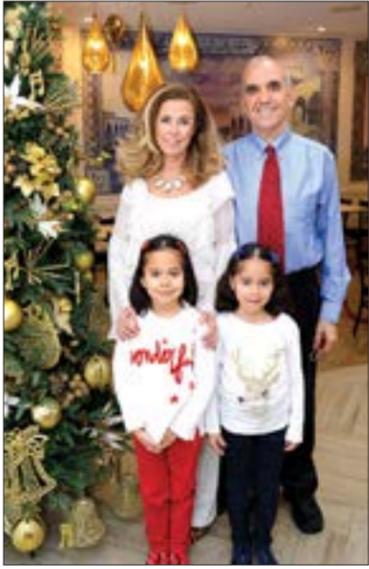


Traditions run deep through generations and cultures alike



Noura and Raymond Abi Khalil with daughters Noor Miriam and Bella Maria

At Noura Café, the Abi Khalil family celebrates the traditions of Christmas as they had done in their native Lebanon, a strong Christian community in the Middle East.

The proximity to Jerusalem had always inspired a celebration bigger than any other holiday throughout the entire year in their culture.

Loud holiday music played in the streets as positive energy and family gatherings were held throughout the month of December, shared Noura and Raymond. [Read More, Page 34](#)



WHAT'S INSIDE

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DECEMBER 2017, VOL. 10, ISSUE 12



Southbank developer announces new hotel project, requests extension on property purchase

By Kate A. Hallock, Resident Community News

Southbank high-rise residents may soon get a birds-eye view of the first phase of construction at the site of *The District Jacksonville—Life Well Lived* (The District), the 30-acre master-planned development on the St. Johns River.

The purchase of the site property, however, is still under negotiation with the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA) and the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), putting into question the start date of the hotel project.

Peter Rummell, developer of The District project along with partner Michael Munz, had announced Nov. 27 that Impact Properties, its hotel partner, will develop an AC Hotel by Marriott at The District.

The hotel is currently in the design phase, with horizontal work on the site expected to start during the first quarter of 2018. The hotel construction is being planned based on the site work completion schedule, which will be a phased approach starting on the western edge of the site and working its way east.

[Read More, Page 24](#)



River Garden gala honors past event chairs

Longtime supporters of River Garden Hebrew Home – among them, Dr. Barry Setzer and Ellen Setzer and Marjie and Dr. Abe Rogozinski – attended the nonprofit's Silver Anniversary gala Nov. 18.

[Read More, Page 26](#)



Jax Library best among Florida public libraries

John Trainor with Dr. Charles Moreland, Jacksonville Mayor's Office Director of Community Affairs, Board Chair Emeritus Betsy Lovett and Board Chair Kevin Hyde at the celebratory reception honoring the Jacksonville Public Library for its recent award.

[Read More, Page 20](#)



David Engdahl, Preston Haskell, Rula Carr

Engdahl on exhibit at The Vault at 1930

The work of artist David Engdahl was on display at The Vault at 1930 during November, kicked off by a launch party Nov. 10, where art collector and philanthropist Preston Haskell was in attendance. Engdahl was chief architect and a senior vice president at The Haskell Company for nearly 30 years.

Engdahl, of San Marco, has worked with laminated wood sculpture since 1971, and his works have been exhibited in more than 20 states throughout the U.S. His sculptures are included in numerous corporate collections, as well as permanent collections of the Orlando Museum of Art, the Huntsville Museum of Art (Alabama) and Wiregrass Museum of Art (Dothan, Alabama). In 2009 he co-founded Northeast Florida Sculptors with David Ponsler and Enzo Torcoletti.



Editor's Note

When my husband and I moved to Jacksonville six years ago after living in Pittsburgh for 30 years, we knew we had to create some new traditions. It wasn't enough to trade snowscapes and evergreens for sand and palm trees, we needed to become part of the community.

Fortunately, our historic neighborhoods have so much tradition it's easy to quickly become part of the crowd visiting the Gingerbread House Extravaganza at Old St. Andrews, attending the lighting of the Christmas tree in San Marco Square, enjoying the festivities at Holiday Magic a week later, or Luminaria Night the week before Christmas.

Traditions are often the glue that holds a family – or a community – together. In this issue you'll find some traditions shared by local families that may inspire you to create a new one this year.

On behalf of The Resident Community News Group, I wish our readers and our loyal advertisers the merriest holiday season ever!

