan, Martinelli grew up on Long Island in a Catholic Italian family. Musically gifted – she plays half a dozen instruments – Martinelli started taking piano lessons at age four.

"The fifth song in the piano book was called 'Swans on the Lake.' Something clicked. I was transported and I realized that the piano was a way for me to go anyplace that I wanted to go," said Martinelli. "My parents gave me a Steinway grand piano when I was 10. Music was the window to my own Wizard of Oz."

Martinelli married and moved to Jacksonville in 1973. "It was June 13 – the same day my daughter was born. I got off the plane and went to St. Vincent's to have a baby!" she said.

A year later, she made her Jacksonville piano debut with the Bill Davis Trio in 1974, then went solo playing six nights a week at every imaginable venue – Sawgrass, Amelia Island, Adam's Mark, The Sheraton at St. Johns, the Hilton, the Sea Turtle, Epping Forest, the Seminole Club, University Club, the Boca Raton Resort, to name a few. Her portfolio contains numerous letters from satisfied managers and visitors.



Keith Molineaux and Gina Martinelli perform a duet in her home, 2016



Gina Martinelli with her dachshund, Puma

In 1984, a letter of recommendation from the manager of the Holiday Inn stated, "Martinelli's music and talent are of a superior level. She has always been most effective at making people of all types feel welcome and at home." From the Beatles to Rachmaninoff, Martinelli has pages and pages of tunes at her nimble fingertips.

Many of her more than 60 original compositions were inspired by her piano engagements. From her CD, "Both Sides of the River," she said the song "Carillon Joy" was born at the Aetna Building.

"I was playing a beautiful grand piano in the marble and glass lobby. People started coming out of their offices; they heard the same bells I heard ringing through the piano. It was a magical day! 'Maison Blanche' was written when there

was a store with that name. I was playing for their grand opening – people coming down the escalators would smile and say, 'Have a nice day.' I called it my Happy Shopper's song. 'Stepping Out' was written in 2006 inspired by a night I spent in Rio de Janeiro. I have to spread joy and my gift – playing the piano. I do not squander my talents," she said.

An artist as well as a musician, Martinelli was also Artist in Residence for the Florida Dept. of State and Cultural Affairs from 1995 to 1998. She has participated in numerous galleries and juried exhibits all over the state.

Check out the relief sculptures – a panther, turtle, alligator and other animals called the Florida Critters collection, which Martinelli created in the early 1980s at the Plainfield Library in Orange Park, or the three-foot sand dollars cast in fiberglass for the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

When she first arrived in Jacksonville after growing up in New York, Martinelli said she experienced "a grand silence. I thought I had stepped into the Dukes of Hazzard. But now I see a large, vibrant creative arts community in Jacksonville which is continually growing."

Martinelli has put her stamp on that community with her music and art, and continues to do so at her Avondale home, where she hosts visitors locally and from around the world. "I've given people a place to congregate. People feel welcome to come eat, make music, create and celebrate, whether it's Tuesday – Yea! It's Thursday – Yippee," she said.



Gina Martinelli, circa 1980

Continued on page 35



Aging True Community Senior Services Presents

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Gina Martinelli on the road during the 1970s

Martinelli holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from Adelphi University, a Bachelor of Fine Art in Sculpture and an education certification from the University of North Florida, and a master's degree in progress in Advanced Curriculum Studies.

"I had been doing art for years but wanted credentials. I taught every grade level at various schools in the county, in public and private schools, for 33 years," said Martinelli. "My last seven years I taught at Jacksonville Country Day School."

Martinelli has three children – Jennifer Kratz, Adam Hoyles (who is married to Jennifer Herrick Miller, Martinelli's "favorite model who became my daughter-in-law") and Lisa Jutras. She has five grandchildren with one on the way and one great-grandchild.

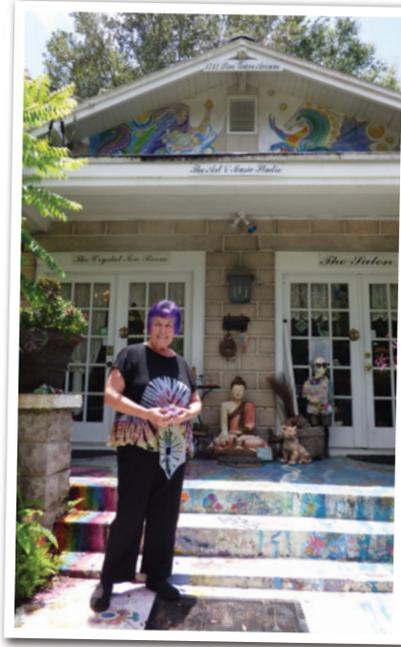
"My children always came first. They are beautiful and all turned out to be wonderful people," said Martinelli with a glow as she spoke about her family. "It all hinged on what the children were doing. I wanted to be available for my children and worked my schedule around them."



Gina Martinelli, circa 1980

After being married for 30 years, Martinelli and her husband (whom she declines to name) parted ways. "It was the worst thing that ever happened but it was the best, too. I needed to come to grips with my happiness – I had to find that in myself, in my children, cooking, having a beautiful garden and in the constant pursuit of beauty," Martinelli shared. "I love Jacksonville – the river – it gives me a small-town feeling. We did a good job with our kids. Now it's just me and my dog Puma and my muse."

