

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Our Giving Community

From the lemonade stand to serving in the soup kitchen, the million-dollar challenge grant or the sweat equity at the 5K, philanthropy takes many forms. Generous giving and selfless service reflect the Southern hospitality in our bold city of Jacksonville.

Our neighborhoods continue to be an echo chamber of these fine examples of benevolence. This month we share countless examples of neighbors

helping neighbors, furthermore, neighbors assisting Texas, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the list goes on.

Year after year we cover a plethora of fundraising events that feature glamorous gowns, glitzy attire and bow ties galore. The best part, the party is just the tip of the iceberg. Below the surface and not so visible are the everyday gifts, the moments when

elders are comforted, when children are provided a sanctuary and when solutions are implemented by the dollars and cents raised by various organizations across the board.

Take a peek at the pages inside, as they are full of glowing examples of giving, selfless people, and various programs that help enrich the lives of others – from our neighborhoods to our greater global community.

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Publishers' Note

During this time of the year, when we count our blessings, we want to express our gratitude for everyone who supports the publications of The Resident Community News Group.

We are so fortunate to live and serve such a compassionate and giving community. Throughout the year within the pages of *The Resident* and its sister publications, *Historic Life – Neighbors and Newcomers Guide*, and *Circles – Social Datebook and Charity Register*, we have the privilege to report on the generous people and activities that make Jacksonville's historic communities such a great place to live.

This year, in the wake of Hurricane Irma's devastation to the streets, businesses, and homes that abut the St. Johns River, we are so grateful for the many first responders, elected

officials, and neighbors who pitched in, helping their fellow residents recover so that our historic neighborhoods could bounce back quickly and become stronger. We hope by reading their stories and the countless other good deeds done by residents within the community is as inspirational to you as it is to us.

We could not put out quality publications like *The Resident Community News* without the ongoing support of our advertisers who, in turn, rely on your support by shopping local. Why not take advantage of the cooler weather and walk to the shops and boutiques in your neighborhood?

Best wishes to all our readers in Jacksonville's historic communities and throughout the city for a very happy Thanksgiving.

Pamela and Seth Williams
PUBLISHERS

Riverside Avondale Preservation reveals luminaria plans for lighting up historic district

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

From one man's simple idea to raise funds for a community organization, the annual Riverside Avondale Preservation luminaria night tradition has grown into an anticipated – some would say dreaded – neighborhood event.

Yes, luminaria night has, over the years, grown into a crowd-drawing event the late Jerry Spinks started decades ago by selling luminaries to his neighbors. Decorated vehicles of all types parade through closed streets, a variety of items are thrown, a la Mardi Gras, to spectators lining the sidewalks, and block parties are held throughout the historic district.

In recent years, an effort has been made to tone down the carnival-like behavior. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has kept an eye out for unruliness, and posted pre-event warning signs against riding without seatbelts in open vehicles or on flatbed trailers.

RAP has issued a statement that the luminaria night parade is not officially sponsored or hosted by Riverside Avondale Preservation. In fact, this year RAP is making an effort to encourage other sections of Riverside and Avondale to participate in the placing of luminaria on lawns and sidewalks.

"Luminaria is a beautiful night in the neighborhood, enjoyed by our residents and many visitors, and always one of the busiest Sunday nights of the holiday season," said Allan DeVault, RAP Luminaria chairman. "Purchasing the kits from RAP is easy, inexpensive and helps support the neighborhood. I'd love to see all the businesses and residential districts lit up with more consistency this year."

If you are interested in sponsoring a park, median, or other green spaces, contact info@riversideavondale.org.

RAP is also working on a map of luminaria night displays and events. To have your event or display included, contact info@riversideavondale.org or (904) 289-2449 no later than Nov. 22.



This year's luminaria poster artist is Julie Chambers Fetzer, a vendor at Riverside Arts Market since its inaugural year in 2009.

Luminaria kits

The Revivals, the RAP young professionals group, will host First Friday at the RAP office, Buckland House, 2623 Herschel St., Friday, Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m., for hands-on

luminaria kit-making; beverages and holiday cookies provided.

Luminaria kits may be purchased at the RAP office, Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 2 through Dec. 17; Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 5 through Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kit vouchers may also be purchased at Riverside Arts Market each Saturday, Dec. 2 to Dec. 16, with pick-up at the RAP office.

Save the Date: 5 Points Family-friendly Street Party and Toy Drive

Merchants in 5 Points and Riverside are getting together to hold a toy drive to benefit the 19th annual Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville by throwing a family-friendly street party Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to noon.

More details to come next month (or visit residentnews.net/calendar) but get

ready to have fun on Lomax Street between Park and Oak Streets. Music, food, activities and guest appearances by Santa Claus and cheerleaders from the Jacksonville Roar.

The event is sponsored by Gloss Goods and Generation Us, with participation from Redfield Salon, Publix and other local businesses.

Building inspection fee refunds available

Jacksonville City Council unanimously approved a bill which will help property owners with hurricane damages.

Bill 2017-695, introduced by District 9 Councilman Garrett Dennis, will refund fees incurred by property owners after Hurricane Irma. The legislation will provide refunds to property owners for certain city-related building inspection division fees in connection with permit applications made from Sept. 11, 2017 through Dec. 31, 2017 for re-roofing (non-structural roofing material repairs) and certain electrical service repairs on existing structures damaged by Hurricane Irma.

To inquire about refunds, property owners should contact the Building Inspection Division at (904) 630-1100.

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1328 NICHOLSON RD - \$339,900
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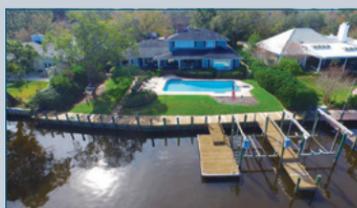
Ted Miller

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4346 KELNEPA DR
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WATERFRONT

4333 VENETIA BLVD - \$1,195,000
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5 ACRE ESTATE

8038 JAMES ISL TRL - \$1,699,000
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SAN JOSE 5 BD

2809 CHRISTOPHER CK RD N - \$475,000
Spacious 2-story 5/4.5, 4,382sqft brick, 120'x150' lot, wonderful features!



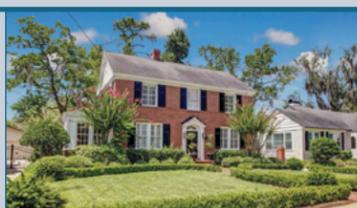
Nathan Miller

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ORTEGA POINT

3855 MCGIRTS BLVD - \$945,000
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The Friars plan centennial anniversary celebration

Almost 100 years ago, when Woodrow Wilson was delivering his Fourteen Points speech to the U.S. Congress on Jan. 8, 1918, and when Congress was approving the use of Daylight Savings Time, a group of young men in Jacksonville joined together to create a social club that would later become known as The Friars.

The Friars originally operated in the Ortega area, but with the repatriation of veterans from World War I, the group quickly expanded its membership to other neighborhoods.

The organization is a carryover from a time when socializing was exclusively performed in person and without the aid of telephones, smart devices and photos shared instantly through mass media.

Next March, The Friars will celebrate their centennial anniversary at the Florida Yacht Club, and invites all of its members, former and current, to attend. Although plans are still being developed, the organizers are trying to gauge the number of Friars interested in attending, particularly its former or inactive members, for whom they do not have contact information.

The Friars request that those interested in attending the centennial event email Ellis Barton at ellisbarton92@gmail.com, or stop by the Florida Yacht Club to obtain additional information.

Jacksonville ranks second in most up-and-coming cities in America



Yelp, a popular rate-and-review website, has released a report indicating Jacksonville is No. 2 among the top 10 most up-and-coming cities in the United States.

The metrics go beyond traditional economic indicators, using data at the local level to turn the current business climate into a predictor for the future. One of the dozens of data points analyzed was whether a business had remained open in the past year, indicating how successful new businesses are likely to be and whether current businesses will survive. Yelp used those business indicators to determine local economic health.

In seven out of 10 factors, the River City ranked above 10. Jacksonville ranked No. 2 in Health and Medical, Shopping and Food, No. 3 in Restaurants, No. 6 in Automotive, No. 7 in Beauty and Spas, No.

8 in Nightlife, No. 11 in Home Services, No. 19 in Event Planning and Services, and No. 25 in Active Life.

Best value destination

Jacksonville was also ranked No. 9 out of the Top 10 Best Value Destinations in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2018. The review noted the city's beaches, parks, family-friendly restaurants, craft beer and affordable hotel rates.

"There are long stretches of the St. Johns River, the Intracoastal Waterway and America's largest urban park system to explore on foot, by bike or, best of all, on a guided kayak tour," said Lonely Planet, the largest travel guide publisher in the world.

Jacksonville was the only American city to make the Best in Travel 2018 list.

Enz to speak at Men's Garden Club Nov. 6

Jill Enz, the City of Jacksonville's park development and natural resources manager, will be the guest speaker at the Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville's monthly meeting, Monday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the presentation, which will be held at the Garden Club, 1005 Riverside Ave.

Enz, a landscape architect, joined the City

in May 2016. She has a master's degree in landscape architecture from Kansas State University, and has been a volunteer with Groundwork Jacksonville for the past two years. She donated professional services to design the S-Line Biodiversity Corridor, which will naturally clean Hogans Creek through stormwater management and bioremediation treatment.

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Downtown Dwellers taking active role on Riverwalks

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The Downtown Dwellers sipped wine and mingled, saw their new website, heard about what's going on downtown and asked lots of questions at the first membership meeting of the year at the Museum of Science and History.

A year ago, the group representing Riverwalk residents disbanded, only to reconstitute itself and try again. It is now a nonprofit in the state of Florida and is working on tax-exempt status with the IRS. It has a website – thedowntowndwellers.weebly.com, a newsletter and has organized the Friends of the Park to promote the use and care of the Riverwalk on both sides of the river.

So, there was lots to talk about at the Oct. 26 meeting.

“Most people think of the Riverwalk as a path to somewhere else,” said president Sandra Fradd. “For us it’s home.”

Katherine Hardwick, vice president of marketing for Downtown Vision, Inc., talked about upcoming events in downtown, including Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25.

Eric Miller, DVI’s new director of district services, talked about the city’s effort to make the Riverwalks “clean and safe” with the use of ambassadors who help keep the area clean and report any safety issues.

Downtown Vision is adding a social services outreach director who will help the homeless and vagrants in the area access local resources, Miller said.

Landscape architect Jill Enz of the City Parks and Recreation Department encouraged the residents to use the Riverwalks to build a sense of community and deter crime.

“The Riverwalks are unusual parks, they’re linear and overlook our greatest asset,” she said. “That’s why it’s important to have a Friend of the Park group. Parks aren’t static. Things change. Trees grow. Pavers pop up. When you see something, let us know. It’s your backyard.”

“The Riverwalks are unusual parks, they’re linear and overlook our greatest asset.”

— Jill Enz, City Parks and Recreation Department

Susan Strauss, who developed the group’s new website, showed how residents can use a form on the website to record how often they use the Riverwalk. Downtown Dwellers wants to track usage so the city will have data that can justify further investment in the area.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who represents San Marco, updated the group on efforts to improve access to the river for pedestrians and boaters and to

restore Friendship Fountain. (Read more about this in the Waterways Commission story on page 9.)

Boyer also gave updates:

- The Riverplace Boulevard Road Diet: Construction, which was supposed to start after the first of the year, has been delayed by waterline issues. Work should begin in the spring.
- Demolition of the old City Hall and Courthouse: The city has approved \$8 million for the work, which can begin as soon as it is bid.
- Berkman Plaza 2: Boyer said she hasn’t heard anything official but the scutlebutt at City Hall is the city is in talks with a prospective buyer who wants to use the existing building for hotel and residential.

The next meeting of the Downtown Dwellers is Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

Volunteer to put your heart in holiday spirit

If you’re looking to put meaning in your holidays this year, consider volunteering with The Salvation Army.

If bell ringing for the Red Kettle campaign isn’t your thing, perhaps you might enjoy serving Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner to the homeless. Maybe your heart is focused on needy children so think about being part of the Angel Tree program, collecting, sorting and delivering toys and clothing to children whose families have a financial hardship.

You can also organize a food drive to create Thanksgiving food baskets for more than 1,600 Northeast Florida families in need.

Want to help?

Red Kettle bell ringers are needed Mondays through Saturdays from Nov. 10 through Christmas Eve. Call (904) 301-4852 or text JaxKettle to 41444 to reserve your preferred date and location.

Organize a Can-U-Care food drive and the Salvation Army will take care of drop off and pick up of collection barrels. Call (904) 301-4781 or email latesha.jackson@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Serve a holiday meal Nov. 23 from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. and Dec. 25 from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Call (904) 301-4846 or email stephanie.arnold@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Organize and distribute bags filled with toys and clothes donated through the Angel Tree program from Nov. 27 to Dec. 18. Distribution is Dec. 19. Call (904)

301-4846 or email stephanie.arnold@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Consider adopting a quantity of Angels for the organization’s Angel Tree program or hold new toy and clothing drives to help provide for Angels who do not get adopted. Call (904) 301-4841 or email darlene.uhler-batiste@uss.salvationarmy.org.

More information about The Salvation Army’s holiday volunteer opportunities can be found here: <http://bit.ly/SAJaxVolunteer>



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1856 Challen Avenue

This exquisite Mediterranean style home is steps from the river on a premier block. The home is traditional yet bright and open. Updates include new appliances, bathrooms, 2 car garage, pool, floors and more. A notable feature is the great floorplan with the formal dining and living rooms just off the foyer and a casual family and dining area open to kitchen, all overlooking the pool with french doors. Up the beautiful staircase with iron railings are 3 bedrooms and 3 baths. The master has a fireplace and two walk-in closets with doors to a private terrace. The second bedroom has an extra living space and new bathroom. The large third bedroom and bath are spacious as well. This is one of the few blocks in Avondale with underground utilities.

Listed by Wade Griffin
3/3.5, 3,470 sq. ft.
\$1,050,000



Erica Davis
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Dulce Lake
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Ed Akers
651.6676



Keith Sowin
314.4324



Robert Van Cleve
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Scott Elliott
716.8837



Jesse Rain
536.3081



1431 Riverplace Boulevard #1710
3/2, 1,878 sq. ft.
The Peninsula
\$725,000



2465 Club Lake Drive
5/4, 3,222 sq. ft.
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1326 Avondale Avenue
4/2, 2,736 sq. ft.
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1644 Ingleside Avenue
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1321 North Market Street
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Listed by Ed Akers
\$229,000



1763 Pine Grove Avenue
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4822 Beverly Circle
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Brooklyn Road Diet recommendations include roundabout

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Consultants working on a plan to make Riverside Avenue through the Brooklyn area more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly gave their final recommendations to the Downtown Investment Authority Board of Directors Sept. 21.

With the goal of reducing accidents, increasing walking and bicycling, and enhancing economic development in that neighborhood, the consultants tweaked their initial recommendations after getting feedback July 27 at a second public workshop.

The recommendations include adding a buffered bike lane with sidewalk along Riverside Avenue, a bike lane with sidewalk along Park and Forest Streets, and multi-use trails with one leading from Riverside Avenue to the Northbank Riverwalk and another traversing the Acosta Bridge and Riverside Avenue interchange.

The protected two-way bicycle lane on Park Street would include on-street parallel parking, improved pedestrian facilities, such as a bus rapid transit (BRT) stop, and wayfinding signs. Park Street would change from a four-lane to a two-lane road.

The consultants – POND & Company, and Dover, Kohl & Partners – also suggested adding a roundabout where Forest Street joins Riverside Avenue, a mid-block pedestrian crossing on Forest Street near Unity Plaza, and additional signals on Riverside Avenue and Park Street.

The Riverside Avenue concept also includes a buffered bike lane, on-street parking and protected pedestrian crossings. Riverside Avenue is currently a six-lane roadway with unprotected bike lanes in



Proposed roundabout at Riverside Avenue and Forest Street (Rendering by POND & Company, Dover, Kohl & Partners)

both directions. The recommendation would change it to four lanes with two protected bike lanes and parallel parking in both directions.

The consultants deemed the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Forest Street to have an “awkward alignment within the intersection, which causes confusion for pedestrians and drivers.” To rectify the situation, they proposed a roundabout to provide slower speeds, a distinctive gateway to the river, and clear travel lanes.

One of the most challenging sites for overhaul is the Acosta Bridge and Riverside Avenue interchange, which has a narrow

walkway, high-speed crosswalk and discontinuous bike lanes. Possible improvements include narrowing travel lanes to create a protected two-way multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists.

In the consultants’ opinions, make these changes will help enhance economic development in the Brooklyn-Riverside area by attracting more pedestrians and bicyclists, which may spur new development opportunities and, in turn, “increase the ‘hip destination’ identity of the area.”

In the short term

All those recommendations will require major funding, so in the short-term, POND & Company recommended enhanced lighting, pedestrian signals with countdown timers and wayfinding signage through the study area.

On Forest Street, they recommended restriping to add a buffered bike lane and parking, a new sidewalk on the west side of Magnolia Street and a midblock crossing at Magnolia Street. Additionally, a bike box was suggested to offer cyclists a safe

way to make a left turn from Forest Street northbound onto Riverside Avenue from a right side bike lane.

Park Street short-term changes would include providing pedestrian access around the pond at Unity Plaza, a sidewalk on the west side of Jackson Street, and tactics to introduce a trial road diet to the community.

Short-term recommendations for Riverside Avenue include conversion of the outermost northbound lane to a parking lane with a bicycle lane against the existing curb and conversion of the outermost southbound lane to greenspace and sidewalk with a bicycle lane adjacent to a new curb.

Additional short-term enhancements on Riverside include replacing palm trees with shade trees, installing “bulb outs” to reduce crossing distances, installing pedestrian countdown timers, and restriping for the buffered bike lanes.

Next steps include presentation of cost estimates, both short- and long-term, to the DIA, which anticipates receiving the information in November, according to Guy Parola, DIA operations manager.

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Councilwoman Boyer shares plans for river activation

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

City Councilwoman Lori Boyer's plan to activate use of the St. Johns River picked up momentum in the new city budget, though Hurricane damage will slow things down.

Her goal is to have "rich, embellished landscaping with iconic features" along the downtown riverfront to help tell Jacksonville's story and engage people in the river and the city. She presented ideas at the Oct. 26 Waterways Commission meeting.