Kate A. Hallock
Managing Editor



Circles 2017-2018 debuts at annual Philanthropy Day awards luncheon



In what has quickly become a standing tradition at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon, the third volume of the annual *Circles—Social Datebook & Charity Register* was distributed Nov. 14 at the event.

The 172-page magazine's feature story focuses on food insecurity in Northeast Florida, profiling more than a dozen nonprofits and agencies who work tirelessly to ensure that no one goes hungry in our area.

In the *Charity Register*, readers will find success stories about people who have taken advantage of a variety of services to gain an education, employment or housing.

Additional stories about young philanthropists doing good, residents who volunteer their pets for therapy services, and institutions which help the differently-abled connect with the community are among other good reads in the magazine.

To read these stories and more online, visit circlescharityregister.com.

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Coffee shop zoning creates concern, appeal filed by neighbors

Appeals filed against Planning Commission decision

By Karen Rieley
Resident Community News

Concerns about adequate and safe parking for Bold Bean Coffee Roasters' customers have prompted a nearby San Marco law firm and a church to file an appeal against a Planning Commission decision.

Robert Harris Trust, located at 1837 Hendricks to the left of Bold Bean, and Southside Baptist Church, located across Hendricks Avenue from Bold Bean, both have safety concerns now that Bold Bean has applied for and received an exception to offer outdoor sales and service, which includes beer and wine.

Despite the recommendation from the City's Planning and Development Department

to approve Bold Bean's application as long as certain conditions were met, including adding two more parking spaces, bicycle parking, and bringing landscaping up to code, the Planning Commission approved the application during its Sept. 27 meeting with no conditions required.

The approval allows Bold Bean to add outdoor seating for patrons to purchase food and beverages and take them outside to consume.

In response, Robert Harris Trust and Southside Baptist Church have appealed the approval, and a de novo (new) hearing before the Land Use and Zoning Committee in the City Council Chambers is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, at 5 p.m.

The restaurant is across the street from Southside Baptist Church and, although within the minimum distance requirement of 500 feet from Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development

"I have personally seen several close calls as people attempted to cross in the middle of the block as they leave Bold Bean to return to their cars in our parking lot."

— Gary Lee Webber, Southside Baptist Church pastor



An abandoned house to the right of Bold Bean and Turner Plumbing could be razed for parking if LC Turner LLC would agree to do so.

School, a license to sell and serve beer and wine at a restaurant does not need a waiver of minimum distance from a church or school, according to Tia Ford, City spokesperson.

While the church originally agreed to an informal arrangement allowing Bold Bean customers to use its parking lot, it retracted that agreement as concerns for the safety of pedestrians increased with the growth of Bold Bean's business and the addition of alcohol sales, in particular. Currently, Bold Bean patrons are not allowed to use either the church or Harris' parking lots.

"I have personally seen several close calls as people attempted to cross in the middle of the block as they leave Bold Bean to return to their cars in our parking lot," Gary Lee Webber, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, said.

Harris is concerned about the restaurant's lack of adequate parking, especially without the availability of the church's parking lot. Bold Bean's patrons already use his parking lot, which displaces his own staff and clients. He has had to put up signs on each of his parking spaces, warning they are for clients and staff of his building only and all others' vehicles will be immediately towed. Harris sees other safety issues related to lack of adequate parking as well.

When Jay Burnett, co-owner of Bold Bean with his son, Zack Burnett, met with Robert Harris a year and a half ago to let Harris know that he planned to open a coffee shop in the building beside him, Harris expressed concern about spillover parking by Bold Bean patrons into his own parking lot.

Harris is also concerned about the parking areas that Bold Bean created to meet the number of spaces that restaurants are required to offer based on number of tabletops and staff.

"To get the amount of parking required, Bold Bean created tight, angled park behind its building that is so close to the back of the building patrons can't turn around easily. They often back out onto Hendricks Avenue, which is a safety issue," Harris said.

He is also worried tight parking means delivery trucks park in front of the building, blocking the bike lane and part of the driving lane closest to the building or blocking the turn lane.

"Sometimes they even park in the middle of my parking lot blocking access to our parking spaces so they can unload and deliver products around my fence to Bold Bean," Harris said.

Continued on page 5

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Companies making deliveries to Bold Bean park in a travel lane on Hendricks Avenue.

Zack Burnett disagrees with Harris on all points.

“Legally, we do not have a lack of adequate parking,” he said. “The city was actively involved in the planning and development prior to our opening, and we received our certificate of occupancy in accordance with all code requirements.”

Burnett said Southside Baptist has long been a great neighbor to many businesses in San Marco.