On what would have been their 48th anniversary, she received a note from her former spouse acknowledging the time they shared together and thanking her for being a good parent. She reciprocated and then invited him to her home to celebrate a friend's birthday.



Gina Martinelli in front of her home on Pinegrove Avenue

As for birthdays, Martinelli recently celebrated her 70th and shared the occasion with more than 100 friends and family in her whimsical 1924 cottage and studio. Her eclectic collection of friends is rivaled only by the drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs and theatrical memorabilia she has created or collected over the past 50 years.

In her home, you might spy a marvelous painting by her mother, her 60-year-old Steinway, the first two sculptures Martinelli created in high school, parasols suspended from the kitchen ceiling, sparkly things suspended from a chandelier, and a hand-made chair that "was a birthday gift a few years ago. A friend came over with some sticks and made two chairs for me in exchange for lunch," Martinelli said.

A true child of the Sixties, Martinelli is passionately happy to be alive, passionate about making music and art, and passionate about sharing her message: "Peace, Love and Kindness – the rest is Poppycock."



Kathy Dolge, Melanie Powers, Victoria Vesce and LaVonne O'Shields

Flower arranging class benefits local 'kindness' nonprofit

Nearly two dozen women, many from Garden Club Circles, gathered July 25 at The Windsor at Ortega to learn the art of flower arranging and to benefit Bouquets of Kindness.

"I thought this was a great way to combine the pleasure of doing something I liked with doing something good," said Kathy Dolge, a member of the Garden Divas Circle.

The Ortega-based nonprofit repurposes floral arrangements from events, weddings,

funerals and florists, then gives them to patients in hospitals and hospices as well as residents of senior facilities and nursing homes. To date, the organization has donated more than 5,100 bouquets.

Residents at The Windsor, an assisted living and memory care residence, have been bouquet recipients and have also participated in flower arranging events. Jerry Faircloth, 84, took to the art and makes creative displays every day for the facility's lobby.



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Cathedral Towers rededicated after renovations

Aging True Community Senior Services recently celebrated the successful completion of renovations to the 241-unit Cathedral Terrace, an independent senior living facility located at 701 N. Ocean St.

Among the renovations is a complete refurbishment of the living spaces, including new furnishings, windows and flooring. Activity areas, like the billiards room and fitness center, were also updated.

The June 29 rededication included a brief presentation and ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local elected officials, community leaders along with funders, supporters and members of the Aging True Board of Directors.

“The renovations have been a true labor of love,” said Teresa Barton, Aging True CEO. “While every project has inconveniences and delays along the way, everyone was so excited to see the completion of the renovations and the sheer joy it brought the residents who live here.”

Other speakers included Gloria Crawford, Chief Senior Services Division, City of Jacksonville, Developer Shawn Wilson, President, Blue Sky Communities, and

Latasha Green-Cobb, Vice Chair, Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority. Immediately following the rededication ceremony, guests were provided with a tour and treated to a celebratory reception.

The conveniently located apartments are central to downtown Jacksonville and provide affordable housing and a healthy social environment for independent senior residents.

“Our newly renovated apartments make us one of the most attractive and desired senior living properties on the First Coast,” said Rebecca Berg, Aging True Board Chair.

The mission of Aging True is to provide essential and innovative resources for individuals, families and communities to prepare for and support graceful aging. To learn more, visit www.agingtrue.org.



Shawn Wilson, President, Blue Sky Communities, Latasha Green-Cobb, Vice Chair, Jacksonville Housing Authority, Rebecca Berg, Aging True Board Chair, Gloria Crawford, Chief Senior Services Division, City of Jacksonville, Teresa K. Barton, CEO, Aging True Community Senior Services, The Very Reverend Katherine Moorehead and Tourea Robinson, Aging True Director of Development

“Our newly renovated apartments make us one of the most attractive and desired senior living properties on the First Coast.”

— Rebecca Berg, Aging True Board Chair

— IN MEMORIAM — LOUIS E. BLACK SEPT. 6, 1942 – MAY 28, 2017

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Louis “Lou” Black could very well hold a record for the individual with the most lifetime cruises. With more than 500 under his belt, according to his daughter Leigh Elizabeth Israel, Black was a real globetrotter.

His passion for travel began well before he established Avondale Travel in 1974. The son of a Presbyterian minister in Ohio, after earning both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree, Black studied in Mexico, in Guatemala, and worked in Colombia.

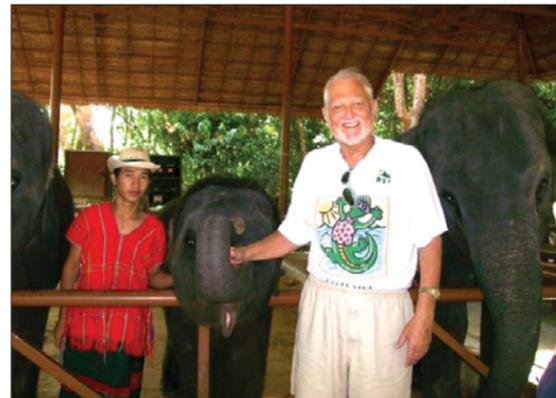
In his homily at Black’s funeral service at Riverside Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Steve Goyer said “Story and adventure was part of Lou’s DNA...Lou was always either planning a trip or taking one, not just for his family but for so many others.”

A 50-year career in the travel industry earned Black many friends and acquaintances, and contributed to his well of countless stories.

