

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Fathers honored as role models

Navy Region Southeast Command Master Chief David Twiford gets hugs from his daughters, Kathryn and Charlotte, students at Venetia Elementary School, during “Dads Take Your Child to School Day” Sept. 27. Twiford was selected to present the “Father to Father” charge and read the “Dads Take Your Child to School Day” pledge because he is one of the school’s most active parents/guardians. (Photo courtesy of DCPS)

[Read More, Page 47](#)



Young professionals gather, rally for Ronald McDonald

Red Shoe Crew Event Co-Chair Sabrie Edmonston and Audrey C. Moran hammed it up while supporting a cause they both admire – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

The young professionals help drive dollars and raise awareness of the mission to support children and families staying at the House while undergoing medical treatment for complex conditions at local hospitals in Jacksonville.

[Read More, Page 27](#)

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HURRICANE HEROES

Knights of Columbus take to the trees

Knights of Columbus Council #15132, based at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Riverside, volunteered their time to pick up hurricane debris at parishioners’ homes. De Lyons submitted this photo of Chris Revenaugh, John Carr, Keith Watson, her husband Mike Lyons, Joe Ferm, Jeff Conley, Rodney Brown and Tim Revenaugh with a large pine tree they cut up and hauled to the curb at her Ortega home. [Read More, Page 41](#)



Irma provides temporary playground among tree roots

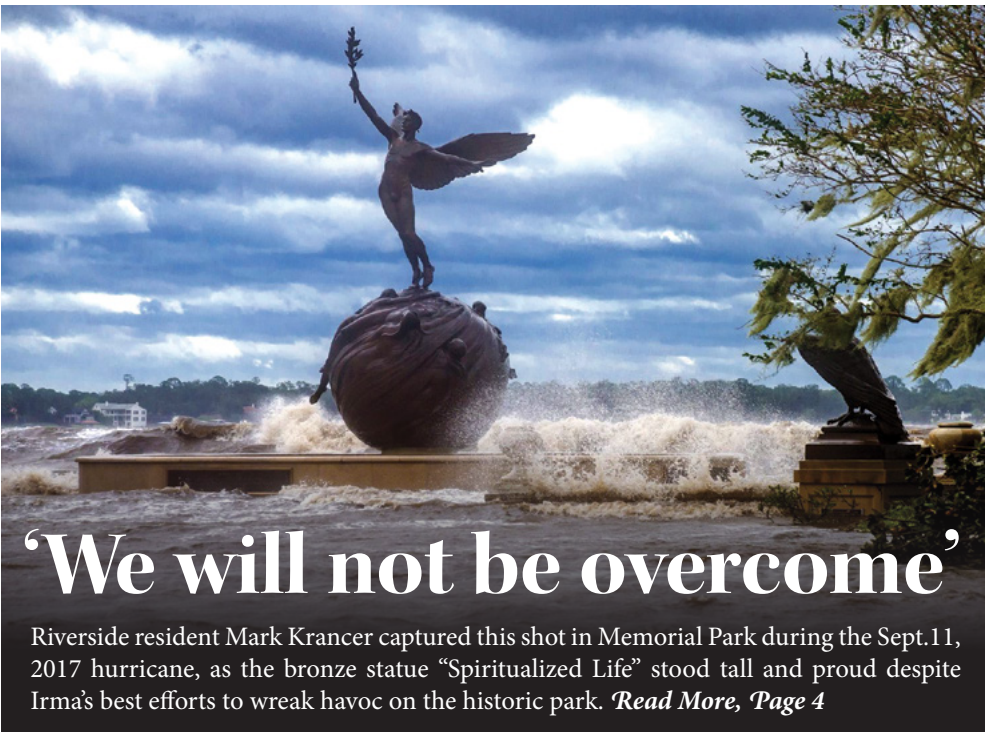
This huge, old Live Oak in Fishweir Park was no match for Irma, but Fishweir neighborhood children enjoyed playing in a fantastical forest setting on its exposed roots. Residents believe the roots may still be healthy, and the Urban Forestry Manager is evaluating it.

Fishweir Park was created in the 1960s after the City of Jacksonville obtained the land, but the tree is undoubtedly much older than 50 years. The 10-acre property is part of Fehrenbach’s Subdivision, platted in 1882.



A day for the dogs (and cats)

Sign wavers Tony Caribaltes and Robert Van Cleve drummed up support for local animals in need of homes at a pet adoption event Sept. 23 at Coldwell Banker in the Shoppes of Avondale. The Homes for Dogs Project, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and CBV Cares, included support from EverBank, Cartus, Loan Depot, Vanguard Title and Escrow, USAA, Elite Realtor Network, Movement Mortgage and 2-10 Home Buyers Warranty companies. [Read More, Page 16](#)



‘We will not be overcome’

Riverside resident Mark Krancer captured this shot in Memorial Park during the Sept. 11, 2017 hurricane, as the bronze statue “Spiritualized Life” stood tall and proud despite Irma’s best efforts to wreak havoc on the historic park. [Read More, Page 4](#)

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Ask Allison

As we all struggle with the aftermath of hurricane Irma, it seems more important than ever to understand our insurance policies. If you had damage, you probably now know what your policy entails. You've probably learned that you have a substantial hurricane deductible and a lot of out of pocket expenses that you weren't expecting! You might have learned that when that big tree fell on your car you have to file one claim with your homeowner's policy and another with your auto policy—both of which have deductibles.

If you didn't have damage, there's even more reason than ever to get your policy out and understand what it says. For example, if a neighbor's tree falls in your yard, is it their job to remove the tree or yours? Does a homeowner's policy cover a fallen tree? Does it cover a damaged dock? If these things aren't covered, can you get a "rider" to cover them?

If you don't live in a flood zone, should you get flood insurance? I unfortunately had several customers who sustained heavy flood damage that did not have flood insurance because they didn't think they needed it.

Along with an insurance review, this is probably a great time to get a real estate review. What's your home worth today? We do periodic reviews of our finances, periodic reviews of our health but we rarely stop to think about what our homes are worth until we are ready to sell them.

I'm happy to provide this for you—at no charge. Information can be valuable—sometimes getting it BEFORE you need it is a smart move! Call me today.

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Publishers' Note

Hurricane Irma put us all through a great deal, whether from the stress of evacuating, then watching online what was facing our neighborhoods, or to remaining in place and hearing the scary and powerful sounds of high winds and pounding rain in the early hours of Sept. 11.

No one thought water would rise to such historic levels, damaging and destroying docks, boats, bulkheads and balustrades. In some of the lower-lying areas, the flood soaked businesses, homes and apartments full of belongings, saturating drywall and electrical systems and, in some cases, compromising elevator shafts in condominiums and commercial buildings. Some homeowners may have to make the hard choice to condemn their family homes and rebuild.

Belongings can be replaced. The silver lining is that people were safe. Thanks to the efforts of local first responders, JEA line workers and support staff, leadership in the Mayor and Governor's offices and the federal government response efforts, we will overcome

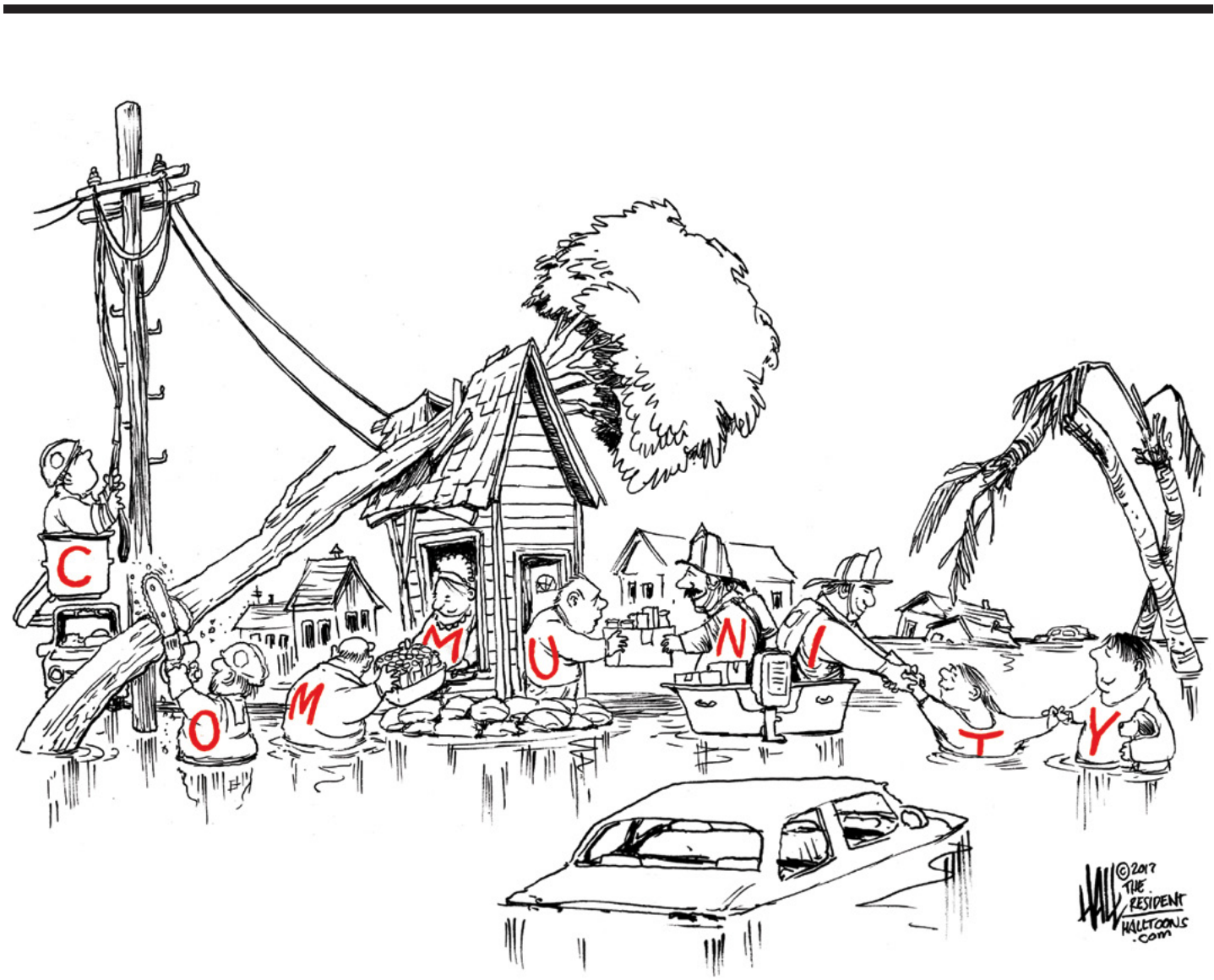
this catastrophic event and show the rest of the country what Floridians are made of.

We are encouraging everyone to seek opportunities to patronize those local businesses that have been hardest hit. In this issue, you will read about the many ways in which people have helped their neighbors thus far. Many organizations delivered goods, offered relief and worked hard to restore hope throughout the region.

Keep in mind, the Florida Keys were hit incredibly hard. Plan a trip, get down and support our Florida neighbors. Puerto Rico was recently devastated from the effects of Maria, which followed just behind Irma. They are going to need relief and continued assistance.

We're still stunned from the impacts of Irma in our area, but we hold the rest of the country – from Texas to our U.S. territories in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island, and other islands throughout the Caribbean – in our prayers.

Pamela and Seth Williams
PUBLISHERS



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2007-2017

www.ResidentNews.net

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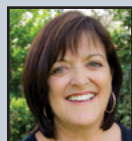
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2723 WHITE OAK LN - \$560,000
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location! 3/2, 2322sqft, large backyard



SOLD

3842 REEDPOND DR N
Immaculate Mandarin pool home, 4/2,
2482sqft, sep master wing



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4152 SHIRLEY AVE
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4170 CHURCHWELL RD - \$339,900
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Stockton School district



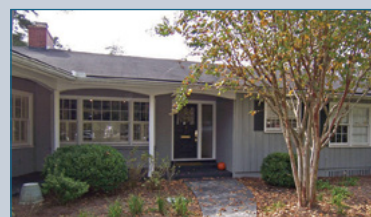
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3670 OAK ST
Craftsman style bungalow in Avondale,
2/2, 1218sqft, sparkling new kitchen



SOLD

4074 WINDSOR PARK DR E
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SOLD

4168 WATER OAK LN
Ortega Forest 3/2.5, 1965sqft, beauti-
ful yard, large corner lot

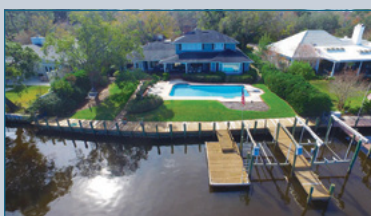


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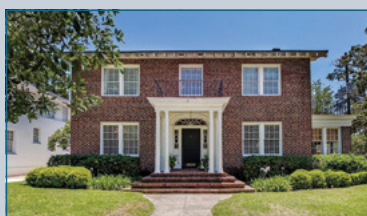
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4346 KELNEPA DR - \$539,000
Klutho designed, built in 1925,
extensively renovated 4/2.5 w/pool



PENDING

4333 VENETIA BLVD - \$1,195,000
Amazing waterfront, 4/5.5, 4428sqft,
updated, pool, dock & lift



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4605 ARLON LN
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3123 OAK ST
Cute renovated bungalow in Avondale,
nice kitchen, 2-car carport/storage



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3675 PINE ST
Turnkey 1922 Avondale bungalow,
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1776 EDGEWOOD AVE
Amazing 1926 Avondale 2-story, 5/3.5,
4564sqft, great bones



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8041 WHISPER LAKE LN
Magazine featured home on Sawgrass
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4233 VENETIA BLVD - \$679,000
Charming 3/2, 2,144 sqft, deep lot,
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4325 VERONA AVE - \$309,000
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Flood recovery help
for historic structures

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) encourages property owners in the Riverside Avondale area to reach out to RAP with any questions on flood recovery for historic structures, or options to protect historic structures in the future.

Many historic properties were built in ways that often protect from the worst flooding impacts, with walls made of plaster and lath rather than drywall, which have the ability to dry out, as do wood floors and framing. When working with contractors, keep in mind that gutting is not necessarily the only option.

Make sure your contractor is licensed by the state of Florida. Home-owners can look up contractors on the Florida Division of Business and Professional Regulation website at myfloridalicense.com.

The City of Jacksonville's Historic Preservation Planning Office is ready to assist with processing any needed paperwork for repairs to property within the Riverside Avondale Historic District. They want to expedite the process and make it as simple as possible during this time. Remember, RAP does not approve or process any permitting or Certificate of Appropriateness applications. Contact the City Historic Preservation Office at (904) 255-7859 or historicpreservation@coj.net.

RAP wants to serve as resource for the community as it regroups from Hurricane Irma, and can help spread the word and recruit volunteers for cleanup events, fundraisers, and other recovery efforts. Staff can be reached at (904) 389-2449, info@riversideavondale.org, and [@preservationjax](https://www.facebook.com/preservationjax) on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Community rallies for landmark,
plans underway for Memorial Park



A passerby grabbed a shot of local photographer Mark Krancer capturing the Memorial Park statue during the hurricane Sept. 11. (Photo courtesy of Joseph Rycroft)



Broken balustrades from the seawall at Memorial Park are carefully collected for repair. (Photo courtesy of Riverside Avondale Preservation)

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Six months after Memorial Park re-opened following drainage and irrigation upgrades and installation of a new center lawn, Hurricane Irma swept through on Sept. 11, leaving downed branches all over the expansive greenspace and along the walkways.

The park only lost one or two large trees, according to Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Association communications director. “The tree canopy was trimmed last year, so I think this helped lessen the damage.”

Two days after the storm, about 100 volunteers came out to clean up the historic park, working from 8 a.m. until nearly 7 p.m., and again on Sept. 16, resulting in almost 175 bags of debris.

The most significant damage, however, was to the historic concrete balustrades which grace the seawall behind the statue. Memorial Park Association plans to repair the balustrades and re-install them and has contacted the Ohio company which repaired the fountain last year.

“Volunteers helped to move the balustrades to a central location; we want park visitors to realize that the city plans to reuse them,” said Luthin. “The city is stacking the balustrade on pallets, wrapping and then taking them to a place to store them until they can be repaired. The bulkhead is being evaluated to see if it was compromised, so we hope the balustrades can be repaired, then used to rebuild the wall.”



Mark Krancer displays his fundraising photo of the Memorial Park statue shot during the hurricane Sept. 11. (Photo courtesy of Robert Tebbs)

Public safety is the City of Jacksonville's first priority, said Luthin. “They have been great during this process, incredibly responsive, and are going to put up a temporary fence in the coming days. The fence will be user-friendly for the fishermen, but will encourage people to stay back so no one falls into the river.”

Following the receding of the river, Krancer went back to shoot photos of the destruction.

“When I saw the balustrades demolished later that day, a profound sadness overcame me,” said Krancer. “My first date with my fiancée was in this park along those balustrades, which have been there since shortly after World War I. Something tells me you can't exactly pick one of these up at Home Depot.”

Funding recovery

The response to raise funds for the recovery and ongoing restoration of the park was almost as immediate as the volunteer efforts to clean it up.

Mark Krancer, of Riverside, captured an image of the statue in Memorial Park during the storm. He has created a first batch of prints with 50 percent of the proceeds to benefit the park.

Due to high demand, email contact info to mkrancer84@gmail.com to get on the list for ordering prints and help restore the park that has welcomed residents for decades. Metal and canvas prints will become available in next couple of months once print vendors are recovered from the storm as well.

5 Points Candle has also created a Memorial Park candle in honor of Memorial Park and, along with Mancanics, will contribute 20 percent of all sales from the Sept. 16 Riverside Arts Market to the relief efforts of the neighborhood. Other vendors at RAM, such as Bisbee + Yuma and Still Life With Cat Studio, also donated portions of their sales to the park restoration efforts.

The Memorial Park Association is also in the process of organizing a grassroots fundraising initiative for those who want to help contribute to the park's restoration following Hurricane Irma. More information can be found at www.memparkjax.org.

The Garden House, which MPA recently painted inside and out, had about two feet of water in it. Percy Rosenbloom, MPA president, Karen McCombs, vice president, and Luthin scooped up the muck and then pressure washed it.

Many of the light posts that were recently restored have been damaged.

While the flood damaged the park's lawn and marble benches, the water did not damage the park's most iconic feature, the “Spiritualized Life” bronze statue.