There's \$1 million in the city budget to begin work on three of what she calls "nodes" at Friendship Fountain, the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, and the USS Charles F. Adams, a floating naval warship museum planned for the Northbank.

Boyer has been consulting with the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects and recently had a "charrette" – or brainstorming session – to come up with ideas for the Friendship Fountain node.

Chris Allen, director of design at Haskell Co., said the nodes are meant to be thematic activity spaces that connect to transportation and connect people to the river.

One idea is to have "river towers" that would be 40 to 60 feet tall to mark each node and be identifiable from a distance, Allen said. The space around Friendship Fountain could be opened up to create a park, a splash zone and an area for food trucks.

Boyer said there's money in the budget to restore Friendship Fountain to be a focal point for lighting up the Riverwalk with music and light shows, possibly playing off the Performing Arts Center and Acosta and Main Street bridges.

She envisions about a dozen nodes along the downtown riverfront that could include pocket gardens, highlighting aspects of Jacksonville history like the Great Fire, sports and the military.

AIA has hired a consulting team to develop a master plan that should be ready by March 2018.

Boyer also said money is now available for demolition of the old City Hall and Courthouse buildings (\$8 million), putting in finger piers behind Riverplace Towers (\$300,000), docks behind the YMCA and at Post Street (\$900,000) and a kayak launch at the Duval County Public School administration building (\$200,000).

About two dozen floating docks need to be repaired from damage caused by Hurricane Irma, including ones off Metropolitan Park, the Northbank Riverwalk and Riverside Arts Market. Short-term repairs were made to downtown docks for the Florida-Georgia game, said Lt. Tim Smith of the City's Emergency Preparedness Office.

Most of the damage occurred when the post-storm surge pushed them over their pylons. A few also lost their gangplanks, said Bob Skalitzky chief of the City's Natural and Marine Resources Division. The repairs are expected to cost about \$7.2 million.

Another 14 sites, including the River Road bulkhead, Memorial Park and parts of the Riverwalks will require about \$7.8 million in repairs, Smith said.

The city is applying for FEMA money for the repairs and will also seek FEMA funding for mitigation work that would "harden" the infrastructure against future storms, Skalitzky said.



Women's Center Board President Lisé Everly breaks down the wall of the old building for reconstruction.

Women's Center celebrates gift at opening of new center

The Women's Center of Jacksonville received a special gift Oct. 10 during a pre-construction tour of the new Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (S.A.F.E.) Center at 5300 Emerson St.

J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, of Riverside, donated \$500,000 to help renovate the building and offered an additional \$500,000 matching grant for the project.

"The Women's Center of Jacksonville is delighted J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver have elected to help us build a new Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Center. Their generous gift of \$500,000 to start the initiative to renovate a building to serve as a state-of-the-art forensic exam center will help us begin construction," said Lisé Everly, WCJ board president.

"We are incredibly grateful for their support to help people of all genders who have survived sexual assault. With the help of the Weavers and people like them, we can tell survivors, 'You're Safe Here,'" she said.

The Women's Center assumed responsibility for conducting sexual assault forensic exams in October 2014 for rape victims in Duval, Baker and Nassau

counties, but needed a place centrally located in the Jacksonville area. The building is in need of a complete overhaul, said Teresa Miles, Women's Center executive director, and that's where the Weavers' donation comes in.

After renovation is complete, the new center will include two full accessible waiting rooms, two exam rooms with showers, an interview room, permanent and temporary evidence storage rooms, front and rear access to the building for confidentiality, counseling rooms, and rooms for staff and law enforcement, as well as a large conference room for training and community meetings.

The nonprofit said the purchase, renovation and endowment of the S.A.F.E. Center will cost \$3 million. They started a community initiative, "You're SAFE Here" to raise money, and donations can be made at www.youresafehere.org.

During the past 12 months, the Women's Center has fielded 2,682 hotline calls, conducted 339 forensic exams and served 705 sexual assault survivors.



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St. Vincent's HealthCare announces next step in national branding

St. Vincent's HealthCare, which has been part of Ascension when it was formed in 1999 by the Daughters of Charity (who launched St. Vincent's more than 100 years ago) and the Sisters of St. Joseph, will add Ascension to its name as part of a national effort to make it clearer and easier for patients to access the care they need and to navigate their health.

Tom VanOsdol, St. Vincent's president and CEO, announced Oct. 24 St. Vincent's HealthCare will become Ascension St. Vincent's.

"This is a momentous and historic day, a wonderful day in our rich and storied history. We are coming together with our colleagues and we are unifying and amplifying our already strong and storied local brand and name along with the strong and storied brand and name of our ministry across the country, Ascension," said VanOsdol.

Following VanOsdol's remarks, Sister Maureen McGuire, DC, Ascension executive vice president, mission integration, applauded

the associates at St. Vincent's for their efforts during Hurricane Irma.

"If ever there was an example of what a ministry can do, as part of One Ascension, for others, it is this ministry in terms of the dedication, the courage, and the incredible response that you together made as an Ascension ministry during the recent difficulties of the hurricane," said Sister McGuire. "It touches me deeply to stand in this space with you and say that all of our ministries were inspired by you."

Ascension is the nation's leading Catholic and nonprofit health system, with 2,500 sites of care and 36,000 providers in 22 states and Washington, D.C. St. Vincent's HealthCare joined Ascension systems in six other states the same day in beginning the move to a unified name.

"We are taking a leadership role across the country by making the transition early in the process," said VanOsdol. "We're making this change in a very inclusive approach in branding and signage."



Tracie Loftis, Chief Integration Officer, Sister Maureen McGuire, DC, Executive Vice President, Mission Integration, Father Leonard Chuwa, BCC, Ph.D, System Director, Ethics and Spiritual Care and, at the podium, Tom VanOsdol, St. Vincent's HealthCare President and CEO

Lakeside Park Neighborhood Association requests more park lighting

Residents who call Lakeside Park home met Oct. 22 met with members from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the City of Jacksonville's Parks & Recreation Department to discuss crime, safety and repairs to local parks.

According to a City spokesperson, the dock at Stinson Park was heavily damaged by Hurricane Irma. "The remaining supporting

structures are currently being inspected. The concrete walkway adjacent to the dock is uplifting," said Tia For. "Specific information such as timeline and cost for repairs will be determined at a later time after the assessment process has concluded. The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is working to ensure the facilities will be repaired based on FEMA guidelines."

Karen Nuland, president of the Lakeside Park Neighborhood Association, indicated it was a productive meeting, held at Watson Realty at San Juan Avenue and Herschel Street.

Nuland said the group asked the City to replace traffic signs damaged during Hurricane Irma, in addition to requesting brighter or increased lighting in Lakeside Parks I and II, Stinson Park and Baker Point Park on San Juan Avenue.

"[The] Parks [Department] is aware of the non-functioning lights and has plans to have them repaired in the near future," said Ford.

The association is working with the city to conduct a traffic study in the neighborhood in regards to motorists using it as a cut-through from Herschel Street and San Juan Avenue. The group is also trying to schedule a "Walk with an Officer" in January with the JSO.

Nuland also shared that if any residents would be interested in a neighborhood holiday party at Lakeside Park 1 they should message her through the NextDoor app. The next association meeting is planned for February 2018.

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Amy Bern and Larry Thomas, Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser and Beaches Habitat President Guy Cuddihee

Beaches Bash adds Chef's Challenge to annual benefit

The Ultimate Chef's Challenge was a rumble like no other as 10 local chefs squared off with their best cuisine to raise funds for Beaches Habitat for Humanity.

The Oct. 17 event held at the newly renovated Sawgrass Beach Club included live music by The Groov Band, live and silent auctions, and the chance to win jewelry valued at \$3,000 from Global Diamonds. The annual Beach Bash benefits Beaches families in need of affordable housing.



Mark and Ellen Gould



Brent and Sandy Paris with Holly and Jeff Tyrrell

Lives changed, stories shared at Transformations

Billed as the "feel good event of the year," the 19th annual Transformations: Putting the Heart in Healthcare celebrated individuals and families who overcame the despair of homelessness to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent homes.

Held Oct. 12 at the Florida Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, the long-standing event was co-chaired by Darnell Smith, Florida Blue North Florida Market president and Ann-Marie Knight, administrator of community relations at Mayo Clinic. Honorary co-chairs were Patrick Geraghty, Florida Blue CEO, and Hugh Greene, president and CEO of Baptist Health.

The program was kicked off with a cocktail reception and silent auction, and followed by a dessert reception. During the program, an update was given for Sulzbacher Village, which is expected to welcome women and families in April 2018.



Sulzbacher Board Chairman M.J. Easterling with his mother, Lorie Easterling



Bitty McRae with Helen Lane and Sulzbacher President and CEO Cindy Funkhouser



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1604 Arcadia Drive, #318
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2030 Herschel Street, #4
2BR/2BA formerly on RAP Tour of Homes. 3 time award winner in Historic Five Points. Kitchen has high-end appliances and gas stove. Dark stained wood, walnut inlays in oak floors. 1,211 sq. ft. \$310,000



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



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. \$449,000.



4753 Kerle Street
3BR/1BA home in a charming neighborhood. Quaint traditional home two blocks from parks, and private back yard. Large workshop, wood floors, and remodeled kitchen. 1,314 sq. ft. \$179,900



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



Josh and Annie Bryan, Mishayla and Michael Schmidt, Caroline Brinton

British cuisine sets tone for Young Collectors gathering

A passion for art and antiques can begin at any age, and to support the annual Art & Antiques Show, Dec. 1-3, the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital sponsored a Young Collectors Party Oct. 17.

Beer, wine and small bites inspired by London cuisine to complement the show's theme, "London Calling," was enjoyed at Intuition Ale Works. The event, which raises awareness of the work of the Women's Board among supporters 40 and under, included a silent auction with items from local shops and restaurants.



Meg, Chris and Lauren Folds



Trish Bautista with Christine Ventemilla



Maddie Taylor, Alexa Michaelis, Megan O'Steen, Holly Hepler

Groundbreaking celebrated at Hope Lodge, Mayo Clinic Campus



American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge campaign donors, fundraising professionals and executive staff members ready for the groundbreaking on the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville Campus. With shovels in hand, the group prepped for the official throwing of the dirt on the future sight of the Hope Lodge.

Groundbreaking signals new hope for cancer patients

By *Kate A. Hallock*
Resident Community News

With the ceremonial lift of the shovel, the American Cancer Society broke ground Oct. 23 for the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Hope Lodge, a \$19.6 million facility which will offer free lodging for patients seeking cancer treatment in the Jacksonville medical community.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place at the construction site, located at Mayo Clinic West Campus, and was attended by representatives from ACS, Mayo Clinic, local donors and members of the capital campaign, led by Campaign Chair Charlie Tomm and Honorary Chairpersons Carter and Cheryl Bryan.

"One of the large motivating factors for us in this campaign was learning the very large percentage of cancer sufferers who do not follow up with the proper care after being diagnosed, even if they have proper insurance. They cannot afford the lodging and other costs in seeking treatment in a distant city," said Tomm in his welcoming remarks.

When the Jacksonville Hope Lodge opens its doors, the 31-room facility will save cancer patients and their caregivers an estimated \$3 million annually in lodging expenses. Some patients spend days, weeks, even months away from home, which Bryan touched upon in his remarks.

"The history of Hope Lodge goes back about 35 years when I was serving on the [Florida] Division Board [of ACS] and I was in a budget committee meeting and

looking at a line item for housing of \$250,000," said Bryan, who was told it for cancer patients who have to go out of town and were put up in the cheapest motels. "I thought this was not right, there has to be a solution."

The solution was found when Bryan, along with Robert Davis of the Winn-Dixie Foundation, launched a campaign in 1986 to build the first lodge constructed from the ground up, in Gainesville, on the University of Florida campus.

Now, many generous local philanthropists, including the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, have stepped up to the plate to put a Hope Lodge in Jacksonville. Schulze acknowledged the part played by the Foundation and other major contributors, but also gave praise to another group.

"What's often not talked about are the 4,200 people who stood up and said 'We want to help make a difference for people suffering from this dreaded disease,'" he said. "It's not even just the dollar and cents, candidly, it's the personal skin in the game from so many of these volunteers that not only feel the importance of making a contribution to make this happen today and on into perpetuity, but at the end of the day just to be volunteering as helpers in this facility, be a part of the process that goes on."

At full occupancy, the Jacksonville Hope Lodge facility will provide nearly 12,000 room nights each year. It will include private guest suites, a library, shared living room, kitchen and dining areas, help-yourself pantry, daily access to linens, space for recreation and contemplation, and free transportation services to and from the world-renowned cancer centers within the Jacksonville medical community.

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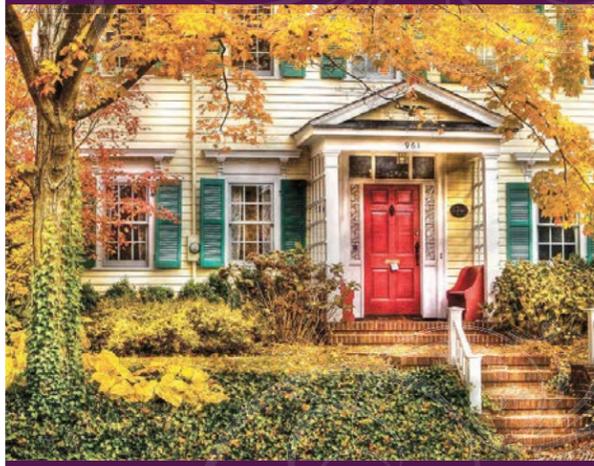


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Library Foundation to celebrate state award

Friends of the Library honored for winning budget battle

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Contrary to “digital” belief, libraries are not dead. Nor are their supporters.

Long before the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation was founded in 1986, the nonprofit Friends of the Jacksonville Library was established in June 1955.

And even before that, in 1902 Andrew Carnegie granted the City of Jacksonville \$55,000 to build a library at 101 E. Adams St., where “Open to All” was etched above the doors.

The sentiment hasn’t changed in over 100 years, thanks to efforts by the local Friends of the Library groups.

In the 62 years since their founding, the Friends have taken to the sidewalks gathering petitions for a variety of concerns. They have raised funds to supplement programs in the neighborhood branches. In 2013, they collected signatures to try to implement an independent tax district to fund libraries. They have lobbied vigorously against proposed budget cuts and, as was the case this year, were successful in getting \$1.1 million in funds reinstated.

“Good libraries build collections but great libraries build communities,” said Kevin Hyde, board chair for the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation. “We appreciate the

Mayor and City providing ongoing support for the library’s day-to-day operations as well as restoring \$850,000 to the budget to purchase additional books, audio and video materials. They demonstrated their commitment to the entire Jacksonville public library system.”

The victory was incomplete, however. “We were disappointed that the additional funds weren’t allocated to restore Monday hours at eight libraries, including Murray Hill and Willowbranch, but pleased that an additional \$850,000 was found to add to the materials budget,” said Judy Klein, treasurer for Friends of the Murray Hill Library.

In gratitude for the many hours spent by members of the local Friends of the Library groups, the Board of Library Trustees declared October 15-21 “Friends of Libraries Week.”

“It certainly is an honor to be recognized by the Library Board of Trustees for our ongoing support and commitment to Jacksonville’s most important and vital asset, our fair city’s public library system,” said Roxanne Henkle, president of Friends of the Willowbranch Library. “It was a privilege to work and coordinate with the library’s different friends groups. With our concentrated effort, we were able to be the voice of advocacy during the city’s budget talks.”

Prior to the budget victory, the Jacksonville Public Library had been named Library of the Year by the Florida Library Association from among more than 800 libraries.

“We clearly have a great library. As far as we know, this is our first time being named Library of the Year,” said Jamie Self,



Florence Cunningham, Friends of Brentwood Branch Library; Ronnie King, Chair, Jacksonville Public Library Board of Library Trustees; Judy Klein, Friends of Murray Hill Library; Nancy Beecher, Friends of Murray Hill Library; Josh Messinger, Friends of Beaches Branch Library; Jennifer Giltrop, Interim Library Director; Margaret Smith, Friends of Jacksonville Public Library, and Roxanne Henkle, Friends of Willowbranch Library. Not pictured: Friends of the Olga L. Bradham and Etta L. Brooks Branch Library, Friends of the Dallas Graham Branch Library, Friends of the South Mandarin Branch Library, Friends of the Maxville Branch Library

“Good libraries build collections but great libraries build communities.”

— Kevin Hyde, Jacksonville Public Library Foundation

executive director of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation.

“This library has really pulled forward and the Library of the Year award is an incredible means of acknowledging its success,” said Betsy Lovett, who served on the Library Foundation board for several years. “No one can take our education away from us and the library is one of the greatest means we have to achieve an education. It’s very important that it’s recognized and the City should continually support it.”

Hyde also acknowledged it takes the support of private donors and businesses to truly make the library great. “Private donations support the wonderful programs that led to our library being named Florida’s Library of the Year,” he said. “We want to thank our supporters and encourage them to celebrate with the Foundation on November 9th.”

The Foundation is hosting a Library of the Year Celebration, Thursday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Betsy Lovett Courtyard at the Main Library on Laura Street.



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Bradenton based restaurant group opens latest location in Brooklyn area

First Watch, a new restaurant in Brooklyn Station, opened Oct. 16 in the former Corner Bakery standalone building at 192 Riverside Ave. It's the fourth location in Jacksonville, but the first in the First Watch company to serve alcohol, according to Chris Tomasso, company president.

Traditionally a breakfast and lunch café, First Watch plans to cater to the area's large millennial population by serving wine, beer and brunch-style drinks, such as Bloody Marys and Mimosas.

The restaurant will seat 127 inside, with patio seating for 44, and will include a retail area with baked goods for

on-the-go patrons. The 3,900-square-foot buildout cost about \$280,000 and is nearly 20 percent larger than other locations. Jacksonville currently has First Watch cafés in Southside, Mandarin, Hodges Pointe Plaza and one underway in Bartram Park.

Based in Bradenton, Florida, the company got its start in California by two restaurateurs who worked for the Le Peep breakfast chain, before founding First Watch in 1983.

The former Corner Bakery had opened in Brooklyn Station in September 2014, then abruptly closed in early December 2016.



First Watch opened Oct. 16 in Brooklyn Station.



Clerk of Courts show support for domestic violence awareness

During the month of October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month – the Duval County Clerk of Court's office and the 4th Judicial Circuit's Family Court Services office collected donations of essential nonperishable food and household items for Hubbard House.