“Lou was the kind of person everyone enjoyed being around, a nice, sociable kind of guy with a good sense of humor, someone you would like right away,” said Stew Irwin, a fellow member of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville. “It seemed every day of the week he had something to do.”

Irwin shared a story about Black’s love of fried chicken. “Back when the Club met at the Holiday Inn, Lou would take two plates, fill one up with fried chicken and use the other for the bones. It was amazing to watch him plow through that chicken,” said Irwin.

Black also shared a love of sweets with his daughter. “He and I both had a serious sweet tooth, so naturally, when there are two people in a house who love sweets, what better way to save your sweets from being eaten by the other person than by hiding them,” said Israel. “We got really good at hiding sweets from each other until I started finding his and he mine.”



Israel said her father was her mentor and business partner – she re-founded Avondale Travel in 2012 – as well as her best friend and “the best father I could have ever been blessed with on this earth. He was an inspiration to many, he was incredibly genuine, and it is honor and a blessing to be his daughter.”

He was a huge high school and college basketball and football fan. “He loved the Gators almost as much as he loved me,” said Israel. “I grew up competing horses, and rode hunter/jumpers, and my dad was my biggest fan and supporter. He went to every horse show, traveling across the country to watch me compete.”

Black also loved elephants, and visitors to the travel agency would see some of

his collection. “He loved them, started collecting them from each destination he travelled, and he showcased a large collection of elephants in his office,” said his daughter.

He was also charity-minded, a member of the Rotary for almost 25 years, and on the board of Goodwill Industries of North Florida. “Lou was a longtime friend and a board member for over 25 years,” said Goodwill President and CEO Bob Thayer. “He was a key player in establishing our endowment.”

In addition to his daughter, Black is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judge Susan Harrell Black, his brother, Howard Black, as well as cousins, nieces and nephews.

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Local assisted living facility celebrates third anniversary

The Windsor Assisted Living & Memory Care celebrated its third anniversary June 27 with a dinner for residents, new and seasoned, and their families. Executive Chefs Michael Chowske and Renee Ilog prepared the meal and entertainment was provided by strolling violinist Beverly Chapman, and musical duo Harry and Sally. "The food was amazing and the entertainment was a beautiful touch," said Amber Johnson, sales associate. "It was nice to see all the wonderful families that came out as well."

The Windsor is located at 5939 Roosevelt Blvd. and currently has 94 residents.



Nina Roca, center, with family



Raymond and Minerva Mason



Mil Stewart, Bettye Barnes and Joan Cobb



Evelyn McLendon, center, with family

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Florida Christian Center Board members (front) Linda Hull, Saunie McLaughlin, Bill O’Bern; (middle) Pat Warner, Jack Richardson, Jim Manning, Cheryl Brooks, Chaplain/Executive Director Kimberly Weir; (back) Rev. Milton Mikesell, Glenn Weyand and Bert Wasmund, board president; not present: Alonzo Jefferson, Lisa Lageer and Steve Mouzon

Florida Christian Center presents Murray Hill ‘sampler’

A “Taste of Murray Hill” was sponsored by Florida Christian Center June 29 to draw Murray Hill residents and visitors to the senior center at 1115 Edgewood Ave. South and the adjacent residential towers it serves.

The center’s executive director and chaplain, Rev. Kimberly Weir, and its board of directors assembled a lineup of retail, restaurant and religious groups to set up booths in the community room. Over 200 guests sampled the wares from B Street Eats, Food Addictz Grill, Magnolia’s Pub, Maple Street Biscuit Company, Moon River Pizza and Vagabond Coffee, while enjoying live music, raffles, tours of the senior housing facilities, the activity center and the community garden.

Merchant booths included Avondale Dance Directions, Blue Moon Printing,

Duval County Master Gardeners, Faith Jewelers, MOMNI Boutique, LuLaRoe In-Home Boutique, Murray Hill Theatre, Murray Hill Preservation Association, Murray Hill Library and PawStars Pet Care.

Local churches who were present included Avondale United Methodist Church, Edgewood Avenue Christian Church, Grace Church of Avondale, Jacksonville Friends Meeting, Lake Shore Baptist, Murray Hill Baptist, Murray Hill Presbyterian and Riverside Avenue Christian Church, which several of the Florida Christian Center board members attend.

Approximately \$2,000 in donations for the ministry of the Florida Christian Center were collected at the door, according to Saunie McLaughlin, board member.

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Jewish women experience Israel on 'momentous' journey

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Twenty local Jewish mothers participated in an exclusive "Momentum" journey to Israel June 26-July 3 in a partnership between the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) and Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.

Among the women participating were Avondale resident Colleen Bell, medical director for behavioral health at the IM Sulzbacher Center, and Kimberly McDonough of Monclair, owner of Dansations Performing Arts Center, who are members of Congregation Ahavath Chesed on San Jose Boulevard. Rachel Heiser, of Lakewood, is a member of the Jacksonville Jewish Center and works at Elite Look Productions as a color specialist and bridal stylist.

The Momentum experience included an eight-day journey to Israel, from the Galilee city of Safed to the ancient desert mountaintop fortress Masada, and featured extensive itineraries and curated curricula encompassing everything from Jewish values to contemporary Israeli society.

