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Nemours Medical Director and Chief of Pediatric Urology for Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours, Dr. Michael Erhard, with Darnell Smith, Jax Chamber Chair and Florida Blue Market President for North Florida.

Read More, Page 23

San Marco to be first neighborhood with complete bicycle lane

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

When the repaving of Hendricks Avenue is completed next year San Marco will be the first neighborhood in the city with a complete bike lane, running from Baymeadows Road to Prudential Drive.

And when reconfiguration of traffic on Riverplace Boulevard is done, that bike lane will go all the way to downtown.

Attorney Chris Burns, an avid cyclist, hopes it's the beginning of a trend.

Right now, the bike lane runs from Baymeadows to Cornell Road, a few blocks north of University Boulevard.

The resurfacing project along approximately three miles of San Jose Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue from Cornell Road to San Marco Boulevard is scheduled to begin in October and is expected to be finished in late 2018, said Debbie Delgado, a spokesperson for Florida Department of Transportation.

Read More, Page 7



Enjoying Blues, Some Brews, and Tasty BBQ

Support for the nonprofit Florida Theatre was strong as VIPs Linda Broll with Tracy Greene, Ginny Mecave, Kelley Mills and Peggy Schieszer gathered to support the mission and raise a toast. Ticket holders gained unlimited access to the city's best barbecue joints as they served everything from ribs to brisket and pulled pork – paired with unlimited craft beer selections. Theatre loyalists danced to the music of Smokestack and The Snacks Blues Band as the evening delivered on its good times and great vibes. *Read More, Page 23*

Tempers rise alongside water in San Jose Forest

Residents seek resolution, feedback

By Lloyd Lemons, Resident Community News

There is deepening anguish brewing with several of the residents of San Jose Forest, the once tranquil neighborhood near Christopher Creek and Nathan Krestul Park.

A few months ago, they had a forest that buffered a portion of their neighborhood from the traffic noise of San Jose Boulevard. It was a prolific wetlands area that effectively managed the water run-off of the neighborhood it was connected to. The forest contained a thicket of 50-foot cypress trees, dense vegetation and a host of wildlife including frogs, squirrels, owls, and birds of every description. And, by definition, it must have also contained snakes and mosquitos.

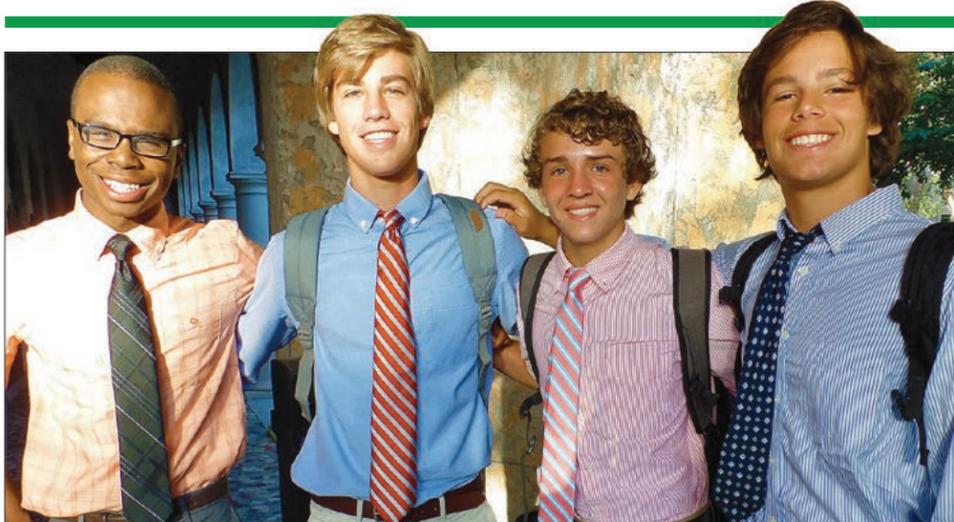
Today, there are no snakes. There are no old growth cypress trees, no frogs or squirrels, no dense vegetation, no Great Horned Owls or bright red cardinals. Today, only the mosquitos are left. The mosquitos, lots of unmanaged water, and a berm of smelly soil.

Read More, Page 11



The backyard of a home on Madrid Avenue was flooded June 26.

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Bright smiles return to Bolles campus

Immanuel Ayangoke, a junior at The Bolles School poses with sophomores West Tyre, Jack Clark and Colson Cronk on the first day of school. *Read More, Page 37*



Patients share hopes, dreams through art

Jacob Purvis, Tiffany Googin, young artist Charlotte Googin, and Mark Boynton enjoy the opening reception of "Another Side Revealed" at MOCA Aug. 6.

Read More, Page 20

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Letter to the Editor

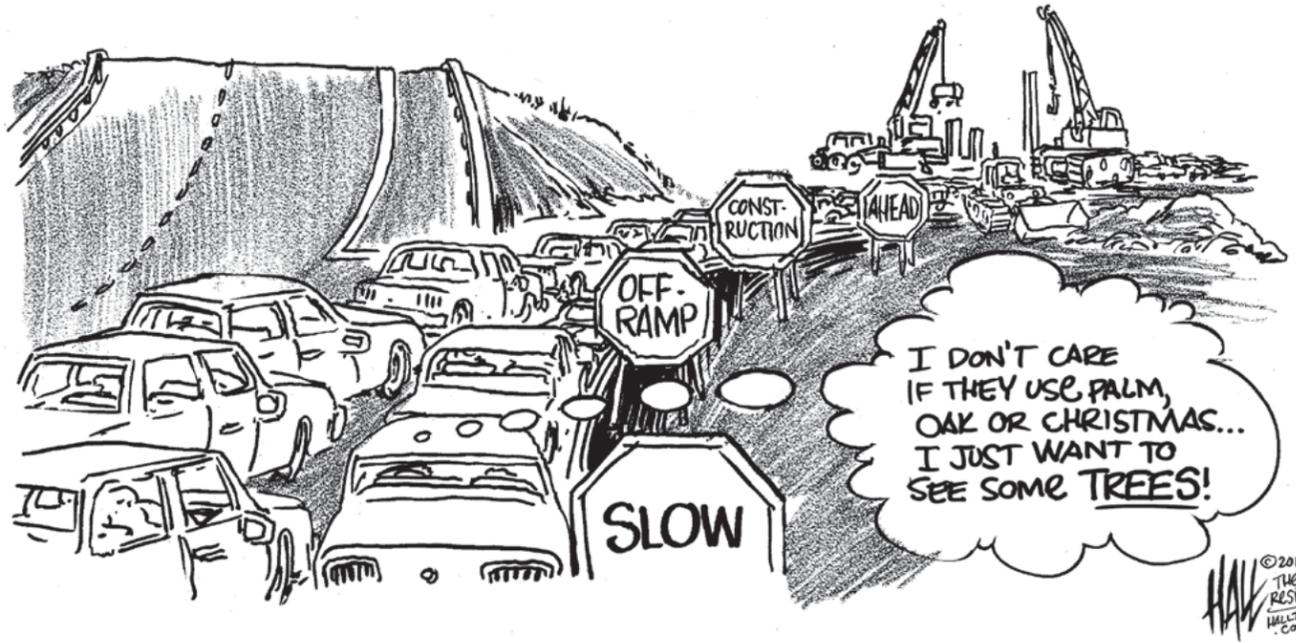
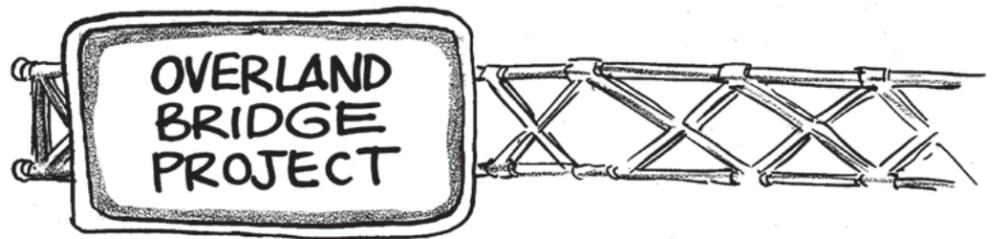
For the last decade, JAXPORT has been working towards one of its largest economic development projects: harbor deepening. A project that will bring more jobs and attract more business opportunities to our city.

And on its heels is another major economic development project: the revitalization of downtown Jacksonville. In the wake of this movement, investors and businesses are turning to the city center for new opportunities – most notably, the plan to develop the old Shipyards.

Just take a look around town and you'll see that there is much to look forward to. Our city is growing every day, and projects such as these ensure economic and social well-being for those who call Jacksonville home.

It is great to see our city taking steps to invest in its future, and more importantly, the future of our children and grandchildren. Let's not stifle this progress as we work towards being the best city we can be.

Gene Morris
Riverside



When a cartoon is worth a thousand words

Beginning with this issue, *The Resident* welcomes political cartoonist Ed Hall, who provides his unique take on news and issues in the historic districts we serve.

Hall, of San Marco, graduated from The University of Florida in 1986 with a Master's of Fine Art, then worked for several weekly publications in and around Jacksonville, and at The Baker County Press in Macclenny as the weekly cartoonist.

He has won 10 Florida Press Association Awards, three Newsmaker Awards, and numerous fine art awards. In 2003, Hall was presented the 53rd Annual Green Eyeshade Award for weekly cartoons by The Society of Professional Journalists. He has also received the Excellence in Journalism Award from The Florida Press Club four times, and the Sunshine State Award for Editorial Cartooning.



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Make 'n Take Rain Barrel Workshop

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program of UF/IFAS Extension Duval County will hold a rain barrel workshop, Friday, Sept. 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Duval County Extension Office, 1010 McDuff Ave. N.

Registration and pre-payment is required by Sept. 15. To take the class and leave with a rain barrel, cost is \$50 per person or \$5 class fee, no rain barrel. Additional rain barrels are \$45 each.

Register by emailing Sarah Freeman at sfreeman@coj.net or call (904) 255-7450. Class size is limited to 25.



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Jacksonville University partners in research with The District

Property closing to begin fourth quarter

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The District—Life Well Lived Jacksonville will begin closing procedures on 30 acres of Southbank riverfront property with the Jacksonville Energy Authority in late 2017 and break ground in early 2018, according to a release announcing a partnership with Jacksonville University.

The university was selected to be the Official Academic Partner of The District and will research and measure the effectiveness of The District's healthy town concept, an entirely new approach in community living. JU's Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences research team will be the exclusive academic research consultant to assist The District in gaining evidence-based outcomes for the healthy living benefits of The District.

"The research that BRCHS will conduct will seek to provide credibility to this unique concept and show evidence-based outcomes to participating in The District's programs," said Peter Rummell, co-founder of The District development with partner Michael Munz.

The District is designed for Generation H, a generation defined not by age but by the common belief that the most fulfilling, most productive of lives are achieved by healthy living. Beyond the bike paths, fitness centers and daily activity, The District will feature the innovative Base Camp to offer a wealth of services,



An early waterfront rendering for The District—Life Well Lived shows how boating, canoeing and kayaking are components of a healthy lifestyle. (Rendering by Elkus | Manfredi Architects)

including yoga classes and personal health counseling to community gardening and a health concierge.

"Just as our own Healthy Campus program seeks to build upon the health and wellness of our campus community, partnering with The District fulfills one of our key pillars

of using our robust resources to help improve the quality of life for Jacksonville area residents and promote a culture of healthy behavior, service, safety and respect," said JU President Tim Cost.

The development will include up to 1,170 residential units (sale and rental) in loft

apartments, townhomes and mid- to high-end condos; 200,000 square feet of office space; over 200,000 square feet of retail; riverfront restaurant and bars; a 4-acre public riverfront park and the extension of the Southbank Riverwalk; a 125-slip marina, and a 200-room hotel.

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

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Historic District improvements part of proposed budget

Sidewalk, waterway and roadway projects planned

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

Tucked inside Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's 2017-2018 budget of nearly \$2.5 billion are funds proposed for 12 capital improvement projects which will advance economic development and improve quality of life in the urban core, which includes the historic districts.

Among the projects designated to receive funds next year are several water-related projects, reaching from Brooklyn to the Fishweir neighborhood, as well as on the Southbank. In order of magnitude, the six projects worth \$3,750,000 include:

- \$1.6 million to fund the City of Jacksonville's share of restoring the ecosystem of Big Fishweir Creek; the Army Corps of Engineers project is slated for completion in September 2019
- \$750,000 to remove pipe obstructions from McCoys Creek near Riverside Avenue
- \$500,000 in the 2017-2018 budget for a \$1.5 million bulkhead replacement for Willowbranch Creek from Sydney Street to the St. Johns River
- \$400,000 for a floating dock at the end of Post Street in Riverside (situated between the Garden Club of Jacksonville and The Cummer Museum) to be available to the water taxi as well as first-come, first-serve private vessels

- \$300,000 to install an additional floating dock to the existing water taxi dock on the Southbank Riverwalk at Riverplace Tower to provide docking space for private vessels on a first-come, first-serve basis
- \$200,000 to add a kayak launch on the Southbank Riverwalk next to the Duval County Public School Board Building

Also on the Southbank, two major projects are slated to receive some funding next fiscal year. The five-year, \$8.5-million Southbank Riverwalk Extension and Enhancements project will receive \$1 million in the 2017-2018 budget. In addition to design and construction of the extension, the project will include pavers, benches and other amenities.

Friendship Fountain will receive a facelift to the tune of \$1.25 million. The project will include repairs to the fountains concrete structure (sealing, coating and painting) railing and corroded anchors, speakers and lighting. In addition, repairs to the pump house include grout and sealing roof cracks, slab, exterior walls, deck coating and nodes.

Quality of life improvements

Beyond efforts to activate the waterways and waterfronts in the urban core, health, safety and quality of life improvements are addressed through the \$1.87 million funding of four Public Works projects in the historic districts, including:

- \$750,000 toward the \$4 million 5 Points Improvement Project, which is slated to modify the existing roadways to enhance pedestrian use and improve vehicular safety. Within this area, the improvements will impact Park Street, Post Street, Margaret Street, Lomax Street, Oak Street and Herschel Street. Improvements include turning Lomax Street into a one-way eastbound street, expanded sidewalk areas, reduced roadway widths for

safer pedestrian crossings and the retention of the historic beacon that sits at the heart of the 5 Points intersection. The project completion date is estimated beyond 2021.