Each Wednesday, Clerk's Office staff wore purple as a visible reminder of their support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and for Hubbard House. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, there were more than 120,000 cases of domestic violence reported in the state last year, including approximately 5,000 cases in Duval County.

Attempted abduction, robbery at gunpoint

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Dania Fadeley is, to borrow a phrase from super spy 007, shaken not stirred.

A bartender for the past four years at The Brick Restaurant in the Shoppes of Avondale, Fadeley was robbed at gunpoint Oct. 17 after getting off work at 11 p.m.

Surveillance cameras captured the crime scene, showing two men racing toward Fadeley as she and a young male co-worker walked to her car.

Although she is shaken up by the crime and the loss of cash, credit cards and, initially,

her cellphone, Fadeley resolutely returned to work behind the bar where she knows most of The Brick's regulars. In fact, the newlywed met her husband at the restaurant while serving him as a customer.

Using the tracking function on her iPhone, Fadeley said police were able to retrieve it about a block away.

Despite the incident, Fadeley returned to work the next day. "It was better to stay busy, to keep my mind busy," she said.

The two men who accosted Fadeley and her co-worker were described as African-American, in their 20s or 30s, and one man had a long goatee and carried a chrome pistol. After robbing Fadeley, they fled down Ingle side Avenue.

Fadeley said she tried not to look at their faces during the robbery, but later said the

goatee may have been about two inches long, coming to a point.

Two men attempt child abduction in Ortega

Earlier the same day, in Ortega a 9-year-old boy on a bicycle was also accosted by two men driving a Ford SUV. He described the driver as having a goatee and a sleeve tattoo on his right arm.

According to a report filed by the boy's father, two black males, approximate ages 40 to 50 years old, followed the boy for three blocks before offering candy, then the passenger reached out of the window in an attempt to grab him. The boy eluded the men by turning around and peddling in the opposite direction.

The vehicle, which has a Florida license plate beginning with the number 3, also has a dented passenger side panel and duct tape around the passenger side headlamp. It has been described as late model Ford Expedition of a bronze or copper color, but the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office released a child safety alert describing it as an early 2000 silver Ford SUV.

The same vehicle was captured on video in Ortega the following morning, Oct. 18, at 7:36 a.m.

To report suspicious activity or if you see the vehicle, call 630-0500, the non-emergency number for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. If you see an actual crime in progress, call 911 right away.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Weather Engineers and Indoor Comfort merge



Weaver Policy Center receives award

Vicky Basra (left), vice president with the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, accepts an Accelerating Change Award Sept. 26 from a representative of New York-based Center for the Study of Social Policy. The Policy Center received one of three awards for demonstrating a commitment to reaching and serving diverse populations of young women and girls of color involved in public systems and creating opportunities for their well-being and success.

Four years ago Riverside-based Weather Engineers, Inc. celebrated its 50th anniversary and welcomed two of the founder's grandchildren into the business. Today the company has expanded by merging with 60-year-old Indoor Comfort, Inc., located in San Marco. Both companies are family-owned and operated. As Hal Kelly, president of Indoor Comfort, noted in a letter to customers, the founders of Weather Engineers originally worked for Indoor Comfort before starting their own heating and cooling business in 1963.

"I invite you to try us and our company, and promise Weather Engineers will provide you with the high quality and professional service that you have experienced with Indoor Comfort," said James Daniel Griffin, Jr., president. "I will continue to personally work with Weather Engineers to assure a smooth transition and confident you will be satisfied with their work" said Kelly. Indoor Comfort is now located at the Weather Engineers facilities at 1000 Edison Ave.



Dan, Kayla and Jamie Griffin

Cathedral Arts Project welcomes 10 new board members

Residents from Avondale, Ortega Forest, San Marco and San Jose are among 10 new members welcomed to the Cathedral Arts Project board of directors for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Randle P. DeFoor, of Ortega Forest, is a senior vice president with Fidelity National Title Group. She serves on the boards of the Florida State College at Jacksonville (former chair), JIA Community Redevelopment Agency, the Innocence Project and the Women's Board for Wolfson Children's Hospital. Marty Kern, of San Marco, is the Manager of Strategic Accounts for Constellations Brands, Inc. and began volunteering for CAP in 2009. Mark R. LaBorde, of San Marco, is the former president of the Southeast region for Aetna and president of Aetna Florida. He is a member of the Dean's Council of

the School of Health, University of North Florida, and a member of the Florida Health Insurance Advisory Board. He attended the Episcopal School of Jacksonville and now serves on their alumni board. Karen Montana, of San Jose, is a graduate of Georgetown University and spent her professional career in bank marketing for Chase and Bank of America. She is actively involved at Assumption Catholic Church as a volunteer and supports the local community through CAP, Catholic Charities, United Way, Mayo Clinic, and more. John-Paul Saenz, of Avondale, is president of the Consumer and Packaged Goods Group for Haskell, where he has worked since 1997. He is a member of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, UF MBA Advisory Board, and Riverside Presbyterian Day School Board of Trustees.

Veronica Scott-Fulton, of San Marco, is vice president at Wolfson Children's Hospital, a courtesy professor for the University of Florida and an executive champion for the American Diabetes Association. Also joining the board are Robyn Kreimborg, client service manager for CH2M; Teena Manners, an attorney with Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball and a member of the board of AMIkids Jacksonville; Tracy McDougal, Baptist Health Adult Auxiliary Director, and Peter O'Brien, a wealth advisor with Morgan Stanley, mentor for Take Stock in Children, volunteer for Community Hospice Foundation, and member of the leadership council for UF Health Jacksonville, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center Leadership Council, and Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2015.

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Viktor Gjergji

Refrigerated items added to product lineup

If you love Viktor's Payless for his great deals on furniture, mattresses, appliances and more, you will enjoy visiting his expanded grocery.

Taking over the former Family Dollar store at 6612 San Juan Ave., Viktor Gjergji now offers patrons the full grocery experience, including refrigerated items, paper goods, diapers and cleaning supplies.

All over Jacksonville, real estate agents, landlords, production companies, newly established businesses, parents of college-bound children and others have already found Viktor's is the one destination that's sure to have top brands at steep discounts.

Viktor's selling power comes from his connections with government auctions and seizures, unclaimed freight, and overstocks from other retailers. Buying new, unused goods through these outlets, Viktor's Payless can provide endless deals on fine furniture, outdoor furniture,

and high-end mattresses and box springs, as well as grocery, personal and sports-wear items.

Viktor's not only furnishes steep discounts for the legal set and real estate staging services, but for anyone who wants half off or more on fabulous, exclusive furniture brands.

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Need a new Lilly Pulitzer bed set for your master bedroom, or a Michael Amini credenza for the dining room of your vacation home? Viktor's has what you want.

Is your deck devoid of a rotisserie grill and comfy outdoor furniture? Viktor's has you covered with deep discounts on the best.

Viktor's clientele all know one thing – no day is the same at Viktor's Payless. Shipments of goods arrive daily, and every trip to the store can yield a delightful surprise or two to be found among the newly-stocked items.

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PD. ADV.

New boutique with New York roots opens in Murray Hill

The BOBBYK boutique, offering men's and women's fashions, as well as home goods, opened at 1188 Edgewood Avenue S. in October.

BOBBYK was established more than 10 years ago by fashion designer Bobby Kelley, in Gainesville, Florida and grew to reposition in Brooklyn, New York. Kelley was most recently recognized as Jacksonville Magazine's 2017 Designer of the Year.

In addition to selling men's and women's ready-to-wear fashion and tailor-made homemade goods, the boutique will provide services such as style assessments, alterations, personal shopping, and special ordering to customers during store hours and by appointment.

More than 90 percent of the products sold will be sourced from American



Bobby Kelley

distributors, including local craftsmen in Florida as well as other cultural hubs like Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago.

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Tyler and Chelsea McKee with CC Underwood

Local realtor gives vehicle to Riverside flood victims

CC Underwood, leader of The Sellin' With CC Team of Keller Williams Jacksonville Realty, loved her 2006 Toyota 4Runner and, after getting another vehicle, thought she would use the SUV for work.

After seeing the devastation Hurricane Irma created in the Historic District, Underwood saw the potential for something much more meaningful.

"Being a Jacksonville-based team, it was hard to see the damage that was caused to our community," said Underwood. "We realize that so many lost so much and we believe that when you have, you give...and we wanted to gift a car."

Underwood ran a contest offering to give the 4Runner to someone who lost their primary vehicle due to Irma. After Underwood's team narrowed down the seven entries, the finalist was required to



Tyler and Chelsea McKee's car was totaled by Hurricane Irma.

show proof from their insurance company their vehicle was a total loss.

The lucky winners were Tyler and Chelsea McKee, who live in Riverside, and are expecting a baby. The vehicle was presented to the McKees Oct. 11 at their home.

"You really cannot say that any one person deserved it more because losing a primary vehicle can mean a loss of much more to a household," said Savannah Zuber, director of operations with The Sellin' With CC Team. "After reviewing the stories several team members including myself were drawn to one. We just had a feeling,"

Women's Giving Alliance grants to combat poverty in Northeast Florida

The mission of the Women's Giving Alliance – "to inspire the women of Northeast Florida to be strategic philanthropists and to improve the lives of women and girls through collective giving" – much in evidence Oct. 25 at the annual meeting of the organization founded 15 years ago by five trustees of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida: Courtenay Wilson, Helen Lane, Delores Barr Weaver, Ann Baker (deceased) and Doris Carson (deceased).

Today, under the nurturing umbrella of the Community Foundation, the Women's Giving Alliance has a membership of more than 400 women who will pool their grant giving to \$450,000 this year to benefit women and girls in Northeast Florida.

Women's Giving Alliance (WGA) President Ellen Wiss opened the meeting, introducing Community Foundation President Nina Waters, and welcoming Legacy Members who were present, including founder Courtenay Wilson.

Several touching personal stories were presented to the gathering, illustrating the help that individual women received as a result of the WGA's philanthropy.

Recommendations for grant recipients for the year 2017 were announced and ratified. WGA Grant recipients for 2017 are Barnabas Center of Nassau County "Hope Builders for Women Initiative" (\$112,000); Catholic Charities "Neighborhood Self-Sufficiency Program in Northwest Jacksonville" (\$105,000); Girl Scouts of Gateway Council "Girl Scouts Community Development Troops" (\$50,000); Learn to Read "Literacy for Stability" (\$43,000), and Women's Center of Jacksonville "Expanded Horizons Family Literacy Program" (\$120,000).



Anna Brosche, Mary Pietan, Madeline Scales-Taylor



Carol Thompson with Pam Paul

In addition, the WGA provided a Rapid Response Emergency Fund (\$17,000 plus \$3,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation) to help Quigley House (Clay County), Hubbard House (Duval), Micah's Place (Nassau), and Betty Griffin House (St. Johns) with Hurricane Irma relief efforts and to provide services for research in domestic violence following natural disasters.

With the new WGA focus being to lift women from poverty, Ellen Wiss encouraged all present at the annual meeting to connect with other vibrant women in the community and sustain the good work of the WGA going forward.

Lori Ann Whittington takes helm at Pine Castle

Lori Ann Whittington has been selected by the Pine Castle Board of Directors as the next CEO for Pine Castle. She will succeed Jon May upon his retirement on Nov. 3.

Whittington, of Jacksonville Beach, left her current role as Director of Advancement with Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens where she has served for the past three years. Prior to her work at the Cummer Museum, Whittington had leadership roles at the national and local levels with The American Cancer Society for over 10 years. She has a passion for nonprofit services and persons with disabilities, and looks forward to moving the Pine Castle organization forward with a focus on the key elements of People, Strategy, and Operations.



Lori Ann Whittington

"I am confident that Ms. Whittington will be an effective and impactful leader of our mission," said May, who served as Pine Castle's CEO for the past 29 years.

Public education volunteer corps to address perceptions of educators

Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) initiated the first cohort of ONE by ONE: Public Ed Ambassadors – its new elite volunteer corps – at a kick-off event Oct. 21 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center.

"The Ambassador initiative is designed to power the potential of local stakeholders to affect change from the ground up, and to equip them with new knowledge and skills as advocates committed to ensuring all students receive an excellent education," said Trey Csar, JPEF president.

The public education advocates group is made up of students, parents, educators and business leaders, who are tasked with improving public perception of the teaching profession, and how best to strengthen the school leadership pipeline, among other responsibilities.

At the induction event, the 31 new ambassadors were given an opportunity to become more familiar with ways to utilize their community engagement, research and writing skills to make a difference throughout the year as well as provided with a sneak peek of some of the high-level findings from JPEF's upcoming Talent Study, a research series examining the opportunities to improve high-quality teacher recruitment and retention in Duval.



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4984 ORTEGA FOREST DR - \$1,195,000

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4348 SHERWOOD RD - \$255,000

3/2-2,150 sqft. A fabulous opportunity to live on one of the most sought after streets in Ortega Forest. Situated on a large half acre lot in walking distance to John Stockton Elementary School. This home allows for many opportunities to entertain.



844 NELSON ST - \$185,000

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1021 INGLESIDE AVE - \$189,000

3/1-1,071 sqft. Finally, get your brick bungalow in one of the most desirable locations in Murray Hill! This home features brand new roof, a farm house style kitchen with butcher block counter tops, stainless steel sink and original refinished hard wood floors.



4238 LAKESIDE DR 401 - \$830,000

3/3-2,487 sqft. This premier unit in one of the finest, sought after waterfront condos in Avondale and Ortega. With only 8 units, this condo lives more like a home. You enter this beautiful condo with the elevator bringing you right into your private foyer.



2525 COLLEGE ST 1117 - \$235,000

1/1/1-1,125 sqft. One of Only Two ~ 1BR/1.5BA Townhouses and is one of only 4 units that have outdoor terraces to enjoy the beautiful green-space between Bldg. 1 and 2. This fabulous condominium home comes with 2 parking spaces.



1562 GLENDALE ST - \$459,900

4/3-2,207 sqft. This beautifully renovated bungalow has 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms and backs up to a large park. The home features an open floor plan with custom built bookcases and colonnade.



1372 AVONDALE AVE

3100 sqft. SOLD by Jane Slater and Elizabeth Loftin! Historic neighborhood home on coveted Avondale Avenue. Classic architecture with sought after open layout for modern living.



5118 YACHT CLUB RD

3/2/2-3,521 sqft. SOLD by Beverly Brooke! Incredible space in this beautiful brick home with the master on the first floor. Large dining room, living room and family room with arched doorways that are very inviting.



505 LANCASTER ST, 11D

3/2-1,800 sqft. SOLD by Liz Bobeck and Josh Nugent! WALK TO EVERYTHING! Rare fully renovated Park Plaza riverfront condo is in one of the TOP buildings and the TOP location in Riverside. Gracious entry foyer with ample closet storage.



3632 PINE ST

4/3-2,604 sqft. SOLD by Joy Walker! This lovely one story, 1924 Avondale home, is a keeper! Located on one of Avondale's most desirable streets, this charming home has been in the same family for many years & has been well loved.



3873 OAK ST - \$275,000

3/1-1,423 sqft. Perhaps the most charming bungalow in Avondale is now available! Lovingly cared for with many updates including a newer HVAC & ductwork, GE Profile Gas Stove, tankless water heater and reverse osmosis water in the kitchen.



4944 ARAPAHOE AVE

4/3-2,208 sqft. SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen and CeCe Cummings! On one of the most sought after streets in Ortega Terrace. Large corner lot with side carport entry. Living room and dining room open to each other allowing a gracious space for entertaining.



1146 TALBOT AVE

3/1-1,462 sqft. SOLD by Natalie Reese! Prepare to instantly fall in love with this home! The classic brick exterior, arched doorway, hardwood floors, refurbished original cabinets, and big back yard will capture your heart.



1393 PINE GROVE CT

3/2-1,104 sqft. SOLD by Lisa Nguyen! Live in Avondale and enjoy this home and it's outdoor space! This home has had a some updates and well cared for by current owner. Tucked away in a culdesac, this home has many perks.



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Rain-out results in co-championship for Jax women's tennis team



Coach Susan Kirby, Debra Taylor, Katherine Sherman, Dawn Crawford, Jennifer Espinosa, Evelyn Edenfield, Cheryl Flanders and Tammy Morreale

Thanks to a rained out semifinal, the Jacksonville women's tennis team representing the USTA Florida Section wound up as co-champions with three other teams for the national title at the USTA League Adult 18 & Over Women's 2.5 National Championships.

The Jacksonville team was scheduled to play in the semifinal rounds on Oct. 22 against Chesterfield, Missouri, held at the Mobile Tennis Center in Mobile, Alabama. That match, along with the other semifinal

pitting Bellevue, Washington, against Memphis was rained out. As a result, all four teams were named co-champions.

Jacksonville is captained by Debra Taylor and features Cheryl Flanders, Dawn Crawford, Evelyn Edenfield, Jennifer Espinosa, Katherine Sherman, and Tammy Morreale. The team plays at the Florida Yacht Club.

Established in 1980, USTA League is the largest recreational tennis league.

Two new associates join Avondale realty firm

The Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently welcomed Zackery Williams and Camelia Wilson to its team of real estate professionals.

A Jacksonville native, Williams joined BHHS to leverage his local knowledge of the neighborhoods around Avondale and San Marco.



Camelia Wilson



Zackery Williams

Wilson, a native of Romania, came to Jacksonville in 2012 and was officially licensed as a real estate sales associate in July.



Representatives of 2017 LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida Grantees: Front: Ellen Schmidt, PFLAG; Linda Levin, ElderSource; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; back: Kaitlin Legg, UNF LGBT Resource Center; Heidi Katz, ElderSource; Teresa Miller, Women's Center of Jacksonville; Deirdre Conner, Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida; Angela Strain, JASMYN; Michael Meyers, LGBT Fund president (Photo courtesy of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida)

LGBT Community Fund awards more than \$150,000 in grants

The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida's 2017 grants in the record amount of \$158,000 will support LGBT youth, elders, families, workforce and women in crisis.

The LGBT Community Fund was created in 2014, and has made a total of nearly \$475,000 in grants since inception.

"I'm especially pleased with the grants this year, as the grantees continue their important work making Northeast Florida a more inclusive place for all while evolving their grant focus and showing increasing self-funding for their programs," said Michael Meyers, president of the LGBT Community Fund. "A great example is the UNF LGBT Center, which is taking over staff funding costs for the Club-Do mentoring program, while adding an LGBT Employment Conference."