Residents pull together to clean up debris in Memorial Park following Hurricane Irma. (Photo courtesy of Memorial Park Association)

Opening Night
Fri • Oct 13 7:30pm

Estrella Piano Duo

Thurs • Oct 26
11am & 7:30pm

Calidore

Fri • Nov 17
11am & 7:30pm

Sara Santambrogio, cello

Fri • Dec 1
11am & 7:30pm

Rebecca Shorstein & Monica Pasquini Holiday Cabaret

Sun • Dec 10
3pm

First Annual
Family Holiday Concert
Don Thompson Chorale

Fri • Jan 5
11am & 7:30pm

Con Brio Quartet

Fri • Jan 19
7:30pm

Outstanding Young Pianists

Sat • Feb 17

Third Annual Fundraiser

Sun • Feb 25
3pm

Jeff Rupert Quintet

Fri • Mar 9
11am & 7:30pm

Kai Alece & Company 50's Soul/Jazz

Sun • Mar 25
3pm

Florida Chamber Music Project

Fri • Apr 13
11am & 7:30pm

Ola Onabule, World Music

Sun • Apr 22
3pm

Sam Haywood, Piano

Fri • May 4
11am & 7:30pm

Ana Vidovic, Guitar

Sun • May 20
3pm

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Benghazi Tribute, Honoring America

Famed film director Dinesh D'Souza, Congressman DeSantis and prominent guests expressed their deep concern for everyone in Irma's path and will speak at the America at a Crossroads event. The rescheduled event date will be December 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

Dinesh D'Souza
Learn about the changes sweeping our country today and why they're occurring. Get your tickets today!

VIP Reception
1:30-2:30 on the Terrace. Event starts promptly at 3:00 in the Grand Ballroom. Get tickets by googling Dinesh D'Souza in Jacksonville and follow the link to America at a Crossroads.

For info contact Beth @ 904 705-6439 or Deborah @ 904 402-2172. Presented by Veterans & Patriots serving on the NE FL Benghazi Tribute Team. Hosted by Turning Points in America, Inc., nonprofit 501(c)3 charity.



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Proposed landmark home addition requires approval

Neighbors worry about setting precedents

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The owner of a landmark home on Challen Avenue is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission, but some nearby residents aren't very happy about the proposed modifications.

Virginia "Ginger" Harris requested a COA for a two-story rear addition which will attach to a newly-reconstructed garage.

Neighbors, two of whom shared with *The Resident* the same email filled with concerns, suggest the addition is way out of proportion for the historic district, and are also worried about setting a precedent.

"It is my understanding that the proposed changes to the house will significantly alter the appearance, shape, presence, as well as its historical pedigree, not to mention set a horrible precedent for any future preservation efforts in our neighborhood and community," said Joe Miller, who has asked the JHPC to deny the COA.

That fear may be unfounded.

"Quasi-judicial cases, such as what JHPC hears, are not legally precedential," said Riverside Avondale Preservation Executive Director Adrienne Burke, who holds a law degree. "JHPC hears each case individually.

There's a difference between precedence and consistency."

Harris' home at 1776 Challen Ave. was designated a local landmark in 1996 and a contributing structure to the Riverside Avondale Historic District.

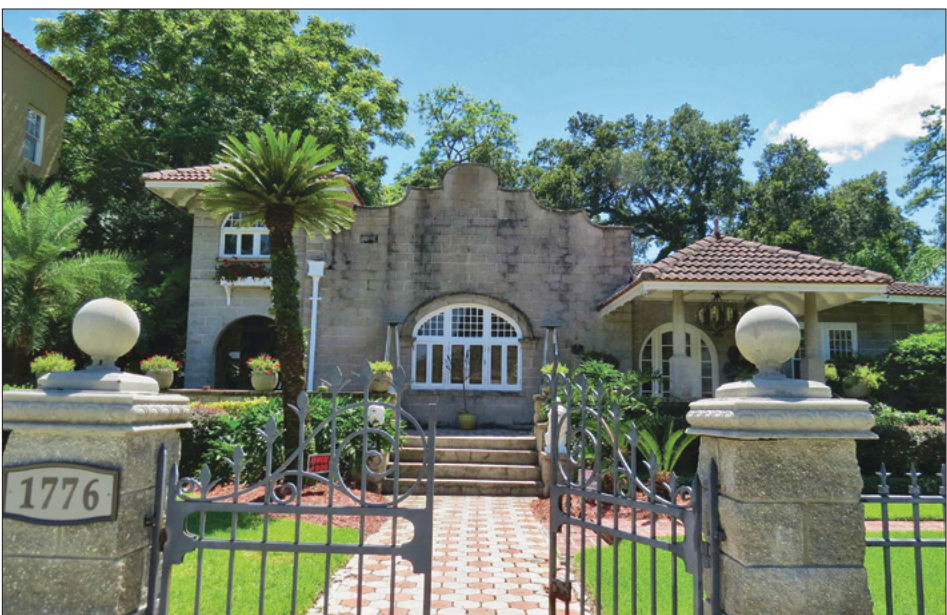
The Mission style home was constructed in 1909 by the Beerbower family and is considered unique to the Avondale area as it was built prior to development of the neighborhood in the early 1920s. The unique two-story tower was added a few years later for Elsie Janis, a family member who became a singer, performer and writer during World War I.

Harris' architects, Phil Kean Design Group, are proposing to add nearly 2,500 more square feet to the 2,572-square-foot home, with the highest point of the addition at 28 feet.

The Planning and Development Department felt the proposed work would not be consistent with historic preservation design guidelines, City of Jacksonville Ordinance Code or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

"It is the opinion of the Planning and Development Department that the new addition, as proposed, has a significant negative impact on the structure due to the high visibility of the addition and the structure's location and directly conflicts with the Design Regulations," stated the staff report.

Burke said both the size and the height of the proposed addition were also a



1776 Challen Avenue today

concern to her, but felt some changes would bring the project down to an acceptable size.

"I did have concerns about the project and, as presented, it has issues. Height and scale were the major concerns and there were other smaller changes I suggested to Ginger, who was open to some of them," she said.

Harris said her architects are working on the plans, and they will make what changes they can. "I will work within the guidelines," she said, "but if I don't think they are fair, I will oppose them."

One of the objections made by some of the neighbors was the material designated to be used for the exterior surface. The current structure was covered with coquina, which is no longer available as such. The architect is proposing to match the material used for an addition made 15 years ago and which was also used on columns for the property fence.

The Secretary of the Interior standards state property owners are not supposed to make additions match, according to Burke. "Later additions are supposed to be compatible but distinctive. They are supposed to be kept to the rear and subordinate to the existing structure."

Harris, who has lived in the home 20 years, said she has made renovations just about every five years. "I would never, ever



1776 Challen Avenue shortly after construction in 1909.

compromise the look of this home," she said. "I love my home and will spend a fortune to replicate the material."

Jacksonville does not have a code prohibiting a homeowner from putting in an addition as long as he or she follows the guidelines, according to Burke.

"In a perfect world, would I rather the structure be left alone? Yes, but the reality is people have property rights and allowances under the code," said Burke.

The preservation commission will continue hearing the application on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building downtown.

"I would never, ever compromise the look of this home, I love my home and will spend a fortune to replicate the material."

— Ginger Harris

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ADOPT-A-DOG EVENT

Coldwell Banker International has long been an advocate of animal adoptions and at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, we fully embrace the message! Everyone deserves a place to call home whether human or animal.



On September 23, four of our locations held an **Adopt-A-Dog** event where we collectively had **15 dogs and 10 cats** adopted! Our Avondale office is proud to have been responsible for **3 dogs and 3 kittens** finding their **FUREVER homes!** We also took in huge donations of food, blankets and peanut butter **for the animals.**

We partnered with Animal Care & Protective Services located at 2020 Forest St 32204. ACPS is the City Shelter and many do not realize that you can adopt from there. ACPS has come a long way over the years achieving "No Kill" status for City of Jacksonville. Through their partner, Friends of Jacksonville Animals, Inc., they have a behaviorist on staff, veterinary staff, heartworm programs, foster programs and much more to allow many animals who might have one time been put down, to be able to be adopted and save lives! We at CBV are proud to partner with such an outstanding organization in helping animals find homes.

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Irma delivered a staggering blow, epic wind and flood waters shock residents

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

“Still getting pounded hard with roaring winds barreling at us off the river. The pressure is intense. The St. Johns is in my lower yard like an angry ocean. Dock is gone next door. Lots of exterior damage. 3 a.m. was frighteningly intense. Barrel tiles hurling off the roof, light fixtures flying, branches falling. This isn’t like any tropical storm I’ve ever experienced...”

This was how Anne Burpee Rain, a realtor who lives on Apalachee Street in Ortega, described her 14-hour ordeal during Hurricane Irma on Facebook at 8:40 a.m. Sept. 11. By 1:20 p.m. she had posted a photo of an upset St. Johns River, which had encroached 20 feet into her yard. The dock, which had been torn from pilings in front of her neighbor’s house ended up in her yard, she said.

“It was by far the worst storm I’ve ever seen,” said Rain, who grew up in Ortega Forest. “I’ve been in this house 10 years. There was once another storm with 70 mph gusts, which was a little scary, but with Irma the winds were persistent. This was crazy scary. It was frightening,” she said.

Days before she hit, local weather fore-casters had warned Jacksonville residents Hurricane Irma would be a monster storm hitting the Florida Keys at Category 4 or 5. First they predicted she would veer east,



While the family pooch looks on, Steven Settle and Nancy Murrey-Settle, with Allyssa and Diana, chat with rescuers 15 minutes before waters began to recede from the front steps. (Photo by Seth Langer)

Continued on page 9



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Toys, furniture, pieces of houses and yard debris line Avondale Avenue after Hurricane Irma swept through.



Memorial Park's historic concrete balustrades were tossed around like matchsticks. (Photo by Mark Krancer)



The common rooms at Beau Rivage got wet and the pool was full of mud during Hurricane Irma. (Photo by Betsy Towers)



Most of Roosevelt Square Mall's lot was underwater, including VyStar Credit Union. (Photo by Sharon Light)



Appleton Avenue leading to the rear entrance to Roosevelt Square Mall was still several feet under water the day after the storm.



A scene shot from the 11th floor of the Ortega Yacht Club Condominiums shows lower floor units of the neighboring Ortega Bay condos under water. (Photo by Sharon Light)

perhaps chewing up the Jacksonville beaches but sparing downtown from the roughest winds. However, Irma had her own ideas, drifting further west when the time came, sweeping up the entire width of the Florida peninsula and forcing residents from the Florida Keys to Jacksonville to scramble out of her way.

Although Jacksonville did not suffer a direct hit from the ocean such as it had in Hurricane Dora, the city did endure the harshest winds from the northeast quadrant of the storm, and flooding of the St. Johns River was as bad or worse than the 1964 storm.

The river's resulting storm surge took the city by surprise, with an epic amount of water hitting levels not seen since 1846, the year after Florida became a state, according to reports. A meteorologist with the National Weather Service stated the huge volume of water in the three-mile-wide St. Johns River in Jacksonville had no place to go – except over its banks and bulkheads and into homes and businesses in the historic neighborhoods of Riverside, Ortega, Venetia, San Marco, the Southbank and St. Nicholas.

More than 264,000 Duval County residents were forced to evacuate and find refuge out of town or out of state, only to nervously watch the storm unfold on national television. An estimated 3,000 hunkered down in the City storm shelter. At least 356 people had to be rescued by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Several Good Samaritans ferried stranded residents to safety via kayak, canoe, or small watercraft.

The Jacksonville Energy Authority said 62 percent of its customers lost power, some for as long as five days or more. The storm,

Continued on page 10



A dock behind a home in Lakeside Park was ravaged by the hurricane.

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Continued from page 9

which blew in during the evening Sept. 10, had caused 253,709 customers to be without power by 7 a.m. Sept. 11, according to JEA estimates. At least 996 JEA linemen and tree trimmers made repairs day and night. Four hundred water and wastewater personnel repaired equipment and conducted water quality samples to protect residents.

St. Vincent's HealthCare, which experienced severe flooding on Shircliff Way and Kings Street, had 1,389 associates and 118 physicians arrive on Saturday and stay at the hospital until the following Tuesday. Thirty-one babies were born at St. Vincent's during the storm, including two sets of twins, said Kyle Sieg, hospital spokesperson. The hospital

even set up "hurricane camps" where 143 children and 38 pets were cared for, he said.

"Hurricane Irma was far more devastating to the historic district than most people anticipated," said Historian Wayne Wood, who lives in Riverside. There was the loss of a number of vintage trees, but the worst part of the damage was to so many historic riverfront homes. It's sad to see so much havoc wreaked on the homes of those who have worked so hard to restore them," he said, noting that flood waters were devastating to homes between the river and St. Johns Avenue.

Continued on page 11



The Lakeshore Women's Club took in nearly a foot of water in the club, and in the backyard the deck and gazebo were shifted on their foundations. (Photo by Paula Castleberry)



Along St. Johns Avenue, a fallen tree crushed car, trapped another vehicle for over a week.



Destruction along River Boulevard in the St. Johns Quarter

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The St. Johns River breached the seawall and threw cinderblocks into the pool from a wall separating the Van Cleves’ pool from the riverfront during Hurricane Irma. The family boat dock was destroyed and its boat house was stranded off shore. (Photo by Robert Van Cleve)



Large branches from an oak tree came crashing down at Richmond and Shadowlawn Streets.



The Ortega River rose over its bank to flood the playground at Stinson Park on San Juan Avenue. (Photo by Melinda Kramer)

“The other horrific thing was the destruction of the balustrade in Memorial Park,” he continued. “Our thanks go out to everyone in the neighborhood who has pulled together to help neighbors overcome the effects of the storm,” Wood said.

Pokey Towers Lyerly and her husband, Jim, evacuated from their Ortega riverfront home to the fifth-floor Beau Rivage condominium of Pokey’s daughter, Betsy Towers. “All the streets that face the river were flooded. There was a lot of damage in Avondale,” Towers said. “The river was the highest I’ve ever seen since 1964 when Dora hit. I was 13 years old then, but I remember it.”

At Beau Rivage, the first floor of the building with its reception rooms was soaked and Towers had to make a quick trip to the garage to move her car, which came within an inch of having its engine flooded. Next door, residents of the River Shores Condominiums, adjacent to Willowbranch Creek, had to be evacuated by the city fire

department when the creek overflowed, she said, adding that from her ringside seat five stories up she could see cars floating around in the parking lot.

“The storm was howling all around, but what amazed me was the layer of salt on the windows and doors after the storm was over. I don’t know whether it was salt from the ocean or brackishness from the St. Johns River,” she said. “After the storm, I saw a three- to four-foot pile of gorgeous furniture, oriental rugs, drywall and all kinds of debris around the perimeter of Avondale Circle. It was a strong visual to see that destruction. Those people got hit badly,” she said.

The Lane-Towers house on Richmond Street, which was her former residence, escaped injury from the flood waters, having the waves lap within an inch of the steps of its door closest to the river, Towers said. However, a roofing contractor, who had a

Continued on page 12



Margaret Street between Memorial Park and the Park Lane Condominium looked like a tributary of the river.

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Continued from page 11

cargo bin in the back of the property closer to the river returned to discover it and nearly \$1 million in roofing materials had floated out with the tide after the storm was over, she said.

Tower's aunt and uncle, Sarah and Bob Van Cleve, also Richmond Street residents, were not so lucky. During Hurricane Dora, when Tower's grandfather Daugherty Towers lived in the house, about three inches of water from the river penetrated the ground floor where the game room lies, she said. In response, her grandfather beefed up the bulkhead, built a two-foot sea wall on top of it, and later a four-foot wall separating the swimming pool from the river. "Since then, the house never flooded until this storm," said Tower's cousin, Robert Van Cleve, an Avondale realtor who lives next door. "Irma knocked down the four-foot wall and sent the cinder blocks and mud into the pool," he said. "Waves from the St. Johns River came over the sea wall and were splashing all over the house."

Because Richmond Street was completely flooded, Robert Van Cleve contemplated taking a generator over to his mother's home by john boat, but decided to wait a few hours until the floodwaters subsided to six inches. His home, which lies behind his mothers, remained dry, but its garage

sustained three inches of water, he said. "The water came within one step of the house, and we were trying to decide what we would take upstairs. I was checking on my parents' house each hour."

After the storm was over, the Van Cleves discovered their boat dock was missing except for its pilings, and the two-story boathouse was marooned in the river with only the second floor still intact. "Two doors over from us on Edgewood Avenue, a boat was left in the backyard, just 10 feet from the swimming pool," he added.

Wood from docks destroyed by the storm littered Richmond Street and its yards and driveways. Assisting with the clean-up were members of The District Church in Riverside, who went door to door in the neighborhood offering to tidy up yards.

"At least 10 members of the church offered to clean up our yards," said Robert Van Cleve. "My mother couldn't get out of her driveway. Afterwards, they went to my sister's house and cleaned up, doing half of it that day, and half of it two days later," he said. Van Cleve's sister, Catherine Bauman and her husband, Greg, live on the south end of Richmond Street in a home on Montgomery Place. "We aren't even members of that church, but they were great helping us out," he said.



Fallen trees and debris line the Northbank Riverwalk leading to the Riverside Arts Market.



This large oak on the corner of Mayview and Woodmere Drive in Fairfax Manor was felled by high winds.



This historic home in Fairfax Manor, complete with weeping mortar and brick, was no match for a large oak.

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Tree removal, damage claims not clear cut

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Thanks to an abundant tree canopy, Hurricane Irma left a lot of trees uprooted or damaged in her wake after barreling through Jacksonville Sept. 11. Palm trees, pine trees and live oaks abound in the historic districts, and many were tossed about in yards and onto streets.

The liability for damages and cleanup is often not clear cut.

When a tree falls from private property onto public property, such as the street or right-of-way, the City will cut the fallen tree out of the public right-of-way up to the beginning of the property owner's line. Disposing the remainder of the tree is the responsibility of the property owner, according to Tia Ford, spokesperson for the City of Jacksonville. "The City's work is limited to the right-of-way."

When a tree planted in the City right-of-way, such as the area between the street and

the sidewalk, falls onto adjacent private property, the City is responsible for the entire tree.

"Provided there is no damage to private property, the City's contractor will secure a hold harmless agreement from the property owner before accessing the private property for the tree removal," Ford stated. "If there is private property damage, Risk Management will facilitate both the tree removal and damage claim."

When it comes to damage claims, it depends on insurance policies.

If a visibly dead or dying tree falls from one private property to another, then the owner of the tree is potentially at fault, said State Farm agent Cam Anderson. The owner's liability policy should cover the claimant's damages.

"However, if Mother Nature decides to push down a tree [onto a neighbor's property], then it is not the owner's fault," Anderson said. "In this case, the tree's owner's insurance policy would cover their own damages



Oak tree which fell from one private property to another

and the [neighboring] claimant's policy would cover the claimant's damages. Both parties would be responsible for their own deductibles."

If a tree falls and causes no damage to building, fence, driveway, etc. then there is no coverage for removing the tree debris, Anderson said.