"Israel was much safer than I thought it would be," said Bell, about her first trip to Israel. "Families would be out late at night,



Colleen Bell with her "ride" in Israel

and I felt safer there than walking around at night in Jacksonville. There were not armed soldiers everywhere. It is very small but very diverse in terms of people. Not everyone is Jewish, and all are required to serve in the army (so Muslims and Christians would serve beside Jews). There is a wide spectrum to what it means to be an Orthodox Jew."

It was also McDonough's first trip to the Holy Land.

"I went on the trip with no expectations except to learn. It was incredible!" said McDonough. "I learned more about Israel's history as well as self-discovery. I feel like those experiences will affect me every day going forward. I want to use the concepts we spoke of as Jewish women and empowerment, every day forward."



Rachel Heiser

For Heiser, it was her second trip to Israel in 13 years. Now at 32, and married with two young children, Heiser said, "I was able to appreciate it much more. I was able to form a connection with Israel that I was searching for at 19 but could not find."

Bell was somewhat surprised to find Israel less ravaged than shown in news coverage.

"Israel is a very spiritual place, whether you belong to an organized religion or not. It is steeped in history, and regardless of your background, it is worth visiting, even for an atheist," Bell said. "It is not anywhere near how it is portrayed in the news - violent, unstable, war-torn. It is a vibrant place full of meaning and a diverse population. They say the value of Israel is not so much in the land but in its people. It is a country of innovation and does not seek just to survive, but to thrive. The desert blooms, and spirituality is weaved into everyday life. I hope others consider seeing it for themselves."

Heiser concurred. "I wish the world could see this country as we see it. I felt safe. I felt at home. I gained a sense of pride and understanding of my heritage that I am excited to share with my family. I found myself on this trip," she said, adding she wanted to take her family to Israel.



In Jacksonville Sister City Hadera the group met up with recent Bolles graduate Aaron Abel, who is studying in Israel. Left to right: Henny Fisch, Andrea Mail, Diane Ackerman, Stacy Miller, Aaron Abel, Kim McDonough, Michelle Pargman, Erin Cohen, Colleen Bell, Rachel Heiser, and Paige Wasjman

The women spent one day going to the top of Masada, then descending into the Dead Sea, which McDonough said was incredible. "The places we visited were full of true history. Each place we visited had its own stories that will always be relevant."

She also noted that despite differences in Jewish practices, the women on the trip were "ultimately so similar. Having Etz Chiam and The Jewish Federation both running the trip made for a very diverse group of women from Jacksonville, that I am know proud to call my friends," said McDonough. "Also, being in Israel, you truly get that feeling of belonging. The trip focused on Jewish traditions and values during the seminars. They were inspiring and introspective so I was able to learn more about Jewish traditions as well as learn a lot about how I want to live every day."

Joining Bell, Heiser and McDonough on the trip were Diane Ackerman, Stacy Aubrey, Ellen Balotin, Laurie Berger, Erin Cohen, Henny Fisch, Karen Freedman, Sara Gross, Erin Januchowski, Erica Jolles, Donne Ordile, Michelle Pargman, Marcy Rudowitz, Tammy Shumer, Stephanie Teitelbaum, Paige Wajzman, and Sheri Weiss. All completed an online application and a personal interview to be selected for the trip, which was funded, except for airfare, by JWRP, Etz Chaim and the Jacksonville Jewish Federation.

The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (jwrp.org) was founded in 2008, with the mission of empowering women to change the world through Jewish values. Its major project is the eight-day "Momentum," a highly-subsidized, life-changing journey to Israel, experienced by over 10,000 participants from 187 partner organizations in 26 countries worldwide.



Front: Stephanie Teitelbaum, Sheri Weiss, Kim McDonough, Marcy Rudowitz, Donne Ordile; middle: Stacy Miller, Erin Cohen, Colleen Bell, Michelle Pargman, Karen Freedman, Andrea Mail, Tammy Shumer; back: Laurie Berger, Erin Januchowski, Sara Gross, Diane Ackerman, Paige Wajzman, Henny Fisch, Ellen Balotin, Rachel Heiser, Erica Jolles

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Jacksonville native now goalkeeper for Armada FC

By Robert DeAngelo
Resident Community News

As a pioneer moving from the team's development program to its highest-level professional squad, Kyle Nasta feels a sense of pride and responsibility each time he dons the Jacksonville Armada Football Club's navy blue and white kit.

After starting six games for the Armada's Under-23 development squad last year, the Episcopal School of Jacksonville and University of North Florida graduate finished with a 1.77 goals-against average and helped lead his side to a second-place finish in the NPSL Sunshine Conference. The Jacksonville native was then called up to the pro team in September 2016 as its first-ever signee from within the team's U-23 program.

"Kyle has made great strides. He's definitely shown a little bit of presence, a little bit of authority back there which is good," said second-year Armada FC head coach Mark Lowry. "He's able to learn from [starter] Caleb Patterson-Sewell, who has a lot of experience and has been a good teacher.

"Now we're at a point where we're comfortable with Kyle if Caleb gets injured, or, like a couple of weeks ago when Caleb had a suspension, we're more than comfortable with Kyle Nasta stepping in there. He has definitely cemented himself in the squad. The guys like him and he can only get better from this point on."

Nasta, 23, first started playing soccer at about six years old and progressed through Jacksonville Futbol Club youth programs. He also played baseball as a youngster and credits that sport with helping develop skills that have aided his soccer career.

"I think wanting to be a goalkeeper came from my baseball roots, because in baseball it's a lot of hand-eye coordination," Nasta said. "So, it kind of transferred to soccer very well and I was able to make saves and learn how to use my body and dive around and have that hand-eye coordination."