- \$536,529 to fund the construction of new sidewalks on San Jose Boulevard in accordance with the Pedestrian Safety Improvement Program criteria throughout Jacksonville. The project includes the construction of sidewalks in three segments: (1) Brookwood Road to Inwood Terrace, (2) Saratoga Drive to Granada Boulevard and (3) Phillips Place to Hendricks Avenue. Project completion is slated for 2019.
- \$425,000 for the design and construction of a biking and walking path on Children's Way/Nira Street from the Southbank terminus of the Fuller Warren multi-use path to Kings Avenue in San Marco. The scope of this project will also include some intersection improvements for bicycles, such as bike boxes at Hendricks Avenue and San Marco Boulevard. Project completion is estimated for 2019 in conjunction with the Fuller Warren Bridge multi-use path project under the Florida Department of Transportation.
- \$159,000 for construction of sidewalks along Lakeside Drive from Herschel Street to Wabash Avenue.

If approved, the dozen projects noted account for over \$5.6 million of the proposed \$150.5 million FY17/18 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 103 projects.

City Council's Finance Committee and other standing committees met in August to review and debate specific line items in the budget. Council will hold public hearings on the proposed budget Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Sept. 26, beginning at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

The final 2017-2018 budget, as amended, must be adopted by City Council prior to the start of the new fiscal year, October 1.

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Corrections

In the July 2017 issue of *The Resident*, the caption for the cover photo for Miracle on Ashley Street indicated Jon Heymann as "former CEO of the Jacksonville Children's Commission." Although Heymann announced his retirement in May, it was not effective until August 31, 2017.

On page 30, an incorrect photo was placed in the Way We Were story. In the story about Paul Naugle, we inadvertently included a wedding photo of his partner at Naugle Funeral Home, Dr. Roy Schnauss.

In the same issue, page 28, Dr. Rene Pulido, Jr. was noted as being a microbiologist. Dr. Pulido is a clinical lab director. He is also the oldest son of Graziella Garcia-Pulido, not Armando as was noted.

We sincerely regret the errors.

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San Marco bicycle lane

FROM PAGE 1

Among the highlights:

- On-street parking from Cornell Road to Peachtree Circle North will be removed and bike lanes will be added.
- The roadway will be widened by reducing the median between Peachtree Circle North and Dunsford Road to accommodate both on-street parking and bike lanes.
- On-street parking from Dunsford Road to San Marco Boulevard will be removed and bike lanes will be added.

FDOT will have an open house Thursday, Sept. 28, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, 4001 Hendricks Ave., to explain the construction timeline and how it will affect traffic.

The new bike lanes will allow cyclists to ride safely on one of the city's busiest roads, Burns said. Right now, cyclists use the parking lane, but if they encounter a parked car they have to veer into the traffic lane. A

cyclist that is hit by a car traveling 45 miles an hour ends up severely injured or dead.

But for Burns it isn't just about safety. It's about connectivity.

"This is extremely valuable and important project," Burns said. "The designation is really important. It says to Jacksonville residents that we as a city honor and respect this mode of transportation. Motorists should expect people on bikes."

"This is extremely valuable and important project."

— Chris Burns, Attorney

Burns said Jacksonville is beginning to adopt the idea of "complete streets," which allow people to travel by foot, bike or public transportation.

"People in their 20s and 30s want to live and move around in a place that is healthy and ecologically sound. There are also social aspects. People who walk and ride take the time to visit stores and talk with neighbors so there is a less anxious environment," said Burns.

Opposition to Southbank development gets second set-back

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The proposed 13-story apartment project by Ventures Development Group cleared a big hurdle last month when the Downtown Investment Authority approved the final design for the riverfront project on Prudential Drive, rejecting an appeal against the Downtown Development Review Board's approval in June.

Baptist Health and the owners of the former Aetna building had objected to plans for parking and traffic access to the 2.9-acre Southbank property that is between Baptist/Aetna and the Acosta Bridge.

The Downtown Development Review Board had granted five deviations, at its June meeting, to accommodate the unusual layout of the site. But attorney Paul Harden, representing Baptist, said the hospital would

be adversely affected by the traffic coming in and out of the property. A critical factor is the proximity of the emergency room only 25 feet from driveway to the property.

Harden argued that Ventures did not meet the criteria needed for the deviations. Attorney Steve Diebenow, representing the developer, countered that the company did meet the criteria, which were essential for the development of the odd-shaped property.

The DIA voted, 5-1, at its Aug. 16 meeting to uphold the deviations with only Chairman Jim Bailey voting against it.

Baptist and the owners of the former Aetna building can appeal to City Council.

With the deviations, Ventures is allowed to reduce parking spaces from 559 to 337; change the landscaping along the railroad tracks; increase the building height from 60 feet to 190 feet; and reduce setbacks along the property line and along the bulkheads.

Pavers replaced around Navy Memorial on Southbank

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Navy Memorial, also known as the Lone Sailor, on the 4,000-foot Southbank Riverwalk has a new set of pavers with a somewhat different look, according to Sandra Fradd, co-founder of Downtown Dwellers.

"The old pavers were deteriorating from an overflow of water. The circle around the fountain used to be yellow," she said. "It is now gray, a color more suited to the fountain and the area, I think."

Replacing the pavers around the fountain was a maintenance project costing approximately \$7,000 for labor and materials, according to Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson. The work was completed in July.

The bronze statue of a Navy sailor looking out to sea was created in 1987, installed in October 1988 directly on the Riverwalk, and was placed on top of a lighted fountain in 2014 during a Riverwalk reconstruction project.



Workers tear up yellow pavers around the Jacksonville Navy Memorial. (Photo by Sandra Fradd)

According to an October 13, 2008, newspaper article about the rededication ceremony for the Navy Memorial, this is a "one of a kind Lone Sailor statue known as The Liberty Hound. The rededication took place on the 20th anniversary of the statue and coincided with the U.S. Navy's 233rd birthday."

Originally constructed in 1985, the Southbank Riverwalk was reconstructed during an 18-month, \$17 million project. Led by the Haskell Company, in partnership with CH2MHill and Flagg Design, the project replaced the aging wood structure with a concrete path on the river, featuring colorful paver bricks.

The replacement of the Riverwalk was a personal project of former District 4 Councilman Don Redman, who was seriously injured while bicycling on the Riverwalk in 2013.

Two weeks after the February 2015 re-opening of the Southbank Riverwalk, the Sailor Fountain was reported to not be operating, but was repaired in about eight weeks.



Birds-eye view of paver replacement project around the Jacksonville Navy Memorial. (Photo by Sandra Fradd)

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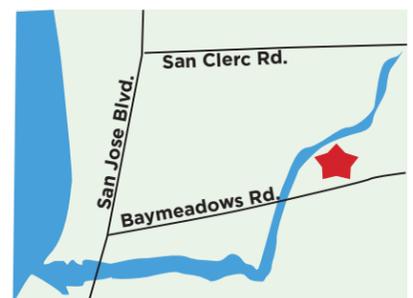
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Public awareness, grassroots involvement push waterways use forward

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

New initiatives to market Jacksonville's "liquid assets" – including its offshore resources and a proposal to link the beaches and downtown with trails – were among the highlights of the Waterways/Waterfront Activation meeting hosted by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer Aug. 3.

Also serving as Jacksonville Waterways Commission Chair, Boyer said she wanted to focus on some of the accomplishments in the activation's first 10 months and look at things that are in the works to better use the city's waterfront and make it part of the city's identity.

"It's clearly part of our daily life and I think we are successfully raising public awareness and grassroots involvement," she said. "I keep hearing about things that are happening and that gets me excited."

Among those discussed were seven initiatives or projects ranging from marketing to making improvements in parks, on trails and at the beaches.

City branding

The truJAX initiative by JaxUSA has trademarked "Water Life" as a brand for the city and is making it an essential focus of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce's decisions about promoting Jacksonville's economic growth, ecological and human health and recreation. The city's water assets also will be part of the new tourist development and marketing plans.

Greenway loop

A loop of trails linking the beaches to downtown is under consideration by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. The loop would be part of the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile network of trails from Maine to Key West that goes through the beaches.

The idea is to create trails from the beaches along Heckscher Drive to Main Street to downtown to Atlantic Boulevard to University Boulevard North to either Merrill Road or Lonestar Road and back to the beaches, according to Brian Burket, a national resource recreation specialist with the Parks Department. The trail would connect places like Tree Hill, the Arboretum, Norman Studios, Jacksonville University, the Riverwalk and Emerald Necklace.

The loop is still in its conceptual phase and faces several obstacles, such as wetlands and development, Burket said, but a \$1 million grant has been secured and more money is being sought.

Underwater Jacksonville

Diving expert and TISIRI (Think It, Sink It, Reef It) Executive Director Joe Kistel spoke about marketing Jacksonville's offshore resources, including the more than 30 reefs that attract diverse marine life. He showed a 3-minute video promoting Underwater Jacksonville.

"We want to provide a web presence with content about all the amazing things offshore," said Kistel, who also noted it will be a good resource for tourists and locals who now go down to South Florida to dive.

Public access

Work is underway at the Sid Gefen Riverwalk Park on the Northbank for a new handicap-accessible kayak launch. An old wooden footbridge has been removed and the launch area is under construction, with estimated completion this fall.

"I keep hearing about things that are happening [on the waterways] and that gets me excited."

— Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman

Money is in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for another ADA kayak launch, this one on the Southbank Riverwalk near the Duval County Public School administration building. The state is providing funds for the design.

An area of the Northbank Riverwalk known as "Corkscrew Park" for the corkscrew pedestrian ramp over the railroad tracks is undergoing rehabilitation. "The shoreline of that area has been stabilized for an irrigation system which will be installed to make way for new vegetation and outdoor fitness equipment," said Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson. "The total cost is to be determined as the project is still ongoing."

The Hogan's Creek Trail, part of the Emerald Necklace in Springfield, is finished but needs additional funding for upgrades and landscaping. A sculpture walk at Klutho Park, featuring 10 sculptures, is being planned with input from Springfield

Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) and the University of North Florida.

South of Amelia Island, construction on a 245-foot pedestrian bridge, paid for with a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, is moving forward. The bridge across Cedar Point Creek will link 28 miles of trail in four preserves – Cedar Point, Pumpkin Hill, Jim Wingate and Betz-Tiger Point Preserve.

Several other projects are in the pipeline, including the restoration of Friendship Fountain, improvements at Pelican Plaza, Huguenot Park campground and the Betz-Tiger Point Preserve. And a \$1 million Federal Lands Access Program grant will pay for the design of the trail linking the Mayport ferry, Hanna Park, Neptune Beach and the Spanish Fort trail.

Plans to enhance the downtown riverwalks with landscaping also are progressing, Boyer said. Downtown Vision has agreed to inspect the riverwalks and alert the appropriate agency if work is needed. The Jacksonville Chamber is looking at how to maintain the landscaping and is consulting with the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

Beaches parks

Mayors for the three beach communities also gave updates about parks projects in their cities.

Atlantic Beach Mayor Mitch Reeves said the city has 512 acres of parks and has bought more for River Branch Preserve, Dutton Island Preserve and Tide Views Preserve, and money is being sought for a pier and kayak launch at Johansen Park. The city also has recently established an Environmental Stewardship Committee to help maintain the parks and tree canopy.

Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown said the city is doing a master plan for Jarboe Park and a new trail that would link the park and the library. She showed a video taken by a drone of the proposed path.

Jacksonville Beach Mayor Charlie Latham gave an overview of the parks in his city, including Latham Plaza, which was named for his father, and Cradle Creek Preserve. The city is negotiating to buy 100 acres at the Taylor Boat Ramp to add parking and a nature trail.

Pier repairs

District 13 Councilman Bill Gulliford, who represents the beaches in Duval County, said RS&H, an architecture, engineering and consulting firm, is assessing the damage to the Jacksonville Beach pier, which lost 300 feet to Hurricane Matthew last year. The city already has some money in the budget to make the repairs. Gulliford said that once the pier is repaired, he would like to contract with the city of Jacksonville Beach to manage it.

Land purchase

Elizabeth Guthrie of North Florida Land Trust said 80 acres on the Ortega River north of the Clay County line has been purchased.

The Land Trust had previously targeted the property for preservation but was not able to reach a deal with the landowner until Fletcher Davis Management Group brought the project back to the table and helped the two parties reach an agreement.

The property, off Collins Road near I-295 and Blanding Boulevard, is mostly wetlands and one upland location is used informally as a kayak and canoe launch.

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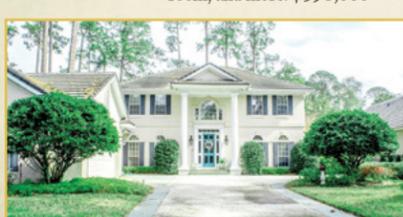




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Flooding in San Jose Forest FROM PAGE 1

The residents of San Jose Forest awoke one morning this past March to the sounds of chainsaws and heavy equipment to witness the forest being cut down. To their shock and dismay, the destruction didn't stop with tree cutting.

All the vegetation was destroyed and removed, and the land was scraped clean. Then, tons of what appeared to be soil, but had the smell and consistency of reconstituted sewage, was dumped on the barren strip of land, which brought the elevation four to six feet above the neighboring yards. Within 10 days, the "forest" that was part and parcel of the San Jose Forest community was gone. And in the backyards of six homes abutting this new development, residents suddenly had to deal with some ominous problems.

The new development, known as San Jose Estates, promises "Luxury Single Family Homes starting in the mid \$400,000s." The entire subdivision consists of six parcels covering slightly less than two acres. Included with each home purchase is a membership to Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, which is a short walk across the street.

The property has had a puzzling history. It was formally categorized, by the City of Jacksonville, as "Wasteland" or "Jurisdictional Wetlands." (There is an artesian spring on the site.) No property taxes had been paid on it for years. It has had three separate owners since 2002, with the latest sale coming April 28, 2016, when the property was purchased from Christiana Forest SJ LLC, by San Jose Estates, LLC for a price tag of just \$165,000. It has since been rezoned as RLD-90: residential low density with 90-foot setbacks.

For the past six months, six families with homes abutting the new development have been inundated with several feet of water that threatens to destroy their properties. The combination of an elevation that is too high, a lack of vegetation, the destruction of a natural wetland, and the lack of an efficient drainage system have turned what was once a functioning wetland and wildlife habitat into a scourge of water, mud and insects that are encroaching on the established neighborhood to the east. Recent heavy rains, along with the unchanneled artesian spring on the new site, continue to create water-filled backyards for several of the residents of San Jose Forest.

David Robison, one of the affected residents of this intrusion, said, "We now have lost the use of our property, and all of our properties have been significantly devalued...this project has scarred San Jose Forest and my property in particular. Having a 6-foot fill mound behind my house does not foster a sense of community."

Kevin Conner, another resident whose home abuts the new development, said, "No one is listening. Our elected officials have completely refused to address serious citizen concerns of our private property being severely and negatively impacted and devalued by a development that has been fully approved and authorized by the city."

Standing in the backyards of the affected homes, it is clear that drainage remains woefully inadequate. Deep water comes up to within a few feet of the Robison swimming pool during a rainstorm.

Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman, said although the Public Works Department deemed the engineering solution viable, she pushed to make sure "all the I's were dotted and T's were crossed, because it looks like it will be a problem."