The 2017 grants include \$30,000 for ElderSource to develop an LGBT Elder Friendly Business Certification for LGBT elders to find referrals to LGBT safe and friendly businesses;

\$50,000 for JASMYN to continue its work with Opening Doors for Homeless Youth; \$26,000 for Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida to support a program of reflective practice, where groups of people learn and improve their work together; \$17,000 for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) to support elements of PFLAG's strategic plan; \$25,000 for UNF LGBT Resource Center to support three connected projects that sustain LGBT college students; \$10,000 for The Women's Center of Jacksonville to provide mental health counseling to LGBTQ+ women/girls.

Additionally, the Steering Committee will reserve \$10,000 to provide outreach, fund research and be able to respond to emerging small grant requests throughout the year.



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Dirt crawlspaces can make you sick, especially if you have allergies or asthma. Whether or not you're prone to allergies, contaminants from crawlspaces can irritate your eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs.

Fortunately, Turner has the solution to unhealthy crawlspaces.

"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.

He advocates against insulating the subfloor of the crawlspace and his advice is backed up by experts. "I've taken hundreds of samples of crawlspace fiberglass insulation and 100 percent of the insulation is severely contaminated," said Jeff May, environmental IAQ expert.

Instead, Turner tells homeowners to clean, sanitize and seal the subfloor.

To do that, Turner 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.

Earlier this year, Katie Penkala of Avondale brought Turner in to address extreme humidity in her 90-year-old home.

"I called many different companies asking for their assistance in fixing the problem," she said. "Every company told me that they could not fix the problem and that I needed to call someone else."

That "someone else" was Turner, who came to Penkala's home, and diagnosed the problem was the crawlspace. After thoroughly explaining the process, the job was completed within a week.

After the first day of having my dehumidifier installed, I already have a noticeable difference in the humidity level," said Penkala. "It has made my drywall stop cracking, my carpet is no longer damp, and there are no musty odors in my house."

Penkala went on to say "I am so thankful Turners Underseal was able to quickly and efficiently fix a problem that many others just passed off. I would definitely recommend Turners Underseal to anyone who wants a healthier crawlspace and a less humid house."

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.



Healthy dry crawlspace.

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 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 sealers special.
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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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New speech and hearing center offers expanded hours

The 68-year-old nonprofit Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center (JSHC) opened a new facility at 1010 North Davis St. in September, replacing the 55-year-old former home on North Laura Street.

According to Michael Howland, president and CEO, the new location includes expanded areas for speech-pathology and audiology services, new hours and technological upgrades.

“Our North Davis Street location is designed and built specifically to give our patients the best possible experience,” said Howland. “Selling the building we owned in Springfield, leasing the Davis Street location and investing the proceeds in our mission is the right choice to make in an era of tight funding for nonprofits.”

In conjunction with the move, JSHC is announcing the introduction of the 1010 Society. Those who invest \$1,010 in general support to the JSHC over the year will become Founding Members of the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center 1010 Society.



Denver McClellan, patient care coordinator, offers a welcoming smile to visitors at the new Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center.

“The 1010 Society and 1010 Club, along with naming opportunities for our new location, will provide critical support for our expanded operations,” said JSHC Board Chair Amy Ruth, a senior executive with Florida Blue. “We’re excited to build upon a legacy of community service that began when the Junior League of Jacksonville gave us our start in 1949.”

The new location features free parking, access to bus lines, with hours from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. For more information, visit shcjax.org.

Purcell joins Cathedral as new marketing, communications director

After living at the beach for 23 years, Nancy Purcell pulled up her roots and put them down in Riverside. She began singing in the Cathedral Choir at St. John’s Cathedral downtown, learned more about the Cathedral’s many programs and missions, and when an opening came up she knew it would be a good fit. As the new marketing and communications director at St. John’s Cathedral, Purcell is here to stay.

St. John’s Cathedral is located in the heart of downtown and serves about 450 people every Sunday. The Cathedral has also founded many nonprofits, including Cathedral School Early Learning Center, Cathedral Arts Project, Cathedral Care nursing facility, Cathedral District-Jax and Aging True Community Senior Services.



Nancy Purcell

“The Cathedral parish is growing and vibrant. I see its diversity and community outreach as its strengths,” said Purcell.

Prior to joining the Cathedral, Purcell worked as a freelance copy editor and volunteered as a board member of BRASS (Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony). In addition, she has worked as a marketing communications coordinator in the high-tech industry. Purcell is a graduate of Wellesley College where she earned a B.A. in English.

Clayman Family tradition reflects devotion to fishing, charity

Clayman Plastic Surgery supports School for Autism

It was another year spent on the water for the Clayman boys, as the annual Flounder Pounder charity fishing tournament drew to a close in late October. Since the early years, parents Loren and Elana Clayman have been fostering a love for fishing with their boys. As their sons have grown from boys to men, the love for fishing has also taken on a whole new meaning, as they now combine fishing with charitable contributions.

This year’s Flounder Pounder fishing tournament was no exception and it afforded the family another chance to support others, those struggling with autism and related spectrum disorders. The 8th Annual Jacksonville Flounder Pounder, held Oct. 21 at Beach Marine drew 154 boats, nearly twice the number which competed in the inaugural fishing tournament in 2010, which raised \$10,000. The tournament raised \$67,000 – bringing the eight-year total to more than \$250,000 – to benefit the Jacksonville School for Autism.

The charity fishing tournament was started by Chip and Teresa Davis and Troy Hutto in September 2010. But it’s more than a fishing tournament – it’s an opportunity for families to have a good time and make memories, while supporting a great cause.



Bob Thomason, Loren Clayman, Bobby Clayman with Jake, Teddy Clayman, John Coughlin, Mark Clayman

This year, Dr. Clayman’s Plastic Surgery Center & Miracle Spa sponsored a team in support of JSA; Drs. Loren and Mark Clayman of the Riverside-based practice took time away from the operating room to enjoy the weigh-in with family and friends.

The surgical practice has been engaged in therapies and work to enhance the quality of life for autistic children for years, a passionate pursuit of Dr. Loren Clayman. “We’ve always been supportive of families with autistic children, doing our best to help them navigate the complex medical needs they may face,” said Dr. Clayman. “We’re glad we could participate alongside other selfless families that get out and support the tournament.”

Just as Dr. Clayman’s Plastic Surgery Center & Miracle Spa crafts each component of a procedure to meet the unique and personal goal of each patient, the Jacksonville School for Autism integrates a variety of curriculum and methodologies to meet each child’s individualized educational goals.

“We align our practice with similar missions, to better the life of those that we’re entrusted to care for,” said Dr. Mark Clayman. “That’s why we align with the Flounder Pounder, marrying our love for fishing with the compassionate care for those with autism.”



Teddy, Loren, Mark and Bobby Clayman

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North Florida Land Trust closes on Bogey Creek Preserve



Jim McCarthy, Bogey Creek property owners Tom Spencer and Rob Spencer, Marc Hudson

After 11 years, North Florida Land Trust finally closed on the purchase of the Bogey Creek Preserve Oct. 5, having reached the \$1.2 million needed to purchase the 63-acre property and reach the \$105,000 needed to fund the ancillary costs.

The land conservation organization will now begin work to make improvements to the land to create a public park, thanks to its many generous donors.

"This project has been a long time coming for us and we are glad the papers are now signed and we have taken ownership of this wonderful piece of land," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "We have a number of people to thank for this, including the Delores Barr Weaver Fund,

the River Branch Foundation, two anonymous donors and a number of individuals and families who stepped forward to make this acquisition a reality."

NFLT started the process to raise the funds to acquire the land back in 2006 after they purchased about seven acres from the Spencer family. The original seven acres was adjacent to this property and was also owned by the Spencer family. Sue Spencer, the family's matriarch, wanted her family property to be preserved forever. Spencer passed away earlier this year and McCarthy said he is very pleased they could fulfill her wishes.

The Bogey Creek Preserve will protect nearly one mile of critical marsh front on

Clapboard and Bogey Creeks. It neighbors Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park and the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. The property is a matrix of maritime hammock forest, seep-fed cypress swamps and mixed pine-oak forest.

McCarthy said the improvements to create the public park are expected to take approximately a year. Once completed, Bogey Creek Preserve will have public walking trails, a picnic area, a kayak launch and will include signs throughout the property to explain all the ecosystems and unique parts of the property. There will also be parking for the preserve on Cedar Point Rd.



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- 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Cathedral Family Service
- 10 a.m. Church on the Mat, Cummings Chapel
A yoga class with the reading of Scripture. Bring your yoga mat!
- 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Cathedral Traditional Service with the Cathedral Choir
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10:30 a.m. Give Thanks to the Lord
Thanksgiving Morning

ST. ANDREW'S EVENSONG, NOV. 26
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5 p.m. Welcome the advent season with a delightful choral service that begins in darkness and ends in light in anticipation of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Tebow biography an Avondale experience

Fairfax resident, attorney and author Hansen Alexander published a new biography about Tim Tebow which draws heavily on locations familiar to Avondale and Ortega residents.

The first third of "How the Lions Ate Tim Tebow," is set in Jacksonville, beginning with five characters discussing



Hansen Alexander

Tebow's life and career at the American Café at The Landing, although unnamed in the book.

Alexander noted Tebow began his football career playing Pop Warner football in Lakeshore, "so it only made sense to direct the dialogue throughout Avondale."

Tebow's experience playing Pop Warner football was critical to his development as a person and as a football player, said Alexander. "The thesis is that the former Florida Gators star was blackballed from the National Football League for his unorthodox throwing motion and his strong Christian beliefs. Tebow was told for the first time at Lakeshore what he would be told at every level of football the rest of his career - he could not play quarterback."

Alexander also shares that Tebow suffered from Meniere's disease, an inner ear disorder resulting in vertigo. "It became so bad in Pop Warner he suffered nausea and debilitating headaches and he nearly quit playing football. The debilitating symptoms ended after he prayed for their abolition," said Alexander, who also noted Tebow is dyslexic.

In the biography, Alexander also gives a nod to another Jacksonville NFL player, Harmon Wages, the former Robert E. Lee High School running back who played for the University of Florida and the Atlanta Falcons.

Alexander's newest book was published in August and is available through Amazon.



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David Gray's Design Studio Can Transform Your Kitchen for Family Gatherings

It's the time of year where families break out the decorations in the attic and come together with family and friends to celebrate. As you get ready for the holidays and the guests that go with it, you'll likely notice things you wish were more party-friendly. Some you can adjust right away yourself, while others you can plan to change later with the help of a professional.

Consider These Kitchen Improvements

1. Provide friendly seating arrangements. Rearranging furniture to better accommodate parties is something you can easily do yourself. You may want to remove stools from in front of a bar to create a make-shift buffet or conversely, add stools to a kitchen island to create a more intimate space to sit and talk. Make sure any place with seating has access to tables or counters so guests have some place to set down drinks or food.

2. Include lighting options. Installing dimmer lights is a low-cost way to alter the atmosphere in your home depending on the occasion. Whether you're hosting a lunch gathering or a late-night party, you can create the perfect mood. You can also add to the ambiance with candles, but avoid scented ones in the kitchen and dining areas as they can interfere with the taste of food.

3. Create special occasion storage. Designate a hosting area which will store everything you need for when you have guests over. Keep your platters, serving utensils and any décor you use regularly in one place for easy access. This can be a piece of furniture like a hutch, or if you

decide to renovate, you can create a permanent butler's pantry.

4. Add more counter space. This is one of those changes you'll want to note now and change later with professional help. There are many moving parts when hosting a party, from prep to cooking to setting out food for guests. Additional counter space offers more options so you can easily separate your prep from your edibles. Consider installing pull-out counters, adding an island or adding a second tier to an existing island.

5. Open the floor plan. Be on the lookout for where guests get bottlenecked. A designer or contractor can work with you to reconfigure your kitchen so that you have more open space. This may mean taking down a wall between the kitchen and another room to create better traffic patterns. If you really want to expand but don't have the room, consider an extension to add more square footage.

Plan Now for Your Next Gathering

Some of the improvements listed here you can implement before your next family gathering. For those that require a professional touch, call Design Studio, making sure to allow for enough time to make your desired changes. Depending on the scale of your project, it typically takes three to six months from the time of your first consultation to completion of your remodel.

Start by gathering a detailed list of anything that doesn't work well in your kitchen. This can be as small as eliminating a design element you dislike or as extensive as changing the room's entire configuration.



Design Studio at David Gray can make your kitchen more friendly for family get-togethers.

Even if your dream kitchen seems daunting, the Design Studio team provides turnkey solutions so that after you've expressed your desires, then you can just look forward to the next family gathering in your newly designed kitchen, said designer Janet Myers.

"After we are done, our clients often say the only thing they regret is waiting so long to start the process," Myers said. "A renovation can be intimidating, but we're going to review everything with you - traffic patterns, colors, how you use the space - to ensure you have a kitchen that you enjoy using that perfectly suits your needs."

Starting with a home consultation visit, a designer will go over your list of desired changes. An appointment will be scheduled to visit the Design Studio showroom on Powers Avenue, where there's a wide selection of cabinets, countertops, fixtures and flooring.

"Anything you can dream up, we can make reality with a healthy mix of creativity and budget," Myers said. "You can rely on us to make the experience as easy as possible."

So, start the holiday season knowing it could be your last in a less-than-perfect kitchen. When you're ready to make a change, choose a proven company that can give you the kitchen you deserve... 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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Gatsby party illustrates amazing venue at Marina at Ortega Landing

The perfect party includes sunsets, poolside relaxation

At a recent “Dirty Thirty” birthday party, guests were greeted by river views, gentle breezes and an amazing sunset on the Ortega River as they danced the night away to live music and catered cuisine.

The party was held at the Marina at Ortega Landing, a resort-style venue that is nestled along the Ortega River near the historic neighborhoods of Avondale and Ortega Forest. The unique Ski Lodge clubhouse setting includes high ceilings with exposed beams, stone fireplace, large windows with spectacular water views, wrap-around deck, private restrooms and galley kitchen – perfect for private social gatherings.

“This is one of the nicest and warmest private party venues in Jacksonville. The views are incredible, the décor is wonderful, and it just feels like we are entertaining friends in our own private Lodge



on the river,” said Rose Caballes, a recent party planner.

The venue hosts special events for groups of 60 or less, and is an ideal setting for bridal and baby showers, birthday parties, and special occasions. Considered to be the premier yachting experience in Jacksonville, the marina’s boating guests enjoy amenities second to none.

A limited number of event dates are available for area residents, so if you are planning an event please contact the marina office to arrange a tour of the clubhouse – you won’t be disappointed.



Located at 4234 Lakeside Drive on the Ortega River.
Call Melissa Borsodi at (904) 387-5538 or email mborsodi@IGYMarinas.com for a tour.

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Cowford Chophouse opens downtown, restaurant group bullish on undertaking



Milan Malinovic, Design Cooperative principal, Aundra Wallace, Downtown Investment Authority CEO, Alexandria Klempf, Director of Development, Forking Amazing Restaurants, Tracy Klempf, and Jacques Klempf, co-owner and principal, Forking Amazing Restaurants

Once a building that was home to three banks (First National Bank, Guaranty Trust and Savings Bank, and Brotherhood State Bank), after the start of the Great Depression the Bostwick Building was converted to office space and from mid-1940s to 1960 the home of Henry J. Klutho’s architectural office. It then sat vacant for five decades, almost as long as it was previously occupied.

In 2014, Jacques Klempf bought the historic landmark at auction and began the painstaking process of returning the building to its former glory with new life as a 302-seat restaurant with rooftop dining. Plans were originally optimistic for a summer 2016 opening, however, a sinking foundation and rotting walls, likely due to water intrusion, required significant stabilization before restoration could begin.

During construction, crew found about 200 unopened lockboxes in two vaults that had been closed since 1926, said Klempf, who noted there were about 30 or 40 lockboxes that contained artifacts, all of which were donated to the Museum of Science and History.

Two and a half years, Klemp opened the Cowford Chophouse with interior finishes that complement the existing architecture.

“Come take a look at a historic building that was restored on the outside to the way it was rebuilt to 1902, then look at the modern finishes we put in,” said Klempf during a media tour Oct. 20. “It’s a great dining spot. I think the building will be here for a long, long time based on what we did to the building.”



Jacques Klempf, co-founder and partner of the Forking Amazing Restaurant Group describes the native Florida Cracker Cattle, those depicted by local artist Jim Draper on the walls of the upstairs dining room, not far from where they were forded across the St. Johns River.



The ceiling design on the second floor was inspired by the original tin coffers found in ruins during construction.



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MARKET TALK FROM ANNE AND JESSE RAIN

These are not easy times for Realtors no matter what you see on HG-TV. We have too many buyers and not enough houses. We’re writing offers as fast as we can but our buyers end up putting in several offers before they get one accepted. Sellers are smiling all the way to the bank. Been here before...2005 all over again maybe? Low supply and high demand is pumping up our values probably higher than they should be. Dare I say that? **SELL NOW!**

Builders are building houses like there is no tomorrow. Northside, Southside, Westside, Eastside, St. Johns and Nassau Counties - no matter where, they are building. I was driving around today trying to absorb all the new

construction popping up everywhere in Mandarin. Mandarin may be the next great choice with tons of revitalization happening and still an easy commute staying off the highways.

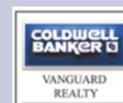
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Lamping honored at annual Miracles Gala for JDRF

With a nod to the Jaguars' signature teal, "Into the Blue," the 17th annual Miracles Gala to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) was held Oct. 14 at the Sawgrass Marriott.

Mark Lamping, president of the Jacksonville Jaguars, was presented with the JDRF Living and Giving Award by the JDRF North Florida Chapter for his and the Jaguars unwavering passion and commitment to philanthropic efforts in the Jacksonville community, including supporting JDRF's mission to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent and treat type 1 diabetes (T1D) and its complications.

More than 400 guests attended the black-tie event, presented by Johnson & Johnson Vision



Co-Chair Kasey Repass with Chelley Schaper

Care, Inc. and the Jacksonville Jaguars, co-chaired by Kasey Repass and Katie Bush.

Patty Crosby served as master of ceremonies for the live auction, which included a TODAY Show behind the scenes tour, a one-week stay in the Exclusive Wolf Laurel Club north of Asheville, and a three-night guided fishing trip to the Blackfly Lodge in Abacos, Bahamas.