Removing fallen trees can be costly, depending on tree height, diameter, number of limbs, size of root structure, location and ease of removal, but what it ultimately boils down to is time and, as Early Piety said, "Time is money."

According to Piety, president of Specialty Tree Surgeons, Inc., a tree down in the front yard next to the curb won't take nearly as much time as a tree in the backyard.

"If the tree is in the backyard, through a little gate, behind the green house, on

the other side of the pool, and it has fallen on the fence, and you have to cut it up in little bitty pieces to get it out of the backyard, that takes considerably more time to clean up, therefore the cost is higher," said Piety.

For homeowners chomping at the bit to get trees removed, Piety said to be patient.

"We will get to you as soon as we can. The first priority is to get all the trees off of houses. This stage is nearly done," he said. "The second priority is clear driveways and entrance ways so the homeowner can have access to his property for repair. This stage is nearly done also. The last priority is the yard. I know people want their yard cleaned up as soon as possible, but with so many trees down it just takes a while to get to them all. It's like leaving a football game – everybody can't leave at once."



Pine tree which fell from private property onto a city street

"I know people want their yard cleaned up as soon as possible, but with so many trees down it just takes a while to get to them all."

— Early Piety



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Downtown Dwellers encourages residents to ‘take ownership’ of Riverwalks

Concrete parks need ‘Friends of Riverwalks’ group

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Downtown resident Sandra Fradd is on a mission to get people thinking of the Riverwalks as a neighborhood. In a new initiative, she’s urging residents of the five towers – Berkman Plaza and Churchwell Lofts on the Northbank and the Strand, the Peninsula and San Marco Place on the Southbank – to start walking. Fradd, president of the Downtown Dwellers, said the Riverwalks are considered to be parks by the city and she wants the roughly 1,000 residents in the area to start thinking of them that way, too. She said she would like to find an app that will enable people to track their time so she can share with the city the usage rate. “It would give people an incentive to take care of it,” she said. “And it’s a chance to get out in the air with friends and enjoy this beautiful part of our city.” Fradd announced the initiative at a Downtown Dwellers meeting at the Lexington Hotel Sept. 20 with representatives from each of the towers. It was the first event that encouraged people from each of the towers to mingle and talk about what they would like to see happen in the neighborhood. Peninsula resident Gianni Vivian, vice president of Downtown Dwellers, thinks people who walk regularly will develop a sense of ownership, pick up trash, report things that are broken. And it’s also a great way to get to know the neighbors, he said. “We have a lot of common interests,” Vivian said. “We need to build this neighborhood with the city.”

John Smith, a Berkman Plaza resident, said Northbank residents are anxious for something to be done about the abandoned Berkman II and are considering filing a blight complaint with the city. The property has been rezoned from residential to commercial so that it could be developed as a hotel but a developer has not been found. Smith said he would rather see the site developed as residential. “Downtown Dwellers wants to create an environment in downtown to make people want to live here. We need infrastructure to support residents like a hardware store, a dry cleaners and a drug store. They tell us that business will come in once people are here but I think it needs to happen together,” said Smith. District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who represents San Marco, attended the event and shared some of the things that are happening in the area, including a plan to landscape the Riverwalks with vegetation inspired by the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. She said she’s hoping the extension of the Riverwalks to the Fuller Warren Bridge and past the Duval County Public School Board building, and the addition of a kayak launch and finger piers for boaters will bring more activity to the Riverwalks. She said with increased activity comes an additional effort for security and maintenance. Downtown Vision will be hiring four additional ambassadors to help with upkeep. Identifiable by their orange t-shirts, the ambassadors also are “eyes and ears” in the area and can alert police to security issues. The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce also is working with private groups to help maintain the Riverwalks. Friendship Fountain will be restored and enhanced with lights, color and music. It



John Smith, The Plaza homeowner association vice president; Dimitri Demopolis, Churchwell Lofts manager; Tom Dumas, Downtown Dwellers treasurer; Sandra Fradd, Downtown Dwellers president, and Gianni Vivian, The Peninsula homeowners association president

will be the first site with what Boyer calls a node that “will help tell the story of the river.” The other sites will be the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and the Main Street bridge. The fountain also may play a role in a light show that Boyer is exploring for the space between the Main Street and Acosta bridges. It would be modeled on Hong Kong’s Symphony of Lights, a 13-minute daily laser light and music show in the harbor. “It would give us fireworks without the pyrotechnics,” Boyer said. “It would give us the most return on our investment and I think it’s feasible.” The design for the “road diet” for Riverplace Boulevard is almost complete and work could begin in the coming months, Boyer said. She told the residents to expect traffic disruption for the 18 months the project is expected to take.

Boyer also said to expect the demolition of the old courthouse and city hall buildings as well as completion of the Liberty Street basin project, which will make that section of the riverfront “development ready.” Several Southbank residents voiced concern about a parcel next to the Peninsula that is in foreclosure and expected to be auctioned soon. They are worried the property will be developed as condos or a hotel and hurt the character of the area. They wanted to know if the city would be willing to purchase the parcel for parking or a park. Boyer said she thinks the area would be a wonderful park but not to expect the city to buy it. She suggested the residents work with the lender to see if a resolution could be found. Downtown Dwellers will have a meeting Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at MOSH.

One Brooklyn project indefinitely stalled, another underway

By Lea Leonard
Resident Community News

First approved by the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) in early 2016, momentum for the GATE gas station and convenience store project on Park Street in the Brooklyn neighborhood briefly stalled when an appeal, via opposition letter, sought to place development on hold due to potentially problematic deviations, according to a public report. The appeal sought to require the building’s facades be built to the street, rather than

set back off the street, which is not compatible with the Downtown Business Investment and Development (BID) plan. The appeal was later denied in June 2016, and construction began May 2017. “The approval process takes time,” said Misty Skipper, GATE vice president of marketing and communication. “Things happen in stages. It’s a normal course of business.” Although there is no grand opening date set as of yet, the new 6, 401-square-foot GATE is slated to open later this fall, according to Skipper. The gas station-convenience store will soon house a car wash,

multiple fueling and vacuuming stations, additional parking, as well as a fast-casual café with an outside dining area, she said. “GATE looks forward to being a part of the Riverside and Brooklyn communities,” Skipper said. While GATE is moving forward, a couple of blocks south on Park Street, proposed construction for the Brooklyn First Coast Mohs Dermatology & Skin Center has stalled indefinitely. According to a representative of Jeff Thompson Construction, the Mediterranean-style, multi-story, million dollar concept is not likely to move forward any time soon. “It’s been put on hold,” said the company representative. First Coast Mohs Skin Clinic is an entity with three locations around Jacksonville.

Dr. Scott Warren, an area dermatologist specializing in micrographic skin cancer and cosmetic surgery and the “Mohs” technique, originally sought to expand the company medical offices, headquartered in the Southside, with a costly, multi-acre property purchase around Rosselle and Park Streets. The project was initially characterized as “architecturally sympathetic,” to the area and reportedly said to have facilitated interest from Riverside Avondale Preservation, according to a report. Warren, Larry Huff, the First Coast Mohs Dermatology & Skin Care Center chief executive officer, and Jeff Thompson, president at Jeff Thompson Construction, did not return multiple requests for information or detail.

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Downtown Vision Inc. releases State of Downtown report

Highlights share business development momentum

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Shortly before Irma – the most intense Atlantic hurricane to strike the United States since Katrina in 2005 and the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005 – unleashed its force on Jacksonville, Downtown Vision, Inc. released its State of Downtown Report with optimistic highlights.

Downtown Vision, Inc. (DVI) is the Business Improvement District (BID) nonprofit created in 2000 to develop and support a vibrant Downtown community and promote it as an exciting place to live, work, visit and invest. San Marco resident and attorney Jacob Gordon is the Chief Executive Officer.

The 18-month study, from January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 of the growth of Downtown Jacksonville, tracked and analyzed key indicators such as development and investment, office market and employment base, residential demand, hospitality and tourism health, business and retail mix, and safety statistics to measure success.

The report indicates 81 major investment projects are putting more than \$2 billion into the local economy in infrastructure, civic, retail, office, hotel, residential and mixed use developments.

In addition to summaries on quality of life factors, such as culture and entertainment amenities, transportation updates and the vitality of the riverfront, the 20-page report provided a variety of facts and statistics worth bragging about.

Among them, Forbes magazine claims Jacksonville is No. 1 of the 10 hottest real estate markets to watch in 2017, the No. 1 U.S. city where Hispanics are doing the best economically (2015), No. 2 in where to invest in housing in 2017, the No. 2 city where Americans are moving to (2016), the No. 2



city with the most vibrant employment scene (2015), and the No. 5 fastest growing city in America in 2017.

When it comes to sports, it's not just all about the Jacksonville Jaguars national football team. Jacksonville boasts a year-round sports scene including the Jacksonville Sharks, a professional indoor football team that plays March to July; the Double-A baseball team, Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, which swings bats from April to September; the Jaguars, which kick off in August and wrap up at the end of the year; minor league basketball team Jacksonville Giants play the court from October to February, and the Jacksonville IceMen hockey team skate on ice from October through April.

Flooding could put damper on occupancy

At least one of the report highlights – Downtown office vacancy rates – may be affected by Hurricane Irma. The reported stated, for the first time since the 2008 recession, Downtown's office vacancy rate had fallen below the cumulative rate of the suburbs, 15.4 percent vs. 16.2 percent.

It now remains to be seen whether Irma will drive Downtown vacancy rates back up, if only for the short-term.

Severe storm surge caused flooding on Bay Street, forcing the Wells Fargo Center building to shut down and restrict tenant access for two weeks. The 37-story building's

Downtown Vision, Inc. promotes Jacksonville as an exciting place to live, work, visit and invest.

basement parking garage was filled with water, and power was out for more than a week, hampering cleanup efforts.

Wells Fargo employees, of which there are 400, and a few other tenants began to return to their offices toward the end of September. Prior to the hurricane, the occupancy was 92 percent. Among the tenants, the law firm of Pajcic & Pajcic occupied offices on the 19th floor, and Jimerson & Cobb law firm was on the 14th floor.

For the full report, compiled from more than two dozen sources, go to residentnews.net and search for Downtown.

'Covered' parking lot underway in Riverside

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's project to widen the Fuller Warren Bridge by expanding the northbound and southbound lanes from three to four, a parking lot is being constructed west of Riverside Avenue under the southbound lanes of the overpass.

"Weather permitting, the lot will be finished in November," said Odette Struys,

FDOT public information officer, who noted four of the 97 spaces will be designated handicapped parking.

Construction crews began filling in the ponds under I-95 in July and started "de-mucking" in August.

During the bridge expansion work, the American Red Cross will temporarily lose some of its parking lot to the project, so the new lot will provide space for Red Cross employees and guests, as well as for visitors to the Riverside Arts Market on Saturdays.



DEDICATED TO YOUR LOVELY HOMES

Living on the St. Johns River in Ortega for the past decade has been like living in heaven, but Irma was a night on the river I'll never forget. Mighty oaks were swaying back and forth like flimsy weeds, barrel tiles were flying off the roof, the wind roared like a train. I was wired for action. I checked the waterfront windows constantly waiting for them to blow in (they didn't). A momentary lapse of sanity had me trying to open a waterfront door about 3 am but when that force hurled the door at me and hit me hard, I wondered if it was going to blow off the hinges. I rammed my entire body weight against it for 20 minutes until it held. I've been through several storms in this house and only once before had we experienced scary gusts. These winds were nothing like those gusts. This force was unreal. The winds barreling down the river hit us hard from the northeast and even though this steel and concrete home kept us safe, it was terrifying. It was a real hurricane that hit Ortega that night. I cannot imagine a CAT 4.

It took until nearly noon the next day for me to feel safe enough to walk outside to survey the riverfront where dock

boards were still riding waves that were breaking into the yard like an angry ocean. We didn't see the lower 25 feet of the yard for a couple of days at which time we saw our amazing bulkhead, made in the 20's like none-other, held strong. Our bushes that were pounded by the brackish water have since died and some sod and dirt washed out, but when compared to our neighbors along Yacht Club Rd. and Venetia Blvd, we were most definitely spared. Our home is very high and I can confidently say it withstands hurricanes.

Timelines are tossed around here. Sales contracts are delayed trying to get repair people out, appraisers are two weeks behind...but Irma left us alive and power is back on. Half glass full is who I am and hey - it could have been a real disaster considering what Maria did to Puerto Rico. I count my blessings and hope that we won't see a hurricane for 100 years, but you better go out and buy an optional flood insurance policy and a rider to your homeowners that will pay your hurricane deductible!



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Local adoption event helps pets find homes



Gabrielle Sitzler with Alison Hamm, Cristhel Lewis, Debi Blizzard, Sara Grace Lewis, Vicki Cross and Felicia Settle

It was a Saturday dedicated to adoption of furry friends at the Avondale office of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, which hosted an event in support of Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS), the city's animal shelter.

The local real estate office helped find homes for the city's most vulnerable, from dogs to cats, and took in a pile of donations for local shelters in the form of food and supplies.

With volunteers from all over Duval County, the animal adoptions were facilitated by representatives from ACPS along with representatives from Friends of Jacksonville Animals (FOJA), and staff from the local real estate office.

"My kids were encouraged when I told them I was going to venture out," said Nancy Occhiogrosso, a recent divorcee. "I don't think this was what they had in mind," she laughed. "The one that they [shelter staff] said doesn't take to people much...he came right over to me," she said of Houdini, a jet black male kitten who went home with her.

The efforts of the office staff, ACPS staff and volunteers were fruitful, as three dogs

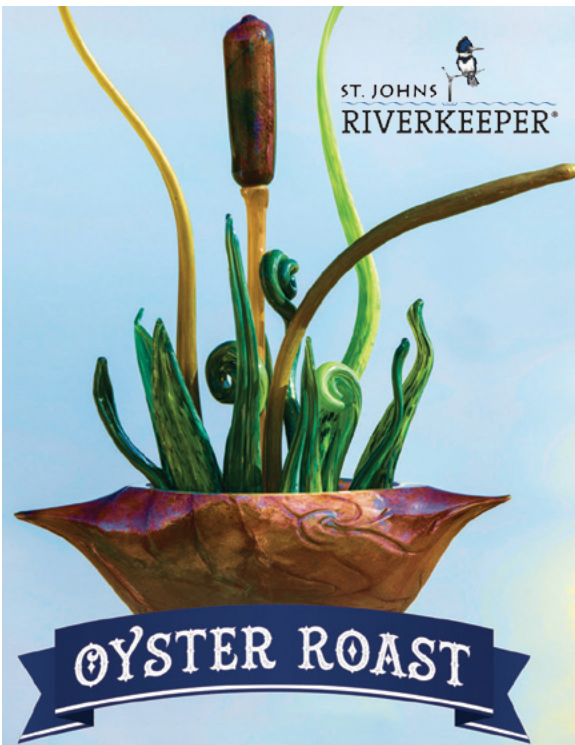


Nancy Occhiogrosso with Houdini

and three kittens were re-homed during the event. The adoption gathering took place Sept. 23 at the Coldwell Banker office located at 3610 St. Johns Avenue in the Shoppes of Avondale.

Help end hunger in this lifetime

Join the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville and the Bishop Kenny Interact Club in the movement to end hunger in this lifetime at the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing event. One hundred volunteers are needed to reach the goal to package 14,040 or more meals on Oct. 7, 2-6:30 p.m. at Bishop Kenny High School, 1055 Kingman Ave. Can't pack? Help Rotary reach the donation goal of \$4,071. Visit <http://events.stophungernow.org/RotaryClubSouthJacksonville>.



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Glass Sculpture by Brian Frus

Trial for advanced treatment for Afib offered to local patients

Have you ever struggled with Persistent Atrial Fibrillation, commonly called Afib, or known someone who has? Perhaps you have a loved one whose heart health limits most daily routines. With this cardiac condition, living with uncertainty can be limiting and, oftentimes, may lead to more dire circumstances.

If you are seeking solutions personally, or want to send a loved one in for an innovative new treatment, set up a consultation with Dr. Saumil Oza at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Riverside to discuss the Convergent Procedure.

Dr. Oza, Chief of Cardiology at St. Vincent's Riverside, has been performing the Convergent Procedure for the past two years and is encouraged by the feedback thus far. "We've had very, very good results in the most advanced patients," he said. "Any advancement in this field can dramatically improve the lives of millions."

The local hospital is one of a select group across the nation participating in a clinical trial offering advanced treatment for patients with Afib. Atrial Fibrillation is the most common form of heart arrhythmia and can lead to an increased chance of stroke (up to five times greater), an irregular and rapid heartbeat, dizziness, chest pain, and an individual's tiring more easily during exercise.

The trial is focused on patients who have suffered from Persistent Afib. The Convergent Procedure offers a hybrid approach performed by board-certified cardiologists and cardiac surgeons working together as a team. The minimally-invasive surgery offers a more complete treatment of affected areas of the heart without the use of medication. During the trial, patients will be randomly chosen for either

*"Patients can now
get cutting-edge,
world class care
for their Afib
without leaving
Northeast Florida."*

-Dr. Saumil Oza

the standard ablation treatment, or the Convergent Procedure.

Since returning to Jacksonville nine years ago to help co-found the Atrial Fibrillation Institute at St. Vincent's, Dr. Oza has spearheaded some of the most advanced treatments for heart disease to our area. St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside has become a leader in the treatment of Afib, performing over 500 Afib ablations per year, and teaches other hospitals how to make their Afib procedures more efficient. The hospital is one of a few that perform zero-radiation ablations.

Dr. Oza said trials such as this one help bring the most advanced medical treatments to the First Coast and make St. Vincent's a



Dr. Saumil Oza

destination for the treatment of Afib. They are already seeing patients from all over the southeastern United States seeking the latest treatment options for their medical condition. "Patients can now get cutting-edge, world class care for their Afib without leaving Northeast Florida."

St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside needs to enroll about 25 more patients into the Converge Trial by December 31, 2017. Dr. Oza explained that a faster, more successful enrollment makes St. Vincent's a sought-after location for future trials, bringing more advanced treatments to local patients. For more information and to see if you qualify, call (844) 202-8199, or visit www.Afibclinicaltrial.org.

What is the Convergent Procedure?

The Convergent Procedure brings both technology and technique to the treatment of Afib

Step 1 - The surgeon makes two small incisions just below the sternum through which they insert a small camera and an ablation catheter to cauterize affected areas around the outside of the heart.


Step 2 - By accessing a vein in the patient's leg, the cardiologist threads catheters to the inside of the heart to cauterize areas unreachable to the heart surgeon.

Step 3 - The patient stays two nights in the hospital for rest and observation, before returning home.