Because there was no zoning change, there was no basis for the City to refuse the permitting, she said. Boyer also said the current process allows permitting without a timeline or temporary measures to prevent damage.

"It's a bigger issue of building in low areas," Boyer said. "FEMA requires builders to build higher; look what's happening in Houston. It's totally about our desires to build in what was formerly wetlands."

Although an underground storm water vault and a catch basin were designed for the property, the Robison family, the Conner family, and a neighbor who did not wish to be identified, stated they have not seen any sophisticated drain system installed that will solve the drainage problem.

"This mound of dirt is an assault on my senses," said Robison's wife, Lynn, "and when it rains, like it has several times during the last few months, our backyard is covered in deep water that smells terrible and has a yellow froth on it. I believe it has given my dog parasites. He has been on antibiotics trying to get over it. I've contacted the Board of Health."

Encroaching water and mud, and possible parasitic conditions of unknown origin are just one of the worries affecting the neighborhood. The runoff from the higher elevation of the land in question is now also flooding La Vaca Road where a JEA pump station becomes inundated with water every time it rains. This pump station is within several hundred feet of the Robisons' home, and services the neighboring area.

What happens when a pump station becomes flooded? Will the entire neighborhood be at risk? "That's a question no one has answered to date," said Robison.

San Jose Estates is a limited liability company owned by Feras Mouded, a Fort Caroline-based real estate broker. His phone has apparently been disconnected,



The Robison and Conner families' backyards on July 30.

"Why is everyone so willing to let this developer continue to flood our property?"

— David Robison

and he hasn't answered any email requests for a resolution or even simple commentary. Worried and frustrated residents in the affected area have attempted to get answers from the City, but nearly all attempts have been ignored.

"We have been living with this mess since March 3, 2017," said Robison, "and all we have to show for it are naked vacant lots, open pits, smelly landfill, and water taking over our back yards. And no one from the Building Department has responded to our formal complaints." He also noted that early flooding complaints were handled by the project engineer with the promises of remediation, but that never happened.

The rift between the residents of San Jose Forest who are living with the disruption and damage caused by this project, the city officials who have allowed this to happen, and the owners of the property, seems to grow deeper with each passing day.

Conner has an eight-year-old son who would like to play in his backyard. But when it rains, he has no backyard. What is the solution? There are many questions, and to date, very few answers and very little communication being offered by the City.

Many San Jose Forest residents are upset the City of Jacksonville agreed to allow a developer build on the wetlands in front of their subdivision. They've questioned how someone can issue a permit on land that was, for years, classified as wasteland. They wonder whether this area is buildable at all, because it lies in a flood zone and has an artesian system on it.

"Face it, [the city] has wrecked a dynamic ecosystem that was more than a just a wetland. It was an urban water filter and a large water storage area as well. It is going to take more than just a little fill to fix the problem. Why is everyone so willing to let this developer continue to flood our property?" said Robison.

Editor's Note

A trail of correspondence shared with *The Resident* indicates the Robison and Conner families began protesting the development in late February, prior to the bulldozers beginning to clear in early March. They documented each instance of heavy rains which caused flooding in their backyards.

Subsequent to an Aug. 17 meeting between Gray Edwards of Edwards Engineering and several city officials, William Killingsworth, City of Jacksonville director of planning and development, sent an email to Edwards stating failure to take corrective actions, such as installing a pump, would result in revocation of permits for the site and a demand to remove any fill already in place.

"In resolving this issue time is of the essence, since neither the City nor the development team controls the weather," said Killingsworth in the email.

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Library budget cuts upset advocates

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

When Roxanne Henkle, president of Friends of the Willowbranch Library (FOWL), read through Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's 378-page 2017-2018 proposed budget, she got a sinking feeling when she saw what was slotted for the Jacksonville Public Libraries.

While funding for "same level of service" (salaries, contracts with security, etc.) was approved with slight modifications to the budget request, the line item for library materials was slashed by 14 percent, over \$485,000 less than what the JPL received last year. The proposed materials budget, which includes books, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks and databases, is just under

\$3 million, less than the 2005 budget for printed materials alone.

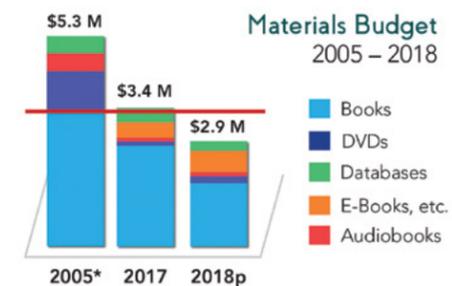
"Council gave us a one-time bump of \$500,00 for materials last year, so that money wasn't 'renewed' this year in the mayor's budget. Plus, the state cut \$150,000 for next year that it usually gives us," said Ruth Ann Hepler, FOWL board member. "Overall, the materials budget has decreased 56 percent since 2005, so even with last year's bump, we are still way behind the curve. That's why we're asking for an additional \$850,000 this year (more than what the mayor's budget proposes) for materials."

The nine Friends of Library groups held a press conference Aug. 8 at the Main Library on Laura Street to protest the slashed budget and to request \$850,000 for material funding as well as restore Monday hours for nine branches, including Murray Hill, San Marco and Willowbranch libraries. The investment to restore Monday hours is calculated at just over \$1 million by the Friends groups.

"There have been discussions from leaders stating, 'Well, you have Library of the Year, why do you need funding?'" Henkle shared, lamenting the loss of the state-funded



Florence Rando, Interim Library Director Jennifer Giltrop and Judy Klein at the Library Budget presentation to the City Council Finance Committee on Aug. 11.



Career Online High School, a line item Gov. Rick Scott had vetoed after JPL submitted its budget.

"We need to educate our city leaders of the importance of the library," she said. "Funding for achieving a high school diploma, not a GED, has been removed. This is a great loss. The program allowed for participants to have mentorship while in this program."

The state-funded program provides scholarships and there none available for over 130 students, who are enrolled and have 18 months from their acceptance into the program to complete it and graduate, according to Chris Boivin, JPL assistant director of community relations and marketing. "We are working to secure other funding sources to keep the program going," he said.

San Marco bulkhead repairs begin – finally

Frustrated San Marco residents can breathe a sigh of relief. The long-awaited repairs to the bulkhead at Riverfront Park on River Road have begun, almost a year after it was damaged by Hurricane Matthew. In May, the Jacksonville City Council approved \$2 million for the northern segment of the project that will be completed in January. The remaining funds, about \$600,000, are in the Capital Improvement Plan and must be approved the council. Work on that segment is expected to begin in January 2018 and be completed by May. The area will remain fenced off until the work is completed.



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Miramar residents unhappy with local estate used for short-term rentals

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The riverfront Mediterranean estate on the St. Johns River gets raves reviews from visitors. The four-bedroom gated estate has a dock, swimming pool and summer kitchen. It sounds like a great, though pricey (\$650 a night), getaway. Sunsets are spectacular and privacy is guaranteed in the quiet Jacksonville neighborhood.

The quiet neighborhood is Miramar and it's been in an uproar since discovering the riverfront estate being marketed as Tuscan River Estate on HomeAway.com is at the end of Kelnepa Drive.

Tuscan River Estate LLC paid \$1,350,000 for the 5,412-square-foot home at 4424 Kelnepa Dr. this past June. It was built in 1924 and last sold for \$930,000 in 2000.

The property had been a short-term rental for 1½ years until the sale, but in July neighbors complained to the city about traffic on the short dead-end street.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who represents the area, alerted the Code Enforcement Division, which issued a warning citation for unpermitted land use. City code prohibits single-family homes being used commercially as a special events venue, such as weddings.

The estate manager, Michael Johnigan, said the estate is not a commercial operation. He said he has eliminated references to the property as a wedding site on HomeAway and tuscanriverestate.com.



Front view of the Kelnepa Drive home advertised as Tuscan River Estate (Photo from tuscanriverestate.com)

But the controversy hit social media and brought unfavorable publicity that riled Johnigan.

"This has been so unfair. This is mostly for people who come in from out of town. They're nice people who can pay this kind of rent. It's a \$3.5 million home. It's not cheap," Johnigan said. "If people want to have a party, that's their business as long as they're not bothering the neighbors."

Johnigan hired an attorney to sort things out with the city. He added this proviso to the website: "Parties/events/gatherings need prior approval and there is an additional fee based on the number of guests."

But the neighbors aren't satisfied.

Allan and Bonnie Biats have lived at the end of Kelnepa since 1999. They say the quiet, tree-shaded atmosphere has been shattered by the procession of as many as

50 vehicles, including delivery trucks, some weekends. Kelnepa is a narrow street with a 15 mph speed limit the Biats say the visitors ignore.

"People are using Kelnepa like it's a driveway," Allan Biats said. "In their minds, they're going to a commercial venue, not driving through a residential neighborhood."

People who rent the estate are supposed to park inside the gates, but sometimes they don't and park along the road instead, the Biats said.

The estate is rented through HomeAway.com, a short-term rental site like Airbnb through which homeowners rent a spare room, a condo in the city or a cottage in the country for a day, a week or a month. There are dozens of choices in San Marco and Riverside.

Biats said they would be okay with the estate being rented to people who want to spend a week or a weekend on a riverfront estate.

"We've seen a family with kids riding their bikes," Bonnie Biats said. "We're okay with that. It's the big shindigs that are a problem. It's not about the noise, because we usually can't hear them. It's the traffic."

Kelnepa Drive has 20 single-family homes. "Sometimes people on this street will have parties, but they'll only have four or five cars. They don't have the capacity for major events like the estate," Bonnie Biats said.

"We want the events stopped and the chaos eliminated," Allan Biats said.

The Biats also are worried that a commercial operation at the end of the street will increase the crime rate and lower property values. Already, there's been minor property damage. Someone drove into their yard and destroyed a solar light and their house number. Another neighbor had their street-front basketball hoop knocked down and another neighbor's gazebo was damaged by a tree that fell on the estate, Allan Biats said.

"We feel like they're laughing at us. They're coming in right under the wire. They say they're not doing anything wrong but they know they are," Bonnie Biats said.

The controversy is being reviewed by the Code Enforcement Division and the General Counsel's Office.

New school drop-off lane will ease traffic congestion

Good news for Miramar residents. The paving portion of the Hendricks Avenue Elementary School drop-off lane project on San Jose Boulevard was done Aug. 26, but the entire project will conclude in September, according to Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson.

Temporary striping was laid because permanent striping cannot be put down until 30 days after the paving, according to the project manager.



Construction workers pause during the installation of a parking lane while a Hendricks Avenue Elementary School crossing guard keeps an eye on children on the first day of school.



Parents queue up next to the incomplete drop-off lane during morning drop-off at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School

Both San Jose driveways and the existing sidewalk are open, and a temporary pedestrian crosswalk and 15 MPH reminder sign is in place.

Construction, which began in early June and includes associated drainage improvements, is currently a bit behind schedule due to heavy rain, and because during the

project the contractor rescheduled the crew's working hours to begin at 9 a.m. to accommodate parents and commuters during morning drop-offs.

So far, the city's general fund has shelled out \$144,578.81 for the right-hand turn lane and city officials said the project remains on budget.

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FirstAtlantic Bank adds new member to financial team



Greg Totten

Greg Totten has joined FirstAtlantic Bank as an assistant vice president and financial center manager. He is responsible for managing the Ponte Vedra Beach Financial Center, located at 100 Corridor Rd. S., and developing new customer relationships.

Totten brings 30 years of financial services experience to his new position. He was most recently with Coastline Federal Credit Union. Totten is the past president of the Ponte Vedra Beach Chamber of Commerce and a volunteer for the United Way, March of Dimes, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"We are very pleased to have Greg join our team," said FirstAtlantic President and CEO Mitchell W. Hunt, Jr. "He's a well-known and trusted banker in our local community who makes a great addition to our company."

MOVERS & SHAKERS

New DAR officers installed for two-year term

The Jacksonville Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) installed new officers for the 2017-2019 term in May.

Known as the "Mother Chapter of Florida" because it is the first DAR chapter in Florida, the Jacksonville Chapter was formally recognized April 2, 1895 by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), which was founded five years earlier in 1890.

Some of the charter members, such as Mae Wilson Dancy, Sallie Alison Buckman, Fannie B. Stockton, Mary Stockton Young, are well-known place names today.

New officers are Betty Reed, regent; Joann Bragg, vice-regent; Claudia Cuartero, 2nd vice-regent; Trisha Gillespie, recording secretary; Susan Norwood, treasurer; Marsha Morley, chaplain; Anne Eber, librarian; Palmer Lamb, historian and public relations; Margaret Pelton, parliamentarian, Jurelle Staton, registrar, and Anita Moore, curator.



Anne Eber, Palmer Lamb, Trisha Gillespie, Joann Bragg, Betty Reed, Susan Norwood, Marsha Morley, not pictured: Jurelle Staton, Claudia Cuartero, Margaret Pelton, Anita Moore

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership.

The Jacksonville Chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., September through May. For location, contact Betty Reed at DARjaxbettyreed@att.net



Olivia Masters, store manager

Find the perfect bridal gown at One Fine Day

One Fine Day Bridal Salon, which initially opened February 2015 on San Jose Boulevard in Mandarin, moved to 1636 Hendricks Ave. in San Marco in June.

The couture bridal boutique carries gowns from Pronovias, Eddy K, Truelle, Kelly Faetanini, and more, plus hair accessories, veils and jewelry.

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Former Naval officer joins Raymond James



Caleb Cronic

Bringing with him lessons learned as a lieutenant serving in the U.S. Navy, Caleb Cronic has joined the Otterson-Allison Wealth Management team at Raymond James Associates as a financial advisor trainee and plans to take his Series 7 and Series 66 certification exams this fall. Cronic served as a commissioned officer for six years, completing multiple deployments to the Middle East, and finished his service as an Operations Officer and Intelligence Oversight Officer.

"I found that many of my strengths and lessons I learned in the Navy translated very well to the financial field and helping others reach their financial goals while staying in tune with international events," said Cronic.

Cronic and his wife, Kristin, who currently serves as an officer in the Navy, now live near the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's boathouse on Pottsborg Creek with daughter Eleanor.

"We love the beauty and tranquility of the creek while being so close to downtown and San Marco," he said.

Cronic is a deacon at Southside Baptist church as well as a Sunday School teacher.

Women chosen as new leaders for two nonprofits

Two well-known nonprofits recently announced the hiring of new chief executive officers.

Hubbard House, Inc., a certified domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker Counties, will promote its Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Gail Patin, to serve as its new CEO.

Hope Haven, one of Northeast Florida's leading nonprofit providers of specialized services for children and their families, went outside the organization to select Stella E. Johnson as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Patin has been at Hubbard House for 14 years and previously served at CEO of Harbor House, a domestic violence center in Orlando.