Max Chmura and Janie Woodward



Dr. Vernon Jones and his wife, Joy, with Abe Catalan and Amy LaVé



Greg Batchelder with Amy Powell



Ben and Joy Cook



JDRF Board President Scott Heller with his wife Celeste, Misti DiGiovanni and Hayden Heller



Allison and Steve Ziff with Honoree Mark Lamping and Cheryl Lamping



Janie Kratzert with Missy Vanover, Tara Haley, Kelley Bost and Susan Knapp



Brian and Ann Jackson



Matt Schellenberg with Ceil Pillsbury, Dr. Kris Choi, Soo Lim and Darnell Smith

'Hope from the Heart' given to homeless

With a live auction goal of raising \$1,000 for each of the 20 years serving the homeless in the Beaches communities and providing them with an avenue to self-sufficiency, Mission House celebrated the anniversary milestone with its annual Compassion by the Sea gala Oct. 5 at Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant.

The funds raised from the live auction will purchase a new stove for Mission House and add an equal amount to the Jim Shield Memorial Endowment Fund, while additional monies raised will continue to support the overarching mission. Over 270 attended the gala chaired by Terry Wilson and Dina DeMarco, raising nearly \$70,000.



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Tony and Diane Lott



Josh Guess with his wife, Co-Chair Meredith Guess, Sheila and Claude Collier



Steve Bacalis with Biggs and Jerry Knauer



Jen Ford with Congressman John Rutherford and Corkie Gooden



Jackie and Pat Rierson

Families find hope, help at Red Shield Lodge

The Salvation Army of North Florida celebrated its fourth annual Red Shield Ball at the Adam W. Herbert University Center at UNF, Oct. 14, with live music, dancing, an elegant seated dinner, and live and silent auctions. This year's honorary chairs for the sold-out gala, which raised over \$200,000, were Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock.

The annual event helps to grow programs and heighten awareness related to services offered at the area's Red Shield Lodge, a shelter for women and families. One of the area's longest serving nonprofits, the Salvation Army serves on average 150 families each year and, in any given year, more than 400 children are typically served.

MDA celebrates year of progress, promise at Toast to Life

The annual MDA Toast to Life Gala, co-chaired by Elaine Ashourian and Randall Whitfield of Ash Properties, featured food, fun and music by Chris Thomas Band – an evening guaranteed to raise funds to send children with Muscular Dystrophy (MD) to summer camp, the highlight of their summer.

Held at the Sawgrass Marriott Oct. 6, guests bid on several fabulous trips in the live auction, including a six-day/five-night stay at a private villa in Costa Rica, and a seven-day/six-night African photo safari at Zulu Nayala Private Game Reserve.



Kit and Corky Thomas with Susan and Jack Selevan



Brendan and Erin Cumiskey with Raja and Laura Saoud, Sean and Emily Magee



Brent and Nancy Zimmerman with Josh Jolly and Jen Schultz



The Barkoskie girls, Caroline and Olivia next to their brother Will, mother Blake, with Reggie Thompson and Gauri and Viraj Konde



Event Co-Chair Randall Whitfield with his wife, Karen

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The impact of Hurricane Maria, the Pajcics kicked in another \$50,000 to help those in Puerto Rico who were devastated by the storm.

The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and the Pajcic Family Foundation teamed up with the Jacksonville Jaguars to offer relief to those suffering from the recent hurricanes. The original donation was going to be \$100,000 to the Jaguars Foundation for Hurricane Irma victims and other community projects. With the devastating

The Pajcic Firm was honored at a recent Equal Justice Awards Celebration as it was announced that a total of \$100,000 was raised through the Pajcic Yard Golf tournament and the firm's matching donations.

The money goes to Jacksonville Area Legal Aid and will be used to fund JALA's litigation and advocacy director.



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Civic Orchestra opens second season at St. John's Cathedral

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

When pipe organ soloist Timothy Tuller played his opening chords from Camille Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 in C Minor at the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville's season opening performance, goosebumps rose. Even the orchestra members who had not done a full rehearsal with the pipe organ were thrilled.

"This is an extremely difficult piece. I was amazed and awed and so proud of the musicians. We have grown so much," said Nadine Terk, president of the Board of Directors and violinist. "This was my favorite piece to play; I just felt like it was raining music."

In its second year, the 60-piece nonprofit orchestra consists solely of volunteer musicians who give their time to rehearse and perform classical concerts for free throughout the community.

In addition to the Saint-Saëns piece, the orchestra performed an exciting Carmen Suite No. 1 by Georges Bizet to a packed house at St. John's Cathedral on October 5.

The focus of the orchestra is to collaborate with musicians, dancers and visual artists to engage the community in the



Members of the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville at the season opening performance Oct. 5. (Photo by Dr. Mitchell Terk)

creative process. Melinda Gopp, current artist-in-residence, translates musical selections onto canvas to show the interconnectedness of music and art. Her work was on display at the champagne reception following the performance.

In August the orchestra was presented with a prestigious Arts Alive grant of \$10,000. Terk said the grant will help with their spring concert at the Terry Auditorium, which highlights cultural diversity, aid

their artist-in-residence program, and promote an educational element by allowing presentations in schools.

Director Marguerite Richardson, an Australian native and former full-time violinist with Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, is "an incredible conductor," said Terk. "She is very demanding, but extremely witty, funny and fun. As an educator she helps us with the process, as well as focusing on the end result. The selections she makes are challenging and designed to push us to the next level. She understands that this is a volunteer group with limited time but she fosters that passion in us!"

Orchestra members Molly Sweet of Riverside, Carolyn Coppedge and William Roberts agree that Richardson's dynamic style is engaging.

"Her conducting style works well to translate and interpret the music to the musicians," said Roberts, a clarinetist.

Richardson is currently associate professor of strings at Jacksonville University, where she teaches violin and viola studies and is conductor of the JU orchestra. Several of her JU students play in the Civic Orchestra, but the musicians come from all areas of the community and from a variety of professions.

Playing with the orchestra helps keep up their skills. "It is my way of self-care," said Coppedge.

The second season of Civic Orchestra began with energetic and masterful direction by Richardson, dynamic music, and enthusiasm and dedication from the musicians. The orchestra will next perform at Jacksonville Jewish Center on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.



Peggy Holt, Rick Beaver and Ginger Harris supported the Civic Orchestra Oct. 19 at "An Orchestration of Food, Wine and Music" benefit at Riverside Liquors.

Ortega church prepares 10,000 meals at outreach event

Members of Ortega United Methodist Church gathered in October to celebrate World Communion Sunday in one hour of worship and two hours of community outreach by preparing 10,000 meal packages for Rise Against Hunger.

More than 100 volunteers participated in the exciting hands-on outreach event, hosted in the Ortega Life Center in celebration of its second anniversary of outreach to the community.

Bulk supplies delivered to the church were re-assembled into meal packages containing

a soy-staple, rice, seasonings and vitamin supplements that feed three to five people.

Meal packets are assembled, sealed, boxed, and placed on pallets for shipping to Rise Against Hunger warehouses, where they await cargo planes holding 200,000 meals, usually bound for the Caribbean. Rise Against Hunger has recently responded to immediate needs in the United States and the Caribbean in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

More than 100 volunteers packed 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger.





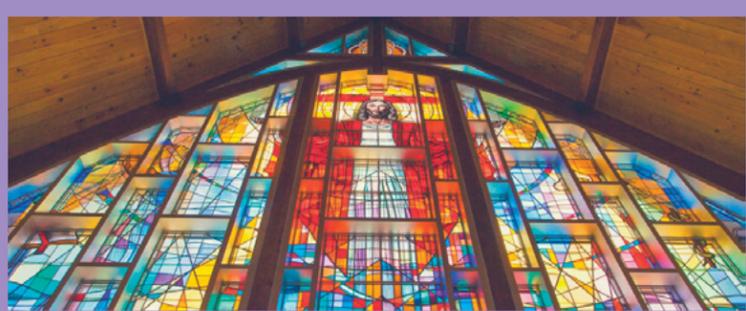
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Cummer brings together French history, art and fashion through jewelry exhibit

Members of the exclusive Ponce de Leon Society for The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens gathered for the VIP opening of the museum's newest exhibit, *Bijoux Parisiens: French Jewelry from the Petit Palais, City of Paris Fine Art Museum*, on Oct. 11.

While guests strolled among the exhibit to strains of live music, and enjoyed cocktails and small bites, Chief Curator and Acting Director Holly Keris spoke about the progress in the gardens ruined by Hurricane Irma Sept. 11.

Bijoux Parisiens displays dazzling works from the Paris jewelry houses of Boucheron, Cartier, Chaumet, Lalique and Van Cleef & Arpels to tell the story of French jewelry from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The exhibit features 50 works of jewelry and over 150 drawings, fashion prints, paintings and photographs, on display through Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018.



Jackie Cornelius and Patti Carson



Amy and Rick Morales, Judy D'Antignac, Robin Love



Jane and Harold Wahl with Georgia Wahl



Barbara and William Harrell

Poorest of poor in Haiti get help from local groups

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Reaching out to the poor in Haiti has been a special ministry for several local individuals and groups for more than a decade.

In December 2005, after researching organizations having measurable results in aiding the "poorest of the poor in Haiti," Avondale resident Michael Fisher, founding and senior partner with Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball and a longtime Riverside Presbyterian Church (RPC) member, founded a private foundation to support Fonkoze, (pronounced fon-kow-ZAY, which means "shoulder to shoulder"), an organization which provides financial and humanitarian services in Haiti.

Two months later, Fisher's foundation, Haitian Microfinance, Inc., awarded the first grant in February 2006 to establish a village bank in Haiti. Since then, Fisher has been joined by RPC and by Uptown Civitan in supporting Fonkoze.

The Riverside congregation sends delegations to Haiti each February to learn how to microfinance the women's functions.

"Associate Pastor Bill Hoff and Youth Director Breanna Scooter and I took a group of youth to help with three day summer camps," said Rev. Dr. Rebecca Langer, who has made the trip five times. "We're talking about 1,000 children! This year RPC will work to underwrite many of these camp costs."

Riverside resident Laura Crooks, a member of Uptown Civitan, said the women were inspired to support Fonkoze after a talk Fisher gave to the group some years ago.

"We all felt that we lived privileged lives and wanted to give back in some way to help women," said Crooks. "The Fonkoze microfinance program was a perfect fit for our Uptown Sisters for Haiti."

Recently RPC hosted a visit by Steven Werlin, a professor at Shimer College in Chicago and author of "To Fool the Rain: Haiti's Poor and their Pathway to a Better Life," to share his own experiences working in Haiti.

Werlin, the only foreign staff member of 900 Haitian employees, was in Jacksonville

in late September to promote understanding of the Fonkoze program.

"Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere," said Werlin during a presentation Sept. 29 at the University of North Florida. "I was living in Haiti and working with teachers to develop adult literacy programs when one assignment led to another and I got involved with Fonkoze and Chemen Lavi Miyò, which means 'Pathway to a Better Life.'"

The program was created to empower the Haitian women to lift themselves out of poverty following the Fonkoze Staircase Out of Poverty model, which has a 96 percent graduation rate, said Werlin.

"It is all based on the old adage about give a woman a fish and she can feed her kids for a day but teach a woman to fish and she can feed her family," he said.

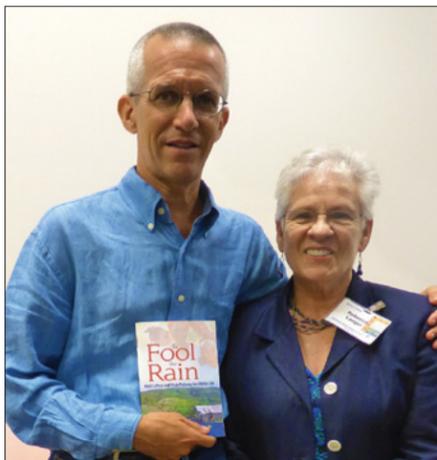
However, as Werlin pointed out, she needs fishing gear, good health, self-confidence, hope and a plan. He explained the "steps" of the staircase to success, which include selecting the poorest of the poor women in a village, training the women in two business, such as raising poultry and growing peppers, investing in the businesses, addressing health care needs, and getting assistance from the village.

To ensure success, the program offers the presence of a coach for 18 months.

"It would be easy to just see how poor these people are," said Werlin. "But in front



Steven Werlin signs a copy of his book for Jenny Parker, who plans to go on a mission trip to Haiti in 2018.



Author Steven Werlin with Rev. Dr. Rebecca Langer

of you is the inventiveness and the power of these people to succeed."

Werlin said the resulting mind-set is not "what Fonkoze did for me, but what I did with help from Fonkoze."

With the help of Fonkoze, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Uptown Civitan Sisters for Haiti, and dedicated people like Werlin, there is a pathway to a better life for the people of Haiti. Check it out at www.fonkoze.org or contact Rebecca Langer at haitijax@gmail.com for info about the RPC mission trip in February 2018.

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Pajcic family, law firm gives to hurricane relief

With the stroke of his marker, Curt Pajcic added half again as much to the initial \$100,000 donation made by the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and the Pajcic Family Foundation to the Jaguars Foundation in support of hurricane relief.

The resulting \$150,000 donation will be evenly split between relief programs for Hurricanes Irma and Maria, as well as support for ongoing Jaguars Foundation community initiatives.

“While we have many collegiate allegiances in our office, we all rally around the Jaguars and support the team’s community improvement efforts throughout the year,” said Pajcic, an Avondale resident. “Following the devastation in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, now seemed like the right time to continue the proud tradition of our founders Gary and Steve Pajcic in giving back to a community that has afforded us so many opportunities.”

“The Pajcic Firm has a long history of supporting those in need in Northeast Florida and beyond,” said Jaguars President Mark Lamping at the Oct. 3 event at EverBank Field. “We’re honored not only by their investment in the good work of the Jaguars Foundation, but in their commitment to join so many local companies in rebuilding Jacksonville as one following Hurricane Irma.”

The Jaguars Foundation supports a wide range of local non-profit programs including youth fitness, education, military and veterans and women’s health and wellness. Jaguars Owner Shad Khan and the Jaguars Foundation recently joined with other local companies to donate more than \$2.8 million to Florida’s First Coast Relief Fund.



Curt Pajcic increases a donation for hurricane relief on the spot at the media conference Oct. 3.

“We all rally around the Jaguars and support the team’s community improvement efforts throughout the year.”

— Curt Pajcic, Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic



Helen Pajcic Nicholson, president of the Pajcic Family Foundation, with her cousins Curry, Curt, and Seth Pajcic and her brother, Michael Pajcic



Conference exhibitor donates like-new monitor to Sanctuary on 8th

Janet Reagor, associate director for Sanctuary on 8th Street, accepts the donation of a barely used 50-inch LCD television monitor from Kevin Jones, marketing director for Canadian company PCI Geomatics. Jones was in town for the URISA GIS PRO Conference Oct. 23-26 and the geo-imaging software company decided to donate the new monitor used at their exhibit.

“What a wonderful surprise to receive a television from our new friends at the GIS-Pro 2017 Conference. In appreciation for the gift, we are planning a module on mapping for our after-school program students,” Reagor said.

‘Learn to Read’ changes lives, improves lifelong achievements

Guests dressed in cocktail best or as their favorite book character came together downtown Oct. 7 at the Jacksonville Public Library in the Betsy Lovett Courtyard and atrium to support and benefit Learn to Read at the annual Night at the Library gala.

Honorary Chair Dr. Margo Martin and Event Chair Natalie Stockton, along with Master of Ceremonies Dr. Julius Demps, invited attendees to bid for items in the silent auction, while enjoying delectable food, drinks, music and entertainment by singer, actor and model Akia Uwanda.

The programs at Learn to Read are changing the lives of nearly 500 adults a year in Jacksonville, enabling them to earn their GED, fill out job applications, or help their children with homework.



Honorary Chair Dr. Margo Martin with entertainer Akia Uwanda



Sue Barry as “Party Adult,” Elizabeth Peters as “Clara” and Dr. George Trotter as “Drosselmeyer” were on hand to deliver support for Learn to Read Jacksonville by way of The Community Nutcracker.



Barbara Gubbin with Jacksonville Public Library Deputy Director Mark Merritt



Betsy Lovett with Ward Lariscy

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Paws for Giving celebrates pet therapy

The Paws for Giving Party, sponsored by Therapy Animal Coalition, was held Oct. 6 at the Jesse Ball duPont Center downtown. Gypsy, a therapy mini-horse who volunteers at Nemours Children's Health System, made an appearance to the delight of guests.

The event featured cocktails and kibble appetizers, a welcome speech by the charity's president, Kristi Leonard, an appearance by David Frei, longtime host of the Westminster Kennel Club and author of "Angel on a Leash," as well as a video about area therapy animal programs.

Frei was the keynote speaker at the Therapy Animal Expo on Oct. 7.

(Photos by Maggie FitzRoy)



David Frei and Jennifer Pfeiffer with her mini horse, Gypsy, a therapy animal that volunteers at Nemours



Jennifer Fulton-Dunlavy and Jack Dunlavy



Alisa Abbott, Bright Wallace and Alicia Strayer



Terri McQuiddy, Barbara Schaefer, Margie Yarborough and Mark Umphress

Jax Dog Café takes pet adoptions on the road



Greg Bowen, Mary Dewees, Alan Livensperger, Felicia Bowen, Corinne Grant and Heather Wilson

Watson Realty Corp. Realtor Corinne Grant of Avondale commits 10 percent of her real estate commissions to the charity of her client's choice. To date, Grant has already donated more than \$800 to the Jacksonville Dog Café, but she knew there was more she could do.

Carolyn Cantrell Snowden, founder of Jax Dog Café, now has two mobile "cafés," one for dogs and one for cats, so Grant approached her company's managing broker, Lorri Reynolds, with the idea to host a pet adoption event at the realty firm's Avondale/Ortega office on San Juan Avenue.

Reynolds readily agreed and the two coordinated a "Pumpkins & Paws" event with live music, pumpkin carving and costume contests, vendors, food and, of course, adoptable dogs and cats. The Oct. 21 event was well-attended, but no reports yet of successful adoptions.



Corinne Grant, Lorri Reynolds and Carolyn Snowden with an adoption candidate at the Jax Dog Café adoption event hosted by Watson Realty

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Foundation gives back to its 'Friends'

More than 225 women attended an appreciation luncheon for the Friends of the Foundation, hosted by St. Vincent's Foundation, Oct. 18 at the Timuquana Country Club.