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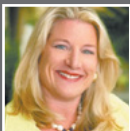
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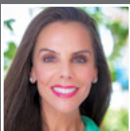
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3749 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$675,000
4/2/1-2,765 sqft. This home was built to a higher standard and didn't have any water intrusion into the house from the hurricane! Tucked away at the end of Riverside Ave and Boone Park sits this charming 2014 built Craftsman home by ShayCore.



844 NELSON ST - \$189,000
3/2-1,684 sqft. Having a hard time finding an updated and spacious home in historic Murray Hill? Well, here is your opportunity! Homes sits on a large lot with plenty of room to fit a pool for those hot summer days.



2200 COLLEGE ST - \$525,000
4/3-2,448 sqft. Beautiful two story home in Riverside on a double lot. Huge yard with possibilities for a pool, expand the garden, play area, endless possibilities. Detached two car garage.



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4429 IROQUOIS AVE - \$340,000
3/2-2-3,055 sqft. Classic Ortega Terrace home at its finest! Walk into an open living room/dining room that makes entertaining a breeze. Beautiful hard wood floors, wood burning fireplace with custom book shelves on either side.



4757 PIRATES BAY DR - \$525,000
3/2/1-2,375 sqft. Imagine waking up to shimmering sunlight across the water every morning and having your coffee on a waterfront patio. Cool breezes float across the water and your waterfront lifestyle awaits.



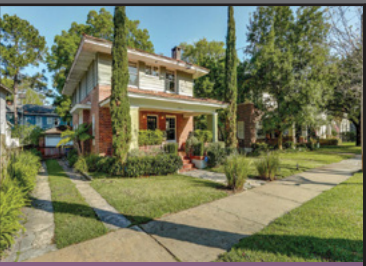
4450 MELROSE AVE - \$290,000
4/2-1,580 sqft. One of the few remaining Sears' kit homes left in Jacksonville, this 1938 home was delivered piece by piece by train. Hang out in the screened porch overlooking the backyard or enjoy a delicious meal in the dining room.



2525 COLLEGE ST 2202 - \$314,000
2/2-1,529 sqft. VA, FHA and Fannie Mae approved. THE JOHN GORRIE A CONDOMINIUM IS A RESTORATION & RENOVATION OF AN HISTORIC LANDMARK INTO 68 UNIQUE LUXURY RESIDENCES OFFERING CONVENIENT AMENITIES.



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3500 HEDRICK ST
3/2/1-1,618 sqft. SOLD by Dylan Rigdon! This stunning mid-century Avondale pool home has gone through a careful, loving and meticulous whole-home renovation which includes a high-end gourmet kitchen overhaul and stunning master suite!

3023 OAK ST
4/2/1-2,204 sqft. SOLD by Julio Mendez! Just three blocks from the St. Johns River in the 3000 block of Oak st. we find this classic spacious Avondale home with a stunning contemporary renovation.

1271 WINDSOR PL
3/2-2,027 sqft. SOLD by Dylan Rigdon! Situated on a large corner lot at the end of a quiet street in Historic Avondale sits a unique property across from a large park on Windsor Place.

1560 LANCASTER TER 808
2/2-1,320 sqft. SOLD by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett! New York Glamour in Riverside! Live in one of the most walkable neighborhoods in all of North Florida. This top of the line renovated condo has beautiful views of the St Johns River.



SOLD



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3934 PARK ST
3/1/1-1,618 sqft. SOLD by Taft Alexander! This is a beautifully renovated brick bungalow on one of the deepest lots in Avondale. The home features an open kitchen/dining room concept with a breakfast bar.

4191 PALMER AVE
4/2/1-2,382 sqft. SOLD by Jane Slater & Margee Michaels! This home combines the charm of low country architecture and an open layout near Avondale and so close to the Marina at Ortega Landing you can feel the river breeze.

4263 GARIBALDI AVE
5/2/1-2,429 sqft. SOLD by CeCe Cummings, Elizabeth O'Steen, and Claire Franson! Beautiful two-story home is move-in ready. Traditional floor plan separate living room, dining room and den. Custom Wainscoting in living room and dining room.

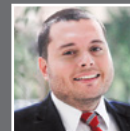
1136 INGLESIDE AVE
3/1-1,167 sqft. SOLD by Lisa Nguyen! Desirable location! Get your Murray Hill bungalow today! Located only 2 blocks from the shops on Edgewood Ave and Mayflower St! Exterior home features wood shake siding and wrap around porch with swing.



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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Contemporary Anglican Church plants a seed in Ortega

By day an account representative for Paperless Pay Corp., by night and weekends a pastor, Deacon Joe Porfidio and a small group of residents have formed a new church in the Ortega area.

Resurrection Anglican Church is holding services Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and midweek Bible study on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., leasing the use of Ortega

Presbyterian Church, 4406 Longfellow St. Additionally, the men hold a breakfast and Bible study on Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America, the local congregation's vision is to honor God, build relationships, grow as disciples and serve the community.



Joe Porfidio and his wife, Cathy, (far left), with a core group congregants of the newly-formed Resurrection Anglican Church.



Emerson Grace Haygood

Welcome, Baby Haygood

Jeremy and Mallory Haygood of Murray Hill announce the birth of their daughter, Emerson Grace, born September 13, 2017 at 3:37 a.m. at St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside. Emerson weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Mallory is an Assistant Nurse Manager with St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside campus and Jeremy is a Senior Tax Specialist with BlockAdvisor.

Former Episcopal School coach honored by pool dedication

Swimmers from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville and the University of Florida who trained under International Swimming Hall of Fame coach Randy Reese gathered Sept. 30 to honor Reese at the dedication ceremony of the 50-meter pool at the school.



Former Episcopal School Swim Coach Randy Reese

Reese was 24 years old when he accepted the head coaching position at Episcopal for its new swimming program, and Reese was charged with building the team. Within five years, Reese had built a juggernaut swimming program whose men's team was named best in the nation by *Swimming World* magazine. His swimmers at Episcopal earned All-American and national champion status; they qualified for the Olympic trials and accepted bronze, silver, and gold medals on the podiums at the Olympic Games; they swam at some of the best collegiate swimming programs in the country.

Those chlorine-haired teenagers are in their fifties now, yet the bond between them

and their devotion to Reese remains. Last fall, as Episcopal endeavored to renovate its 50-meter swimming facility as part of a capital campaign, a group of Reese's former swimmers launched a fundraising initiative to name Episcopal's pool for their former coach.

"For most of us, Randy played a big part in developing who we are now. I started swimming on the Randy Reese Swim Team shortly after turning 11, and he had already convinced 40 kids to set their sights on national prominence; to get up at 4:45am for two hours in the water before school, lifting weights and running during school, and another two hours after school," said Olympic gold medalist Nancy Hogshead-Makar. "We were the beneficiaries of his progressive training ideas; ask any of us about 'bands,' 'baskets,' 'wheelies,' swimming up the Ichetucknee Springs, snorkels, and more. We were so proud of how hard we worked, and it set a benchmark for our personal and professional lives."

As Reese left Episcopal to lead the swimming program at the University of Florida, outreach to those he'd coached there resulted in more contributions in Reese's honor. He led the University of Florida to Southeastern Conference



The 50-meter pool at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville dedicated to former swim coach Randy Reese

championships and NCAA titles and Reese was named SEC Coach of the Year 10 times.


"As accomplished as his swimmers were, Randy has been as accomplished as a coach. It seems impossible that he coached

Episcopal High School to a national championship at just 24 years old, then coaching at the University of Florida for so many years with so many championships," said Avondale resident Hogshead-Makar.



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Baptist Health’s Baity receives national excellence award

G. Scott Baity, JD, BCS, deputy general counsel for Baptist Health, is a 2017 recipient of a First Chair Award for excellence in legal counsel. The prestigious First Chair awards, which honor more than 150 of the nation’s top in-house counsel for their accomplishments in the past year, recognize leaders in their areas of practice who have made significant contributions to the legal community through their hard work and innovation.

Baity, of Avondale, was recognized in the category of Top Assistant General Counsel, and was honored Aug. 30 at the First Chair Awards Conference & Gala in Chicago. He has spent more than 20 years at Baptist Health, first as a staff attorney and later as an associate general counsel.

“Working at an organization like Baptist Health, alongside such talented attorneys, executives and clinicians, is rewarding in itself,” said Baity, who was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1997. “Still, it is an honor to have been recognized by my peers in the broader legal community and to be affiliated with the First Chair organization.”

Baity, a graduate of the University of Florida and the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University, has been board-certified as a specialist in health law since 2003 and has been named one of Jacksonville’s Top Lawyers in Healthcare since 2012. He is a member of the board of directors of The Arc Jacksonville, and serves on the Board of Legal Specialization



and Education of The Florida Bar, which oversees the awarding of board certification to Florida attorneys.

NAI Hallmarks names two new principals, shareholders

Two years after being promoted to Senior Vice President at NAI Hallmark Partners, Christian Harden is one of two new principals and shareholders at NAI Hallmark, which also ditched “Partners” in the company name at the same time.

Along with Keith Goldfaden, Harden will oversee daily operations and strategic growth of the 24-year-old company.

“I’m relishing the opportunity,” said Harden, who joined the company in 2009. “It was not expected at this point in my career, but it’s a good fit and a great team.”

Harden, of Avondale, holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Florida and an MBA from the University of North Florida. He is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Jacksonville. He was the 2016 president of NAIOP (National Association of Industrial and Office Properties) Northeast Florida Chapter where he has served the Board since 2011, and received NAIOP’s Emerging Professional of the Year award in 2013. He serves on the Downtown Development Review Board.

Goldfaden, formerly of San Marco, has been with the company 10 years. His professional affiliations include the NAIOP – Northeast Florida and ICSC. In addition, Goldfaden is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Jacksonville and serves on the board of directors for the Cathedral Arts Project. He has a Master of Science in Real Estate from the University of Florida and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Emory University in Atlanta.

Senior counsel named partner at Riverside law firm

Samantha Giudici Berdecia was recently named a partner in the Riverside-based law firm of Alexander DeGance Barnett. Berdecia was the first associate hired by the firm after its opening in 2010. She most recently held the position of Senior Counsel.

“Samantha is an outstanding lawyer and we are proud to call her a partner,” said Kelly DeGance, a partner at Alexander DeGance Barnett.

Berdecia has experience representing management in areas that span all facets of employment, including litigating disputes, federal and state agency inquiries and audits, and advice and counsel regarding compliance at the local, state, and federal levels. She also leads ADB’s practice in its representation of employers, self-insured funds, carriers and third-party administrators in their defense of workers’ compensation claims throughout Florida.



Prior to joining Alexander DeGance Barnett, Berdecia worked for a litigation firm where she represented both management and employees in labor and employment matters. She holds a law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in political science from Appalachian State University, where she graduated summa cum laude.

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AFTER THE STORM

Our hearts go out to all those affected by the significant weather events around the world, and especially here in our corner of the world. You have all been and will remain in our thoughts and prayers. If you are in need of assistance with your home, we would be glad to help or to point you in the direction of our many fine vendors and associates. Please don't hesitate to give us a call.

**THERE'S ALWAYS A RAINBOW AT THE END OF EVERY STORM...
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Dr. Melanie Javier

Clay Eye doctor now serving patients in Riverside

In June 2017, Dr. Melanie Javier celebrated her 21st year with Clay Eye, which operates out of St. Vincent’s Medical Center Riverside. In addition to her schedule in Orange Park and Fleming Island, Javier began working at the Riverside location in September and is accepting new patients.

“This year, Clay Eye celebrates 40 years of serving patients. Over those 40 years, we have significantly grown, and expanded our services to four North Florida communities: Orange Park, Fleming Island, Mandarin and Riverside,” said Javier. “I’m excited to extend my patient base to the Riverside area and look forward to meeting and caring for new patients.”

Local shop soothes the senses, sets the mood

Local couple Andrew Clark and Brittany Gontner have joined forces and combined their creative talents to open a shop dedicated to local, handmade creations. The duo produces their own lines of all natural, handcrafted soaps and candles in their shop in Murray Hill. They create each small batch with unique and subtle scents of the seasons by using locally sourced, organic ingredients.

Clark is excited to base the business in Murray Hill, as he believes the neighborhood

has strong community ties and a great sense of place. The couple has been active and engaged in the area and looks forward to cultivating more relationships as they grow.

Located at 1176 Edgewood Avenue South in Suite 5, the shop is found directly behind Moon River Pizza, neighboring Heads Up Salon and Town Beer Co. They can be found online at ElementEarthWorks.com, or reached by phone at (904) 635-4172.



Brittany Gontner and Andrew Clark

Ortega attorney leads pack locally, in Top 10 nationally for Real Men Wear Pink

Four of the 36 Jacksonville area men involved in raising funds for the American Cancer Society’s Real Men Wear Pink campaign are in the Top 100 nationally from 2,477 candidates.

Attorney John Phillips, of Ortega, ranks No. 8 with \$15,071 as of the end of September. In the No. 23 position is Franklin Danley with \$10,100, David Hodges’ \$3,850 puts him in the No. 83 position and Bill Grant is No. 94 with \$3,650 in donations.

Each Real Men Wear Pink candidate was given a \$2,500 fund-raising challenge and will help raise awareness of breast cancer by wearing pink throughout the campaign.

The campaign began July 21 and runs through Friday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. The man who raises the most funds will be recognized at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 8 a.m.

Haile appointed to new juvenile justice committee

Cathedral Arts Project Chief Development Officer Marcus Haile has been appointed to serve on the newly-formed Juvenile Justice Advisory Executive Committee. He will join the 22 other members in conducting a comprehensive review of current juvenile diversion programs, identifying effective programming, and providing recommendations for best practices.

The committee, created by State Attorney Melissa Nelson, is tasked with the development of programming to reduce recidivism rates and crime among juveniles.



Marcus Haile

“I was honored to be asked to serve in this capacity by the State Attorney,” said Haile. “A large amount of my career has been with causes focused on intervention, prevention and diversion efforts for youth. My goal is to ensure Jacksonville’s youth and their

parents and guardians have constructive opportunities and helpful resources. I am also looking forward to sharing how the arts and creativity can play a significant role in youth development.”

Haile, an Avondale resident, has a long history of involvement in nonprofits which focus on youth, including arts education director for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, senior campaign and leadership giving manager for United Way of Northeast Florida, communications director for Communities in Schools, and development director for PACE Center for Girls prior to joining CAP in 2013. He holds both graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of North Florida.

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Local attorneys
recognized by peers

Frederick H. Kent, III, and Nicholas V. Pulignano, Jr., both of Ortega, recently received double recognition in the field of law. The Marks Gray, P.A. attorneys were selected to the 2017 Florida Super Lawyers list, and were selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2018 Edition of

The Best Lawyers in America®. Kent's specialty is Banking and Finance Law; Real Estate Law, while Pulignano was noted in the area of Commercial Law.

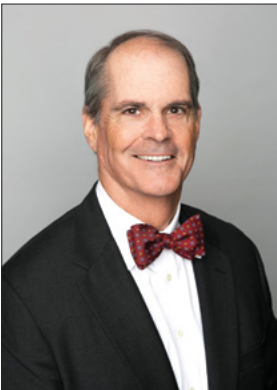
Also of note, Riverside resident Mary Bland Love was selected for inclusion in the 2018 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America under Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants, and Best Lawyers® has recognized Kent, Marks Gray president and shareholder, for the fifth consecutive year.



Mary Bland Love



Nicholas Pulignano, Jr.



Frederick Kent, III

Nolan moves to BDO as biz development director

Mike Nolan, an Avondale resident, has joined BDO's Jacksonville office as Business Development Director.

Nolan brings more than 25 years of business development and client relationship management to BDO, a national professional services firm providing assurance, tax, and advisory services.



Mike Nolan

He most recently served as vice president of Global Infonet, a global technology company. For the past seven years, Nolan has successfully helped clients and companies solve business problems through custom software solutions, including Microsoft applications, SharePoint and more. His goal in this new position is to apply the same passion for solving clients' challenges with the wide array of accounting and advisory solutions that BDO offers.

Nolan holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Miami University's Business School.

Emerging Philanthropists
award \$50,000 to 15 agencies



2017 Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class, front: Jason Spencer, Alison Trager, Ben Trager, Kirsten Martino, Ben Setzer; back: Marshall Hill, Glenn Miller, Doug Tutwiler, Blair Sherman, Dan Foley (Photo by laird/blac palm, inc.)

After a six-month immersion in strategic philanthropy, 10 emerging philanthropists have collectively made grants totaling \$50,000 to 15 nonprofit organizations in Northeast Florida.

The 2017 Weaver Philanthropic Initiative class selected their recipient organization(s) individually, and their grants reflected a wide variety of interests and focus

The nonprofit agencies benefitting from the class's grants include:

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of NEFL to support programming for kids on the waiting list for a Big Brother or Sister
- Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida to support their after school activities which includes tutoring and their summer enrichment programs
- Camp I Am Special to support the capital campaign for the new aquatic center
- City Year Jacksonville to help ensure children are able to reach their full potential
- Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center for general operating support for programs they provide to girls and families in our community
- I.M. Sulzbacher Center to support the new Sulzbacher Village project
- Jacksonville Jewish Center's Galinsky Academy to fund an experimental fundraising concept for the Ldor V'dor campaign which supports the educational programs at the Center
- JAMS arts & music after school program for students

- Jewish Family and Community Services Inclusion Program to help school age children with special needs by providing full-time staff who support parents, teachers and student in academics, religious school and camp
- Jewish Federation of Jacksonville for general funding for programs which support people in need at home and around the world
- Leadership Jacksonville to create a curriculum on Civil Discourse to be used with all of the programs LJ offers, including High School, College, Adult and the new Summit programs
- LGBT Resource Center at UNF for general operating support and to assist with sustaining all of their programs
- My Village Project Community Fund at The Community Foundation to support their grant making for Black-led nonprofits serving the Black community in Jacksonville
- St. Francis Soup Kitchen to assist with their administrative costs
- We Care Jacksonville to continue their mission to provide medical resources and services to those in need

Nurturing the next generation of Northeast Florida philanthropists is the goal of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, which periodically gathers a class of potential donors, guiding them through an intensive education process, complete with an opportunity to experience hands-on grantmaking.



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Local ophthalmologist adds retinal specialist

Florida Eye Specialists recently expanded its ophthalmology team at its Riverside office with the addition of Dr. McGregor Lott, a resident of Riverside.

With nearly 10 years of experience in ophthalmology, Lott will serve as a retinal specialist at the practice as well as provide comprehensive eye care services.

Lott earned his doctorate from the Medical College of Georgia and completed a fellowship in Medical Retina at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami.

He is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and has served as president of the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology. He has received multiple



Dr. McGregor Lott

awards for outstanding patient satisfaction and was selected to participate in Leadership Georgia in 2016.