A Mandarin native, he attended Mandarin High for a year but switched to Episcopal as a sophomore.

"They have a good soccer program, so it was a really tough decision to leave Mandarin and go to Episcopal," Nasta explained. "But actually, in choosing Episcopal it was all about the academic side. My parents and I thought it would be a better situation for the future to go to Episcopal because it has such a rigorous curriculum. I made that switch purely for academics; the soccer was just a plus."

Recruited by a few colleges in North Carolina, Nasta instead opted for UNF where he earned a degree in sports management. On the field for the Ospreys, he earned distinction as a two-time All-Atlantic



Jacksonville Armada FC goalkeeper Kyle Nasta makes a save during a recent practice session. Nasta, a graduate of Episcopal High and UNF, is the first player to move from the Armada's development program to its professional team.

Sun Conference selection, was named ASUN Goalkeeper of the Year in 2014 and finished as the school's Division I career leader in saves (150), wins (18) and shutouts (10).

"During the summers, I played here at the National Premier Soccer League, which is like a third division league in soccer," said Nasta. "I would come out here and play for the Armada U-23 team so I was developing during the summer. The coaches for the first team here saw what I could do whenever their goalkeeper, the first-team goalkeeper got hurt, and I was able to come up through the system and be able to make my way onto the first team.

"In many ways, it's all about timing in this sport. I've been fortunate in that regard. You also have to show people that you're willing to learn and work hard for what you want."

In Lowry's estimation, Nasta is already among the top North American Soccer League goalkeepers in at least one category. "His shot stoppage, in terms of saves that he can make," said Lowry, a native of Great Britain who played for English clubs Stafford Rangers, Halesowen Town and Hereford United. "His agility, in close quarters, to pull off those reaction-type saves - it's up there with the best of them. In my opinion, he's probably the best shot-stopper in the league and I include all goalkeepers."

"Now, there are other things that go into goalkeeping. It's not just saving shots nowadays. You have to be good with your feet, you have to be a good communicator, you have to manage the game, to show bravery in certain situations and those are things he can improve upon. But we've definitely seen a massive progression in his all-around game."

In addition to the satisfaction of representing his hometown on the pitch, Nasta also feels a sense of responsibility. He has worked with youngsters as a goalkeeper coach in Armada FC youth programs, seeing a bit of himself in the faces of kids who aspire to emulate his success.

"Jacksonville is a great place. It's a diverse community so it's a very cool city that's also sports oriented," he noted. "This is the city where I grew up so I want to represent my city well. It's pride and responsibility in terms of being a member of the Armada."

"This has been a great experience. Before, I'd never been in a professional environment, so being exposed to this type of intensity every single day is great. Day in and day out you have to bring what you have to the table. So that's really been something good for me to be able to build proper habits, to help build my career and work towards the future."

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Summer camp activities at St. Matthew's Catholic School included pool days, Gymnastics, Vacation Bible School, and various field trips, such as Adventure Landing Waterpark, MOSH, Rebounderz, and Batt Family Fun Center.

The school's 8th grade graduates are preparing to embark on their high school journeys at Bishop John Snyder High School, Bishop Kenny High School, Stanton College Preparatory School, and Paxon School for Advanced Studies.

The youth group continues to help reinforce their relationships with each other and with God. "They are leaving St. Matthew's with a strong faith-based, educational foundation and we know they will do great things wherever they go," said Tabatha Rhodes, St. Matthew's Catholic School assistant vice principal.

With the new school year quickly approaching on August 9, St. Matthew's is still accepting new registrations (grades Pre-K-3 through 8th grade). Visit www.stmatthewscs.com for more information.

Also during the summer break, St. Matthew's Catholic School underwent renovations, including a new breezeway on the front of the school, complete remodeling of the gym with new roof, new



Abigail Olsen enjoys an on-campus camp day with Tramingo.



Eva Wade participates in a MOSH "What's the Matter?" science program.

sound system and fresh paint. In September, a new LED sign will be installed at the Blanding Boulevard entrance.

"Beautification is happening on our campus in more ways than one," said

Rhodes. "Not only are we seeing physical improvements to our church and school, but our Summer Camp Program has been in full swing providing an exciting, fun-filled environment for campers all summer."

Ruth N. Upson celebrates 'A' school status

Coming off a 100th anniversary, Ruth N. Upson Elementary is now celebrating another major achievement, being named an "A" school.

Upson's improvement can be attributed to a committed faculty and staff, extremely focused on diving deep into rigorous academics to continue providing a strong education with an engaging curriculum.

"Our primary focus was student literacy. We targeted students in small groups to ensure each child was receiving instruction specific to their learning needs," said Upson Principal Yvonne Spinner. "We will continue to focus on reading but increase our targeted math instruction as well. The District did not fund our Math Coach last year so we have had to adjust and will continue to strive to improve in this area."

Spinner urged parents to access at-home learning products such as i-Ready, Reflex Math, and Achieve 3000.

"Our teachers have worked with their hair on fire each day to ensure quality instruction and communication with parents and the community," she said.

Academic expectations and extraordinary events are featured in the weekly "Upson Connection: newsletter that goes home with students. The Connection will be posted weekly on www.dcps.duvalschools.org/upson as are this year's school supply lists.