Mary Cook and Maxine Kroll co-chaired the event, and guest speaker was Dr. Steve Dorman, an allergy specialist, and San Marco resident.

"For more than 25 years, this has been one of the Foundation's many gifts back to the community," said Jane Lanier, CFRE, president and system chief development officer, St. Vincent's Foundation. "There were many longtime Friends there, a lot of generational philanthropy at the event," she said.

Lanier noted generations of giving to St. Vincent's Foundation is important in the passing of the torch. "How you support the good in this community is so important to pass on," she said.

(Photos by Aaron Mervin, Headshots Studios)



Cindy Manouilidis, Maxine Kroll, Ellen Diamond, Jan Baugh



Beth Kane, Sarah Helms, Lindsay Helms, Maureen Andrews, Vanessa Andrews, Jan Andrews



Jessica Waugaman, Jane Lanier, Aly Leeper



Mary Baker, Allison Stanley, Meg Grimes



Ashley Szczukowski and Carmen Godwin



Julie Martin, Holly Hayes, Erica Hayman, Shannon Connell, Erica D'Arienzo, Cynthia Salameh, Andrea Frick

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Lee Haramis with Heather Moseley, Tom and Perrin Murray

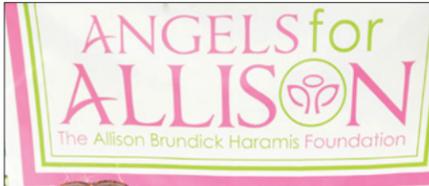
Annual Festival of Flight honors memory of children

Angels for Allison's 7th Annual Festival of Flight soared at Riverside Arts Market Oct. 21, after having been rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma a month earlier.

The festival benefits the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, which provides assistance with funeral grants to families struggling with the loss of a child.

The event included a raffle with great items including a Disney package, a Sea World package, an Aquatica package, as well as a beach package and a beauty package, a paddle board package and a \$500 Townie bicycle.

The foundation began in 2010 and raises funds through its community-based art



Ashley Helmick with Angels for Allison Executive Director, Sissy Horn

program, Angels for Allison, which encourages individuals and groups to paint metal angels, sold throughout the year. (Photos courtesy of Sophia Williams)



Laura and Michael Magevney



Paula Smith out shopping the booth at RAM, picking out her favorite angel gifts.

Friday Musicale honors past presidents at 128th season opener



The ribbon is cut to commemorate the opening of the 128th season for Friday Musicale.

It was fitting, indeed, that the 128th season opening concert at Friday Musicale, starring Elena Doubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky of the EStralla Piano Duo, was dedicated to the original Ladies of Friday Musicale.

Friday Musicale began in 1890 in the living room of Claudia L'Engle. Traditionally the president of the non-profit has been a woman.

Past presidents still in the area were invited to celebrate the new season at a pre-concert reception and commemorative ceremony. Henson Markham, the only past male president, was in attendance, as was Dr. Charles Moreland, representing the Office of the Mayor. Moreland noted he had helped fight the fire in 1995 which partially destroyed the original auditorium.



Past President Henson Markham with Executive Director Naomi Sheridan



Ruth Conley, Mike McDowell and Doris Boone with (back row) Mae Beattie, Peggy Power and Rosa B. Smith.

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Avondale 5K Classic draws a crowd, delivers support for Sanctuary on 8th

The annual Avondale 5K Classic, presented since 2006 by The Shoppes of Avondale Merchants Association to benefit The Sanctuary on 8th Street, took a two-week delay after Hurricane Irma left a mess of downed trees and other debris along the course, which traditionally winds through the streets of Avondale.

The Oct. 7 race was attended by well over a thousand runners, watchers and supporters, with 342 runners participating in the 5K. Lydia McRae, of San Marco, finished first in the Women's category with a time of 18:24, followed by Michelle Krueger of Avondale (19:31) and Barbara Beard, also of San Marco (21:50). In the Men's category, the winner was San Marco resident Christopher McCaffrey (16:45). Coming in second was Ryan Obernier, also of San Marco, with a finish time of 16:54, and third went to Murphy Sheets (17:36).

After the run, the block party included beer supplied by Aardwolf Brewery and bagels from Bagel Love, dispensed by the staff at Open Road Bicycles.

Sanctuary on 8th Street netted \$25,000 from the event. "We are so grateful for the wonderful turnout given the date change due to Hurricane Irma," said Janet Reagor, associate director.



Holt Tucker and Josh Edwards of Open Road Bicycles offered bagels and brews to racers in the Avondale 5K Classic.



Aidan and Curt Pajcic were out for the Avondale 5K Classic, and Aidan finished with a medal in the 1 Mile Fun Run.



Lainey and Katie Sharkey



Barney and Leigh Smith with Lynn Murphy and the Smiths' dog, Lily.



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Gabriel House guests enjoy meals thanks to church group

When Norville Realty Vice President Cathleen Lee isn't hard at work at her Ortega office, she's flipping through recipe books looking for gourmet meals for patients and caregivers at Gabriel House of Care.

Lee and her husband, David, cook the healthy meals in their Ponte Vedra church's commercial kitchen, and take them to Gabriel House, where members of the men's Bible study group and their wives help serve dinner, then eat and chat with the 60 or so guests.

Every month the group donates about \$200 out of their own pockets to buy the food for a dinner at Gabriel House, according to Lee.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be able to do, and although it's exhausting, we always get more out of it than we put in!" she said.

Gabriel House was built on the Mayo Clinic campus by the Bacardi family, of rum fame, and dedicated for the



Cathleen and David Lee make and serve dinner monthly at Gabriel House.

17-year-old boy whose lungs were transplanted nearly 10 years ago to Jorge Bacardi, who suffered from a congenital disease called primary ciliary dyskinesia.

The guest house has 29 bedrooms with private bathrooms, a great room, two game rooms, library, kitchen and large dining room, fitness and laundry rooms, among the many amenities offered to organ transplant and oncology patients and their caregivers.

"It is a beautiful, healing place," Lee said.

Halloween benefit 'Lucky 13' for Community PedsCare

Thirteen may be an unlucky number for some, but for Community PedsCare® the 13th annual Halloween Doors & More was a blessing for children with serious illnesses or life-threatening conditions. During the first 12 years, the benefit has raised more than \$4.2 million and funds nearly one-third of the nonprofit's budget.

The family-friendly event kicked off Oct. 20 with the Monster Mash Dash 5K, then the Jacksonville Fairgrounds was the place Oct. 21 when superpowers were unleashed from behind 14-foot-tall fantasy doors where Super Heroes, games and activities awaited children and their families.

"Five words sum it up," said Laurie DuBow, whose DuBow Family Foundation sponsored the Trick-or-Treat Theatre. "It's all about the kids."



Kevin and Beth Rasch with their children (l to r) Ian, Clara, Leo and Tessa



Trachele and Brian Artmann with daughters (l to r) Emma Jo, Madison and McKenzie



April and Max Meadows with Wendy Sullivan

Pine Castle honors longtime CEO upon retirement

After serving Pine Castle for 29 years, Jon May retired Nov. 3 from the nonprofit which serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Upon hearing of his retirement, May's supporters had no loss for words when asked to describe their experiences with him over nearly three decades.

"Mr. May has been a tremendous source of strength, wisdom and kindness to all of us over the years. Mr. May always makes time for everyone and I personally will miss our conversations. He will be greatly missed by everyone," said Terry Garcia-Ginder, a 35-year Pine Castle employee.

"Mr. May has been a good friend of mine and I have known him a long time," said Chip Hays, a program participant at Pine Castle. "I like talking to him a lot."

Since joining Pine Castle as CEO, May has grown the agency from a \$1.5 million budget with 65 staff in 1988, quadrupling the budget to \$6 million and nearly doubling the staff to 125 in 2016.

"In 2007 he conceived and directed the construction of the Borowy Life Enrichment Center, a 17,000-square-foot multipurpose building which is the focal point of the campus housing a health clinic, numerous programs, and an indoor sports and recreation area," said Jim Henry, a volunteer, board member, and two-time board chair. "Jon's contributions to Pine Castle and our community are significant, meaningful and long lasting, which have impacted people with disabilities both at Pine Castle and across the state."



Jon May

May gives a lot of credit to his staff for the success of the organization.

"I have, over the years, been fortunate to attract and retain the most dedicated, talented and creative staff who have worked daily to make the most positive impact on the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental differences," he said.

May leaves his successor, Lori Ann Whittington, with the wish that Pine Castle remains relevant in meeting the changing needs of adults with intellectual and developmental differences.

"That means staying true to our Mission of enabling our clients to have opportunities to learn, work and be connected to a meaningful life in our community," he said.

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New church in Ortega offers grace, mercy and comfort

Resurrection Anglican Church builds relationships, serves community

Just as Goldilocks tested to find the best fit in chairs and beds, seekers look for a church home that best fits their needs. And, just as one size really doesn't fit all, "faith families" differ in many ways.

While some who attend worship prefer a larger faith community where they can blend in, others like the intimacy of a smaller congregation where every member makes a difference.

At Resurrection Anglican Church in Ortega, Rev. Joe Porfidio sees his young church as a place where families can worship together, and a place where people can feel safe to ask questions about God, their faith, and yes, their doubts.

"I have a heart to see people discover the love of God, to discover his goodness, the hope and wholeness that Jesus Christ offers to people," said Porfidio, an ordained Anglican priest.

"Our messages are Biblical. The grace and mercy Jesus offers, we all need it. So many people struggle with stress and anxiety and pressures from life, and I want to share with them Jesus' words of comfort and hope: 'I have come that they might have life, and have it abundantly.'"

Porfidio and a group of about 30 to 40 people have recently "planted" a church in Ortega within another church. Trying to



"What we're doing as a church is about the Lord," said Porfidio. "It's about what God is doing in a little church and what He's doing through them."

find a location that fit their needs and their budget, the group found a home at Ortega Presbyterian Church at 4406 Longfellow St.

"Most of our congregation comes from the Riverside to Fleming Island area so it made sense to plant a church where most of the congregation lives, shops and knows

their neighbors," said Porfidio, who has been in the ministry for 25 years. "We are still learning how to best serve the community around us."

Although the congregation is small right now, Porfidio said they can offer anything a ministry staff provides. "We have a

commitment to our community and to world missions," he said. "Our vision is to be people who love God, who love other people, who win disciples. As we grow, as people discover our church, we want them to discover God."

Porfidio describes Resurrection Anglican as a church where the rich Christian heritage of worship, Scripture and Sacraments converge in worship and community life. The worship style is modern; Porfidio doesn't wear the traditional vestments and said the focus is the Sacrament of Holy Communion, offered every Sunday at 9 a.m.

There are several other opportunities for members to fellowship, said Porfidio. Wednesday evenings begin at 6 p.m. with a meal, then a Bible study.

On Saturday mornings, a Men's Breakfast and Bible study is held at 8 a.m. "You wouldn't believe the gourmet breakfasts they serve," said Porfidio. When called upon, the men's group ends the morning with service, helping neighbors with yard work, repairs or moving furniture.

He said by serving the community and building relationships, the church will grow and it will honor Christ.

"What we're doing as a church is about the Lord," said Porfidio. "It's about what God is doing in a little church and what He's doing through them."

You are welcome to visit Resurrection Anglican Church any Sunday at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 6 p.m. or enjoy breakfast with the men's group on Saturdays at 8 a.m. The church is located on the corner of Algonquin Avenue and Longfellow Street. Visit resurrectionjax.com for more information or call (904) 480-7057.



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Memorial park statue honored by WWI Centennial Commission

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The bronze sculpture, “Spiritualized Life,” located in Memorial Park has been officially designated as a “World War I Centennial Memorial” by The United States World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library through 100 Cities/100 Memorials program, according to the Memorial Park Association.

“Spiritualized Life is arguably the most iconic structure in Jacksonville and the Memorial Park Association is honored to have it recognized in the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program,” said Percy Rosenbloom III, president of the Memorial Park Association.

The memorial statue is among the first 50 announced by the commission. The memorials are located in 28 different states and each will receive a \$2,000 matching grant funds towards the restoration and maintenance of these memorials through 100 Cities/100 Memorials program.

The description provided at ww1cc.org/100Memorials reads:

“A sculpture in which six youthful figures appear to be emerging from a swirling globe-shaped mass. The figures are nude and are positioned on a diagonal encircling the globe. Atop the globe is a standing male nude with wings. His proper left arm is stretched out to the side. His proper right arm is stretched up above his head and he holds a branch in his proper right hand. He wears a wreath on his head and is sleek and youthful. The sculpture is in the center of a polygonal concrete basin with spiral ridges converging in the center. Two steps lead from the concrete and brick plaza to the basin.”



Memorial Park as it appeared in the 1930-1940s. (Photo by Virgil Moore; from the archives of Jacksonville Historical Society)

Memorial Park honors the 1,220 Floridians – men and women – who died in World War I, and whose names are inscribed on a parchment sealed in a lead box buried beneath the memorial plaza. The statue was sculpted by the renowned artist Charles Adrian Pillars of St. Augustine in 1923. The park was dedicated Christmas Day, 1924.

Memorial Park Association recently established a recovery fund in response to damage caused by Hurricane Irma. Donations may be made online at memparkjax.org/donate.



Close-up of the wings on Spiritualized Life



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— In Memoriam —

Edgar Rogers “Rog” Ingram

April 26, 1950 to October 13, 2017

Edgar Rogers “Rog” Ingram, 67, leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter and community service.

Ingram, who passed away October 13, 2017, after a long and valiant battle against Alzheimer’s disease, was surrounded by family. He leaves behind his widow, Linda Press Ingram and daughter, Anna Elizabeth Ingram, brother John (Jake) Harland Ingram, Jr., (Pam), sister Florence (Flo) Ingram Hunter (Don), and nieces Ivy Ingram, Allison Press, and Juliana Press, and nephew Ian Ingram (Jeri Lynn).

His wit and his ability to make people laugh were mentioned time and again by those who paid tribute to the Avondale resident, who retired in 2012 from EverBank as Senior Vice President, Residential and Construction Lending Division.

Linda recounted their initial meeting more than 35 years ago. “Before we ever met, we talked on the phone for a long time. He had me laughing so much I couldn’t wait to meet him,” Linda said. “Then he sent me this three-page questionnaire and I sent it back via courier after answering it as wittily as I could.”

Linda said their courtship was a wonderful romance leading to a wonderful marriage. “He was the yang to my yin,” she said. “We were joined at the hip these past six years because of his disease, but he retained his sweet personality and sense of humor throughout.”

In addition to developing Alzheimer’s, Ingram suffered from Type 1 Diabetes and was active in the North Florida/South Georgia American Diabetes Association, chairing its board for many years.

He also served as chairman of the board of trustees for St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School as well as chairman of its Ortega River Run, was an EYC leader and taught



“Rog had a way of making all he encountered feel valued. The longevity of the relationships he built is a testament to his character and his care for others.”

— Beville Anderson

senior high Sunday school, adult Sunday school, and served as a past member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church vestry.

“He was instrumental in supporting the school’s Ortega River Run, and many other

events through the years,” said Susan Kwartler, St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School director of development. “His loyalty, support, and love for our wonderful school was greatly appreciated.”

Laura Magevney, director of Christian formation at the church, said he was known not only for his quick wit and terrific sense of humor, but also for his deep faith which he shared with others at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.

“Over the years Rog ministered to others as a youth group leader, Sunday School teacher for senior high students, a Sunday School leader for adults, and by serving on the vestry. For years we used the former Ingram house as location for Sunday school classes, Vacation Bible School and weekday programs. He will be greatly missed,” she said.

Ingram’s nickname was “Mayor,” according to Beville Anderson, St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School assistant head of school.

“Rog had a way of making all he encountered feel valued. The longevity of the relationships he built is a testament to his character and his care for others. Rog had a great sense of humor, at times self-deprecating and, at others, dry sarcasm that would catch the hearer off guard and would often be followed by, ‘Did he just say...?’ Rog was an important part of the St. Mark’s community. He modeled what it is to be the “hands and feet of Christ” and he will certainly be missed,” said Anderson.

“I can’t imagine having a better brother,” said Jake Ingram. “He kept me in stitches most of the time. It was way too soon – before his time.”

To remember Rog Ingram, the family suggests donations to the North Florida/South Georgia American Diabetes Association, 8384 Baymeadows Rd., Jacksonville, FL, 32256; St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 4129 Oxford Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32210; or the Central/North Florida Alzheimer’s Association, www.alz.org/cnfl.

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Military's 'lost' honored with new chapel, plans for memorial museum

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial will begin taking shape in the coming months with the restoration and dedication of the chapel, a static display of aircraft and a museum.

That's just Phase 1 of the project that Executive Director Mike Cassata hopes will become the national memorial and museum that will tell the story of the more than 83,000 military personnel who are still unaccounted for, going back to World War II.

The organization reached an agreement with the city in August to lease the 26 acres at the former Cecil Field Naval Air Station, which was decommissioned in 1999.

The base chapel was gutted and turned into storage. The building wasn't maintained and needs to be completely renovated, said Sam Houston, who was base commander from 1992 to 1994.

Renovation work, which is expected to cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000, will begin after the first of year. The building will be rededicated and renamed Chapel of the High-Speed Pass during an open house at 11 a.m. Nov. 3. The work should be completed by next summer.