Ehas joins Groundwork Jacksonville as new CEO

Kay Ehas, of Riverside, was tapped to lead the environmental nonprofit, Groundwork Jacksonville, as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Alyssa Bourgoyne, who has served as interim executive director since Dr. Dawn Emerick departed in 2016, will resume her duties as the organization’s program manager, leading the Green Team Youth Corps as well as other community outreach and enrichment programs.



Kay Ehas

Ehas brings executive experience, relationships across all sectors of the city, and a passion for urban core neighborhoods to Groundwork Jacksonville.

“Kay is a results-oriented leader with the proven ability to build consensus, grow organizational capacity and accomplish bold goals,” said James Richardson, Groundwork Jacksonville Board Chair.

Most recently, since 2003, Ehas was chief administrative officer for the Duval County Property Appraiser, responsible for leading all of the office’s administrative functions including human resources, finance, community relations, information systems and managing tax rolls. She originally came to Jacksonville as a Volunteer in Service to America (Vista) member, helping low income residents through community empowerment and job placement opportunities.

Ehas also served on the Riverside Avondale Preservation board of directors from 2004 to 2015. During her tenure as board chair, Ehas led the organization through the development of its first-ever

strategic plan. Under her leadership, RAP designed and implemented the Riverside Arts Market; planted more than 1000 trees along neighborhood streets; worked with the Public Works Department to improve pedestrian-friendly design standards for the 5 Points commercial district and secured funding for the project; and, most recently, worked with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to change its highway design to reduce the impact to the neighborhood, while securing a \$12 million shared-use path connecting Riverside and San Marco.

Duval County Tax Collector receives Award for Excellence

Michael Corrigan, Tax Collector for Duval County, has earned a special designation for excellence in the field of financial operations.

The process involved for consideration of the Legacy Award is rigorous and includes a comprehensive review of the financial functions of the Tax Collector’s Office, to include a meticulous review, by a five-person judging panel, of the Tax Collectors’ financial records, practices and use of technology.

“The Legacy Award is one of the most significant honors the Florida Tax



Michael Corrigan

Collectors Association awards a local Tax Collector,” said Sharon Jordan, president of the Florida Tax Collectors Association. “I am incredibly pleased to say that Michael Corrigan has earned the designation for excellence in the field of financial operations.”

Corrigan, an Avondale resident, has consistently earned the Excellence in Financial Operations Award, however, for the 2017 Legacy Award, Corrigan demonstrated the office had even further enhanced its financial operations.

Tax Collectors carry out State of Florida work at the local level on behalf of Florida’s citizens including property tax collections and enforcement; drivers’ licenses and motor vehicle services; hunting and fishing licenses; birth certificates, and more.

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Woman’s Club of Jacksonville sponsors fundraiser for Pine Castle

Keeping with its tradition of community service, The Woman’s Club of Jacksonville served as “presenting sponsor” for “Tee Up for Pine Castle,” a fundraising event held Aug. 27 at Topgolf and hosted by Uptown Civitan Club.

The fun event included two hours of Topgolf play, 30 minutes of practice, a silent auction, lunch and a hole in one competition. It raised over \$30,000 for Pine Castle.

Laura Crooks, of Avondale, is a member of both organizations. “We enjoyed interacting with friends and clients of Pine Castle, as well as sharing a delightful afternoon with members of the Uptown Civitan Club,” she said.

The Woman’s Club is celebrating its 120th birthday in 2017 and, over the course of the year, the club has gifted West Riverside Elementary School with a special reading program and a sound system for school events (\$17,000), enabled Fletcher High School to purchase sheet music for its choral program as well as provide transportation for choral students to attend “Live From the Met” programs (\$3,500), and given over \$12,000 in scholarships to recent high school graduates and young women attending state and local colleges and universities.



Laura Crooks and Katherine Naugle at the “Tee Up for Pine Castle” fundraiser held at Topgolf.

Pine Castle, founded in 1952, offers programs that are designed to empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their potential for independence.

Jacksonville Sister Cities celebrates 50th anniversary

At the annual Fiesta del Jaguar Sept. 16 at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, Jacksonville Sister Cities Association participated by manning booths representing Latin countries. Committees for the sister cities of Bahia Bianca, Argentina, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Curitiba, Brazil set up a booth with regalia and information about that country.

“It’s a fun way to recruit new members,” said Alice Hill.

Jacksonville Sister Cities Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a



reception at the Main Library Oct. 5, 6-8:30 p.m. The welcome reception for visiting delegations from eight sister cities will feature Tango Ballet from Argentina and the Jacksonville Heritage Singers. Bahia Bianca, Argentina was the first city to be “twinned” with Jacksonville.

Artists, writers share ‘Show-and-Tell’

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

WWf(a)C – Women Writing for a Change Jacksonville – teamed up with local artists Jennifer Bothast and Joyce Gabiou for a Sept. 1 house party and art exhibit at the Riverside home of organizer Jennifer Wolfe, with assistance from neighbor Nancy Murrey-Settle.

The Art and Memoir Exhibit curated by Cookie Davis, explained Wolfe, was a way “to celebrate and showcase women artists in conjunction with the written word.

The exhibit was the kick-off for a semester of student writing following the memoir theme. WWf(a)C is a national organization which promotes self-exploration which, according to facilitator Wolfe, is more process than product focused.

The students share readings and create an anthology at the end of each semester and will have a Read Around in November where artists and writers can share their creations.

In addition to hosting writing circles each Friday, Wolfe conducts group classes for private students, holds cooperate workshops, and participates in community outreach programs at the library. The WWf(a)C outreach includes writing activities for women at the Community Transition Center.

Jacksonville Artist Guild member Jennifer Bothast, whose vibrant and rhythmic



Host Jennifer Wolfe with artist Jennifer Bothast

paintings were on display, said that her work is “all about the spiral. One can find layers of truth and go deeper and deeper with a spiral as opposed to a circle, which leads back to the beginning.”

Inspired by vibrant color, light and line, Bothast said, “It is important to me to tell my story, to log my perceptions, discoveries, and experiences with others. I suppose it is my way of marking my existence.”

Murrey-Settle said working with women to support their power is very transformative. She and Wolfe were inspired to add artists to the writing experience when they discovered that only 2 percent of work in museums is done by women.

“During workshops while writers are creating they are surrounded by art which illustrates the theme,” said Wolfe. “Through visual art and the written word women can tell their stories. The purpose of WWf(a)C is to nurture and celebrate the individual voice.”

Wolfe provided a fun and powerful venue for artists and writers to come together, “to create community, raise awareness and add a layer of complexity” as they explore the creative process.



Susan Ober, Ron Episcopo and Glenn Jones



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Doug and Taira Wilds with Susan and Tom Collins



Elizabeth Millsaps, artist and author Anne Neilson and Claire Weigel

Ministry builds bridges for elderly, fills the gap

Hart Felt Ministries gathered its most fervent supporters at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse Sept. 29 for an evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising. Through its mission to support seniors through a network of community volunteers, the organization provides, at no charge, non-medical services that build lasting relationships with elders in our community.

By demonstrating love and compassion, the organization’s many helpful donors and volunteers bring much-needed care to our area’s frail seniors. From building wheelchair ramps for homeowners, running errands, performing light housekeeping, getting seniors to the doctor and other outstanding services, the organization is helping defray the impact of loneliness and solitude for our aging neighbors.

A special guest appearance was made by artist Anne Neilson, who “paints with a purpose”

and donates proceeds of her artwork to charity. With a signed copy of her book, “Angels In Our Midst,” Neilson donated 45 percent of each sale to Hart Felt ministries. Neilson, who grew up in Jacksonville, currently lives in Charlotte, where she is raising her family and running the Anne Neilson Fine Art gallery.

Hart Felt Ministries volunteers donated a total of 9,316 hours of service in 2016, 1,462 of those were spent building wheelchair ramps. For more information about Hart Felt Ministries visit www.hartfelt.org or call (904) 861-2799.

Cir SOCIAL R



Michael Pajcic and Katy Debriere with Carol Turbow and Dr. Paul Pitel



Samuel Jacobson with Paul Doyle



Jay Brown, Judge Virginia Norton and Jake Peek



Hank and Mary Cox with State Attorney Melissa Nelson and Public Defender Charlie Cofer

Lawyers gather to raise funds for legal aid

Local and state attorneys, firm staffers and JALA supporters gathered Sept. 19 – after rescheduling due to Hurricane Irma – to hear keynote speaker the Honorable Jorge Labarga, Chief Justice of Florida Supreme Court, at the 18th Annual Robert J. Beckham Equal Justice Awards Celebration, held at the Omni Hotel downtown.

The silent auction raised funds for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, while a cocktail reception provided opportunity for guests to mingle with honorees William Sheppard,

a criminal defense, civil rights and appellate attorney with Sheppard, White, Kachergus & DeMaggio, P.A., and Samuel S. Jacobson, a civil and family lawyer with Bledsoe, Jacobson, Schmidt, Wright & Sussman. The law firm of Pajcic & Pajcic was recognized for outstanding contributions to JALA, as this year’s backyard golf tournament raised \$46,000. Awards handed out this year were handcrafted by Brian Frus, assistant professor of glass at Jacksonville University, and his students.

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McDonald's franchise owner/operators Sean and Francesca Guske



Emily Helmick with event Co-Chair Ashley Helmick and Susan Norville



Nicole Brescia with Kristie Perkins, Carrie Heustis, Cassie and Jaime Tejera



McDonald's franchise owner/operators Will and Liz Garcia

Local professionals break out their red shoes

An evening gathering was recently held to celebrate the very best work of Ronald McDonald and his favorite young professionals group. The leaders of the Red Shoe Crew held their annual event, Fries With That Wine, to drive interest in the mission of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and gain strength from the younger ranks of donors. With outstanding support from owner/operators, the group sipped wines, accompanied by the healthiest options offered by McDonald's restaurants – from salads to

chicken skewers with Mexican street corn and, of course, their popular French fries. "We not only want to support the mission, but we want to help lose the stigma that McDonalds doesn't serve healthy options," said Adam Fey, a franchise owner/operator in attendance. The Red Shoe Crew works hard to energize the future of fundraisers and gathers for meetings monthly. To learn more visit rmh-jacksonville.org. The event was held Sept. 22 in the U.S. Assure Club at EverBank Field.



Vicky Watkins with Leslie Jones



Michelle Krueger with Rebecca McNeil and Kendra McCreary



Ellie Marchman with Liz Williams



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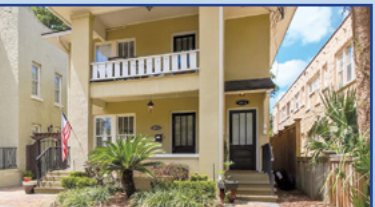


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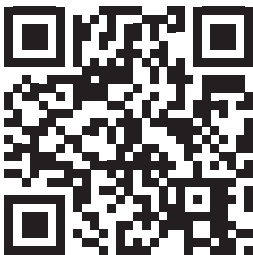
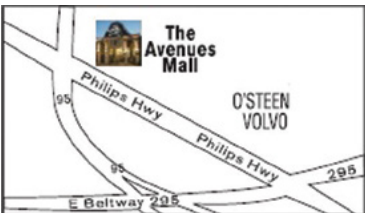
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Four performance groups win Arts Alive grants



Cultural Council Executive Director, Tony Alegretti, speaks to the audience with during his opening remarks.

Expanding its format from an awards luncheon to an all-day conference, the 2017 Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville State of the Arts drew audiences to several venues.

The conference kicked off Aug. 30 at the JAX Chamber for coffee hour with Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, Secretary of State Ken Detzner and Chamber CEO Daniel Davis. Sandy Shaughnessy, director of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, led a workshop on Arts and Economic Prosperity before attendees headed to the Jessie Ball duPont Center for the luncheon and awards ceremony.

Keynote speaker was Taiwan native Lily Yeh, artist, author and community change-agent, whose mission is to build community through art, learning, land transformation and economic development.

Also at the luncheon, \$60,000 in grants were awarded through the 2017 PNC Arts Alive Grant program to four arts groups: The Florida Ballet, The Cathedral Arts Project, The Jacksonville Civic Orchestra and The Performers Academy.

The afternoon workshop on activating art partnerships and the private sector, led by Kristi Aiello, market development and community engagement manager for Florida Blue, was followed by a reception at Hyperion Brewing Company.



Artist and guest speaker, Lily Yeh aka “Barefoot Artist”, presented her findings in spirituality and artistic expression. Yeh showcased her work and shared her inspiration for her new book titled, “Awakening Creativity – Dandelion School Blossoms”.



Joshua Delphonse and Edwin Newton of the Young Men and Women’s Leadership Academy enjoy the luncheon as special guests.

Irma impacts fundraisers, other events

The September social calendar is traditionally heavy with a variety of fundraising events, many of which represent the single largest opportunity for nonprofits to raise money for programs and operating expenses. Thanks to Hurricane Irma, most events were washed out of their original dates last month and have rescheduled.



Environmental Protection Board Symposium

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center

Avondale 5K Classic

Saturday, Oct. 7, 8 a.m.
Shoppes of Avondale
Benefits Sanctuary on 8th Street

Remission Rocks

Friday, Oct. 13, 5 p.m.
River City Brewing Company
Benefits Bosom Buddies

Young Collectors Party

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6-8:30 p.m.
Intuition Ale Works
Run-up event for 2017
Art & Antiques Show

25th Annual Jacksonville Environmental Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017, at 11 a.m.
UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center

Driving for Dreams Car Show

Saturday, Oct. 21, 8 a.m.
Autobahn Indoor Speedway
Benefits Dreams Come True

Festival of Flight

Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.
Riverside Arts Market
Benefits Angels For Allison

Salute to Veterans

Thursday, Nov. 11, 6 p.m.
Florida Yacht Club
Benefits the Navy League
Jacksonville, Florida Council

A Grand Affair

Sunday, Nov. 19 3-5 p.m.
Jacksonville Main Library
303 N. Laura St.
Benefits Relatives as Parents Program

America at a Crossroads

Sunday, Dec. 3, 3 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Riverfront
Includes memorial tribute to Americans killed in Benghazi

Color Me Fed 5K

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, 9 a.m.
Burrito Gallery, Brooklyn/Riverside
Benefits Hunger Fight

One Spark 2017 Innovation Festival

Friday-Saturday, April 6-7
EverBank Field



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Irma spurs need for crawlspace wood sealing – Turners Underseal has you covered

One treatment lasts a lifetime

Even before Hurricane Irma came barreling through Jacksonville last month, flooding homes and crawlspaces, Chris Turner of Turners Underseal was backlogged with projects. Now, post-Irma, homeowners may pale at the thought of waiting months for wood sealing treatment.

The good news, according to Turner, is that he is bringing in qualified reinforcements to help take care of Jacksonville homeowners' needs.

"Once we professionally treat the crawlspace wood under the floor, it's permanently resistant to moisture, mold and mildew," said Turner, who has been in the business of indoor air quality for more than 30 years. Certified in wood treatment sealing and a member of the American Indoor Air Quality Association, Turner knows his stuff when it comes to healthy, dry crawlspaces.

His company uses a product called Turners Underseal, a professional-grade polymeric water-proofing sealer for all kinds of wood. The sealant contains EPA-registered preservatives that are water-resistant, environmentally friendly and provide long-term protection.

Homeowners who are now faced with flooding from Hurricane Irma can look to Turner's customers for positive reviews.

Ron Langley, who lives in Empire Point, hired Turner to fix his crawlspace after flooding from Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. "Living on the river has its own special challenges, especially when a



hurricane comes along," he said.

The work crew had to remove wet insulation from a tiny crawlspace, but "I heard no complaints," Langley said. "They did an outstanding job."

After the job was completed, Langley crawled into the space to inspect the work. "What a difference – clean wood and easy crawling on the new liner," he said. "It looks and smells great."

Even if your home hasn't experienced flooding, it may have "old age" odors.

Liz lives in a house in Avondale that

was built in 1936. "It definitely had odors," she said. "My house smells so much better since the crawlspace wood treatment. I am breathing so much better."

Riverside homeowners Larry and Molly Rolfe had an even older home, built in 1913, which had a wet crawlspace even under drought conditions.

"The wood underfloor was very contaminated. The house was damp and musty," said Molly Rolfe, who found herself frequently wiping mold off the first-floor walls. "It was not healthy at all," she said.

After Turners Underseal crawlspace treatment, there was no more mold on the walls, the house was dry, it smells great and it's healthy, Molly noted. "It was worth every penny," said her husband, Larry.

Turners Underseal also can be applied to new construction, making a new home resistant to moisture for 25 years, said Turner.

"This is Florida," he said. "You need to protect your crawlspace. It's just common sense."

While sealing a wood crawlspace with Turners Underseal will prevent moisture, mold and mildew guaranteed for 25 years, Turner offers other products to help improve indoor air quality.

After Turners Underseal is applied, a nondegradable vapor liner can be installed in the crawlspace, fitted around piers and pipes, to control ground evaporation and contaminants.

To further improve air quality, a commercial-grade dehumidifier or a Hydroxyl generator to circulate the air can be installed to keep humidity to a minimum. The equipment is low-maintenance and safe to operate in either crawlspaces or inside buildings.

Special Offer

Call within 14 days to take advantage of Turners Underseal's \$995* underfloor sealer special.

*Extra charge for any crawlspace over 1,500 square feet. Additional charge may apply for any necessary wood sanitization.

For your home air quality inspection and remediation, contact Chris Turner at (904) 903-9569, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. or check out Turners Underseal at <http://turnersunderseal.com>

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Cummer Gardens sustain extensive damage, suspend outdoor events

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

While the long-term impact of Hurricane Irma is still under assessment by public officials, many residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations, including the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, are also going through the painstaking process of damage evaluation.

Destruction of landscaping is usually secondary to structural damage, unless the venue happens to be the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The historic gardens were severely impacted by Hurricane Irma and will be closed to the public for an undetermined length of time.

The Cummer Gardens contain a variety of historic plant materials, including many historic species of azaleas that were planted in Ninah Cummer's time, in the early 1900s, and cannot be readily purchased.

As many of the plant species in the gardens are no longer commercially available, Museum staff has worked over the years to propagate the specimens that remained on the property. The scarcity of some of the historic plant material makes the reconstruction effort a unique challenge.

"As a museum and an institution listed in the National Register of Historic Places, historical accuracy and integrity are of the utmost importance," said Holly Keris, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Curator of the Cummer Museum. "We will be working as quickly as possible to create a plan for the future of these beloved gardens. Although the damage to the gardens is extensive, we are fortunate that the staff is safe and the building and collection were unharmed. It could have been much worse."

The damage was severe enough, though, that Museum staff is contacting individuals and organizations that may have upcoming events in the gardens.