"Our Murray Hill community has been fabulous in supporting our growth and transition. We have had continuous support from



Ruth N. Upson Elementary School Principal Yvonne Spinner with students Henry Massey, Jacob Stratton, Liam Richardson and Pernell McGhee.

Murray Hill Baptist Church and The District Church, as well as local business partners supporting us with in-kind support, campus clean-ups, tutoring, food donations," Spinner said. "Our involved families and dedicated volunteers play a special role in our success, giving their time to work in the school."

"Diving Deeper into Instruction" will be the theme when school begins Aug. 14. School will be in session from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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New head rowing coaches hired at Bolles

Christopher Register has been named Director of Rowing/ Men's Head Coach and Katherine Changes has been named Women's Rowing Head Coach at The Bolles School. Register and Changes will be responsible for guiding Bolles' year-round, nationally competitive, interscholastic and club rowing program.

Register, of Ortega, returns to Bolles after leading the Stanton-River Bank Rowing program the last two years. He served as the Bolles Women's Varsity Head Coach from 2010-15 with former Director of Rowing Oli Rosenblatt. Register began his rowing career at Stanton College Prep. During his four years at Stanton, he medaled at Scholastic Rowing Nationals twice. He placed fourth in the Freshman 8+ in 2003, second in the Men's 4+ in 2005, and first in the Men's 4+ during his senior year.

Changes comes to Bolles from the Washington, D.C. area, where she was Girls' Varsity Assistant Coach with Woodbridge, Virginia Senior High School the past year. She recently led the Women's Junior 8+ and Women's Lightweight 4+ to bronze medals at the Virginia State Championships and both boats qualified for nationals. Changes, who holds a US Rowing Level II Coaching Certification, was the Boys' Novice Coach at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, Virginia, from 2015-16. She led Robinson to the school's first-ever novice state title.



Christopher Register



Katherine Changes

'Open Day' welcomes nine countries to Jacksonville



Austrian delegation: Lara Moser, Tamina Hlavacek, Sofia Hernandez-Osorio, Jennifer Wilhelmer, Paul Fischer

CISV (Children's International Summer Village) Step Up Camp held an "Open Day" program July 8 at Lakeshore Middle School to welcome delegates from nine countries and to interest Jacksonville youth in the 60-year-old program.

Teams of four or five 15-year-old students from Austria, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Sweden, Vietnam and the United States set up tables in the school's auditorium with displays of country flags, candy and literature to share their cultures with the Jacksonville community.

The Step Up Camp is a three-week international leadership development camp, typically with a theme which is woven through the activities and discussions. According to CISV Jacksonville staff member Jamar Torrence, this year's theme is Social Justice League.

During the Open Day event, each delegation also performed a native dance, sang their country's national anthem or performed a skit. The U.S. team, from Columbus, Ohio, led the crowd in an

Ohio State University cheer, while the Mexican delegation had the audience stretch to an "iguana energizer" exercise. Four young women and one young man dressed in native Austrian costume also engaged the guests in an ethnic dance.

Will Taylor, of Avondale, spoke as a past CISV participant, sharing that his eight-year experience from age 11 to 18 made it possible to go abroad for a Gap Year. The 2016 graduate of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville spent a year in Berlin, Germany and will enter Florida State University as a freshman this fall.

"I went through six CISV programs in eight years," said Taylor, "and that's what set me apart from all the other applicants for the Gap Year program."

Taylor became involved when his mother, Lisa, dropped him off for an Open Day event in 2009. "I quickly wanted to be involved," he said. Taylor participated in the Village and Interchange programs.

"It changed me every time I went abroad," he said.

Junior youth serve others in Georgia, Tennessee

The St. Mark's Episcopal Church Junior High Mission Trip 2017 included a lot of fun and a lot of service. Starting in Atlanta, the group worshiped at Common Grounds Church downtown, then made their way to Open Hand Atlanta, where they made meals for those in need.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church youth prepared and served meals in Atlanta.

Over the next few days, the 11 youth continued in their mission of service at the Fuqua Boys & Girls Club, and served senior citizens and Alzheimer's patients through Meals On Wheels Atlanta. Evening activities included an Atlanta Braves game and a scavenger hunt at Emory University.

The adventures continued in Tennessee, where the youth went to the Chattanooga Food Bank to help the homeless at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. As if schedules were not already busy enough,

the Junior High Mission also took on the responsibility of landscaping one of the camping areas of Chickamauga National Park, in Chattanooga. The trip concluded with a fun time at Coolidge Park in Chattanooga, whitewater rafting down the Middle Ocoee River, and camping in the Callaway Caverns.



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Michael Drew

Bolles brings in new Middle School Head

With more than 20 years in education focused specifically on middle school students, Michael J. Drew joined The Bolles School as Head of the Middle School Bartram Campus, replacing Jack Milne, who took a school leadership position in Mississippi.

“Being involved in the lives of students, both formally in a classroom and informally in the everyday life of a school, is why I chose this profession,” said Drew. “Relationships are the heart of good schools, and I am committed to building a strong community as a means of improving student achievement.”

Drew’s independent school background includes being a teacher, advisor, coach, administrator and trustee. He was previously at Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he has been the Middle School Head since 2007.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from Cornell University, Drew received his Master of Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Drew and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Nate (13) and Allie (12).

Students get feel for ‘corporate vibe’ through Career Launcher

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

They haven’t settled on a college or a major yet, but two students from The Episcopal School of Jacksonville have had a taste of what it’s like to work at a Fortune 500 company.