An area will be cleared and readied for a static display of aircraft. The base, established in 1941, was home to the first Atlantic Fleet Squadrons to fly the A-7 Corsair II, the F/A-18 Hornet, the S-3A and S-3B Viking, and the ES-3A Shadow. Cecil Field squadrons were aboard every Atlantic Fleet carrier deployed to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

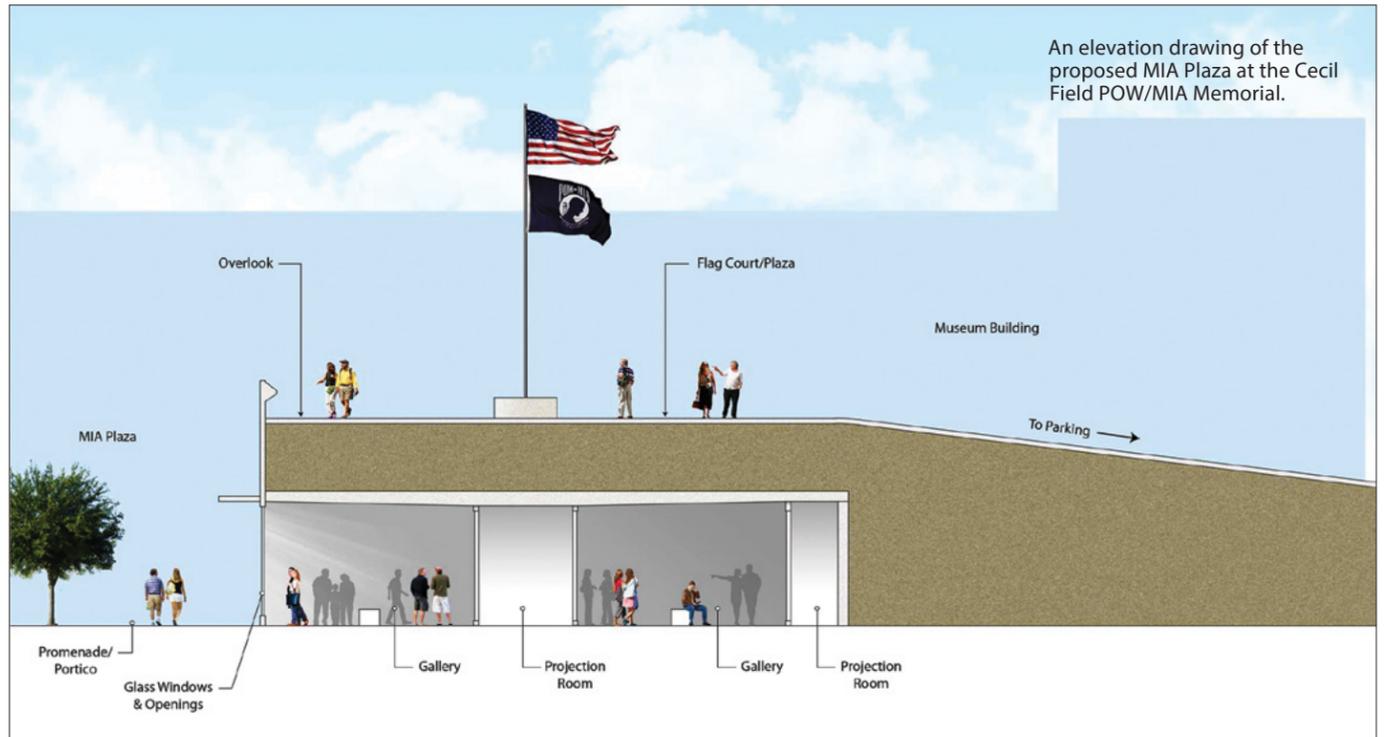
Thirteen pilots from Vietnam and three others from more recent conflicts were listed as POW or MIA and are remembered with a Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees behind the chapel.

Phase 2 is more ambitious. It is expected to cost between \$10 million and \$15 million and take five years to complete.

The names of the 83,000 missing and unaccounted for will be on display in a tunnel. "The ones who are still missing will be projected on the wall. You won't be able to touch and feel them," Cassata said. "But when they are identified they will be etched on the wall. When you can touch them, you know they are home."

Above the tunnel will be an observation deck overlooking the site that will include a reflection pond with a deck in the shape of the bow of the USS Saratoga. A small museum will be in the old base theater.

Nearby will be a field with 83,000 disks. "From 20 feet, when you look down on the field, you'll see the volume. It's an amazing number of people," Cassata said. "It's about



An elevation drawing of the proposed MIA Plaza at the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

the same number of seats there are at the Florida-Georgia game when they open up all the seats at EverBank Field."

The number of missing changes on a weekly basis as more remains are returned to their families. Advances in forensic pathology and the use of DNA are enabling the identification of remains from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Riverside resident Kevin Kuzel's father Frank will be on the memorial. As a member of the 101st Airborne glider troops, he was captured and held as a POW by the Nazis for about six months. His father, a native of Czechoslovakia, had immigrated to New York as a child and didn't become a citizen until after the war.

Military service is a Kuzel family tradition. His mother served as a plane spotter in the Ninth Air Force in England and his grandmother was a recruiting officer.

Kuzel is a retired Navy commander and flew A7s out of Cecil Field from 1980 to 1985.

Kuzel said in the early 2000s the chapel was used for offices by the production company during the filming of the military thriller "Basic," starring John Travolta.

"I'm glad part of Cecil Field is being reclaimed to memorialize the sacrifices these men and women made," he said.

Another name that will be etched on the wall is Frederick W. Wright III, commander of Carrier Air Wing 3, who was shot down Nov. 10, 1972 over Vietnam. It was 18 years before his remains were returned to his family. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

His daughter, Cynde Covington, describes herself as the "emotional family adviser"

to the organization as plans for the site have developed.

"I am very, very pleased with the design," she said. "The first time I saw it, I was moved to tears. So that all this is happening now, that we will have a place of honor for all the military branches who have unaccounted is huge for me."

Covington said her mother was active in the wives group that included Mary Hoff, who inspired the creation of the black-and-white POW/MIA flag. Her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff, was shot down in 1970.

Houston said he thinks the memorial will become a national destination. "There's lots of walls and memorials and exhibits

but there's not a single memorial that lists all 83,000 MIAs," he said. "We would be the only one of its kind. We'd like for it become a national park."

The group also is trying to rename New World Avenue along the site to POW/MIA Memorial Parkway.

To publicize their efforts, the group is dedicating a POW/MIA chair at EverBank Field on Dec. 3. A similar one was dedicated in September at the Baseball Grounds.

"It's a reminder that they will never be forgotten," Cassata said.

For more information, go to www.powmiamemorial.org.

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Community Hospice & Palliative Care Attains New Star in National We Honor Veterans Program

Military veterans can experience the end of life differently than those who didn't serve. For some military veterans, the psychological effects of combat can remain dormant for years, only to re-emerge when they are facing their own mortality.

There are an estimated 200,000 military veterans in Northeast Florida alone, which is why Community Hospice & Palliative Care continues its commitment to raise the standard of veteran-centric care in the communities it serves.

It's important to provide these heroes with specialized care that honors their service to our nation and the unique physical and emotional challenges they may face. Community Hospice physicians, nurses and expert counselors are specially trained and prepared to identify these needs and assist in the healing and resolution process for veterans and their loved ones.

The organization recently attained Level III Partnership in We Honor Veterans, a program of veteran-specific caring techniques developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Veterans Administration.

In addition to meeting prior We Honor Veterans milestones, to attain Level III status the organization had to develop a process to assist veterans with their VA benefits and provide information and resources on other veteran services. The organization was also required to match veterans in its care with volunteers who also served in the military.



WE HONOR VETERANS

"I am honored to be a Community Hospice volunteer visitor to many former members of the military," said Timothy Lynch, Community Hospice volunteer and retired Navy Captain who spent his 32-year career flying jets after receiving his Navy Wings in 1963. "Two noteworthy veterans come to mind – one who served as a gunner in a USN patrol plane during WW II and the other landed in the invasion of Europe at Omaha Beach and fought all the way to Berlin. Men like these and their comrades in arms, most now passed away, will always be heroes to me as men and women of the 'Greatest Generation.'"

There are currently 88 former members of the military volunteering at Community Hospice and available to help with the program. As part of the admissions process, the organization implemented a "Military History Checklist" to report demographic information related to the patient's service history to the We Honor Veterans national program.



TaxSlayer Bowl Chairman David Long with Sgt. Tony D. Simmons, Marketing and Public Affairs Representative, Recruiting Station Jacksonville, Commander Luis C. Parrales, U.S. Coast Guard, Chris Moloney, Tax Slayer Chief Marketing Officer and Alan Verlander, COO, TaxSlayer Bowl

Military to be honored at TaxSlayer Bowl

TaxSlayer, title sponsor of the TaxSlayer Bowl since 2011, has rolled out the Honoring Our Heroes program to thank military members and their families.

TaxSlayer will provide 5,000 heroes with a complimentary ticket to the 2017 TaxSlayer Bowl Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017 at EverBank Field, including a post-game concert at the stadium's new event amphitheater, Daily's Place.

"There is no greater honor than to have a title sponsor that gives back to those who have done so much for us and our country," said TaxSlayer Bowl President and CEO Rick Catlett. "Jacksonville is such a proud military town. What better way to say thank you to our heroes than by providing them with an unforgettable

experience during one of the most storied matchups in college football."

TaxSlayer's Honoring Our Heroes program, which has a value of \$500,000, is available to all active duty service members, retirees and veterans with a military ID or VA Identification Card. Each serviceman or woman may request up to four tickets per military ID.

Each participant's game day experience will include a ticket to the TaxSlayer Bowl, a ticket to a post-event military appreciation concert at Daily's Place, as well as in-stadium tribute during the TaxSlayer Bowl game. Limited transportation options will be available from the surrounding area, including direct transportation from Fort Gordon. To register for tickets, visit www.taxslayerbowl.com.

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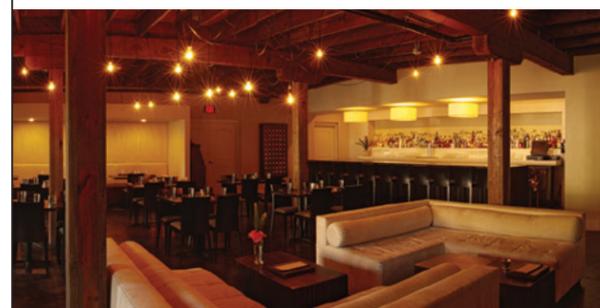
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Hurricane-damaged medical equipment replaced through local nonprofit

By Phyllis Bell-Davis
Resident Community News

Hurricane evacuations and the subsequent return to normality can be difficult in the best of circumstances, but add a disability into the mix and the challenge becomes even greater.

Thanks to the Brooks Temporary Loan Closet (TLC) at the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC), 2709 Art Museum Dr., people requiring Durable Medical Equipment (DME), such as electric scooters, wheelchairs, hospital beds, commode chairs, walkers, etc. were able to get what they needed and avoid red tape.

After Hurricane Irma, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services deemed it necessary to issue a blanket waiver to suppliers of DME, according to Avondale resident Tyler Lasher Morris, executive director of the ILRC. Under this waiver, the loan closet became a clearinghouse for DME and was able to provide the consumer a temporary loan if their equipment had been rendered unusable.

“We were able to bring relief to the consumer who, in the wake of the hurricane, had to evacuate quickly and didn’t have time to retrieve their equipment, or the equipment might have been irreparably damaged in the storm,” explained Morris. “We also made deliveries to shelters where there was a need for DME.”

Morris added that, since his 11 years with the ILRC, “We have provided free equipment to the community as a short-term loan generally for about 90 days. But occasionally, we’ve donated the equipment, when needed.”

Hurricanes aside, equipment is also available to individuals who are on short-term disability and are going through the rehab and recovery process, said Morris. “People don’t have to spend money or wait on insurance companies to pay for DME. They can borrow from the TLC which prevents unnecessary wait time fostering a quicker recovery,” he said.

Morris noted that it only takes about 5-10 minutes to complete an online request but you must have a prescription or referral signed by your doctor.

“As of January, the TLC has experienced a significant increase in requests from hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. This growth is due to the improved effective communications with medical personnel through the online inventory and new request process at www.theILRC.org/TLC,” said Morris.

Additionally, since January, the loan closet has managed inventory and medical equipment distribution with an estimated value of \$299,032; distributed 79 pieces of medical equipment at no cost to patients in the care of Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital valued at \$38,785; and, obtained a \$35,000 specialized wheelchair for a patient with ALS while he awaited custom-fit equipment from partner, Brooks Rehabilitation, according to Morris.

“The partnership between Brooks Rehabilitation and the ILRC was born out of the need to supply reliable durable medical equipment to consumers in the community who may not have insurance or the funds necessary to secure the equipment needed for a safe transition to home or to be able to stay independently in their homes,” said Marion Anderson, executive director, Community Health with Brooks.

ILRC is looking for donations. “We have an extensive wait list,” said Morris. “There is high demand, and low inventory, for electric scooters, standard wheelchairs, and rollators (walker with a seat). We have a list of partners, including Brooks



Air Force members receive Durable Medical Equipment at Landmark Middle School from the Independent Living Resource Center.

Rehabilitation, but we receive the majority of our equipment from the community. Family members donate DME from loved ones who pass away; individuals who no longer have use for the equipment put it back into the community; and, we receive an annual award from Brooks Rehabilitation.”

Volunteers for the TLC are also needed, said Morris. “We need volunteers to help

distribute the equipment and collect donations. We’re only asking for at least four hours a month. This is a great opportunity to get involved and provide a service for people in need.”

Interested persons can contact the ILRC Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., toll free at 888.427.4313, locally at 399.8484, or via email to info@theilrc.org.

“This is a great opportunity to get involved and provide a service for people in need.”

— Tyler Morris, ILRC executive director



The ILRC assisted the Rodriguez family from Port Lavaca, Texas, who sheltered in Jacksonville during Hurricane Harvey, with a wheelchair battery charger, standard wheelchair and transfer shower seat.

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THE WAY WE WERE: GEORGE SEDDING TROTTER & ANN ALLULIS TROTTER

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

It would not be difficult to imagine George Sedding Trotter, M.D., dressed in a frock coat, his antique medical bag in tow, riding with horse and buggy to care for Jacksonville's ailing residents.

Since beginning his residency and internship in 1959 at St. Vincent's Hospital, the same hospital where he was born Oct. 27, 1932, "Ole Doc Trotter," as he calls himself, epitomizes what a family doctor should be. He cares for his patients like family and practices good old-fashioned medicine at his office on Myra Street, which is adorned with awards, photographs of his family and ballerinas he has partnered, and Nutcracker Ballet posters, as well as cartoons to lighten the mood for patients stepping on the scale.

Trotter's staff includes Carolyn Conner, who has been with him since 1975 and

described her duties as "nurse, seamstress, x-ray technician, lab tech, whatever!" and Wanda McKinney, who started in 1989, and said, "You can call me whatever you want to – office manager, travel agent, gardener, billing clerk – I just do whatever he wants me to do." They maintain an easy banter and professional relationship with Doc Trotter that keeps things running smoothly.

"Well, about the best thing about working here is we get Friday afternoons off," joked Conner. "Actually, Dr. Trotter is a delight. I've only seen him mad twice in all these years and that was because the EMTs weren't taking his patient as quickly as he thought they should."

McKinney said Trotter tells them all the time that if one of them quits he will have to retire. His favorite quote is "A team is a reflection of its leadership. And we are a great team."

George Trotter grew up in Riverside, attended St. Paul's Catholic School, University of Florida (he is a dedicated Gator football fan) then graduated University of Maryland Medical School in 1959.

It was while working at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore that he went on a blind date with red-headed nurse Ann Allulis. She was to attend the hospital dance with George's roommate, who ended up having to work and asked George to take her instead.

They met in the coffee shop so they could get acquainted and Ann was late. "My first impression wasn't too good," she said. "I could see from his face he was upset that I kept him waiting. But he was nice and cute. Then he didn't even call me until the day of the dance so I wasn't going to go, but my roommate talked me into it."

The young couple married June 8, 1959 – a Monday – at Our Lady of Victory Church in Baltimore. "My mother said no one will



Trotter family: Susan, Ann holding Mary Ann, Kathleen, George, Junior, John Edward, George, Senior



Ann and George Trotter



George Trotter and fiancée Ann Allulis at medical school graduation

on King Street, or washed clothes in the huge bathroom sink.

Like most young doctors, George worked long hours and the couple did not have much money. With no television they listened to their record player and read. Later, when George was earning \$300 a month, they invested in a stereo.

In 1960, George, Junior was born; then one right after the other came Kathleen (Dr. Eduardo Balbona), Susan (Michael Perkey), John Edward (Kris Fallin) and Mary Ann (Douglas Moran). The Trotters moved their expanded family into a physician friend's rental house on Wabash Avenue, where Charles and George's Car Wash is now, then to an apartment on Willowbranch. They bought their first house in Hyde Grove Acres, then built their present home in Ortega Forest.

Early on, the Trotters' social life centered around their children, a supper club with other doctors and their wives, Timuquana Country Club, and Medical Society functions. Dr. Trotter has chaired and served on numerous boards of directors and is past president of the Duval County Medical

Continued page 45

come on a Monday! But, we had a wonderful representation," Ann recalled.

The Trotters honeymooned in a cabin at Lost River State Park in Virginia, then moved to Jacksonville so George could report to St. Vincent's Hospital on July 1, 1959 for his residency.

They rented an apartment on James Street in Riverside. Although they had a 1951 Chevrolet which George used for work, since Ann didn't get her driver's license until 1963, the young bride walked to Setzer's Grocery Store and the laundromat

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Wedding June 8, 1959

a more professional level and raised funds which have contributed to student scholarships and benefited The Leukemia Society, Vision Is Priceless, Dreams Come True and many other organizations.

To say Dr. Trotter has “performed” the role of Herr Drosselmeyer in the Community Nutcracker for 25 years is not quite accurate. He is Drosselmeyer!

“Dr. Trotter’s heart and soul go into Nutcracker on stage and off,” said Debra Rankin, associate artistic director for Community Nutcracker. “The character comes to life year after year with warmth, mystery and finesse. The Community Nutcracker Ballet is forever in his debt for his untiring efforts to promote and sustain a quality performance in Jacksonville.”

Trotter, a former Best Dressed Man in Jacksonville award winner, has played an Ugly Stepsister in Cinderella, Carabosse in Sleeping Beauty, Mother Ginger in Nutcracker and has taken on other female roles as past king and member of the Mystic Reveler’s Ball.

A friend related a hilarious conversation with Ann, who never batted an eye when discussing the difficulties of finding a brassiere in her husband’s size. Their daughter, designer Kathleen Balbona, has created many fabulous costumes and hats for her father’s theatrical performances.

Trotter’s ballet friends describe him as compassionate, caring, dedicated to excellence, a true gentleman, hilariously witty, irreverent and hard headed.

A true balletomane who would rather perform than anything, he had shoulder surgery to improve his ability to lift the dancers in pas de deux. “Remember when he came to ballet class wearing a blood pressure cuff only six weeks after having seven heart by-passes?” recalled another dancer.

“George loves the limelight,” said Ann about her ballet-obsessed husband. “I am more of a homebody.” But, she can be found front row center for every performance, and



Virginia honeymoon



George Trotter as Drosselmeyer mesmerizes Fritz and Clara in The Nutcracker Ballet

Society, The Leukemia Society, Northeast Florida Aids Network, The American Cancer Society; the list goes on and on.