Beyond Hubbard House, Patin's list of professional accomplishments are many and include helping to found Micah's Place domestic violence center in Nassau County, holding board and committee positions with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and, recently, working in collaboration with the City of Jacksonville, the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court and Jewish Family & Community Services on the Jacksonville Safety First Project, a nationally funded project that provides safe visitation and exchange for victims of domestic violence and their children.



Dr. Gail Patin



Stella Johnson

Patin has a doctorate degree from the University of North Florida specializing in leadership, nonprofit management, strategic planning and program evaluation in nonprofits. She is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Florida and received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of South Carolina.

Johnson currently serves as the Executive Director of the Family Nurturing Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the needs of children and families in crisis in North Florida. She will assume her new role with Hope Haven on September 18, 2017.

An extensive background working with children and families in Florida includes 10 years at the Family Nurturing Center, serving as the Executive Director for the last eight years. Johnson has provided consultation services and program development for foster care, delinquency, and similar programs serving at-risk youth and families. Previously, she served as Program Services Director for the Capital City Youth Services in Tallahassee and Program Coordinator for the Youth Crisis Center in Jacksonville. Johnson has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of North Florida.

Four join Public Education Fund Board of Directors

James Cameron "Buck" Williams, Latrece Brown, Dr. Patricia Willis and the Honorable Paula D. Wright will join 15 current members of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund Board of Directors.

Williams, who joined the board in January 2017 as a voting member, is a financial advisor with The Beard, Williams, Chappell Group at UBS Private Wealth Management. An Ortega resident, he is also involved with Sanctuary on 8th Street as board treasurer



Buck Williams



Dr. Patricia Willis



The Honorable Paula Wright



Latrece Brown

and is chair of the Troop Committee for Boy Scout Troop 26 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Ortega.

Brown replaced Kay Park June 2017 as the non-voting ex officio Florida Blue Teacher of the Year representative. She is

a fourth-year teacher at Andrew Robinson Elementary School. Willis, the Duval County Public School superintendent, also joined the board in June as a non-voting ex officio member, as is Wright, the School Board chair, who joined in January.

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Community Nutcracker brings on guest choreographers

Following the retirement of Beth Marks, founding director of Community Nutcracker, the nonprofit has brought on two guest choreographers to work with Artistic Directors Dulce Anaya, Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak.

Suzanne Saltmarsh of Saltmarsh Dance of Jacksonville and Heather Stevenson Loveland of Heather Loveland Dance Academy in St. Johns County will join the Nutcracker Ballet in its 26th season.

Saltmarsh, who holds a Master's in Fine Arts in Choreography from Jacksonville University, will choreograph the role of Arabians, while the roles of Angels, Cherubs, Sprites and Pages will



Suzanne Saltmarsh Heather Loveland

be choreographed by Loveland. A Douglas Anderson School of the Arts graduate, Loveland has performed in the Nutcracker Ballet.

The first production of the Community Nutcracker Ballet in 1992 starred Julie Kent, who became a world-famous ballerina. In the past 25 years, the nonprofit has donated more than \$600,000 to local charities.

San Marco attorney selected to 2017 Florida Super Lawyers list

Gerald Weedon, of San Marco, is among 10 Marks Gray, P.A. attorneys who have been selected to the 2017 Florida Super Lawyers list, and one attorney has been selected to the 2017 Florida Rising Stars list. Weedon was also recognized for his 10th anniversary on the list.

Weedon is joined by Frederick H. Kent, III, Real Estate; Nicholas V. Pulignano, Jr., Business Litigation; Jephtha F. Barbour, Personal Injury General: Defense; Edward L. Birk, Media/Advertising; Crystal T. Broughan, Intellectual Property; Giselle

Carson, Immigration: Business; William M. Corley, Personal Injury Products: Defense; John R. Crawford, Estate Planning & Probate, and Susan S. Erdelyi, Employment & Labor.

Meagan L. Logan, Civil Litigation: Defense, was named a 2017 Florida Rising Star. Jephtha F. Barbour was selected for the Florida Top 100 list as well, and he and Pulignano were also recognized for their 10th anniversary on the list.

No more than five percent of the lawyers in Florida are selected to receive these honors.



Gerald Weedon

Local artist exhibited at San Marco gallery

A reception for local artist Ed Hall was held Aug. 4 at The Vault at 1930, a San Marco art gallery, where his mixed media art was on display for the month.

A graduate of Wolfson High School and the University of Florida, Hall is a cartoonist, an educator, and a residential designer, as well as a fine artist.

Hall's work often focuses on animals, especially dogs, but he also creates landscapes, among other topics. He and his wife, Emmy, an architect and interior designer, live in a bungalow they redesigned to include a two-story addition for his creative works.



Featured artist Ed Hall, Emmy Hall and Margaret Janz



Dr. Wayne Wood with Lana Shuttleworth



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Douglas Anderson School of the Arts hires new musical theatre director

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts announced Joe Kemper has been named the theatre department's new Musical Theatre Director.

Kemper was awarded the National Distinguished Director of a Play Award for his work in the regional premiere of Andrew Upton's and Benedict Andrews' translation of Jean Genet's "The Maids" at Flagler College. He also received the Regional Excellence in Directing Award by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The production also received seven national honors, including Outstanding Production of a Play, Outstanding Actor and Actress in a Play, and Outstanding Ensemble of a Play.

Kemper, a West Virginia native, received his Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Central Florida. His

previous directing credits include Neil Labute's "Fat Pig" and "Iphigenia in Orem," Christopher Durang's "Beyond Therapy," "Big Fish the Musical," "Black Comedy," Garson Kanin's "Born Yesterday," "Bye Bye Birdie," Neil Simon's "Proposals," Rice and Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," and the recent "Spring Awakening" at Jacksonville University and "The Call" for the Five and Dime Theatre Company.

As an educator, Kemper is the former theatre director at Ponte Vedra High School, where he was named 2015-2016 Rookie Teacher of the Year and directed the school-record-breaking productions of "The Foreigner," "Hairspray," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Wedding Singer." He is a member of Actor's Equity Association.



Joe Kemper

Realty firm collects record 1,151 backpacks



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected a record 1,151 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 18th Annual Backpack Challenge. Last year, the company collected a then-record 1,011 backpacks for local children during the Backpack Challenge.

The backpacks and school supplies collected by the real estate firm during the campaign were donated to students throughout Northeast Florida via Dreams Come True, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice - Office of Prevention, Orange Park Junior High School, BEAM - Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, Mayport Elementary School, Operation New Hope, Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida, Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary and Charles E. Bennett Elementary Schools. "We are filled with gratitude to all of our Realtors, employees and clients for

Marisa Mariano, Marian Snovell, Christy Budnick, Linda Sherrer, Brenna Antram, Chantha Bisher and Maria Wilkes

ensuring that so many local children have the supplies they need for educational success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "The Backpack Challenge is an event our team looks forward to participating in every year and we are very proud of their efforts."

During the campaign, backpacks and school supplies were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The backpacks were purchased for students in kindergarten through grade 12, and filled with school supplies, such as pens, pencils, paper and notebooks.

Plans underway for second Hightide Burrito Co.

Hightide Burrito owner Alejandro (Alex) Juarez is planning to open his second location next spring 2018 at the Sadler Point Retail Building on the Westside. Juarez' fast-casual eatery is planned for the end of the Lakeside Drive building closest to the Ortega River, while on the street side, The Loop is in its build-out phase.

Juarez said he had been thinking about another location for some time, but just began actively looking seven months ago. "I had been looking all over the city, as far as St. Augustine and the Beaches," he said,

"but this is a unique location with a good tenant mix."

He also noted the proximity to his San Marco location won't cannibalize that restaurant's current business. "It's far enough, yet close enough," he said. "The water is a natural divide; as the crow flies, it's not that far."

Hightide Burrito intends to have outdoor seating in the mix of 150 seats, with a full bar for the full-service experience. Juarez has just begun the planning phase so had no timeline yet for build-out.

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High school dedicated for students with special needs

Nine days after students returned to Morning Star School Aug. 9 to a brand new building, the Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley Building was blessed and dedicated in a morning ceremony Aug. 18.

Thanks to the parents, organizations, corporations and Morning Star's "Circle of Friends" who supported the "Building a Brighter Future" capital campaign, the Class of 2020 will be the first high school graduating class at Morning Star.



Karen Montana, Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, Greg Montana, Deacon Scott Conway (Photo by Woody Huband)

The ceremony was conducted by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, with Scripture readings by Deacon David Yazdiya, principal of Bishop Snyder High School, and by sophomore students Lorenzo Hall and Robert Pattan. Morning Star Principal Jean Barnes gave a "thank you" address, and general intercessions were read by students Elayna Carandang, Griff Jones, Dylan Jackson and Ricardo Foster.

"All of this is possible because friends who shared our vision stepped forward to support our mission to provide a firm foundation of faith, service and academics to students with learning differences," said Barnes. "Bob Shircliff, Lou Walsh and Jay Demetree – three gentlemen who stood up when we called, stuck with us through our challenges, made personal phone calls on our behalf to people they knew who would be able to help us. We are here today



Morning Star High School students with mentors from Bishop Snyder High School (Photo by Woody Huband)

because of them; words cannot begin to express our gratitude."

The 60-year-old school was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine at the request of Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley to provide a Catholic education for

students who were physically handicapped. To serve students in higher grades, the school launched a \$1.6 million building addition in October 2016. As of the opening of school, the campaign goal stood at 75 percent in pledges and donations.

San Marco-based bank to merge with Alabama financial institution

Less than a month after celebrating its 10th anniversary of serving the Jacksonville community, FirstAtlantic Bank issued a statement announcing a merger with a Birmingham, Alabama bank.

National Commerce Corporation, the parent company of National Bank of Commerce and FirstAtlantic Financial Holdings, Inc., the parent company of FirstAtlantic Bank, jointly announced Aug. 16 the signing of a definitive agreement providing for the merger of FirstAtlantic with and into NCC.

Subsequent to the merger, FirstAtlantic Bank will become a part of NBC, but will continue to operate under the "FirstAtlantic Bank" trade name and its existing management team.

At the end of June, the San Marco-based FirstAtlantic Bank had about \$462 million in assets across eight locations. The transaction is expected to result in a combined institution with approximately \$3.1 billion in assets.

The boards of directors of NCC, NBC, FirstAtlantic and FirstAtlantic Bank have approved the transaction. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of regulatory approvals and approval by FirstAtlantic's shareholders.



River Garden welcomes Florida senator for tour

Florida Senator Denise Grimsley stopped by River Garden in late August to tour the campus, learn more about issues concerning nursing home residents, and ask how she can help make life better for the area's frailest at-risk citizens. In the photo, Dick Kravitz, former State Representative; Martin Goetz, River Garden CEO, Senator Denise Grimsley and Mauri Mizrahi, River Garden assistant administrator.

Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery celebrates 40th anniversary

Congratulations to Hooshang Harvesf, on the 40th anniversary of Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery. Hooshang opened his oriental rug business – sales, cleaning and repairs – at 3571 St. Johns Ave. in the Shoppes of Avondale on Sept. 15, 1977.

"I am really as excited and happy today about what I do as the first day I opened these doors," said Hooshang, who holds a Ph.D. in economics. "I am the longest-running business in the Shoppes of Avondale at the same location and very proud of that fact."

Hooshang, who imports his unique, handmade rugs directly from every weaving country in the world, said, "I still look forward to coming to work every day. I enjoy the community and my customers tremendously."



Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D.

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As part of our commitment to enhance breast health education, UF Health invites you to participate in a free question-and-answer session about the latest information on breast cancer led by a panel of health care experts.



Directed by Shahla Masood, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville
Medical Director, UF Health Breast Center – Jacksonville
Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UF Health Jacksonville

2017 Panel of Experts from the University of Florida College of Medicine

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Radiation Oncology

Shahla Masood, MD
Professor & Chair
Pathology

Laila Samiian, MD
Assistant Professor
Surgical Oncology

Brian G. Celso, PhD
Assistant Professor
Psychology

John D. Murray, MD
Assistant Professor
Plastic Surgery

Smita Sharma, MD
Assistant Professor
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Andrew M. Kaunitz, MD
Professor & Associate Chair
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Fauzia N. Rana, MD
Professor
Hematology and Oncology

Martha C. Wasserman, MD
Assistant Professor
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Scott Lind, MD
Professor & Chair
Surgery

Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, MD
Associate Professor
Reproductive Endocrinology

Lara Zuberi, MD
Assistant Professor
Hematology and Oncology

For more information or to RSVP, call 904.244.6069 by Sept. 28. Seating is limited. This event is open only to adults 18 and older.



Please join us for these 2 great events!



6-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22

Sanctuary on 8th Street
Celebrating 25 years of service to the children and families of Springfield.

The Garden Club of Jacksonville
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Both to benefit The Sanctuary on 8th Street

Global financial company expands on Southbank

JAXUSA Partnership and JAX Chamber held a ribbon cutting Aug. 14 to celebrate Macquarie Group's continued growth in the Jacksonville market. Already occupying the fifth floor of Riverplace Towers, the event noted expansion to the fourth floor



On hand for the ceremony were CBRE construction project manager Stewart Green, and Oliver Barakat, DIA board member and CBRE broker of the original Macquarie lease.

for Macquarie's human resources and business services staff.

The company is expanding its shared services operations and adding 50 new jobs in Northeast Florida. In fact, on the day of the celebration, Matthew Gummer, CFO for Macquarie Americas, said the company had brought in 31 new employees that same day.

A \$50,000 incentive package from the City and \$200,000 from the State of Florida helped the Australian-based company select Jacksonville over a city in India for the expansion, bringing \$1.7 million in capital investments to Jacksonville.

Macquarie Group is a global provider of financial, advisory, investment and funds management services, and began its Jacksonville operations in the Riverplace Tower building in 2015.



Cutting the ribbon for new Macquarie Group office space in Riverplace Tower were Anthony Glenn, Head of Jacksonville Office for Macquarie, JAX Chamber Board Chair Darnell Smith, City Council President Anna Brosche, Mayor Lenny Curry, with Marcus Simper, Macquarie Division Director, and Matthew Gummer, Macquarie Americas CFO.

The Ripple Effect recognized for work in children's mental health care

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded its ECCO (Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach) Award Honorary Mention to the Partnership for Child Health.

"We're very proud of the tireless dedication provided by professionals, community partner organizations and leaders in our city," said Vicki Waytowich, Executive Director, Partnership for Child Health. "The positive impact throughout our community in mental and behavioral health services continues to keep kids on track as we create a ripple effect providing better health and well-being outcomes for children."