The lower tier of all three formal garden spaces, which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, remained submerged for more than 24 hours, resulting in the uprooting of plants, detached railing along the river, broken lighting, pervasive salinization of the soil, large amounts of debris, and significant impact to much of the physical infrastructure, including drainage, electric, fencing, and the well that services the landscape.

Nearly \$1 million has been invested in the gardens in recent years, including the restoration of the historic Olmsted Garden in 2013 and the English Garden in 2017, reconstruction of the Italian Garden Folly, relaying of brick pathways, updating of drainage systems, conservation of sculptures and fountains, fortification of the bulkhead, and installation of new bulkhead railing in 2016-2017. The Garden Folly structure, brick pathways, and English Garden fountain remain intact.

While the gardens are inaccessible to the public, the Museum will be offering half-price admission. Should visitors choose to pay full price, half of the admission fee will be applied to the Garden Reconstruction Fund as a donation.

"As reconstruction costs are unknown at this time, any contributions are welcome and appreciated to help restore these spaces as quickly as possible," stated Keris.

Members of the community may donate directly to the Garden Reconstruction Fund at cummuseum.org/garden-reconstruction.



The Italian Garden at the Cummer includes 11 marble pieces from a palace in Florence, Italy, a three-tiered fountain and benches with a lion motif.



The Olmsted Garden suffered damage, too, from Irma.



Fencing torn down along the riverfront is included in the damage at the Cummer Gardens.



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our Riverside location was impacted by the recent hurricane, as were many of you.

We are proud to be part of such strong community that extends kindness, care and support.



DO SOMETHING

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As we inch closer to the end of another year, it's the perfect time to think about charitable giving tax deductions and, although October is traditionally National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let's shine a light on all cancers and especially those who are working to knock out a disease which has affected nearly everyone's family at some point.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), by the end of 2017, there will be an estimated 1,688,780 new cancer cases. The American Cancer Society has been leading the fight against cancer since 1913 through education programs, cancer research funding, patient support services and advocacy. There are several ways you can make a difference by supporting this nationwide, community-based organization.

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.

VOLUNTEER: Check with ACS cancer patient services to drive cancer patients to and from treatment (Road To Recovery), help patients learn beauty techniques and how to feel better about themselves during treatment (Look Good Feel Better), volunteer at the Hope Lodge, or help out at the local ACS office. Participate in the upcoming Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser on October 21 at Metro Park, or join in the community Relay For Life events. Kick up your heels at the annual Cowford Ball on November 24 at the Morocco Shrine Center and help raise funds for patient services and cancer research. Visit cancer.org or call (904) 346-5481 for more information.

DONATE: Sponsor someone who is participating in ACS events or donate funds online at cancer.org.

SHARON BUTTNER, CAROL LAHEY AND KATIE LAHEY DID SOMETHING

Sharon Buttner, Carol Lahey and her daughter, Katie, share a common bond. The trio lost a dear friend, Lisa Lampe Rogers, to colon cancer in 2016. That bond motivated them to do something in the fight against cancer, so they decided to gather the chronicles Rogers made reflecting her positive outlook on life after her cancer diagnosis, and put them into a book.

The book, "Living In Between," not only honors Rogers' memory but is also raising funds for the American Cancer Society.

Katie, a sophomore at the University of Florida, spent six months compiling over 40,000 words, along with photos, that Lisa had shared on Facebook during her treatments and battle with cancer.

"Lisa was like my second mom," said Katie. "There are so many people that loved her and she was so wise. She would have wanted people to have access to this," Katie said of Lisa's chronicles. "It could have so easily gotten lost on Facebook."



Sharon Buttner, Katie and Carol Lahey

Buttner, who was Rogers' neighbor in Ortega, was the inspiration for the book's title. The two friends would often talk about making memories and moments while Lisa was living in between making medical choices and receiving treatments.

"This book is a hard copy of all of the lessons that God put Lisa down here for,"

said Buttner. "It's pieces of Lisa and her children especially need that."

"As much as I can read the book and cry, I can laugh just as easily at the next page," said Carol Lahey, who had been friends with Lisa since first grade.

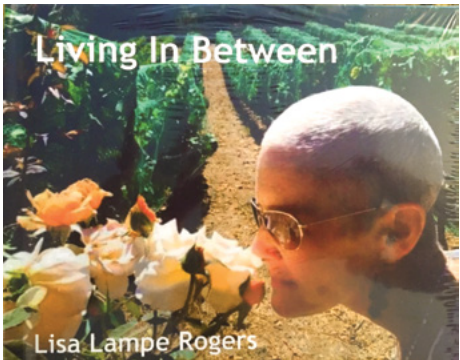
"We knew Lisa's family and friends would want the book but it also gives others so much inspiration," Lahey said.

Rogers' friends are not the only ones "doing something" by sharing her stories. Through her chronicles, Rogers left a legacy that shows even with the smallest gestures of kindness and hope you can do something.

"So the next time you meet someone, whether you plan on seeing them again or not, you may be someone making a difference to them. You may say a prayer for them when they are falling away from the light. You may be the only person they recall from a particular event for whatever reason. You may be part of their sum. You


are important on the seemingly unimportant days..." - Lisa Lampe Rogers from "Living In Between"

"Living In Between" is available for purchase at MOMNI Boutique, St. Mark's Episcopal Bookstore, Design Additions and the Avondale Gift Boutique. You can also purchase the book through www.gofundme.com/living-in-between, and for more information visit www.facebook.com/cancerperkss/.



The cover of Lisa Lampe Rogers' book

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David Gray’s Design Studio Helps You Avoid Five Scary Bathroom Remodel Mistakes

Bathroom remodeling projects can quickly go from a dream in the making to an absolute nightmare. At David Gray Design Studio, we guide our clients every step of the way to ensure they avoid remodeling mistakes, from aesthetics to functional faux pas.

Scary Renovation Mistakes to Avoid

1. Ignoring building codes. A good bathroom is a well-functioning one, and a major mistake homeowners often make when doing renovation projects by themselves is to forget to follow building codes. When installing sinks, showers and toilets, certain clearances and safety codes must be followed. If you don’t, when you sell, not only will the equity of your home drop, but you also may be fined or required to fix the violations. Consult with a design expert to ensure you follow codes while still incorporating the design elements you want.

2. Using bad bathroom materials. The bathroom is a hot, humid environment, so it’s important to use materials, paints and surfaces that work well in these conditions. Rather than wallpaper, carpet and laminate flooring, explore water-friendly paint, stone and granite as design options.

3. Creating slippery floors. Certain types of glossy tile and flooring can be particularly slick, which can lead to potential falling hazards. Instead of relying on standard cloth mats to prevent accidents, consider eliminating the problem entirely

by installing mosaic tiling or a natural pebble inlay.

4. Going over budget. It can be exciting when you start designing your bathroom, but it’s easy to get overwhelmed and spend beyond your means. Start by setting a budget early in the renovation process and chose a designer who is committed to staying on budget. If you’re still worried about overspending, bring a friend when you are selecting fixtures and materials to help you keep track of costs.

5. Overlooking storage needs. Prioritize storage space when rearranging the area. Not only will you be grateful for more places to store your toiletries and towels, it will also increase the value of your home. You never hear someone complain about too much storage in any room – especially a bathroom or kitchen.

Helpful Tips for a Smooth Remodel

A major renovation goes beyond creating a pleasing design – there’s permitting, choosing the materials and the actual building process. Design Studio – David Gray provides turnkey solutions so you don’t have to worry about the details and can just look forward to enjoying your new bathroom, said designer Janet Myers.

“Don’t let yourself be intimidated by the remodel process, because you’re not alone,” Myers said. “We’re not only going to review styles and colors you like, but also how you use the space. For instance, if you like



Design Studio at David Gray can help you create a beautiful bathroom customized to your needs.

a place to put on your makeup in the morning or you enjoy a nightly bath – we’ll make sure we customize features to your needs.”

The Design Studio – David Gray team begins by visiting your space, but the next step is for you to visit their showroom on Powers Avenue so you can see and touch a wide array of fixtures, cabinetry, countertops and flooring. The studio also has examples of what you may be looking for, like a remote-controlled shower and a large soaker tub.

“We’re going to ensure you have a complete understanding of what your bathroom will look like and how much it will cost before we begin,” Myers said. “We know how stressful any changes to your home can be,

so our team works hard to make it as easy and professional as possible.”

Ultimately, you want a bathroom that is free of common pitfalls and makes you happy every time you enter it. Choose a proven company you’re confident can deliver your dream bathroom . . . a company like Design Studio – David Gray.

Please visit us at designstudiodgp.com or call 904.224.5971 to set up your kitchen or bathroom remodel consultation. David Gray has served the Jacksonville community for more than 30 years through David Gray Plumbing and has expanded through the years to serve its customers’ needs by adding Heating & Air, Electrical Services and Design Studio – David Gray.

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2666 Post Street

6BR/4BA Two possible master suites-1 downstairs. Drench doors, 12 foot ceilings and crown molding throughout. A fabulous new gourmet kitchen w/ stainless steel Frigidaire Gallery appliances. 3,400 sq ft. \$435,000



2050 Myra Street

Restored 3BR/2BA craftsman, just steps to 5 Points. Updated kitchen with solid wood cabinetry and granite countertops, large master suite with attached bath. Indoor laundry, high ceilings and detached garage. 1,642 sq ft. \$315,000



3563 Valencia Road

1924 bungalow with front porch and rear deck, fireplace in living room, 2BR/2BA. Oversized detached garage with workshop and 2 driveways 1,234 sq. ft. \$225,000



3333 Randall Street

3BR/2BA Remodeled Avondale home has open floor plan, fireplace in living room, updated kitchen with solid surface counter tops, stainless appliances, updated bathrooms. 1,664 sq ft. \$274,000



1362 Ingleside Avenue

This charming 1926 bungalow features 2BR/1BA, hardwood floors, fireplace, dining room, updated kitchen and bath, backyard deck, and fenced backyard. 1,392 sq. ft. \$249,500



1511 Empire Point Drive

4BR/3BA mid-century ranch sits on a corner lot in sought-after Empire Point neighborhood. Includes 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with Corian cntrtops and stainless appliances, huge gameroom, library w/ built-in bookshelves. 2,944 sq. ft. \$399,900



REDUCED

1543 Azalea Terrace

3BR/2.5BA Brick home in the heart of Avondale. Features a Living room, dining room, family/media room, central heat and air, hardwood floors and carpet. 2-car garage. 2,350 sq ft. \$459,900.



2857 Downing Street

Restored 2BR/2BA featuring a large entry hall with French doors leading to the living room with fireplace. Dining room is open to galley kitchen with wood cabinets and granite tile counters and a breakfast bar. 1,281 sq. ft. \$249,900



3329 Randall Street

3BR/2BA features huge front porch, original wood floors, fireplace, and 2 renovated bathrooms. Huge bedroom upstairs running the length of the home with walk-in closet. Lots of recent upgrades. 1,800 sq. ft. \$305,000

THE WAY WE WERE: ROGERS BALDWIN “TIGER” HOLMES

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

When your list of accomplishments include World War II fighter pilot, big game hunter, helicopter pilot, successful entrepreneur, world champion athlete, friend to United States presidents, husband, father of five, grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of seven plus two more on the way, there doesn't seem to be much else left to do.

Except write a book, so Rogers “Tiger” Holmes did just that. “A Tiger Tale: The Life and Times of Rogers B. Holmes,” is Holmes’ legacy for his progeny.

“I wanted to leave something for the kids,” he said. “My mother knew all about ancestry but she didn’t write it down, so I wrote it for the children.”

Ted Boutwell, Class of 1936 Robert E. Lee High School football team captain, dubbed Holmes “Tiger” after he had gotten into a fight and fought like a tiger.

The nickname stuck all these years and for good reason. Holmes has grabbed life and given it a good shake. At age 95 he is still fierce, witty, magnetic and vibrant.

At a time of life when most people would be content to sit in a rocking chair this Tiger is still growling. Just ask him about his views on education, technology or social unrest. He is a passionate believer in the goodness of mankind, but remarked, “We don’t teach history anymore. The lessons from World War II should be



Tiger Holmes



Tiger Holmes holds newborn Lockwood as daughter Leighton and sons Rogers and Kenny look on.

ingrained in every child so we can learn from that. War is a terrible thing.”

Holmes was flying P51s and A26 Attack Bombers when he was around 22 years old. He observed firsthand the unbelievable destruction.

“I learned a lot. During the war, the Japanese, along with the Germans, were the cruelest, meanest people imaginable, yet I lived a year in occupied Japan and there couldn’t be a nicer race of people,” he said. “I believe every child of every race is born equal. One thing I’ve failed to do in life is be a better advocate of peace and good will.”

Holmes and Lockwood (Lockie) Morris were married at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Jacksonville during his senior year at University of Florida. “Our families were best friends. Her father, Dr. Kenneth Morris, was my godfather, and my dad was Lockie’s godfather. Dr. Morris was a wonderful person. He was chief of surgery at several local hospitals and a great friend.”

The couple had five children: Leighton Holmes Tesche, Rogers Holmes, Jr., Kenneth Holmes, Lockwood Holmes and Mary Holmes Roebuck.

“All of my kids are great people. All of them went to Lee except Mary – she went to Bolles to be on the swim team,” said Holmes.

Unfortunately, the couple divorced after 20 years – a difficult experience for both. Years later, through their mutual social circle, Holmes connected with Jacqueline Mulliken. “She was an art consultant, a brilliant woman and an interesting person,” he said. “We had a small wedding and moved out to Doctor’s Lake.”

Holmes added two stepchildren to his family – Connell Pinckney and Elizabeth

Drake, as well as Jacque’s three grandchildren. Sadly, Jacque passed on in January 2017; they were married 42 years.

A fierce competitor in business, Holmes founded Holmes Lumber Company and later ran a highly successful Muscadine Grape Farm.

“After the war I went to work for Demuth Lumber Company but then I got involved in retail sales. I started with a second hand truck and me as the driver,” he said, holding up his thumb and finger to form a zero, indicating what he had to start with. “I had a shed on Tallyrand Avenue – did all the delivery, unloading, everything myself. When the kids came along they were all involved in the business at some point. They just fit right in.

“When my son Lockwood and I sold Holmes Lumber Company to Builder’s Choice in 2008 we had over 400 employees. Around the turn of the 21st century I decided I wanted to be a farmer, so I bought 40 acres in Clay County and went into the grape business. I ended up with the largest muscadine grape farm in Florida. The last year of operation, in the early 2000s, I sold 92,000 pounds of grapes to Publix and Winn Dixie, then sold the land to Eagle Harbor,” Holmes said.

Holmes’ family is distinguished. Baldwin, Florida is named for his grandfather, Dr. Abel S. Baldwin, a doctor in Jacksonville during the Civil War; the only doctor at the time, according to Holmes. Baldwin’s wife and son, who was also a doctor, died in the Yellow Fever Epidemic. Known as the father of the port of Jacksonville, Baldwin was also president of the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad and founder of the Florida Medical Association and the Duval County Medical Association.

When complimented on his grandfather’s successes, Holmes, quick to smile and joke, said “Well, I didn’t have anything to do with it.”

Although his ancestry is respected and his childhood privileged – his parents held



World War II pilot



Holmes children: Leighton, Kenny, Mary, Lockwood and Rogers, Jr.

Continued on page 35

2017

Festival of Flight

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county club memberships, had cars, servants and entertained at their home on Mallory Street in Riverside – life changed abruptly during the Depression. His father's investments and inheritance were lost. The family moved to Murray Hill which at that time was in the country.

"My father was the greatest guy who ever lived. He took a job as a salesman and worked so hard. We weren't very well off when I was in my teens so I worked my way through University of Florida, where I was elected to the Honor Court, was in Florida Blue Key and president of the Class of 1948," said Holmes. "I started in 1939 but the war broke out and I went back after that on the GI Bill. Majored in Business Administration. Joined KA (Kappa Alpha fraternity) and was captain of the swim team."

Holmes is rightfully proud of his athletic heritage. His mother, Winnie Rogers Holmes, was State Amateur Women's Golf Champion and president of the Florida Amateur Golf Association. His father, John London Holmes, was a Timuquana Club Golf Champion.



Jacque and Tiger Holmes

"Believe it or not competition is one of the best ways to promote friendship. It is a stepping stone to finding a common ground," said Holmes, a great supporter of competitive sports. "You get to know the other person; learn that your competitor is a good person."

Holmes has had many opportunities to test his theory – on the golf course and through his competitive swimming.

In his early years, Holmes was Southeastern 50-yard freestyle champion; he swam in the All Service Olympics in 1946; he has graced the cover of Swim Magazine; was a collegiate athlete at University of Florida, has won 14 national and four world backstroke championships since starting in his 60s to compete in the Masters competitions in that age



Bill Adams, Ed Graves,
Tiger Holmes and John Corse

group. He was World Master Butterfly Champion in 1990, '92 and '94 and is in the UF Hall of Fame. Holmes, John Corse, Ed Graves and Bill Adams set the world record in 2015 for the 800 freestyle and the 400 freestyle relays in the Master's Competition.

Holmes has swum competitively in events around the world, from Jacksonville to Brisbane, Australia. He founded the Holmes Lumber Jax Masters Team and sponsored Holmes Lumber Gators, which went on to win state, national and international events.

Many of the Holmes athletes competed in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Olympic winner Mary Wayte led the way to establishing the Tiger Holmes Swimming Endowment at UF.

Despite all the awards and accolades, he insists that his daughter, Mary Holmes Roebuck, is the best athlete in the family. The Holmes Wall of Fame holds plaques and awards and photographs of Tiger with Presidents Reagan, Bush, Nixon and right in the midst of it all are photographs of Mary from childhood to her competition in the Iron Man Competition in Hawaii.

"She was less than three pounds when she was born," said Holmes about her extraordinary achievements. "We didn't hold on to any hopes for her but she was a star swimmer. Just won everything."

From 1990 through 1992, Holmes Lumber Company sponsored instructors from their team to teach local disadvantaged children to swim. "The city bused the kids in and let us use public pools. We worked our butts off. There was insurance to deal with. We had to get 54 of our swimmers certified as swimming instructors. Many of the children didn't even have bathing suits. We managed to teach 12,000 kids to swim! That was just in the summer. You can't put a little kid on the side of a pool in December," said Holmes.

"Telfair Mahaffey, who worked at Holmes Lumber, deserves a lot of credit for this. He



Tiger Holmes (first row, right, in sweater) with the Robert E. Lee football team

and Brenda Hennessy," said Holmes. "You can't ever be anything or do anything without friends and family."

As chairman of the Republican Party for Duval County in the 1970s Holmes hobnobbed with U.S. presidents and joked that when he met President Richard Nixon he told him, "You should have burned the damned tapes."