An avid sportsman, Trotter played basketball at the YMCA, tennis (he now has a tennis court in his backyard) and traveled for ski and bicycle trips. Longtime friend Gunnar Miller reminisced about their daredevil skiing and biking trips in the Grand Canyon, Bergdorf Hot Springs, Monument Valley and throughout Belgium, Holland and France.

“I followed Trotter’s bright socks on a bike trip throughout Holland,” said Miller. “Once we came to some deep water – the rest of the folks were sliding down the bank and bogging up. We just decided to get up as much speed as we could and we went right through it. And, we did some fast skiing out west, just flying. We were in great shape then. He is a great friend, a faithful friend.”

Dr. Trotter’s wanderlust has taken him around the globe, including Europe, China, Peru, and Russia. He brings back little gifts for friends and family and has added significantly to his extensive costume collection.

Over the years, Trotter made appearances in small roles in his daughters’ ballet recitals but when Mary Ann asked her father to audition for the Nutcracker in 1987 the ballet bug bit and Trotter’s new adventure started.

He enrolled in ballet technique and pas de deux classes, where he discovered a blending of athleticism and artistry that was challenging and fun. He stopped playing basketball to save himself from injuries which might affect his dedication to dance.

Trotter expanded his repertoire and has performed in operas, with the Jacksonville Concert Ballet Company, Jacksonville Ballet Theatre and as guest performer in classical and comedic roles in many ballets.

Instrumental in founding The Community Nutcracker Ballet, now in its 26th year, he served as president and CEO from 2005 to 2012, when he moved the organization to

brings her energy to committees and fundraising events in all aspects of the couple’s many community-wide commitments.

Trotter’s skill, compassion and dedication to hard work have expanded and enhanced the Jacksonville community on many levels. When appointed to the Duval County Medical Society’s Indigent Care Committee by former Mayor Tommy Hazouri, Trotter developed We Care Jacksonville in 1993.

“Oh, my Lord, I worked to establish a way to help, to be more charitable and get doctors to donate their time to helping the poor,” explained Trotter. “Most doctors are caring people and want to help. God intervened and one thing connected with another – Christ the King Church and Monsignor Danaher, I.M. Sulzbacher – and that was the start of We Care.”

The organization has grown incredibly and serves the medically underserved of Jacksonville, the uninsured and the homeless. Each year the organization presents the George S. Trotter, M.D. Founder’s Awards for medical professionals, philanthropy and service. He also founded The Physician’s Talent Show to help fund We Care.

In his not-so-spare time, Trotter volunteered for over 40 years at University Hospital in the hematology/oncology clinic,

for which he was awarded an associate professorship by the University of Florida.

The woman behind the man, referred to by Trotter as “my bride” or “St. Ann,” has supported her husband through 58 years of marriage, five children, nine grandchildren and innumerable endeavors.

Ann keeps their home running like clockwork, caters to her husband, who admits to not knowing how to cook, iron or do any kind of domestic chores. Friends tease that keeping the always immaculately-dressed Trotter’s closet organized is a full-time job.

In an amusing turn-around a couple of years ago, it was Ann who wore the pants when she donned the Drosselmeyer costume for a Halloween party. She has also had a go at his Captain Hook costume.

Ann is involved with the Jacksonville Garden Club, church activities at St. Matthew’s Catholic Church where they have been members for over 50 years, family gatherings and aiding the many organizations which she and Dr. Trotter support.

From physician’s white coat to Drosselmeyer’s black frock coat, Trotter’s costumes are more than props – they are the batteries powering the 85-year-old “Energizer Bunny” of Ortega Forest.

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Jr. Residents

Episcopal students form club to support Sanctuary on 8th

Members of the newly formed Episcopal Sanctuary on 8th Street Club came out to support the organization by running in the Avondale 5K Classic Oct. 7 to benefit Sanctuary on 8th Street. Joining members of the club were Episcopal faculty, staff and parents, including fine arts instructor Michelle Kruger, who, after singing the National Anthem, came in second place in her age group. Episcopal students Julia Kato and Gabi Carter came in second and third, respectively, in their age group. The Sanctuary on 8th Street is an after-school and summer camp program that has served the children and families of Springfield for more than 25 years.



Andrew Moore, Jack Barksdale, Ward Jarvis, Henry Page, Colin Sirbaugh and Gabi Carter, juniors at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville



Science night a hit at West Riverside Elementary

Miriam Lojano-Ramos, above, works through an electrical maze at Science Night, hosted by West Riverside Elementary School Oct. 12 for students and their families. Activities included a Mad Science show, a deep dive on Deep Sea diving, fun with magnets and some electrifying adventures.

A week earlier, over 100 students, families and faculty enjoyed Spirit Night at Maple Street Biscuit Company to raise funds for the oldest operating elementary school in Florida. The school also set a goal to collect 2,500 box tops, each worth 10 cents, by Oct. 27 during a Box Top Education Clipping Drive.

The school's Fall Festival will be held Friday, Nov. 3, on the school grounds beginning at 5 p.m. Activities include a chalk picture contest, face painting, and a photo booth, among many others.

Pet blessed, funds raised for hurricane relief

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of nature and animals, is celebrated Oct. 4 by many churches with a Blessing of the Pets. At St. Paul's Catholic School, approximately 20 pets, among them cats and dogs, hamsters and rabbits were presented for a blessing by Deacon James Scott. Students whose pets could not attend brought photos of the pet to be blessed.

St. Paul's Catholic School students also love to dress down and when they know it's for a good cause, they donate more than the minimum \$1 donation. The school held two dress-down days to support hurricane



Deacon James Scott blesses pets at St. Paul's Catholic School Oct. 4.



Parents and students wait for the Blessing of the Pets at St. Paul's Catholic School.

victims. The first benefited the victims of Hurricane Harvey and a check was mailed to Catholic Charities in Houston in the amount of \$657. The second benefited school families which experienced flooding due

to Hurricane Irma. The students raised over \$900 for the impacted families. The enrollment is only 217, so it's evident students were very generous in their giving.



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Fifth-graders create inspirational mural for future students

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Artist Nicole Holderbaum of Jax Kids Mural Project began her 23rd Duval County public school visit this year with thoughtfulness and humor in a brainstorming session with Central Riverside Elementary School students.

“How many of you have been taught to not write or draw on the walls?” she asked the 20 fifth graders. Of course, all hands went up.

But, as the morning progressed, the students of Jackie Mc Millan’s academically talented and Lisa Bond’s gifted students were doing just that on a 20-foot wall inside the school.

“The creativity of our students never ceases to amaze me,” said Dinah Stewart, school principal. “The theme they came

up with for the mural – Have faith and just keep on swimming! – is just awesome.”

Holderbaum interpreted the students’ ideas on the wall with bold black strokes all the while continuing a dialogue and adding finishing touches to the design before directing students 10 at a time to come up and paint.

Murmurs of “Wow! This is so cool,” were heard as the students saw their concept come alive. “It’s my last year at CRES so we are sending out a message to the kids behind us to keep trying to accomplish their dreams,” said fifth-grade student Tallena Huffman about the legacy mural.

Holderbaum explained the Jax Kids Mural Project’s focus is about “empowering kids with the opportunity to design a mural by working together and promoting a theme.”



Tallena Huffman works on a legacy mural project at Central Riverside Elementary School.

The project is part of the Arts Alive Program funded by a PNC Grant. Holderbaum is continuing the project for Title I Schools in Jacksonville with 40 murals being completed by the end of the year.



Kate Skinner, Gary Lamar II, Jacob Shane, Maddux Gay, Cristina Angiolillo, Jackson Starks, Leonard Simmons and Hunter Long

Students shed uniforms to raise funds for Puerto Rico

Students, faculty and staff at Riverside Presbyterian Day School were invited to dress down Oct. 13 and make a donation to Puerto Rico Rises, an initiative taken by Puerto Ricans to help their devastated home. Brainstormed by the sixth-grade students, their idea was supported by their classmates and teachers who dressed casual for the day and raised \$2,948 in honor of Maintenance and Facility team members Wally Garcia and Josue Garayua, whose families have been directly affected by the recent storms. Several students also set up bake sales and lemonade stands to raise money in advance.

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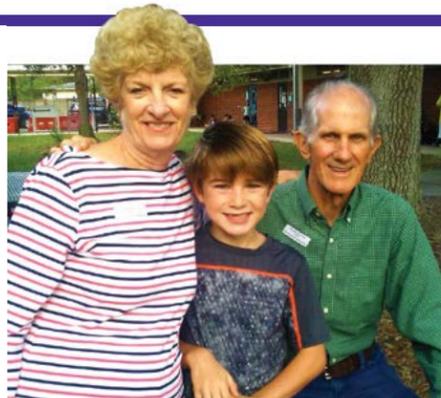
Stockton’s 1st Annual Grandparent’s Day

Over 200 grandparents attended the first annual Grandparents’ Day celebration, hosted by the Friends of Stockton at John N.C. Stockton Elementary School in Ortega Forest.

The school and the support group wanted to appreciation for all that grandparents do for the students, from volunteering in class, to sharing lunch in the courtyards, to tutoring students, to donating supplies, and more.

“The response was overwhelming and everyone had a great time!” summed Molly Rattigan, vice president of Friends of Stockton.

The celebration kicked off with a special flag raising ceremony. From there, the grandparents took their grandchildren to breakfast in the cafeteria, where students



Eli Tatum with his grandparents, Madeleine and Michael Sheridan, celebrate Grandparents’ Day.

worked with their guests to list activities they enjoy sharing together.

A rock painting project resulted in masterpieces for a Rock Garden around the campus for all to enjoy. Afterwards, grandparents were welcomed back to the classroom to peek in on academic happenings.

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Avondale teen captures national animated film prize

Juliana Lane, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts captured the Best Animated Picture Award for her film, "Creature of My Heart," at the All-American High School Film Festival over the weekend in New York City.

Lane's eight-minute short about a scientist who sets out to create a monster, but instead finds love in his creation was selected the top animated piece out of more than 500 entries, and the Jacksonville filmmaker was awarded a \$30,000 college scholarship.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity that the All-American Festival has granted to the community of student filmmakers," said Lane, of Avondale. "The festival offers a place where young filmmakers



Juliana Lane

can come together and celebrate shared passions and collaborate on new ideas."

The All-American Film Festival bills itself as the largest high school film festival in the world, with submissions from 25 countries.

Students serve as hands and feet of Christ during week-long event

Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth-grade students spent a week in October completing more than 600 hours of community service, as part of their year-long Project LEADS service leadership program.

The hands and feet of 52 students made a positive impact on Catholic Charities, City Rescue Mission, Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC), Family Promise, The WELL Church, Impact Learning Center, MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, Presbyterian Social Ministries, The Sanctuary on 8th Street, and Sulzbacher Center.



Ally Stankard and a student at Impact Learning Center.

Project LEADS continues throughout the school year as students serve God and their school volunteering generous gifts of their time for after-school programs.

Local rowing club hosts 29th annual First Coast head Race

Stanton Riverbank Rowing (SRB) hosted the 29th Annual First Coast Head Race Oct. 14. The oldest rowing "head" (5,000m) race in Florida included more than 20 organizations from up and down the East Coast and engaged over 45 volunteers from SRB and Jacksonville Rowing Club (JRC), who worked more than 300 hours to help make the race a success.

The First Coast Head Race brings together rowers of all ages to participate, volunteer and support both the sport of rowing and Jacksonville's waterways.

Each year, the race begins north of the Mathews Bridge on the St. Johns River, runs under the University Boulevard and Cesery Boulevard bridges on the Arlington River, then runs down Jacksonville's protected waters past residences and marshes.

Always on the cutting edge of technology, Regatta Director Marley Brown developed an innovative framework for posting results. With the new framework, times were recorded and posted before athletes came off the water. Other participating organizations observed his model to help make their regattas run more smoothly and efficiently.

Local rowers included both adult and youth athletes from SRB, JRC, Episcopal School of Jacksonville and The Bolles School. A full listing of results is available on regattacentral.com.



Women's Youth Bronze winner Ireland Haueter, Silver winner Carly Boyd, Gold winner Kate Begley



Men's Youth Bronze winners Gannon Nolan and James Meschia, Silver winners Brandon Pond and Sanjay Mokha

Bolles Sweethearts crowned at homecoming



Homecoming Sweethearts Ann Maris Walton '18 (left) and Orlando Heggs '18 (in uniform) with the 2016 Homecoming King Quincy Greene '17 and Bolles Head of School Dave Farace during the halftime Homecoming Court presentation on Oct. 27.

Ann Maris Walton and Orlando Heggs were voted Bolles School Homecoming Sweethearts, and were presented at the 2017 Homecoming football game against the Ponte Vedra Sharks Oct. 27.

The court, in alphabetical order, included the following members of the Class of 2018: Mills Acosta-Rua, Elizabeth Anderson,

Brooke Bowmaster, Caitlin Collier, Frankie Collier, Amann Doolabh, Orlando Heggs, Matthew Johnson, Gabriela Landolfo, George Lewis, Alexander Maniatis, Ian McPheters, Skyler Mitchell, Jessica Pentel, Rushton Roberts, Rachel Shapiro, Nathan Skinner, Gracie Surface, Cameron Perry Walker and Ann Maris Walton.

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Teaching kids better to be safe than sorry

First-grade students Gibson Sanchez, Andres Griffin, Barbara Feliciano, Olivia Carter, Dorothy Martin, Angelina Pierre show off the yellow helmets they received from a Jacksonville firefighter during a Safety Day presentation at St. Matthew's Catholic School.



Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department firefighter Mike Curran shows his equipment to students at St. Matthew's Catholic School on Safety Day. Curran's wife, Morgan, teaches pre-kindergarten at the school



Red Ribbon Week draws awareness to dangers of drugs



St. Matthew's Catholic School third-grade Amber Kanobroski (left) and Aubry McKendree (right) with third-grade students who dressed up in clothing from different decades on Spirit Day, when the theme of the day was "Drugs Are Old School" during Red Ribbon Week, a national drug-free awareness program among schools.

Students show support for hurricane victims



St. Matthew's Catholic School's service club, the Minnie Vinnies, assembled 162 hygiene packs with handmade inspirational cards inside for families in the Bahamas who suffered damage from recent hurricanes. Annie McCrannie, a member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church hand-delivered the hygiene packs Oct. 18, courtesy of a private pilot who flew her to the Bahamas.

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School students win chess tournament

Second-grade student Rocco Falconetti (left) and first-grader Michael Lyvers represented St. Mark's Episcopal Day School at the USCF Scholastic Chess Tournament held at the Museum of Science and History on Oct. 14 and won the team tournament for their K-2 division. They are a part of an extremely active after-school chess club led by The Knight School.



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DO SOMETHING

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

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Every day in our country, nearly 2,000 children become victims of abuse or neglect. The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program plays a vital role in the advocacy of children. GAL volunteers provide not only a voice for children who are involved in the court system, but also a chance for a child to have a bright future, regardless of their circumstances.



First Coast Guardian ad Litem

The roots of the Guardian ad Litem program were established 40 years ago in Seattle, when a judge introduced the concept of using trained volunteers to provide information about and advocate in the interests of abused and neglected children involved in the court system. Two years later, in 1979, the forerunner of the First Coast program was created through a pilot program of the Jacksonville chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Junior League of Jacksonville.

Today, there are several ways you can make a difference in the life of a child.

Volunteer: By working as a child advocate volunteer, you can become the voice of compassion and care on a child's behalf. Sign up at galfirstcoast.org or call a GAL child advocate recruiter at (904) 255-8440. The time you give will change a child's life forever.

Judge David Gooding officiates at the January 2017 swearing-in ceremony for new GAL volunteers at Duval County Courthouse.

Donate: Give a financial contribution to the GAL Foundation of Florida's First Coast to help ensure a brighter future for the children in our local court system. Donate directly online at galfirstcoast.org under the "support" tab. Call (904) 255-8440 or email info@galfirstcoast.org for additional information.

Attend: You can also support GAL at the second annual "There's No Place Like Home" fundraiser, which will be held Friday, April 13, 2018 at the Duval County Courthouse. The "Oz" themed event is not only a magical evening of ruby red slippers and a yellow brick road, but also an opportunity to help GAL raise funds for its volunteer recruitment and training for the 4th circuit Guardian ad Litem program, a program that serves Clay, Nassau and Duval counties.

Rosa Maria King Did Something

At the urging of her sister, Riverside resident Rosa Maria King considered being a volunteer for the Guardian ad Litem program, and ever since her involvement with GAL, King has been a voice for children, an integral part of the GAL board, as well as an educational advocate and surrogate for children.

King's motivation to do something comes from her conviction that every child needs to have someone in their corner fighting for them.

"My motivation is that there are children in our community that are abused, abandoned or neglected," King said. "These children need an advocate, a role model and a voice. I feel like I was born lucky – my parents were Cuban refugees where family came first. My husband and I have been able to do that for our three sons and I feel that it is something that I can share with others."

Whether she is voicing a child's needs for school, clothing, doctor appointments, tutors, visitation or finding the right foster or permanent home, she is making a difference in a child's life.



Rosa Maria King

"Without a doubt, the best part about being a GAL volunteer is standing in the courtroom when the judge looks at you, the GAL, and asks you what is in the best interest of this child," said King. "You know you are making a difference in the child's life. If you can help reunite a family or find a forever home, you are helping a child and our community."

"These children need an advocate, a role model and a voice."

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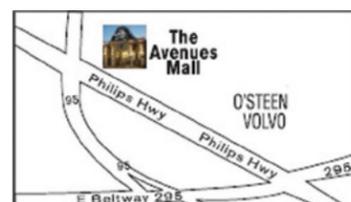
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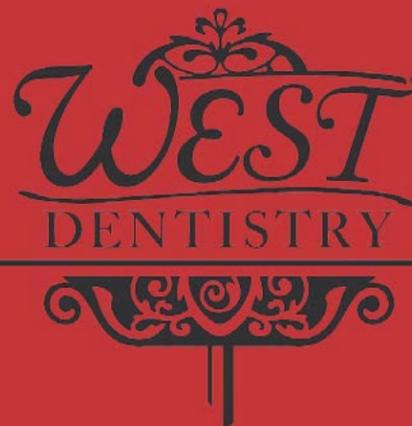
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