The award honors the Jacksonville System of Care Initiative, Mental Health America of Jacksonville and other community partners for The Ripple Effect annual event honoring mental health care professionals who have provided exemplary services to children, youth and families in Jacksonville. The Ripple Effect was created in 2014 by Mental Health America



Vicki Waytowich, Executive Director, Partnership for Child Health; Lee Kaywork, Chairman, Jacksonville System of Care Initiative Board of Directors, and CEO, Family Support Services; Denise Marzullo, CEO, Mental Health America of Jacksonville

of Jacksonville to recognize the substantial contributions mental health care providers have made to children who they serve.

The annual ECCO Award acknowledges excellence in social marketing from more than 37 systems of care organizations across the United States. Jacksonville was awarded a grant from SAMHSA in 2010 to develop a collaborative system of care network to connect children with the resources and services they need to reach their full potential.

New San Jose restaurant all about 'comfort'

"Comfort. a southern bistro" is a new restaurant at 2777 University Blvd. W., owned and operated by siblings Lacy and Clay Gregory, co-executive chefs. Lacy Gregory describes the cuisine as "country with a li'l class," serving brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, and offering a "kids under 9 eat free" dine-in special on Tuesdays through Thursdays, as long as adults order, too.

After looking at a variety of locations all over the city, the Gregorays choose The Shoppes at San Jose for several reasons. "This area is starving for something new," said Lacy. "The restaurants in this area



Siblings Lacy and Clay Gregory

have been here for quite some time, so we felt we could bring some excitement to the area. It is also really close to where we live, which makes a great commute to and from work."

After graduating from the University of Central Florida, Lacy attended Orlando Culinary Academy, Le Cordon Bleu, while Clay went to a culinary school in Jacksonville. They both worked at the St. Johns Golf & Country Club, and Lacy also worked at One Ocean Resort and Sawgrass Country Club before they decided to open their own restaurant.

"This area is starving for something new"

— Lacy Gregory, co-executive chef, Comfort

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MOCA Jacksonville hosts patient art exhibit

For the third consecutive year, First Tennessee Bank is sponsoring the Art with a Heart in Healthcare exhibit at MOCA Jacksonville. At the opening reception Aug. 6, guests were delighted to mingle with the young artists whose works were on display in the exhibit, "Another Side Revealed."

The patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital were given the question "If you could be anything, go anywhere, do anything - what would it be?" In answering this question, they rendered their self-portraits as they are and as they would be. Painted on canvas, patients explored their

personalities, stories, and identities in a two-dimensional form.

Patients partner with Art with a Heart artists-in-residence to bring out their natural talents and expand their artistic expression while promoting self-confidence and self-awareness during their hospital experience.

Since 2001, Art with a Heart in Healthcare has provided artistic outlets to more than 70,000 patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Specialty Care and, more recently, Brooks Rehabilitation Centers in Jacksonville.



Vicki Ray, Victoria Furner, 11, who loves art and vampires, Kylie Woldren, Sabra Furner



Sandra and Raven Rosario, 16, with Melissa Spurrier. Raven is a trained magician and clown.



Charlotte Googin, 10, said art is her passion and dreams of traveling to Paris.



Leo Schoenhofen, 12, said lions are his favorite animal.



Eliana Nanni, 11, wants to be a superhero with the power to heal.



Casey Andeer and her daughter, Rue, whose dream reflects her desire to be a swimming teacher or a chef.



Devon Zona, 12, loves baseball, fishing and cupcakes.

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Speaker
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Managing Director
UBS Asset Management (Americas)

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Seating is limited.*

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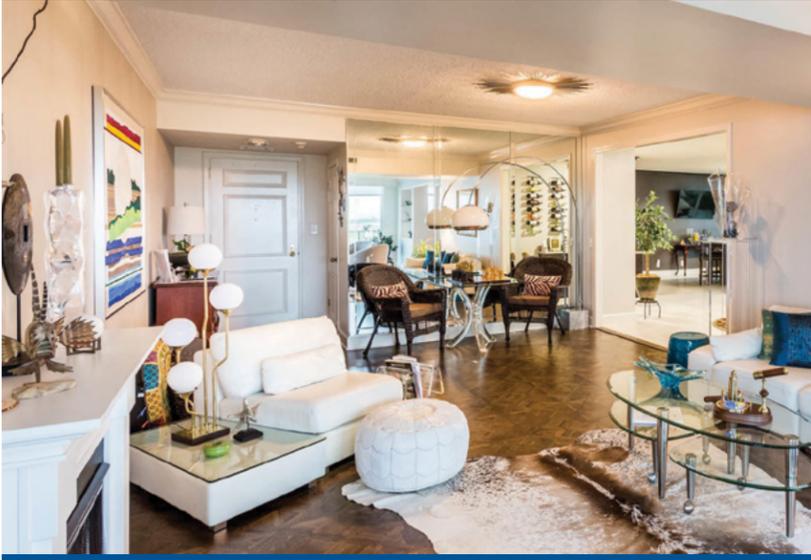
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Jennifer Grunewald
904-608-8410
(speaks Spanish)



Michael Leachman
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Eleana Carrion
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(speaks Spanish)



Liz Reiman
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Samantha Ryan with Anne Marie Moquin, Naomi Ziva and Rachel Jackson

Angelwood reaches major milestone, anniversary

The 25th Anniversary Gala to benefit Angelwood's programs serving children and adults living with disabilities was held Aug. 26 in the Champions Ballroom at the Sawgrass Marriott.

The evening kicked off with cocktails while guests left their bids in the silent auction for items ranging from a Big Green Egg grill, 10 bottles of red wine valued at more than \$500, a one-day fishing charter with former Jacksonville Jaguar Jeff Lageman, and a week-long rental at a Tennessee mountain cabin. The live auction included

two weekly hospitality passes to the 2018 Ryder Cup, a private plane ride and lunch with former Jacksonville Jaguar Kyle Brady a luxury private suite for 20 at the Jags vs. Indy game and two tickets to the 2018 NCAA Final Four in San Antonio, Texas, to name a few.

Dinner was following by dancing to the Chris Thomas Band, as patrons of Angelwood enjoyed the fun-filled event chaired by Natalie and Mike Rolewicz and Robin and Dan Wahby. The honorary chairs for the big anniversary gala were Tabitha and Jim Furyk.

SOCIAL R



Sarah Smith and Dr. Joy Wolfram representing the Mayo Clinic



City Councilman Aaron Bowman with his wife Debbie, Women's Center Board Chair Lisé Everly and Development Director Gillian Ticehurst



Meg Rohal, Michelle DeLuca, Sharón Simmons and Jennifer Wolfe



Laura VanZee and Michelle Gilliam

Women's Center celebrates transforming lives at annual gala

The Year of the Pearl, an evening of inspiration and sophistication, was the theme for the Women's Center of Jacksonville's 22nd Annual Celebration of Women. Held Aug. 18 at Queens Harbour Yacht and Country Club, the yearly event also recognized the 97th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote on Aug. 26, 1920.

Emcee for the evening was Katie Jeffries, First Coast News Anchor, and Signature Sponsor was Mayo Clinic. Guests bid on a variety of silent and live auction items to raise funds for the Rape Recovery advocacy and prevention programs, affordable mental health counseling, Expanded Horizons literacy and family education, Bosom Buddies breast cancer survivor support, and the new Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) facility. As he did in 2016, Sheriff Mike Williams served as auctioneer for the live auction and for Gifts of Love.

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Lynn Sussman with Jerry Funk



Dr. Dave Schaeffer with his wife Liz



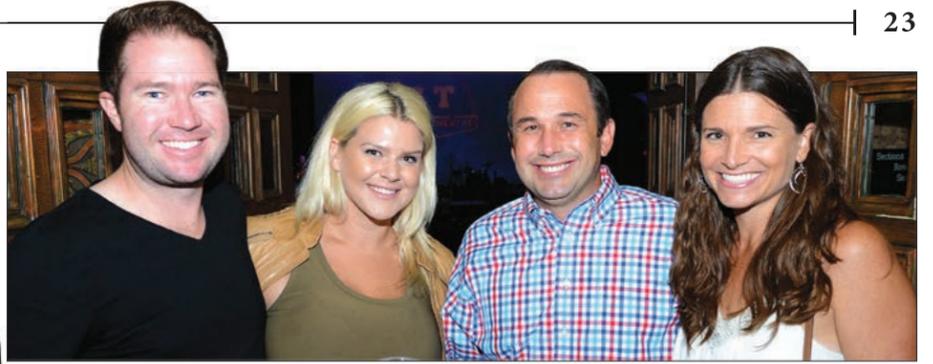
Carolyn Bannister with Monica Hicks and Amy Burns

Downtown Library a Fundraising Oasis for Nemours

The Jacksonville Public Library downtown played host to a big night for fundraising in support of complex medical conditions for local children. Contributors to the outstanding pediatric patient care at Nemours Children's Specialty Care gathered for the 5th annual Evening of Promise to raise the bar.

A night of music, cocktails and fabulous cuisine was but the backdrop for the generosity of those who stepped up to fund preventative medical care and education programs, not to mention, life-saving research.

The host committee of Dr. Steven and Mrs. Andreoli, Mr. and Mrs. Chad Bunnell, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Vineyard welcomed guests and like-minded supporters to the atrium at the main library for a fantastic evening of festivities.



Bo DeHuff and Alexandra Miller with Jake and Dana Gordon



Bob Grandstaff, Rick Haase and Krysta Johnston of River City Brewing Company



Krista and Ryan Burket

Florida Theatre hosts best end of summer party

The Florida Theatre's annual summer fundraising event, Blues, Brews and BBQ, was the most well-attended of similar past events, with more than 400 showing their support of the 90-year-old venue.

"We have a number of fundraisers throughout the year, and this one tries to do three things: Support the theatre, connect the arts of cooking and brewing with the performing arts, and give the public a reasonably priced way to support the theatre," said Numa Saisselin, president. "We brought in over \$30,000 last night, and that helps support our preservation of the theatre, and the presentation of music, dance and theatre acts that really add another dimension to our life here in Jacksonville."

Presented by Publix Supermarket Charities, the Aug. 24 party showcased some of Jacksonville's best local blues music, craft beers and barbeque. Smokestack and The Snack Blues performed nonstop on the theatre's historic stage.

Blues, Brews and BBQ 2017 included more craft breweries and more barbeque restaurants this year, with samples provided by The Butt Hutt, Gilbert's Social, Mojo BBQ, Monroe's BBQ, 4 Rivers Smokehouse and The Bearded Pig on both the main and mezzanine lobby areas. Guests also enjoyed unlimited craft beer provided by Wicked Barley Brewery, Bold City Brewery, Veterans United Brewery, 7 Bridges Grille & Brewery and Engine 15 Brewing Company.



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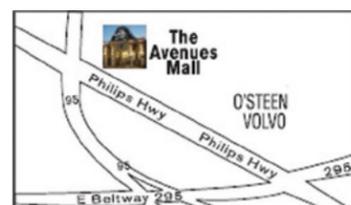
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Children learn kindness for animals at Camp Compassion

EPIC Outreach, a nonprofit dedicated to education outreach to teach compassion for people, animals and the environment, held a week-long Camp Compassion for up to 27 children in July at Southside Baptist Church.

Guest speakers brought animals, including Wrigley, a therapy dog, and Pumpkin, a Guinea pig rescue, to help the campers learn about kindness. After the education sessions, games, arts and crafts projects reinforced the message that compassion makes a difference.

According to EPIC Outreach Director Jessie Miller, a Certified Humane Education Specialist, proof of the camp's success came in the form of a note from a student's mother: "Yesterday we had a few ants in our house and Charlie asked why we couldn't just leave them alone and love them instead of hurt them."

EPIC Outreach offers 1-2 hour programs in kindness to animals, dog safety for children, marine life awareness, finding the right pet, among others. Contact Miller at Jessie@epicanimals.org or call (904) 274-1177 for details.



Stella Windham, a camper at Camp Compassion, proudly displays her drawing of a turtle.



Stella Windham gives Wrigley a big hug on the last day of Camp Compassion.



Wrigley, therapy dog, gets attention from the students at Camp Compassion.

Changing lives one thread at a time

Celebrating six years of changing lives, Rethreaded's annual birthday bash held Aug. 5 its retail space on Barnett Street brought together community members who support efforts to end human trafficking in Northeast Florida.

Since its founding by Kristen Keen in 2012, the nonprofit has provided over 28,000 hours of work through its retail operation to local survivors, and has directly impacted 30 survivors of human trafficking in

Jacksonville. Many of the products sold at Rethreaded are made by repurposing T-shirts into scarves and other items.

The 6th anniversary was celebrated with a lot of freebies, including a yoga class, pastries from Motion Sweets, iced coffee from Social Grounds Coffee, pops from The Hyppo, picnic lunches from Publix, Happy Hour beverages from Engine 15 Brewing Company, and drawings for Rethreaded items.



Carrie Smals with Ruth-Ann Moody



Stevie Schoof, Natalie Schoof



Carol and Councilman At-Large Tommy Hazouri



Christy and Emma Hilpert



Silvia Almond and Tia Longhouser, both with the Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition

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Popular low country boil brings out Riverkeeper supporters



Bryan Mickler, Event Head Cook, Brad Studsill, Steve Cobb, Event Logistics Coordinator, Shannon Blankinship, St. Johns Riverkeeper Outreach Director, Kelly Cobb

The annual St. Johns Riverkeeper Low Country Boil held Aug. 4 at Sadler Point Marina was bigger and better than ever. The seafood and sausage boil, complemented with music from Porch Swing, drew in a great crowd.

"The Low Country Boil is a great way for people with a shared interest in the river to support our advocacy work and celebrate the St. Johns, too," said Jimmy Orth, executive director for the Riverkeeper. "You can't go wrong spending an evening along the waterfront at Sadler Point Marina with so many river lovers enjoying great food, music, and fellowship."

The Riverkeeper's new boat was on display, courtesy of Sadler Point Marina, who will provide free storage. The Riverkeeper is accepting donations to pay for the boat and the accessories needed, such as radio, depth finder, GPS and more.

The event raise about \$5,000, thanks to supporters, many dedicated volunteers and food sponsors Saturiwa Trading Company, Ben Williams of Wetland Partners LLC who secured the shrimp from Fisherman's Dock, and SweetWater Brewing Company.



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Real men wear pink to eradicate breast cancer

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The second annual Real Men Wear Pink campaign kicked off July 21 when 38 prominent men pledged to raise at least \$2,500 each in the fight to end breast cancer.

Each man's reason for accepting the challenge may differ, but in the end, the American Cancer Society will be the winner. If the goals are met by Oct. 20, ACS stands to add at least \$95,000 to its coffers for research, education, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Four San Marco residents are among the three dozen-plus men who are wearing pink.