Ana Timpke, 17, and Bond Magevney, 16, were part of a group of 18 students in Episcopal’s Career Launcher program, created by the Alumni Association to help students explore careers.

Episcopal partnered with The Adecco Group, a global workforce solutions company. For two days in June, the students shadowed Adecco employees, working in healthcare, technology, engineering, finance and legal.

Timpke, an Old San Jose resident and a senior, spent her time shadowing people in marketing.

“It was really interesting. I got a lot of insight. I spent time with people who use marketing in healthcare and finance and got to see how they were different,” Timpke said.

She was surprised at the role that technology plays in marketing. The people who work in healthcare showed her what they do on the website.

“I’m pretty tech savvy but I didn’t realize how much goes into it,” she said. “It’s really time-consuming.”

Jason Provost, who works in finance, shared his own career path and some of the career options the students might have.

“It was nice to hear his story,” Timpke said. “He gave us good advice to help us figure out what you want to do.”

Magevney, an Ortega resident, will be a junior this fall and is leaning towards a career in business or finance. He’s just now starting to look at colleges.



Front: Ana Timpke, Liam Gorman, Episcopal teacher Jessica de la Torre, Matthew Joseph; back: Bond Magevney, Annika Amlie, Sara Himebauch and Meri Claire West

“I saw the application on the school website and told my parents about it. I was interested to see what life was like in a major corporation,” Magevney said.

Magevney shadowed David Ertrachter, who gave him an overview of the history of Adecco and how the company works and introduced him to people in the finance department.

“What surprised me was the influence accounting had in the workings of the corporation,” Magevney said. “And how important it is having a background in accounting coming out of school.”

Magevney also said he liked the corporate vibe at Adecco. “I felt like Adecco had a nice community. They know each other pretty well and seem to work well together. They weren’t just faces in a crowd.”

Both Timpke and Magevney said they thought it was time well spent and would recommend it to other Episcopal students.

The visit was arranged through Rich Thompson, regional head of human resources for North America, the United

“Work-based learning is one of the best ways young people can prepare for their future careers.”

— Rich Thompson, regional head of human resources, The Adecco Group

Kingdom and Ireland at The Adecco Group. His son, Jack, is a student at Episcopal.

“Work-based learning is one of the best ways young people can prepare for their future careers,” Thompson said. “We encourage more employers to partner with educators on initiatives, like Career Launcher, that enable students to gain real world experiences ahead of entering the workforce, while also bringing fresh perspectives – and potentially future talent – to companies.”

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A Flipping Good Time!

New face on Riverside campus

Students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School will see a new face on campus this year. Following the June retirement of former Headmaster H. Palmer Bell, who served the school for nine years, the new Head of School is Ben Ketchum.

Ketchum began his teaching career at Holy Rosary School in Jacksonville in 1997, and after serving at St. Ann's Academy and at Holy Redeemer Catholic School, both in Washington, D.C., moved to his most recent position as Director of Upper Division and Outplacement at National Presbyterian School, also in the nation's capitol.

The Avondale resident is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics, as well as his master's degree in Educational Administration. He also holds a master's in teaching from the University of Portland. Ketchum is currently enrolled in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Fellowship for Aspiring Heads of School.

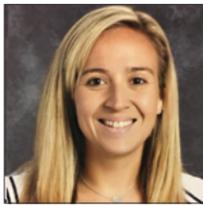


Ben Ketchum

St. Matthew's Catholic gets new assistant principal

Tabatha Rhodes, St. Matthew's Catholic School middle school math/algebra teacher and extended day/summer camp director, has been named assistant principal. Rhodes will also provide administrative support and utilization of technological skills.

Rhodes, a Hyde Park resident, earned the State of Florida Department of Education Professional Educator's Certification in the areas of Prekindergarten/Primary Education (age 3 to Grade 3), Elementary Education (Grades K-6), and Mathematics (Grades 5-9).



Tabatha Rhodes

Ortega Elementary School welcome new principal

Michigan native and 14-year-employee of Duval County Public Schools Shannon Hamann will be the new principal at Ortega Elementary School.

The Michigan State University graduate and MSU Spartan fan also holds a master's degree from the University of North Florida. Hamann taught at Twin Lakes and Bartram Springs Elementary Schools for five years each, was an assistant principal at Greenfield Elementary for three years, and the reading coach at Bartram Springs.

Hamann, who is married and has three children, said she was "beyond thrilled to be principal of Ortega. I can't wait to get to know the students and will do everything possible to give them a phenomenal learning experience!"



Shannon Hamann

Episcopal adds new college counselor

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville has hired a new college counselor. Julie Carter comes to Episcopal from Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, where she served as a college counselor for seven years. Carter has significant experience in all aspects of the college search and application process, including working with families seeking financial aid, student-athletes, international students, and students looking to attend selective out of state universities.

"Julie is well-respected among college admissions professionals, and regularly attends local, regional, and national professional development meetings and conferences. She has personally visited more than seventy colleges and universities across the nation in the past seven years," said Director of College Counseling Ryan Riggs.

Carter began her career in college admissions at the University of North Florida, where she worked in the office of admissions there for 10 years, recruiting students to UNF from across Florida and the Southeast. While working at UNF, she earned her Master's in Educational Leadership, with an emphasis on high school counseling.