Holmes interjects comments into conversation about canoeing down the Zambezi River, hunting in Honduras, Argentina and Africa, golfing with Sam Snead, fishing in Mexico with pal Bryant Skinner or in Alaska with buddy Hugh Culverhouse, joking with a president, and shooting ducks from a helicopter (you read that correctly) like the average person would mention going to the grocery store.

Despite his many accomplishments and exciting adventures, Tiger is quick to remark

how fortunate he is, and describes being "loaded up with clothes and goodies" for the needy children of Honduras when on hunting trips.

"We have the wherewithal in this world to feed every hungry person and the U.S. does so much for the rest of the world. Christianity teaches respect for one another – brotherly love and tolerance," said Holmes. "I cannot tolerate people who want to create unrest. I am a religious person but it is a private thing. I believe in a little meditation and doing something good in the world."

Tiger Holmes' 'pawprints' leave an inspiring legacy of hard work, goodwill and patriotism for his children and grandchildren to follow. An appropriate dedication on one of his many award plaques reads: "Rogers 'Tiger' Holmes: No job too great, no job too small that you don't go beyond the call."

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– In Memoriam –

Robert L. Rodriguez

November 29, 1949 to September 9, 2017

Robert Louis Rodriguez, a longtime friend of *The Resident*, passed away peacefully at his sister's home Sept. 9.

Rodriguez was born in New York City to Rose and Ismael Rodriguez. The family moved to Tampa, Florida, where he graduated from Hillsborough High School and began an eclectic career ranging from home remodeling to catering to buying for the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

After returning to Florida, Rodriguez became the proud owner of Diesel Parts Sales and Service, Inc. in Jacksonville, where he worked for 25 years until his retirement in 2015. For several years, Rodriguez also distributed papers for *The Resident*, just because he enjoyed the paper.

"Robert and I were friends for 20 years or more," said Pamela Williams, publisher of *The Resident*. "He was so supportive of Seth and me when we started the paper in 2007. He was such a community-minded individual and we will certainly miss his presence in the historic district."

"Uncle Bobby stole our hearts from the minute we moved in next door to him in Avondale," said Ellen Gould, a Montgomery Place neighbor. "He had a huge stag horn fern in his back yard and many banana trees between our two homes. When the bananas were ready to be picked it was time to 'feed the fern.' He would come next door and get my two kids and they would pick the bananas, Uncle Bobby lifting them many times when they were little, and then



throwing the bananas into the air about 15 feet where the fern was hanging, missing the fern more than hitting it, but hitting everything around them. The laughter that came out of his back yard with those three throwing bananas at a hanging plant was belly-laughing priceless as a grown man and two little people who adored each other built a wonderful crazy tradition."

Rodriguez was a great patron of the arts and, together with Michael King, opened Mix Media Gallery in June 1995, promoting the works of more than 150 regional artists over the course of seven years.

"Robert had the gift of not being afraid to take chances and welcomed the challenge of a new opportunity," said King. "He already owned a local business but didn't

miss a beat when it came to renovating and setting up the new space. He took nothing for granted and worked just as hard as those around him. He never lost his patience or sense of humor. No matter the situation, he just kept moving forward."

Rodriguez and King stepped into the field of interior design and renovated two homes, both of which were featured in Jacksonville Magazine.

"Yesterday marked the passing of a truly dear and dynamic man. Robert Rodriguez was successful, generous, supportive, passionate, loyal, handsome, eccentric and could have hosted a TV show on renovation and entertaining!" texted his friend Richard Ceriello. "Springfield, Riverside and Avondale were made more beautiful by his foresight. He partook in the Stonewall Uprising in June 1969. He was quick to smile and provide a kind word. I, and his many, many friends will never forget him. He made a difference on this planet."

"I would say 'Rest In Peace' but I know Robert is off on another adventure. So it is with great respect and gratitude that, at this time, I bid him farewell," said King.

Rodriguez is survived by his sister Becky and brothers Glenn, Billy, Joseph and Richard.

To remember Rodriguez, consider making a donation in his name to PFLAG Jacksonville at www.pflag.org or The Michael J. Fox Foundation at www.michaeljfox.org.



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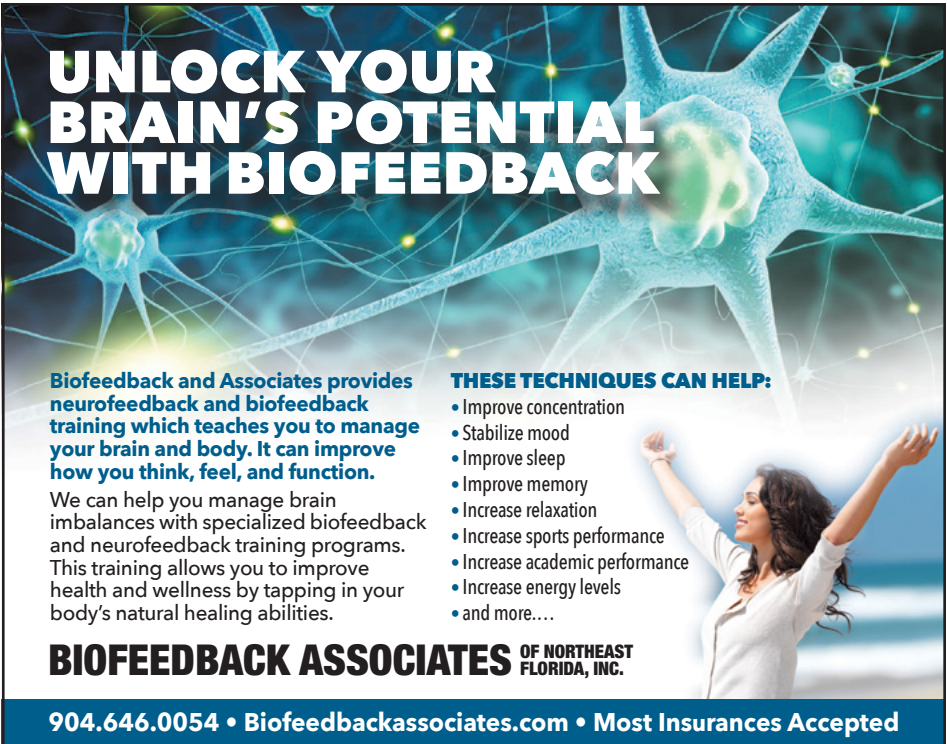


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Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Department celebrates 50 years

Fifty years ago, fine and performing arts at The Bolles School took an explosive new direction under Arthur Carnes, who spearheaded what has become one of the school's most prominent strengths.

Its highly regarded faculty, vibrant guest artist program, rich multi-grade level curriculum in drama, chorus, dance, band and visual arts and opportunities are normally found in a college arts experience, but at Bolles, more than 40 performances and gallery receptions are held on the four campuses during the academic year.

The school, founded in 1933 as a boys' military school, boasts having 100 percent of lower school students involved in art, music and theatre instruction, and 80 percent of the middle and upper school student body enrolled in a Bolles Fine and Performing Arts class. Also, many Bolles fine and performing arts faculty have been teaching at Bolles for much of the fine and performing arts 50-year history.

To honor the school's artistic achievements, Bolles campuses, arts facilities and communications exhibit a special "50 Years of the Arts" logo, and leaders will commemorate



Bolles Cadet Orchestra, circa early 1940s

the 50-year anniversary of Bolles Fine and Performing Arts by showcasing its historical accomplishments and encouraging faculty and students to keep doing what they do best – creating.

This also will be an important anniversary year for the Phoenix Society, Bolles' honor society within the Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Department. Co-founded in 1967 by Carnes and longtime Academic Dean Rufus McClure, the society recognizes juniors and seniors who excel in two or more areas of the arts.



Bolles Band circa
early 1980s



Students from Bartram School for Girls in costume for a play



Bolles Choir, 1960



In 1994, “Peter Pan” was Bolles’ first big all-campus musical, held onstage in the Florida Theatre, and required the assistance of a professional from New York City who helped students learn how to “fly” onstage.



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Riverside business restores critical pieces for museum exhibit

Lightner Museum will host Downton Abbey

By Lea Leonard
Resident Community News

An exciting new display at the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine will include Victorian Era furniture lovingly restored by a local family business.

E.W. Nash & Son, of Riverside, moved Italian, American and French restored antiques to the Lightner Museum the end of September just in time for an exhibit of Downton Abbey fashions.

"We had to take it in loads," said William Nash IV, professional restorer and managing partner of E.W. Nash & Son. "They'll serve as a backdrop for the Downton Abbey pieces."

"We worked for months," he said, particularly on three pieces for a long time. An effort, they thought, at one point Hurricane Irma would thoroughly destroy.

"We had to make sure to save customers' and the Downton Abbey collections," said Nash. "We just had to start putting stuff up high. It was scary."



William Nash points out a detail on a small occasional table restored for the exhibit.

Opening for view this October, the Lightner Museum will feature the "Dressing Downton, Changing Fashions for Changing Times" exhibit displaying "36 costumes and accessories, vignettes," in addition to its other collections, according to the museum website.

One of the three main antiques, a large Italian wine cabinet, needed a lot of restoration, Nash said. Adorned with an array of intricate carvings, the dry bar object also held a strange surprise.

"It had a mysterious signature on it," said Nash.

Other items the conservation partners supplied for the upcoming event include a 19th-century French "turtle top" table and a Greek-revival New York buffet cabinet, also specific to the same era as the pieces featured in the fall exhibit.

Nash said their work doesn't end with the Lightner effort. In concert with their recent contributions, the father and son perform restorations for other museums and private collections, as well. As associate members of the American Institute for Conservation of Artistic Works (AIC), they've had a long-standing relationship with Jacksonville that has spanned decades. "You can't rush this stuff," Nash said. "We even took two years restoring every furnishing for the Ximenez-Fatio House. It was 150 pieces."

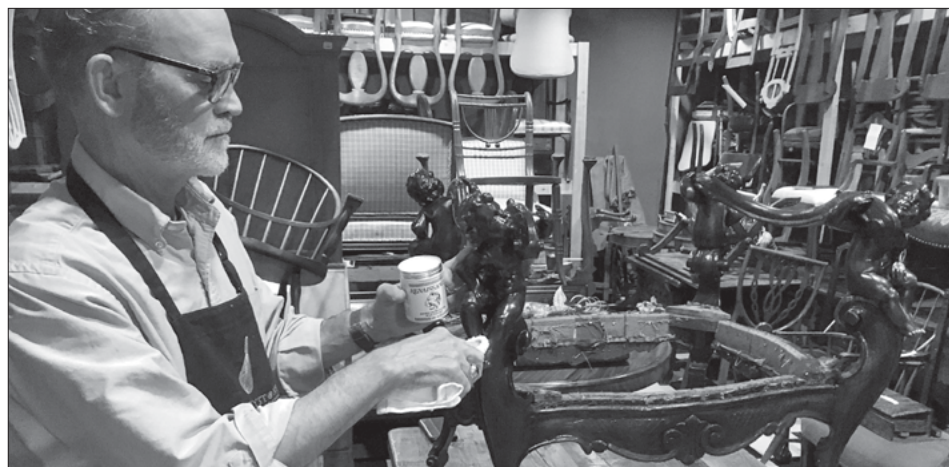
Located in St. Augustine, the Ximenez-Fatio House museum is listed among the National Register of Historic Places. It originally started as an 18th-century coquina-stone merchant home, later became a boarding house, and currently stands as "one of the best preserved of the three dozen colonial buildings remaining in St. Augustine," according to both the Ximenez-Fatio and American Heritage websites.

The Lightner Museum also has a rich cultural history. Built in 1888 by Henry Flagler, it is listed among the National Register of Historic Places. Named among U.S. News and World Report's "Best Things to Do in St. Augustine," the former hotel houses an array of collections, antiques, and fine art.

Lightner's Downton Abbey exhibit is scheduled to run from October 4, 2017 to January 7, 2018.



William Nash and his father Bill take a break during the delivery of a carefully restored wine cabinet. The ornate piece had portions carved by local antique specialist, Olivier Flaire, of Riverside. The Nashes delivered several pieces of the collection to the Lightner Museum Sept. 29, prior to the opening of the Downton Abbey exhibit.



Bill Nash cleans the base of a small bench in his Riverside workshop.



William Nash carefully puts a protective coat on a Victorian-era bench.



William Nash works on the leg of a wood inlay table.

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FEMA teams go door-to-door after storm

Nearest disaster center in St. Johns County

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The day after Hurricane Irma hit, the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up shop in a mobile intake unit in the vacant “East San Marco” lot at Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard in San Marco.

Teams also went door-to-door in hard-hit areas like Riverside and San Marco registering people for assistance. Though the mobile unit is gone, people can still register for assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Applicants should be prepared to provide the following:

- Social Security Number (one per household)
- Address of the damaged home or apartment
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage
- Telephone number
- Mailing address
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposits of funds

Gary Petty, FEMA media relations specialist, said a permanent disaster recovery center might be opened in Duval County if the state determines there is a need. Currently the nearest disaster center is in St. Johns County.

“We’re aware there’s a long wait,” Petty said. “In the first week after the storm 1.1 million Floridians had applied for assistance.

“This has truly been a disaster for millions of people, and for many more an inconvenience. It has turned everything upside down,” Petty said. “People have lost possessions, the kids are out of school, a lot of people are out of work. It is a very stressful time.”

Petty said it is important to understand that FEMA helps households, not individuals, which was a shock to many people who went through Hurricane Katrina and had to pay back the government. It’s best just to have one person in the household apply for help.

“It’s not to make them whole,” he said “The first line of recovery is insurance. We fill the gap so they can move back in. But it’s only to make their dwelling safe, sanitary and functional. We don’t want them displaced for any longer than they have to be.”

Short-term assistance with rent is available through FEMA’s Individual and Households Program for people who have been displaced.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is offering foreclosure relief and mortgage insurance available both for mortgages and home rehabilitation.

Disaster-related unemployment assistance also is available for those whose jobs were affected by Irma, including the self-employed. They can apply for unemployment benefits online at Florida’s Department of Economic Opportunity; search for disaster unemployment assistance.

Small Business Administration loans may be available to help repair flood-related

Where to find help after disasters

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JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES 6261 Dupont Station Court, East, 32217 (904) 448-1933 – jfcjax.org	
JEWISH FEDERATION OF JACKSONVILLE 8505 San Jose Boulevard, 32217 (904) 448-5000 – jewishjacksonville.org	

damage to homes or businesses and replace personal property.

SBA provides low-interest disaster loans of up to \$200,000 to repair a primary residence, up to \$40,000 for homeowners and renters to replace personal property, and up to \$2 million to businesses and most private nonprofits for physical damage and economic injury needs as a result of the disaster. Survivors need to register with FEMA first to determine their eligibility for any federal assistance that may be available.

Petty also encouraged people to take advantage of free counseling, especially families with young children who may have been traumatized by the storm. He said it’s not uncommon for people to feel stress, anxiety, nightmares and depression after a disaster.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Disaster Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990) remains open 24/7 for free help coping with the stress of the storm.

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Hurricane heroes come in all sizes

The adage “you can’t control what others do, you can only control how you react” rang true in the days following Hurricane Irma’s destructive forces on our historic neighborhoods.

The kind reactions by residents of all ages to Irma’s stormy rudeness, to put it mildly, ranged from home rescues by canoe to park and neighborhood cleanups to donations of food, clothing, home goods and cleaning supplies.

Neighbors helping neighbors are the silver lining in the dark clouds that Irma brought to the community Sept. 11, 2017.



Irma provides opportunities for community service

High school youth from Riverside Presbyterian Church volunteered on Sept. 16 at one of Angelwood’s residential homes, clearing the front and back yards of tree limbs, leaves and debris that were left after Hurricane Irma. The teenagers also met the residents and learned more about the women who live there. With six residential group homes, Angelwood serves adults and children with developmental disabilities all over Jacksonville.

Hurricane Hero' brings winds of change

Already considered a hometown heroine for her commitment to the community, Riverside resident Hope McMath has become a Hurricane Hero as well, coming to the aid of Hurricane Irma victims in some of Jacksonville’s most poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

Through Facebook, McMath marshalled a massive team of caring people, including Angie Nixon, Dennis Hamilton, Rev. Reginald

Gundy and his mighty group of volunteers from Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Denise Hunt, Meredith O’Malley, Laura Evans and her sister Beth McMath Wilson among many others, who are coming through with donations of both time and treasure.

McMath’s Yellow House, a new art space designed to serve as a catalyst for personal and collective growth is headquarters for donations, such as paper products, water, staple food items, charcoal and meats for grilling, soap, sheets, towels, clothes, diapers, kids toys, books, art supplies, and cleaning supplies may be dropped off at 577 King St. Monetary donations can be made online as well at www.yellowhouseart.org/support/



Angie Nixon and Hope McMath stepped up to make sure Hurricane Irma victims on the Northside had food and clothing.



Hope McMath takes a selfie with a Northside resident.

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Bishop Kenny student weathers storm as Red Cross volunteer

Bishop Kenny High School Senior Connor Sidman responded to an email call for volunteers from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry just two days before Hurricane Irma came through northeast Florida.

After attending a two-hour training program, Connor, a City of Jacksonville lifeguard, signed up to help at an American Red Cross hurricane shelter in Florahome, located in Putnam County. Within the first hours of opening, the shelter enrolled over 100 evacuees of all ages.

Volunteers were in short supply. After a 12-hour shift, no additional volunteers were scheduled to relieve the Red Cross workers. Sidman left to get a change of clothes and a sleeping bag, agreeing to return to the shelter the following morning.

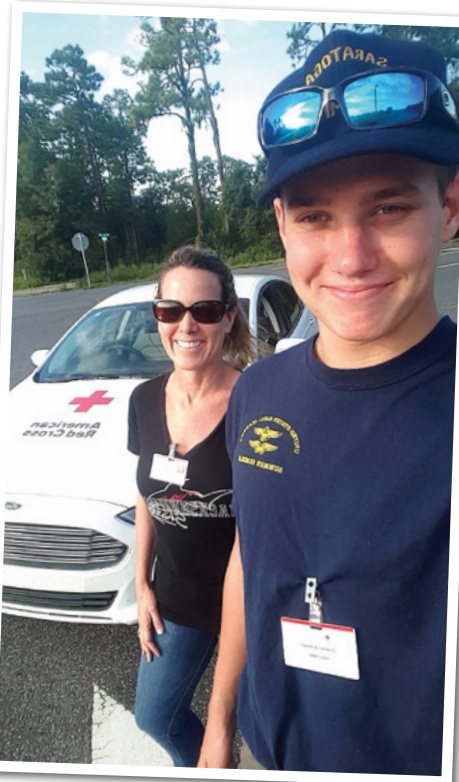
Sidman, an Avondale resident, spent the next 30 hours through the storm providing shelter services in the facility. "I even had



Connor Sidman helps at a Red Cross hurricane shelter

an opportunity to put my Spanish to good use because many of the people at the shelter were Spanish speaking," he said.