Chef Tom Gray, owner/executive chef at the Town Hall in San Marco and Moxie Kitchen + Cocktails at St. John's Town Center, said he'll wear pink because "I, like everyone, has a friend or loved one who has been touched by breast cancer or other cancer in one of its many forms."

Jason Culpepper, vice president of brand development at Yellowfin Realty Jacksonville, said being in a position to make a difference in the community makes it an obligation to help save more lives from breast cancer. "Breast cancer affects everyone. It doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman. That's why I'm stepping



David Miller



Jason Culpepper



Jake Gordon



Chef Tom Gray

up to fight breast cancer with all I have," said Culpepper in his testimony on the campaign website.

This is the second year Jake Gordon, CEO for Downtown Vision, Inc., has added more than a touch of pink to his wardrobe. For the first Real Men Wear Pink campaign, Gordon was seen sporting a pink suit, tie, socks and running shoes, but it didn't faze him at all.

"I don't really subscribe to the outdated notions of colors reflecting gender norms, so I have absolutely no problem wearing pink!" he said on his campaign page.

Although no one in his family has dealt with cancer, Gordon said "If I can help the effort and save one life, isn't that worth it?"

For David Miller, CEO and co-founder of Brightway Insurance, stepping up to fight breast cancer is a matter of making a difference in his community. "Breast cancer affects everyone - it doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman," said Miller.



Caren Burmeister and Pat Setser were part of a membership drive of the National League of American Pen Women, Jacksonville Branch.

Creative women exchange ideas, invite new members

By Susan Brandenburg
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Branch of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) held a membership drive Aug. 20 at the San Jose home of long-time member and biographer Susan D. Brandenburg.

The group of professional artists, musicians, writers, poets, and photographers exchanged ideas and experiences, then members and guests had the opportunity to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their work.

Branch President Duncan Sawyer, who was a medical photographer at St. Vincent's for 28 years, talked of being a legacy member, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, the late historical novelist Mary Freels Rosborough, a founder of the Jacksonville Branch.

Artists Susanne Schuenke, Francesca Tabor-Miolla, Pat Setser, and Mimi Pearce

described their various genres and talked of their positive experiences as Jacksonville Pen Women, as did photographer Mary Atwood, artist/writer Mary Ann Miller, and writers Jan Bevan and Laura Gaisser.

"I'm excited about the prospect of becoming a member of the National League of American Pen Women," said writer Debbie East, who has recently submitted her application for membership.

The NLAPW was formed in 1897 in Washington, D.C. by three women of the press, and today has more than 1600 members in 82 branches across the nation. In 1926, four professional women in the arts formed the Jacksonville Branch, which meets on the second Saturday of each month (September through May) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For information on how to apply for membership, visit www.jaxpenwomen.com, email JacksonvillePenWomen@gmail.com, or call (904)273-0448.

"Breast cancer affects everyone. It doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman. That's why I'm stepping up to fight breast cancer with all I have."

— Jason Culpepper

For more information on how you can support the Real Men Wear Pink campaign or to sign up for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk of Jacksonville Saturday, Oct. 21, 7:30 a.m. at Metropolitan Park, go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl.



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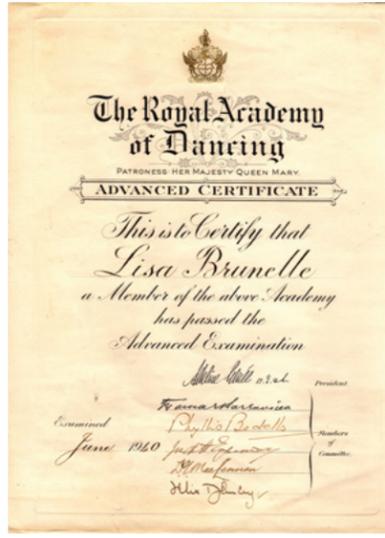
THE WAY WE WERE: BETTY SWENSON BERGMARK

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

She gazed from her 8th floor balcony at the clear blue sky and the calm St. Johns River, remembering a turbulent time long ago when she danced as bombs dropped from the dark London skies.

“I was still a teenager when I began dancing professionally for the Royal Carl Rosa Ballet in London,” recalled Betty Swenson Bergmark, whose stage name was Lisa Brunelle. “It was during the blitz, and when air raid sirens went off, we continued the performance. After that first night of bombs, we would stop the performance when the sirens went off and everyone gathered in the safest section of the theatre.”

Being a ballerina in wartime was both challenging and thrilling. Audiences needed a diversion from the hardships of war, and young Lisa Brunelle felt privileged to provide that diversion. The joy of dance still sparkles in her eyes as she spoke of performing at age 4 or 5 for an impromptu audience at a London tea room and, later, dancing on



The Royal Academy of Dancing
Advanced Certificate

stage at recitals as a child. “That’s Jack!” she declared, pointing at a decades-old photograph of a young girl (Betty) and her dance recital partner.

“I began my formal training with Phyllis Bedells of the Royal Academy of Dance, studied with Nikolai Sergueff, Stanislaus Idzikowski and Ninette de Valois, and was a soloist with International Ballet and the Allied Ballet during World War II,” Bergmark said, adding that she was a roommate of Moira Shearer (“The Red Shoes”) at the famous Sadler’s Wells Ballet School (later, the Royal Ballet).

It was while touring with an ENSA (British USO) troupe that Bergmark met an American Air Force Officer named Al Swenson. They fell in love and were married in 1945 “between VE Day and VJ day.”



Betty Bergmark

Continued on page 29



Betty Bergmark as Director of Dance Studios at Jacksonville University, circa 1979

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Following the war, Al and Betty Swenson moved to the New York area where Al was employed by British Airways. While devoted to raising their three children, Bergmark continued her love of dance as well, founding dance studios in three different areas of New York and New Jersey.

When she needed an instructor for a pas de deux (dance partnering) in her New Jersey studio, one impoverished but promising young dancer named Patrick Swayze applied for the position. "In those days, Patrick didn't have enough money for his fare to the studio," recalls Bergmark. "We would go to the bus station and pick him up." Many years later, the late film star visited Bergmark's studio at Jacksonville University, but unfortunately, only a faded snapshot remains to memorialize that visit.



Betty and dancing partner, Jack, circa 1930

And how did this lovely classical ballerina become the Director of Dance Studies at our own Jacksonville University? When her late husband, Al Swenson, retired from British Airways, the couple moved to Amelia Island in 1977 to take up golf and other leisure activities, but as always, dance was never far from Bergmark's mind.

Joining the Ballet Guild of Jacksonville, she met then President Judith Erwin, who introduced her to Dr. Frances Kinne, then Jacksonville University's Dean of the College of Fine Arts. The rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

"Dr. Kinne was impressed with Betty's credentials," recalled Erwin, "and JU's dance program was just beginning when Betty came out of retirement and began there in 1979. My daughter, Allison Erwin Norton, now the Artistic Director of Dance



Betty Bergmark, aka Lisa Brunelle, in November 1942



Betty Bergmark, dancing as Lisa Brunelle, in early 1940s

"She came at a time when it was very important to be strong and have talent and leadership abilities. She certainly helped the dance department grow during her 13 years on our faculty."

— Dr. Frances Kinne, past president of JU

Theatre of Bradenton and Bradenton Ballet Repertory, was in Betty's first class at JU."

In 1987, "VUE, The Arts Magazine" featured a photo of Mikhail Baryshnikov on the cover and an article inside titled "Betty Swenson: Putting a Dance Department on its Toes." She smiles today when she looks at the magazine. "Baryshnikov and me in the same magazine!" she declared. "That was enjoyable."

The VUE article lauded the excellent work of Betty Swenson in building the JU Dance program from "serving approximately 25 students, without a dance-degree program offered, to serving well over 200 students, with B.A., B.S., or B.F.A. dance degrees available."

The article, written by Judith Erwin (now author of three novels), also pointed out that Bergmark considered it essential to have interaction with the community. Bergmark was quoted as saying, "The university is not isolated, but an integral part of the community. By exchanging talent and opportunities with local artists, we can all grow and perpetuate our art."

Dr. Frances Kinne, past president of JU, and still actively involved with the University and in the community at age 100, remembers Bergmark fondly. "Betty's background made her particularly well-adjusted to do a fine job," said Kinne. "She came at a time when it was very important to be strong and have talent and leadership abilities. She certainly helped the dance department grow during her 13 years on our faculty."

Dr. Kinne added, "We had an advantage because the dance department was part of the College of Fine Arts and Betty blended well with all of the arts."

A talented actress, visual artist, and writer as well as a brilliant dancer, instructor and choreographer, the former Director of Dance Studies at JU has received acclaim in each of these fields during her long lifetime. While at JU, Bergmark became part of the Member Commission on Accreditation for the National Association Schools of Dance and authored the paper, "Liberal Education of Fine Arts Students," in addition to actively reaching out to the local arts community.

Having divorced and remarried in the late 1990s, Betty Swenson Bergmark is now widowed and residing in a high-rise apartment in Lakewood. She is retired from many of the community activities she once so actively contributed to, including serving on the boards of the American College Dance Festival Association, Friday Musicale, The Florida Ballet, and the Jacksonville Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters, as well as contributing monthly columns on the arts entitled "Encore" to the Mandarin Newline.

She remains a lifetime member of the Royal Academy of Dance, and, as to her proudest accomplishments, Bergmark points to being awarded the Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Artist award in 1989 and the Arts Educator Award from the City of Jacksonville in 1991. She was also awarded the Sears Roebuck Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching and Campus Leadership in 1991 and the Florida Dance Association Award for Leadership and Excellence in Dance in Florida in 1995.

The fact that Bergmark was listed in Who's Who in Entertainment in 1992 and 1997 does not surprise her friend, Judith Erwin. "I personally witnessed the respect Betty holds in the world of dance – locally, in New York and in London," said Erwin. "Through Betty, my daughter Allison spent a summer at the Royal Academy of Dance in London. I joined her and later did a summer study in law at Oxford. While there, I became good friends with Betty's late cousin, Jack Morpurgo (father of Michael, who wrote *The Warhorse*). Betty comes from an interesting and accomplished family!"

Today, the petite dancer with the lovely British accent and marvelous grasp of the English language continues to attend her monthly book club meetings and maintains her membership in The English-Speaking Union, fostering global understanding and good will.

With a spectacular dancing career behind her, and having earned the unflagging admiration of students, fellow professors, friends and family, Betty Swenson Bergmark is somewhat demure as she acknowledges a lifetime well spent. "When you've lived through the blitz, and kept on dancing," she said, "you can do just about anything."

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Antiques ‘home show’ comes to River Garden Senior Services

Reminiscent of the PBS broadcast, Antiques Roadshow, members of River Garden Auxiliary held their own version Aug. 9 to kick off a new year of fundraising for River Garden Senior Services.

The evening event featured Andy Baker, partner in The Antique Fox in San Marco, who appraised small items brought by the members.

“It was a great night with around 60 people bringing in unusual items and sharing with the audience the history of their special item,” said Michele Steinfeld, membership co-vice president. “We look forward to having a similar program next spring. What a successful way to start our new year.”

The auxiliary is also celebrating its 95th anniversary. Not too long after World War I ended, a group of women who wanted to help the aging community live a comfortable life with dignity started the River Garden Auxiliary in 1922.

Today River Garden Senior Services has an independent living community, a long term care community, a memory care community, an adult day care community, and a rehabilitation unit. All of these areas are directly impacted by the generosity of the volunteer members from the River Garden Auxiliary, which gives 100 percent

“It was a great night with around 60 people bringing in unusual items and sharing with the audience the history of their special item.”

— Michele Steinfeld, membership co-vice president

of their fundraising directly to the needs of the residents.

In addition to Steinfeld, the River Garden Auxiliary membership team consists of Carol D’Onofrio, membership co-vice president; Jennie Bermudez, financial secretary, and Margo Ruby, life membership.



Jennie Bermudez, Carol D’Onofrio, and Michele Steinfeld with Andy Baker, antiques appraiser

Wolfson High School alumni welcomed for homecoming

The Wolfson Wolfpack will celebrate Homecoming on Friday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m. with a game against Terry Parker High School. Activities for alumni include a pre-game tailgating party with food trucks, alumni band, alumni cheerleading

squad and pre-game recognition of alumni football players and coaches.

To play with the alumni band, cheer with the alumni cheerleaders or walk with the alumni football players, contact Cindy Pearson at cindy.pearson@cru.org.

Seniors lend helping hands to other nonprofits



Seniors on a Mission, along with members of Comcast Cares and AllState Helping Hands, at an April 19 Mission Trip

For more than 10 years, senior citizens have helped themselves by helping others. Although formed in 1999 as a social ministry, Seniors on a Mission began serving the nonprofit community through group-service opportunities.

Today, mission teams from various senior communities and churches have donated enough volunteer hours to save over 50 nonprofit organizations nearly \$2.2 million in in-kind services. Some of those nonprofits include Angelwood, Dreams Come True, Family Promise, Dignity-U-Wear, Salvation Army and Volunteers in Medicine.

Many of the “mission trips” include stuffing race bags, sorting clothing, toys and books, assembling student boxes, typing labels and stuffing mailings, completing craft projects for teachers, creating Easter baskets and making pillows for cancer patients.

On April 19, SOAM engaged in its largest mission trip day with 73 people donating more than \$10,000 in service to six local nonprofits. The group’s 2017 service donation goal of \$130,000 was more than halfway at the end of July, with \$92,000 logged.

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Mr. Guy Gilady has been Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of Israel in Miami since August 2016. Prior to his appointment in Miami, he has served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Israel in Kiev, Ukraine and served as Head of the Political Section at the Embassy.



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— In Memoriam —

Patricia Fickes Jennings-Hart

June 8, 1918 – July 26, 2017

Patricia “Patty” Jennings-Hart, who celebrated her 99th birthday in June, attributed her longevity to good genes (her mother passed on at age 101-1/2) and good health (until her late 90s she had no medical problems and never took medications until absolutely necessary in her last years).

The Lakewood resident’s longevity was also due in part to her positive attitude. If anyone asked how she was she replied with a lilt in her voice, “Well, I’m fine,” as if there was absolutely no other way to be.

Patty was the eldest of three children born to August Fickes, a pharmacist, and Marion Fickes, a teacher and principal in Willoughby, Ohio. She developed a lifelong love of learning and a sense of self-discipline that included no drinking, smoking, cursing or ill-bred behavior. She had impeccable manners and was known for her lady-like demeanor, style-setting attire, attention to detail and, as her son Jonathan Jennings said, “a good old Midwest white Anglo Saxon Protestant work ethic.”

Miss Patty, as she was affectionately called by members of her Lakewood United Methodist Church family, and Gram Gram by her family, graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in 1940. The course of her life could have changed significantly had the Olympics not been canceled that

year. An accomplished athlete, Patty Fickes held numerous records in track and field, still holds the U.S. record for women’s 60-yard hurdles and was inducted into the Ohio Sports Hall of Fame.