Julie Carter



Students from The Bolles School raised \$1,500 to make a dream come true for Evangeline Kugler, here at her Dream Party.

Local schools raise more than \$33,000 for Dreams Come True

With the school year over and summer in full swing, Dreams Come True of Jacksonville announced 21 schools had participated in its *Kids Helping Kids* program during the 2016-2017 school year. Schools, including The Bolles School and San Jose Episcopal Day School, raised \$33,020 for the dreams of approximately 15 local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

Kids Helping Kids is a signature program of Dreams Come True of Jacksonville and brings together students and young people with dream recipients. Through the program, money is raised to sponsor the dreams of local children who are battling life-threatening illnesses.

Fundraising projects can include car washes, bake sales, dances, talent shows, coin collections and many more activities.

Following the events, 100 percent of the funds raised by *Kids Helping Kids* go directly to dream fulfillment. Each group is given the chance to host a Dream Party, which in turn provides an opportunity for the students to meet and spend time with their sponsored dream child.

Through the *Kids Helping Kids* program, students experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others, and the dream child meets some very caring students who made his or her dream come true.

Schools, youth groups, clubs or any youth organization interested in participating in the *Kids Helping Kids* program can contact Kate Wirz, Development Coordinator for Dreams Come True, at kate@dreamscometrue.org or (904) 296-3030.



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BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

RIVERSIDE PARK UMC ROCKIN' BACK TO SCHOOL

For the past eight years, Riverside Park United Methodist Church has been helping families in need get prepared for a new school year through the annual Rockin' Back to School event held every August at Riverside Park.

The church will host this year's Rockin' Back to School on Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m. to noon. While the church works closely with West Riverside and Central Riverside Elementary Schools, any student in need can get a free backpack. Riverside Park UMC volunteers prepare nearly 500 backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need from Pre-K to middle and high school. The event will also give students the opportunity to get a free physical from St. Vincent's Health System and "Dana The Barber" will be on hand to offer free haircuts for students.

In addition to its Rockin' Back to School event, Riverside Park UMC is among 17 other churches who have partnered with Jacksonville's Family Promise to provide assistance such as food and clothing to homeless families.

VOLUNTEER: Volunteers are needed each year to help fill backpacks and to help register and coordinate on the day of the event. Call the Riverside Park UMC office at (904) 355-5491 to sign up and for more information.

DONATE: Make a financial contribution to the Rockin' Back to School event for the purchase of backpacks and other school supplies. Call the church office at (904) 355-5491 to find out how you can donate.



Students come from all over the Westside to pick up a free backpack filled with school supplies at the annual Rockin' Back to School.

SUSAN BUSH & JANE RIECHMANN DID SOMETHING

While this time of year may be summer vacation for some, Riverside residents Susan Bush and Jane Riechmann are hard at work making sure local students get what they need to have a successful school year.

The two friends, who have a combined total of 25 years of volunteer service with the church, help coordinate Riverside Park UMC's huge Rockin' Back to School event each year.

As a retired teacher, Riechmann's organizational skills combined with Bush's dedication to helping others make them a perfect pair to co-chair this important community event.

"It's so wonderful to help put a smile on a child's face," said Riechmann. "To know you are helping a family in need is a good thing...that's why we are put here on this earth."

"It's part of the existence of being in this church," said Bush of her volunteer work and the annual event. "We have always been a community."

"You think you are helping others, but you are really getting back ten-fold," Riechmann said.



Susan Bush and Jane Riechmann

"It's so wonderful to help put a smile on a child's face."

— Jane Riechmann

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Flashbacks

Vacation Bible School at Avondale Baptist Church was a summertime activity for many of the area's children. This photograph was taken in June 1941, and likely some of the children attended the opening of the Main Street Bridge in July. (Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Historical Society, from its archives. To learn more, visit jaxhistory.org or call (904) 665-0064.)

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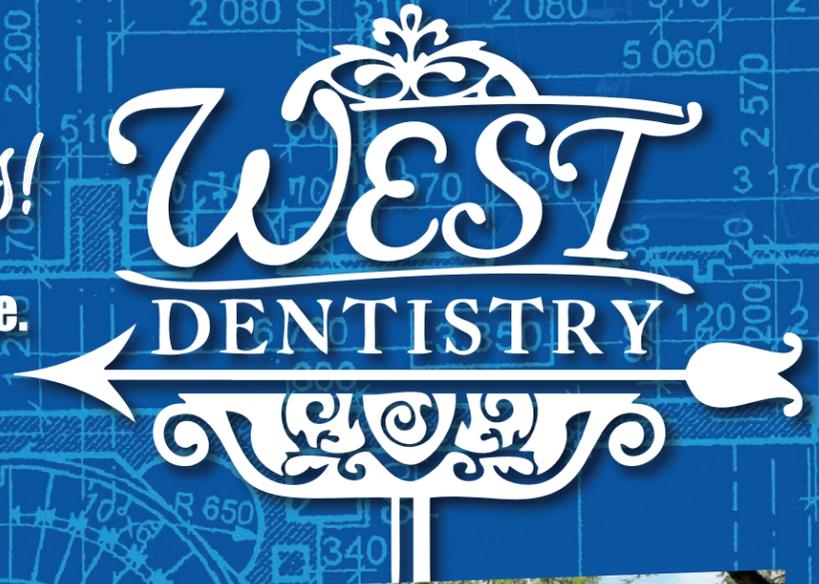
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