Sidman's mother, Peggy, an attorney for the City of Jacksonville, also worked at the shelter keeping the children occupied by organizing games and helping in any of the other ways that volunteers were needed.



Connor Sidman, with his mother, Peggy

Men's Garden Club takes saws to fallen trees



Paul Seymore works on a downed tree in the Camellia Garden at Riverside Park.



Martin Cook saws one of many fallen trees in the Camellia Garden at Riverside Park.

Most, if not all, parks in Duval County took a hit from Hurricane Irma. Within Riverside Park, the Camellia Garden was also ravaged by downed pine, oak and winged elm trees. The Men's Garden Club arrived Sept. 16 with chainsaws, hand saws, and other tools to remove as many of the trees as possible. They also affixed caution tape around trees which had branches in danger of falling from the trunk.

Bolles students help hurricane victims through Red Cross

Students on all four of The Bolles School campuses are collecting travel toiletry items for Red Cross "Comfort Kits" to benefit victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Freshman students will assemble the collected items and fill the kits on their annual community service orientation event, "Make A Difference Day," in October.

Snyder football team takes pass at Irma's aftermath

Members of the Bishop John Snyder High School Cardinals football team earned community service hours cleaning up yard debris after Hurricane Irma hit homes in Mandarin. Pat Tierney, former Superintendent of Schools for the Catholic Diocese and Irene Puleo, former CFO of the Diocese and current Bishop Snyder High School Finance Director (far right), received help from Curtis Bailey, Pedro Velez, Christian Mayhew, Anthony Cotromano, Patrick



Carter, Malik Fordham, Isiah Pate, Sean Carter, Sebastian Galette, Chris Bailey, James Baker and I'Jon Richardson.

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Local men heed the call, rescue neighbors

By Susan Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Alex Sawyer’s mother, Duncan, called him at 6 a.m. on Sept. 12 to let him know she and his dad, Tom, had survived Hurricane Irma, but the flood waters were rising at their home on Yacht Club Road.

Alex, who lives on higher ground around the corner on Pirates Cove Road, decided to drive his Jeep over to pick up his parents before the flood waters got any deeper.

He called his mother at 7 a.m., but there was no answer. At 7:30, still no answer. “I’ve never been so terrified in all my life,” recalled Alex. “I was so afraid my parents were dead... and that just couldn’t happen.”



Alex Sawyer rescued flooded residents on Yacht Club Road by canoe.



Duncan and Tom Sawyer look at an old newspaper about Hurricane Dora.

Alex was dazed, praying and paddling up Yacht Club Road in his canoe, when he finally got a call from his mother and knew she and his dad were safe. It was then that he began hearing the frantic cries for help coming at him from residents all along the way. He and several neighbors, including Drew Cleland, Jeff Crabtree, Camp Freleigh and Jeff Terrebonne, rescued residents up and down Yacht Club Road all day long.

“Alex and his friends are heroes,” said his mother. “This is one for the history books!”

Although they lost their dock and their garage was flooded, the Sawyers’ home remained dry, helping to preserve some precious historic memorabilia including

the iconic Hurricane Dora front-page story in the Jacksonville Journal and the Hurricane Dora book.

“Hurricane Dora, ironically, happened on September 11, 1964,” said Duncan Sawyer as she and her husband, Tom, reviewed the newspaper and book. “I remember my brother, Logan, was 10 years old, and we were lying on the living room floor watching television when all the lights went out.

“This hurricane felt familiar. I remember, back in 1964, both Pirates Cove and Yacht Club Drive were flooded and out of electricity for weeks. I’m just grateful for JEA, cellphones, good friends like Elizabeth Howard, and a great son named Alex!”

Power outage doesn't stop restaurateur from delivering



Despite loss of power at their Ortega restaurant, Simply Sara’s, Sara and James Mangham fulfilled a personal obligation to deliver meals to the Heart Babies families on surgery day at Wolfson Children’s Hospital. On Sept. 13, they cooked the food on camping stoves and a large propane outdoor cooker, then James delivered “a little love to babies, their families and staff of the CVICU.” The Manghams also served the community for two nights at no charge, first come first served. “We want to take care of those who take care of us,” said Sara.

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Drs. Loren and Mark Clayman deliver goods to serve victims of Hurricane Harvey, just prior to Irma’s arrival. The Claymans also pledged several hundred dollars in support, by way of toiletries and other durable goods for victims of both Harvey and Irma, following their first round of donations being made in early September.

Avondale residents band
together in wake of Irma

By Kate A. Hallock,
Resident Community News

Even before Hurricane Irma made her presence known in Jacksonville, The ILRC (Independent Living Resource Center) under the direction Executive Director Tyler Morris was putting evacuation plans into place for its clients.

On Sept. 9, The ILRC had staff and Disability Ambassadors in special needs shelters to offer extra support for disability sensitivity throughout the storm.

Immediately following the storm, the office began making calls to check that clients were safe and their needs for independence were being met.

On Sept. 15, The ILRC extended its office into the community. Staff and their families traveled around northeast Florida to provide support and assistance, including debris removal, food deliveries, and more.

“At first, this request was daunting as I was overwhelmed with my own clean up,” said Deidra Simon, The ILRC Deaf Consumer Program Coordinator/Deaf Advocate. “However, I was humbled and forever changed by the total devastation of people’s homes in the Black Creek community. All we could do was offer a helping hand, give hugs and say a prayer.”

The days were long for Morris, and they didn’t stop once he headed home to Cherry Street. A condominium on nearby Mallory Street was flooded and its residents needed help.

One of those was the indomitable 80-year-old Gay Ngien.

“I won’t remember today as the day Irma came; I will remember it as the day I met Gay. In her 80 years, she’s seen a lot,” said Morris. “I admire her most for her fearlessness. She was at peace, if things didn’t go well today.”

According to Morris, Ngien was raised on a farm. She worked three jobs growing up. She told him about a time she was robbed when she was working as a waitress; it was one of only three times that she called off for work. She was saving the money for Christmas presents.

“We cooked for our street tonight,” Morris shared on social media. “I asked Gay to cook the chicken teriyaki, a dish she had promised to fix me after the storm; I just happened to have chicken. Her face when she knew that she could contribute is something that will, until the day I die, be with me.

“As she sleeps in my home, knowing her condo is flooded, I am humbled by her spirit. She is a force stronger than any hurricane. I’m so glad we found one another,” Morris said.

"I admire her
most for her
fearlessness.
She was at
peace, if
things didn't
go well today."

— Tyler Morris



Gay Ngien and Tyler Morris



Gay Ngien, background, gets help from neighbors cleaning up damage and debris at her condo on Mallory Street.

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Sadler Point Marine Center's own recent struggles with Hurricane Irma made them particularly concerned with the plight of Americans in Puerto Rico. To help, Brooks Busey is donating a new Kohler generator which will be shipped via G&C Cartage, a company that is moving relief supplies to the island.

If you'd like to help as well, you can bring donations to Sadler at 4599 Lakeside Drive and they will deliver it to G&C. Items needed include bottled water, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, diapers, canned foods, dry foods, baby formula, garbage bags, towels, canned milk, canned and dry pet food, baby and adult pain relief medicine, stomach and diarrhea relief medicine, mosquito repellent, blankets, pillows, first-aid kits, laundry detergents, dish soap, cots.



Boone Park gets love
from AmeriCorps

Ortega resident Rachel Rice, enrolled in the City Year Jacksonville program, was one of several AmeriCorps members called into service for three days following Hurricane Irma to work with the Salvation Army packaging boxes of canned goods, and to clean up debris in Boone Park.

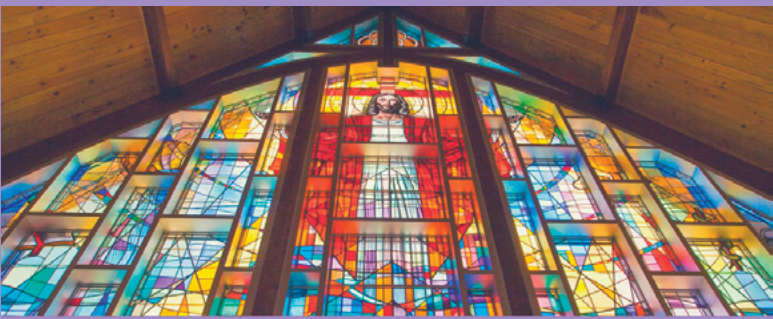
Rice, who attended Riverside Presbyterian Day School and The Bolles School, graduated from East Carolina University last May and currently helps students with math at Matthew Gilbert Middle School.



Parker Gibson, Jennifer Sanford, Emma Theiler, Rachel Rice, Kelsey McKenna, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, Matt Klauder, Cyle McClanahan, Sayeeda Diem

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Riverside Masonic Lodge honors local Eagle Scouts



Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troops 2 and 279 were honored by the Riverside Masonic Lodge.

For the second year in a row, Riverside Masonic Lodge No. 266 honored some of the area's local Eagle Scouts at a ceremony Aug. 26. The young men from Boy Scout Troop 2 and Boy Scout Troop 279 worked hard to accomplish Scouting's highest honor through a series of badges, achievements, leadership positions and finally a service project to the community. It is an achievement that only 4 percent of all young men who enter Boy Scouting ever earn.

At the event were several past Eagle Scouts, including Charlie Towers III, Thomas Story, TJ Laquidara, and Riverside Lodge's leader, Walter Brown.

"When a young man dedicates himself to the program and takes the initiative to be a leader in his troop and community...to excel past the expectations of others and be the best he can be it is something remarkable and something we believe should be recognized," said Brown.

Among those honored were Jenoy Daniels, Crystian Demonbreun, Gabriel Perry, Max Klavon, Corbin Lowe, Reese Kalka, Gannon Nolan, James Baker, Will Harbison, Christian Glover, Patrick Woodward, Alex Woodward, William Bast, Davis Hodge, Pete Woodall, Wade Hampton, Jacob Thibault, and Kory Schweinfurth.

"It is important that we give back to the community," said William Messick, a Riverside leader. "As a Boy Scout Troop leader, and lodge officer, I feel it is important we recognize these young men because they represent the future leaders of our nation."

Riverside Masonic Lodge was founded April 22, 1931 and has been a part of the Riverside-Avondale community for over 86 years, offering many community events throughout the year. Membership is open to all men of good character at least 18 years of age. Anyone interested in joining should contact Riverside lodge at (904) 410-7327.

Instrument Zoo comes to Stockton Elementary



Emmeline Johnson, fourth-grade student, marches with a saxophone.

The halls of John N.C. Stockton Elementary School got very noisy on Sept. 7 when the Jacksonville Symphony Guild presented The Instrument Zoo, a program that provides children a fun, hands-on musical experience.

Fourth and fifth grade students participated in the program by rotating through four orchestral instrument stations – strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion – where they had the opportunity to see, touch, hear and play a wide variety of musical instruments.

Stockton music teacher, Joi McLain and members of the Jacksonville Symphony Guild, along with parent volunteers, helped students with the instrument exploration and set possible pathways for future musicians through this enrichment program.



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RPDS art teacher paints for Sanctuary on 8th Street

Riverside Presbyterian Day School’s talented art teacher, Dale Child, painted an adorable chair for the silent auction at The Sanctuary on 8th Street’s “Keep Shining” annual shindig on Sept.22 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville.

TaxSlayer Bowl creates ‘dream team’ for lifetime experience

Twelve children, ages 7 to 16, were “signed” as the inaugural TaxSlayer Bowl Dream Team as representatives and ambassadors for the TaxSlayer Bowl through their participation on the Dream Team.

Over the 13 weeks of the college football regular season, each of the dreamers – identified by Dreams Come True – will be highlighted individually and also receive an individualized special time which will utilize collegiate sports to develop unique, memorable experiences of interest to the individual dreamer.

Special times for Preston Fowler, Darian Dinkins, Gage Spurlock, Devon Zona, Gregory Howard, Carson Jacobs, Braiden Crowley, Jacob Lopez, Summer Bridges, Andrew Eunice, Aaron Eunice and Miles Watts can range from scouting trips to SEC, ACC or Big Ten football games to behind the scene experiences, meet and greets or in-game opportunities at this year’s TaxSlayer Bowl.

At the conclusion of the college football regular season, the Dream Team will



Front, seated: Gage Spurlock and Jacob Lopez; middle, standing: Aaron Eunice, Miles Watts, Braiden Crowley and Andrew Eunice; back: Carson Jacobs, Gregory Howard, Preston Fowler, Darian Dinkins, Summer Bridges and Devon Zona

graduate from their Dream Team jerseys to TaxSlayer Bowl green jackets, officially making them honorary Dream Team members of the TaxSlayer Bowl committee.

The Dream Team experience will include a meet-and-greet with participating team players and cheerleaders in the Dream Room at Wolfson Children’s Hospital in late December and conclude with being honored during the 73rd annual TaxSlayer Bowl on Saturday, December 30.



Coin ceremony held during Dads Take Your Child to School Day

Duval County Public Schools celebrated “Dads Take Your Child to School Day” Sept. 27 as part of a statewide initiative by the Florida Department of Education, encouraging fathers and male role models to be involved with their children’s education.

A special ceremony honoring military fathers and male role models was held at Venetia Elementary School, which has a large population of children from Navy families stationed at nearby NAS Jacksonville. Christopher Lyons and his son took part in a coin ceremony, a long-standing military tradition symbolizing military affiliation and pride, in which students gave their fathers a commemorative coin to honor the day. (Photo courtesy of DCPS)

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Veteran Bill Stump and his therapy dog, Woody, pose with Lyon Wilson, Ezra Madris, Lilly Grubbs, Fiona Citrone and Kimora Perkins at Fishweir Elementary School.

Therapy dog inspiration for student art

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Fishweir Elementary School engaged in a unique learning experience in writing, printmaking and a Wounded Warrior’s therapy dog.

The students met Tim Crosby, K9s for Warriors strategic partnerships manager and veteran Bill Stump, who talked to students about invisible wounds soldiers may suffer when they come back from the war. Introducing Stump’s canine companion, Woody, they explained how the dogs help the soldiers, and that the majority of dogs in the program come from shelters.

Through a grant received from a retired member of the military, after the Sept. 19 presentation, Art Teacher Marie Escriba led the class through image-making, using an etching technique. The students also wrote short poems. Escriba is planning to create a book of the poems and images for an art exhibit.

Central Riverside students enjoy jazz performance



Back: Shabreene Awkward, Marcus Printup, Ben Adkins, Joshua Bowlus, Jonathan Jean-Baptiste; front: Angelina Santiago, Lydia Jones, Shawn Jackson, Micah Hall, Myles White, Zaire Edusei, Elijah Ruliva, Gregory Brown, Riza Printup

Students at Central Riverside Elementary School were treated to a jazz performance Aug. 21 by New York City musicians, Riza and Marcus Printup, courtesy of the Riverside Fine Arts Association’s program Project Listen.

Jazz harpist Riza Printup presented her educational program, “I Have a Song Inside My Heart,” to the students and faculty. The Printups was joined by Ben Adkins, jazz drummer, Joshua Bowlus, pianist, and Jonathan Jean-Baptiste, bassist.

“For many students, this was their first opportunity to see live music incorporating

such diverse instrumentation,” said Layne Thompson-Payne, RFA executive director. “Most students are as fascinated about the instruments as they are the performers themselves.”

Riza Printup, a former classroom teacher in Atlanta and Newark, is currently a faculty member at Jazz at Lincoln Center, where Marcus is a member of the orchestra since 1993. He attended the University of North Florida on a music scholarship, and won an International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet competition.

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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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Hurricane-related flooding is remembered by many area residents who recall severe flooding caused in their neighborhood by Hurricane Dora in 1964. This image found at the Jacksonville Historical Society summarizes post-storm challenges on Yacht Club Road in Ortega, which also suffered flooding during Hurricane Irma.

(Photos courtesy of the Jacksonville Historical Society, from its archives. To learn more, visit jaxhistory.org or call (904) 665-0064.)



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Thank You

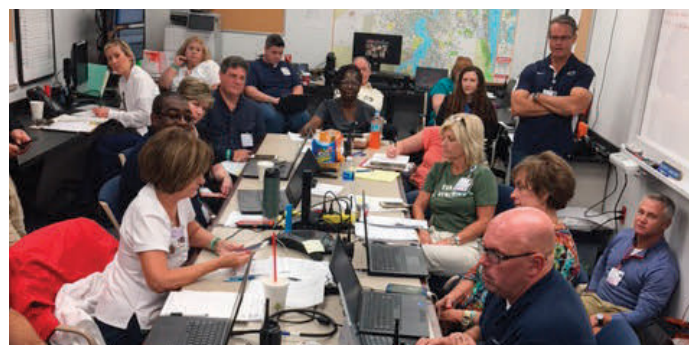
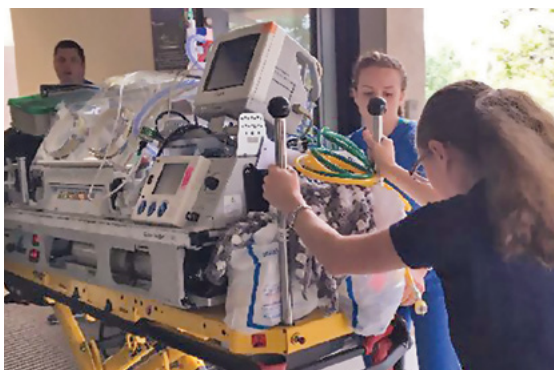
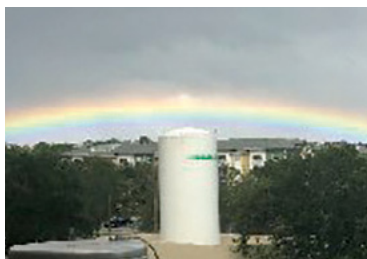
You left your own homes and families to care for each other and the community during Hurricane Irma. You are our heroes. Living our Mission in good times and bad.

Thank you St. Vincent's associates and physicians.

We are forever grateful to the Emergency Operations Center, JFRD, Mayor Lenny Curry & the City, JSO, JEA and the countless good Samaritans who helped us pack 3,800 bags of sand to protect our power grid. Thank you also to the kind souls who helped rescue one of our patients from St. Catherine Labouré Manor by boat.

Our region is simply incredible and so are the people who live here.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!



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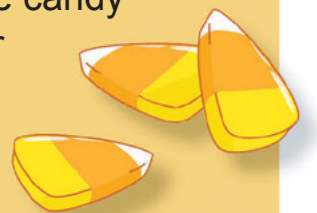
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