As fate would have it she was teaching at Willoughby High School and one of her students, Helen Jennings, invited her brother, Donavin Jennings, to pick her up at the bowling alley where her “wonderful new gym teacher was supervising night time bowling matches.”

Donavin and Patty married in July 1941, had three children, Patricia, Thomas (Brenda) and Jonathan (Peggy), then moved to Jacksonville and opened San Jose Wayside Furniture Store in 1955.

Patricia resumed her teaching career, retiring in 1986 after 27 years in the Duval County Public School System. Several of her former students remembered her fondly at a recent Celebration of Life at Lakewood Methodist, where she was a member for over 60 years.

After the death of her husband of 45 years, Patricia stayed busy. She was the “voice” of Lakewood UMC for many years, volunteered in the after-school program, and attended numerous sports, dance and school events of her grandchildren, Jonathan Jennings, Jr. (Shannon), Laurian Jennings

and Donavin Jennings. She took great delight in her great-grandsons, Jage, Jaks and Joby. She was everybody’s cheerleader and took great pride in the accomplishments of her family members.

While visiting in Ohio in the late 1990s, she reconnected with childhood friend Richard Hart. A romance developed which had the two 80-somethings as giddy as teenagers. They enjoyed a fun-filled marriage until he passed on in 2002. She gained five stepchildren: Pam Homa, Hollie Hart, Rick Hart, Jr., Sallie Marlowe, Nancy Gast, and their spouses, children and grandchildren.

Patty’s zeal for life was evident in the two newspapers she read each day, the numerous magazines avidly consumed, crossword puzzles worked, and the complicated picture puzzles always in progress. She also exercised and was constantly on the run with Seniors on a Mission, her Sunday School class, and going to socials with friends and family.

“Patty was a gem! She attended 60 mission trips giving almost \$7,000 in valuable service to local nonprofits. At 99, she lived a full life,” said a message posted on the Seniors on a Mission Facebook page.

Until January 2017, when she had a stroke, she was living independently, cooking, playing kickball with her great-grandsons, and mopping her kitchen floor. At age 98,



Patricia Jennings Hart

Patty was frequently heard to say, “I don’t know why I don’t have any push,” to the amusement of her family.

Friends recall her as always smiling, witty, gracious, loving and generous, with a joyful spirit. Several remarked “heaven is brighter for her presence,” and the family joke is that she is probably setting up hurdles for the angels to jump over. At her Celebration service Aug. 5, Pastor Eric Williams remarked, “Patty’s life was a testimony to her faith.”

— In Memoriam —

Walter “Wally” Mayberry Lee, III

March 1, 1948 – July 28, 2017

Wally Lee, the former long-time president and CEO of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, passed away unexpectedly at age 69 at the end of July.

Although most well-known in Jacksonville as a respected leader and visionary, Lee first studied theology at Southeastern Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, S. Carolina and subsequently pastored small parishes before beginning his business career with the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Lee retired from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce after 23 years as its president and CEO. Past Board Chair Jim Rinaman, Jr., recalled during Lee’s leadership the Chamber became more involved globally, and said Lee contributed to that presence by visiting other countries to attract business to Jacksonville.

“Also, in his first years leading the organization Wally hired Jerry Mallot to create a regional plan for seven counties in Northeast Florida,” said Rinaman, referring to JAXUSA Partnership. “Wally’s secret weapon was to convince the other counties the Chamber would market all of Northeast Florida, not just Jacksonville.”

Shortly after retiring from the Chamber in 2012, Lee partnered with Anna Valent to form the LeeValent Group, a human resources enhancement company in relocations. In addition to his knowledge and understanding of Northeast Florida, Lee’s friendly nature and concern for others was a key ingredient to forming the company.

“He never met a stranger and could talk to anyone. He never hesitated to help anyone in need. I have heard many say that one of the reasons Wally was respected so

much was because he never let power and position affect the way he treated others. Wally Lee will be missed in this city and by me personally,” said Lathun Brigman, a close friend, and member of the LeeValent advisory board.

During a Celebration of Resurrection Aug. 3 at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, Ron Autrey, chairman of Miller Electric, and member of the LeeValent advisory board, spoke about Lee’s qualities.

“To each of us, as a friend, a co-worker, from the high and mighty movers and shakers, to the floor sweepers and young workers just beginning their careers, Wally had a big and positive lasting influence in our lives,” said Autrey. “He provided a style of leadership that motivated and expanded the horizons and opportunities of individuals, as they became masters of their own success.”



Wally Lee

“To use Wally’s terms, Wally ‘was a great American,’” said Brigman. “He was a very good friend who really loved Jacksonville and was well respected by many people in North Florida.”

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DO SOMETHING

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

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As we celebrate National Grandparents Day Sunday, Sept. 10, there's no better time to focus on the people and organizations in our area which provide vital services to our seniors, the bedrock of our community. Each year the number of seniors in Duval County increases by eight percent and the need for support and services also increases. That means there's plenty of opportunity for you to make a difference.

Aging True

Aging True provides a comprehensive list of senior services to Duval County seniors such as in-home care, mental wellness support, Meals On Wheels, and support for caregivers, name a few. The goal is to ensure seniors have the assistance they need to stay in their homes, happy and healthy.

Donate: Even with financial support from the State of Florida, Aging True would not be able to provide their services without contributions from the community. If you would like to make a secure donation online, visit agingtrue.org/senior-service-donations. You can also mail a check to: Aging True, 4250 Lakeside Drive, Suite 116, Jacksonville, FL 32210.

Volunteer: Volunteers are currently needed for a new telephone service to call clients to check on them, give birthday wishes and just let seniors know they are still a vital part of the community. Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also help Aging True support seniors by volunteering for a one-time event or deliver Meals On Wheels. Ready to help? Call (904) 807-1203 or (904) 807-1266 to sign up or learn more.



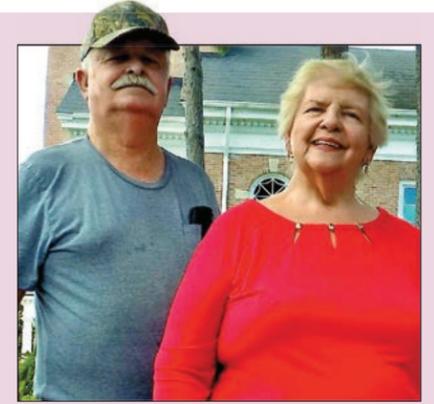
A senior receives a meal through Aging True's Meals on Wheels program.

Hart Felt Ministries

Since 2003, Hart Felt Ministries has provided assistance to seniors with services such as grocery shopping, minor repairs and companionship. The organization plays a vital role in helping seniors stay independent and able to stay in their own homes.

Donate: Make a financial contribution to Hart Felt's Food Gift Card Fund, which helps provide healthy groceries to seniors in need. You can also donate to buy materials to build wheelchair ramps for seniors who can't navigate steps. Visit hartfelt.com for more information.

Cynthia and Richard Shank Did Something



Richard and Cynthia Shank at Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Several times each month you can find Cynthia and Richard Shank in the parking lot of the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, loading up their car with boxes of meals. As part of their volunteer work with Aging True's Meals On Wheels program through Lakewood Presbyterian, the couple will leave the church and embark on their delivery route.

For the Shanks, their volunteer work is far more than dropping off a meal. To them, it feels like they are going to visit family.

"We get to know them and they get to know us," said Cynthia. "Over the years, they have all become like family. We spend time talking to them and we often get to meet their families."

Richard joined his wife as a Meals On Wheels volunteer after his retirement and has been enjoying meeting and talking with the meal recipients ever since.

"We have a lot of fun with them. It means a lot to have someone they can talk to and joke around with," Richard said.

Cynthia became a Meals On Wheels volunteer while serving on the board of the United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM) in 2003 and over the past 14 years, has loved getting to know the people on her Meals On Wheels route.

"One client we delivered to for years was 102," she said. "Another lady was 104."

"We enjoy doing this so much. It's very fulfilling."

Volunteer: Spend just one hour a week grocery shopping for seniors, having a friendly visit or helping them with light housekeeping or yardwork. Hart Felt currently has a critical need for plumbers, electricians and general contractors for minor home repairs and wheelchair ramp construction. Visit hartfelt.com or call (904) 861-2799 for more information.

ElderSource

ElderSource serves as an information, referral and assistance agency for seniors and adults with disabilities in the Northeast Florida area. The agency helps more than 12,000 people each year and serves seven area counties through programs and activities.

Donate: Give to Friends of ElderSource, the agency's fundraising arm, to help provide additional services to seniors and adults with disabilities. Visit myeldersource.org to learn more.

Volunteer: Want to volunteer? It's a SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Volunteers are needed to help seniors sign up and complete application forms for SNAP. There are over 32,000 seniors in Northeast Florida who are potentially eligible for this program, but do not use this resource. Volunteers are asked to work for a minimum of four hours per week. Contact Sherrie Keshner at (904) 391-6688 to get involved with SNAP. Or you can volunteer with ElderSource's SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) and help seniors who need guidance with their Medicare health insurance options. For more information visit www.myeldersource.org/free-medicare-advice-shine/become-a-medicare-coach-shine-volunteer/



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Middle school mentoring program develops life-long relationship

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Karen Morales-Diaz thought she was in trouble one day in 2010 when she was called to the principal's office at Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School, where she was a seventh-grader, but she couldn't figure out why. It turns out she wasn't in trouble at all. She had been chosen for a mentoring program and the woman waiting to meet her in the principal's office would become her new BFF.

The mentoring program is a partnership between Landon and Southside Baptist Church, where NeeCee Lee is a member. "The program puts people with students who need someone to come alongside, to encourage them," Lee said. "We're not to be a parent substitute or do homework. It's about relationship-building."

Morales-Diaz was chosen for the program because she was doing very well in school even though she and her family had only been in the United States a couple of years. The family arrived from Guatemala in 2009 and moved to Jacksonville where her aunt lives.

"I didn't know any English," Morales-Diaz said. Her teachers at Landon thought a mentor might help her get more comfortable with English and her new life in Jacksonville. Morales-Diaz said she didn't know what a mentor was but she decided to try it out.

Mentors and Landon students meet twice a month for lunch. Morales-Diaz still remembers that first lunch. Lee arrived with sandwiches from Subway. In the ensuing months, Morales-Diaz and Lee got acquainted. "I wasn't shy," Morales-Diaz said. "I could tell her anything."

Lee heard about Morales-Diaz's family. Her father owns a painting business; her mother has a cleaning business. She has a sister, Linda, who is two years older, and a little brother, Byron, six years younger. Morales-Diaz heard about Lee's family. Her husband, Tom, who owns Lee & Cates Glass, their son, Thomas, and daughter, Stacy, who at the time was living in South Korea with her husband and their new baby.

Lee said she and Morales-Diaz clicked. They began to get together outside of school. "Karen's family is very supportive," Lee said. "They're a Christian family so we connected on a lot of levels."

They took Lee's grandson and Morales-Diaz's little brother to see "Toy Story on Ice." Morales-Diaz helped Lee decorate birthday cakes. Lee taught Morales-Diaz how to sew, quilt and "arm" knit and crochet, using their arms instead of needles.

When Lee bought Easter chicks for her grandchildren, Morales-Diaz and her family shared their experience of raising chickens in Guatemala, where Morales-Diaz's grandmother sells eggs at a flea market.

Lee, who has been playing tennis all her life, bought Morales-Diaz a racquet and showed her how to play the game. When Morales-Diaz showed an interest in track, Lee bought her a pair of running shoes at First Place Sports in San Marco. Morales-Diaz made the Landon track team.

The mentoring program ends at eighth grade, but Morales-Diaz and Lee decided to continue their relationship.

Moving from mentor to friend

At Atlantic Coast High School, Morales-Diaz became a mentor through Special Olympics. She shared her love of sports with her Special Olympics partner, Tina. They ran in the 26.6 With Donna Marathon. But they really excelled in tennis.

Morales-Diaz and Tina won the Duval County Special Olympics competition, which sent them to the state finals in Orlando, where they came in third. "It was a three-day weekend at ESPN that was really fun," Morales-Diaz said.

Morales-Diaz also got involved in the leadership of the Special Olympics program, planning parties and the annual field day in the spring. She was named Special Olympics Partner of the Year this spring.

And then there was the big event – Morales-Diaz's quinceañera, the Hispanic coming-out party for 15-year-old girls.

About 300 people turned out for the party at Maggiano's. In many ways, it's like a wedding with formal dress, a big cake, a father-daughter dance, a blessing from the pastor and lots of gifts. Lee's nephew, Ryan Garner, was Morales-Diaz's escort. A limo took her to the beach for a professional photo shoot.

The quinceañera party is great practice for planning a wedding. And now Lee is helping Morales-Diaz plan her winter wedding to Gabriel Fisher. He proposed at Disney World, in front of the castle.

Morales-Diaz, who graduated from Atlantic Coast this year, is enrolled at Florida State College at Jacksonville, majoring in business management. Fisher is at FSCJ, too, majoring in construction management. They have started a business together doing lawn care and cleaning newly-built houses.

And the best part is that Morales-Diaz got a scholarship to pay for her education. She received \$3,000 from the Jared Bynum Scholarship at Southside Baptist Church.

Bynum, a member of the church, was killed in a cycling accident in 2012. He and



NeeCee Lee and Karen Morales-Diaz

his wife, Kelli, were Landon mentors, and the scholarship is awarded to a Landon graduate. The Mount Acosta Classic, a bike ride in the spring over the Acosta Bridge, benefits the scholarship.

"I really wanted Karen to win that scholarship," Lee said. "Getting her to focus on community involvement, keeping her grades up, grooming her for this scholarship."

The relationship will continue, of course, but now that Morales-Diaz has graduated Lee is thinking that maybe it's time for a new mentee.

"I am so proud of Karen," Lee said. "She has turned into such a beautiful young woman. I am so proud of her. I'm proud of her whole gang."

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Children's Home Society of Florida basketball court restored

What better way to celebrate a new basketball court than to hold a tournament? That's what Children's Home Society of Florida did Aug. 1 when more than 50 volunteers, staff and friends of CHS gathered to officially break in the new court with the inaugural Building Bridges Basketball Tournament.

The old court was practically unusable until Eagle Scout candidate Daniel Lichlyter, of Ponte Vedra, organized members of Boy Scout Troop 288, donors and volunteers to restore the cracked and crumbling court.

Drawn to the vision of CHS – "A world where children realize their full potential" – Lichlyter first learned of CHS when his father, Paul, was on the local Board of Directors and his mother, Amy, was volunteering on campus.

"I wanted to do something that would impact kids in a positive way for years to come," said Lichlyter, who enlisted the help of ACRYTECH Recreational Coatings, and Court Surfaces to complete the transformation. The companies donated

equipment and materials and provided guidance to the volunteers who put in the labor.

"A few days after we finished the project, I spoke with some kids playing on the court and heard a few of the problems and obstacles they were experiencing," said Lichlyter.

Boy Scout Troop 288 played against three teams made up from CHS staff and also from volunteers from The Solution Dynamics, an athlete training and life coaching program. The UNF Osprey Women's Basketball Team volunteered as coaches, referees and scorekeepers.

Although Team "Full Potential" won the tournament, Shawn Naugle, CHS regional director of program operations, said the real winner of the tournament was Lichlyter, for giving his time and talent.

"The resurfacing of our basketball court will bring joy to hundreds of children for years to come. We are so proud that Daniel is carrying on a passion to help children established by his parents, Paul and Amy," said Kymberly Cook, executive director serving Northeast Florida.



Children's Home Society basketball court "before"



Basketball court after restoration



"I wanted to do something that would impact kids in a positive way for years to come."

— Daniel Lichlyter

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Jessi Bird (Photo by Erin Lucia Samples)

Young San Marco woman heads to the Capitol

Jessi Bird, a University of North Florida senior studying Global Health Ethics, will spend her final fall semester in Washington, D.C. as a Congressional intern for Congressman John Rutherford.

The San Marco resident applied for the internship through UNF and will earn college credit for the September through December experience while she researches pending legislation for Rutherford and his staff, conducts Capitol tours, answers constituent communication about pending legislation and attends hearings and briefings.

"I'm looking forward to getting first-hand experience and seeing what goes into making the decisions. I know a lot more goes into it than what we see in the news. I'm super-excited about giving Capitol tours because I'm a history nut!" Bird said.

Bird, a 2013 Douglas Anderson School of the Arts graduate, hopes to continue her post-graduate education at New York University or George Washington University to study global health policy.

Jr. Residents

San Marco boy goes to Portugal through CISV

Benjamin Pochurek, 11, of San Marco, participated in the CISV (Children's International Summer Villages) program in Portugal this summer, after his first CISV experience at a mini-camp last year.

A sixth-grade student at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Pochurek said traveling alone and meeting new people was a great experience. Although he doesn't know Portuguese, Pochurek said he was learning Spanish in school.

"It expanded my thoughts about the world," said Pochurek, who will also attend a CISV Southern Regional Mini-camp over the Labor Day weekend. "CISV will change your life and give you different points of view on other countries."

Although the Pochurek family hasn't yet hosted students from other countries, they are looking forward to doing that in the future. Pochurek's younger sister, Lanie, will also participate in the mini-camp, and apply for Village when she is 11.



USA delegates and their group leader counterclockwise from top: Elena Coles, Benjamin Pochurek, Maya Patel, Sohan Gummadi, Jessica Van Cleave (leader)



Benjamin Pochurek, Maya Patel, Sohan Gummadi, Elena Coles, Jessica Van Cleave



Benjamin Pochurek

Technology brings Bolles' campuses together for 'First Day' celebration

More than 1,600 students on four Bolles campuses headed back to school August 22 to begin the 2017-18 academic year.

This also was the first day students and faculty started navigating a new rotating schedule on the middle and upper school campuses. In another first, the four Bolles campuses came together virtually for a pioneering and spirited all-campus convocation. Through the use of new video communication technology, students and faculty convened in four separate locations but celebrated the first day back as one community.

Senior members of the Bolles Class of 2018 followed tradition and wore black ties, dresses and tiaras to their first day of school festivities, which included the annual Senior Breakfast on the River Campus and Commencement Pointe.

This year, the Bolles community is enriched by the global experiences of boarding students from 11 states and 20 countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Spain, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Venezuela, Ukraine, Indonesia, Singapore, Peru, France, Germany and Israel.



Bolles Class of '18: Kelsey Stambaugh, Mae Merritt, Alden Gulliford, Gracie Surface, Elizabeth Anderson, Savannah Majorwitz, Anastasia Scott, Stefanie Mendizabal, Stephanie Block and Vanessa Denti

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The Saldajeno children, Ria (8th Grade), Diego (6th) and Martin (4th), walk the back-to-school red carpet at Assumption Catholic School.

Assumption rolls out red carpet for new, returning students

Assumption Catholic School, located in St. Nicholas, welcomed 542 students in Kindergarten to 8th Grade with a Red Carpet arrival on Aug. 9. The school's theme for the 2017-2018 school year is "Let Your Light Shine," from the Scripture verse "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." [Matthew 5:16]

Founded in 1923, the school adjoins the Bishop Kenny High School campus on Atlantic Boulevard. Maryann Jimenez has been principal since 2015, and there are 28 K-8 teachers with an additional 13 resource teachers and coaches, and five in administration/staff.



Bradley and Lauren Shivers escort their daughters Cara, Grade 4, and Carsen, a kindergartner, down the red carpet on the first day of school, Aug. 9, at Assumption Catholic School.

Students from across Northeast Florida converge on Episcopal



Sophomores Ashton Body, Ellie Riggs, Anna Donahoo, Charlotte Rosenberg and Mabel Smith wear big grins on the first day of school at Episcopal.

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville began the 2017-18 school year with 900 students, including 203 new students, from all over Northeast Florida. The Admissions Office offered the official welcome at New Student Orientation on August 14, helping both students and parents prepare for the first days of school and acclimating to the ESJ community.

"We are welcoming a beautifully diverse group of students from 63 schools and 37 ZIP Codes," said Director of Admissions Sam Hyde Geisler, a graduate of the Class of 2000. "We are so thankful for the support of faculty, staff, Parent Ambassadors and Eagle Ambassadors who all helped to ensure a smooth transition for each of our new families."



Sixth-grade students Morgan Rawls, Hannah Kowkabany and Charlotte Seay are new to Episcopal this school year.

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Lakewood Presbyterian youth enjoy mission trips, conference

The Lakewood Presbyterian Church Youth and Young Adults group participated in a week-long mission trip, leaving at 3 a.m. July 16 for Street Reach Ministries in Memphis, Tenn.

While in Memphis, the group worked with an urban Vacation Bible School and visited a local nursing home, Highlands Nursing Home, where they interacted with the residents.

Despite all their work, they still made time to enjoy some historic sites, such as the National Civil Rights Museum and Graceland.

Meanwhile, Senior High Youth Group members attended a week-long youth conference in Montreat, North Carolina, where they enjoyed fellowship with thousands of other Presbyterian youth as they met for study, worship and recreation.



LPC Youth and Young Adults pictured with their Street Reach Ministry coordinator. Front: Christina Griffin, Street Reach Coordinator, Lori Overstreet and Brian Mitchell, Director of Youth and Young Adults; middle: Ryan Soud, Haidyn Griffin, Kathryn Nealey and Ryan Corner; back: Kendyl Nealey, Katherine Fleming and Taylor Atkins



Kathryn Nealey with a child in a Vacation Bible School class



Katherine Bossuot participates in a fun activity while in Montreat.



Robert Travis-adult volunteer, Aidan Mitchell, Matthew Travis, Katherine Bossuot, Olivia Bartlett, Courtney DePotter and Brian Mitchell, Director of Youth and Young Adults



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Whitehurst Campus
November 14, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Middle School (6-8) Open House for Parents

Bartram Campus
November 7, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Bartram Campus
November 9, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Lower School (PreK-5) Open House for Parents

Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
November 8, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
November 28, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Upper School (9-12) Open House for Parents

San Jose Campus
October 6, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.*
San Jose Campus
November 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

*The October 6 Open House includes a "Bolles for a Day" experience for prospective Upper School parents and students. Please visit www.Bolles.org for additional "Bolles for a Day" dates.

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RPDS students meet new Head of School, make new friends

Now in its 69th year providing education to students from six counties in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, Riverside Presbyterian Day School kicked off a new school year with 463 enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. The back-to-school activities Aug. 22 included meeting the new Head of School, Ben Ketchum, who greeted the boys and girls as they headed for new classrooms and teachers for the 2017-2018 school year.



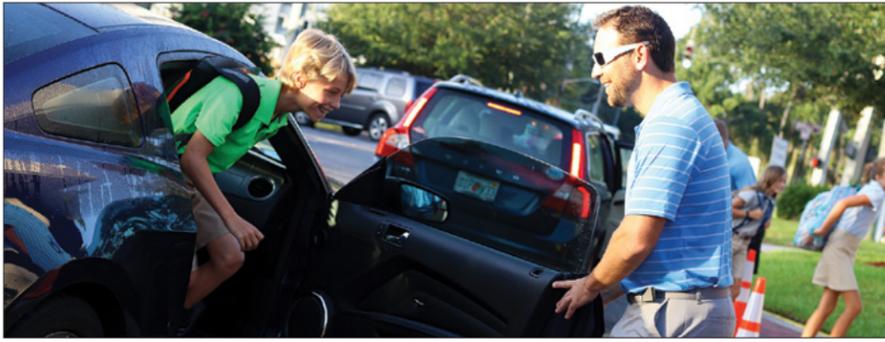
Leslie Angiollio with her daughters Cristina, Giulia Angiollio and Sofia



Ryleigh Harris already looking forward to the last day of school!



Classmates Clancy Skeels and Greyson Smith live on opposite sides of the river.



Harrison Cavendish is greeted by Coach Gabe Clark on the first day back to school at Riverside Presbyterian Day School.

Bishop Kenny High School begins 66th year of education



The entire Bishop Kenny community attended Mass in the newly renovated John Baldwin Athletic Center on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. The student body gathers for school-wide Mass monthly.

Bishop Kenny High School opened its 66th year of operation with 1,232 students in early August. The freshman class of 305 students and their parents attended an orientation program the evening of August 7, and started school the next day, when teachers and administrators were on hand to welcome the class of 2021. Before upperclassmen reported for school on August 10, they served as tour guides helping new students through an abbreviated day of classes.



Bishop Kenny High School Seniors Christian Lumbag, Liam O'Connell-Becker, John White, Nick Ferry, Alex Bennett, and Kelly Vohr acted as tour guides for new upperclassmen as part of Orientation '17. All the tour guides are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, a group that provides service to the school community throughout the year.

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Episcopal adds club sailing to program, partners with Florida Yacht Club

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Athletic Department has added Club Sailing to its sporting opportunities this fall. ESJ has partnered with the Florida Yacht Club and its staff to promote this opportunity to students.

"We are looking forward to working with the Florida Yacht Club to offer club sailing to our students. Coach [Dustin] Domer possesses a wealth of sailing knowledge and I am confident he will provide a positive experience for our students," said Director of Athletics Andy Kidd.

The Club Sailing program will operate at the Florida Yacht Club, 5210 Yacht Club Rd.

"Dustin, myself, and the Florida Yacht Club are excited to help start Club Sailing at Episcopal. This will be a great program for the novice or the expert. We hope that

"This will be a great program for the novice or the expert. We hope that this will be a staple program in Jacksonville."

— Jodi Weinbecker,
Waterfront Director at FYC

this will be a staple program in Jacksonville," said Jodi Weinbecker, Waterfront Director at FYC.

For more information regarding Club Sailing, email Dustin Domer (jrsailing@thefyc.org) or Jodi Weinbecker (sailing@thefyc.org).



Dustin Domer, Florida Yacht Club sailing coach, and Jodi Weinbecker, Florida Yacht Club Waterfront Director

Two children/youth agencies face replacement by new unified entity

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Children and youth considered "at-hope" – the new term for the "at-risk" population – may be served by a single overseer by the end of the year.

In early June, City of Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry had indicated changes would be coming for both the Jacksonville Journey, established to specialize in anti-crime initiatives among youth, and Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC), which was launched to improve

outcomes for children. At that time, Curry noted a possible merger of the two city initiatives.

On Aug. 1 Mayor Curry launched the Kids Hope Alliance: The Jacksonville Partnership for Children, Youth & Families (KHA), a collaboration that aligns the missions and programming currently provided by Jax Journey and JCC.

Legislation to streamline children's services was filed Aug. 2 at the request of the mayor and introduced to City Council Aug. 8. The bill [2017-563] is co-sponsored by District 14 Councilman Jim Love and

At-Large Councilman John Crescimbeni. A public hearing was held Aug. 22.

The bill notes the children and youth served by the two city agencies' programs are not mutually exclusive, but "are interconnected and overlapping children and youth populations."

If approved, the ordinance would repeal the two chapters of the Municipal Ordinance Code which established the JCC in 1994 and Jax Journey in 2007, transferring their respective programs to Kids Hope Alliance, under Chapter 77 of the Ordinance Code.

If the 19 council members pass the bill, Kids Hope Alliance will include a Chief Executive Officer and a seven-member board appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council. After the legislation

is enacted, a six-month transition period will commence, but the mayor indicated KHA should be fully operational by January 1, 2018.

KHA will contract with third-party providers or award grants for services in the areas of early learning and school readiness, juvenile-justice intervention, summer camp and afterschool programs, and pre-teen and teen programming under a \$36 million budget.

Two days prior to Mayor Curry's announcement, he and City Council President Anna Brosche had announced \$1.071 million would be available to expand after-school programming through the JCC. City Council approved the funding and the programs are moving forward, according to Tia Ford, City spokesperson.

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Flashbacks

WAVEs (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) gather in the commissary at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in 1957. NAS Jax opened prior to WWII at the old Camp J. Clifford R. Foster. Located along Roosevelt Boulevard, north of I-295, NAS Jax continues as a major industry in Jacksonville.

(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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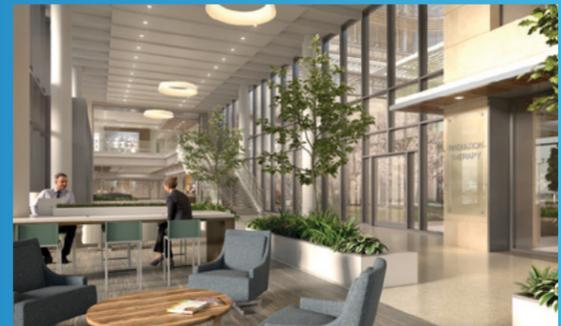
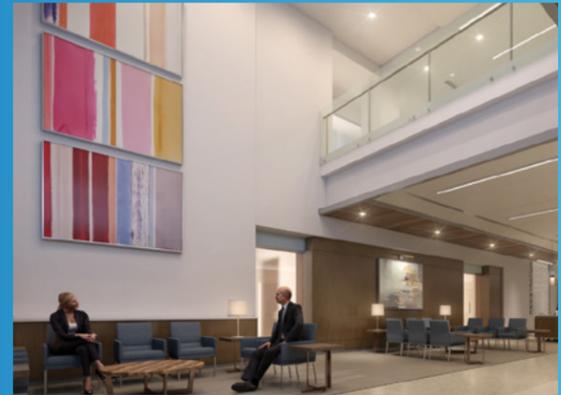


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