“We would bend over backwards to ensure [the church] is confident and secure that we are an equally good neighbor,” he said.

“We continue to believe...the safest and best solution is for the property owners to remove the abandoned house next to the property and replace it with a parking lot on the east side of Hendricks Avenue,” Webber said. Harris agrees, but Carla Turner, property owner where Bold Bean and Turner Plumbing are located, has another viewpoint.

“Turner Plumbing is a fourth generation family business and has been a San Marco business owner since 1942,” said Turner. “Because of our history, the integrity of San Marco is a high priority for us. As [the abandoned house] is one of the last remaining historic homes dating back to the 1920s on

the Hendricks commercial corridor, we are carefully considering all of our options.”

Burnett, however, has another idea. “At our request, the Florida Department of Transportation is currently conducting a study on the need for a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk,” he said.

When asked about such a survey in her district, Councilwoman Lori Boyer said, “I have no personal knowledge of any attempt to install a crosswalk across Hendricks at San Marco Place.

“There was no crosswalk at this location in the City budget we passed in September, but I have no objection to a crosswalk in this location,” she said.

Harris, who is also president of the San Marco Merchants Association, finds himself in an awkward position. “I feel like I’m being made out to be the bad guy,” he said. “All I want is for Bold Bean to be held to the same approval process and codes other merchants in San Marco are.”

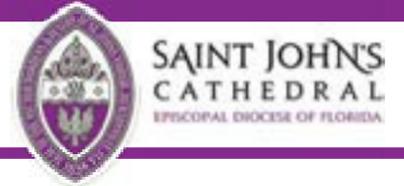
“There have been discussions for years at the San Marco Merchants Association meetings about parking solutions, such as the use of joint valet services and the concept of a jointly funded lot,” Boyer said. “There was a plan to conduct a parking study and also a design to stripe alley spaces and

resurface alleys, but for one reason or another, each approach has encountered obstacles that seem to stop progress.”

Boyer acknowledged the lot owned by the Southside Baptist church behind the fire station has provided adequate parking for many years, but as retail uses shift toward restaurants the demand for parking has also shifted.

She will be sitting in a “quasi-judicial” capacity on the Land Use and Zoning Committee that will decide Harris Trust’s and Southside Baptist Church’s appeals.

“I cannot offer an opinion on the subject of the appeal. I will wait to hear the evidence before I offer an opinion,” Boyer said. “I would be happy to discuss options and solution upon the conclusion of the appeal.”



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1983 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL

Homeowners in flood-prone area offered buy-outs

Skepticism displayed at community meeting

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Chronic flooding is a way of life in South Shores. At high tide, the low-lying neighborhood tucked between Interstate 95 and St. Nicholas is waterlogged. People have complained for years about having to wade to their homes. Hurricane Irma just made matters worse.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer said she has been hearing complaints for years about the problem caused by coastal flooding during high tides and storms like nor'easters. Major events like hurricanes make it even worse.

Boyer said she spoke with officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as city public works and emergency management officials, to figure out what to do. Raising the roads was considered then rejected because it would force flood water into homes.

A possible solution – a buyout – arrived in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Because of the storm, funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is available to homeowners in flood zones with chronic flooding to mitigate future losses – for both the property owners and government agencies.

Owners would be paid pre-Irma market rate for their property. The city would tear down the homes and restore the land to a wetland. The program is voluntary and a property owner can withdraw at any time during the process, which can take up to two years.

Reactions to the offer ranged from curiosity to hostility at a standing-room-only meeting Nov. 9 at Preservation Hall in San Marco. Boyer had invited the owners of the 73 properties eligible for buyouts, but twice as many people showed up. Boyer had lined up representatives from FEMA, the state emergency management office and city officials to answer questions.

There were as many opinions shared as questions asked: The flooding wouldn't be so bad if the city kept the drains cleared. The Overland Bridge project has forced more water into neighborhood.

John Pappas, City of Jacksonville public works director, said the area is so low that ditches don't work well and pumps are ineffective when the water is coming from river. Ditches and pumps are designed to remove rain water, not river water.

Steve Woodard, emergency preparedness director, said construction might contribute to the problem, but the basic problem is that the homes were built in a flood plain.

People who lost their homes to eminent domain for the expansion of I-95 several years ago also came to the meeting and complained that they hadn't gotten enough money for their homes.

If people refuse to sell can their property be seized?

No, Boyer said. The program is strictly voluntary. Under the program, the city isn't allowed to use eminent domain.

And if the process takes two years to complete, what would happen to their property values?

"For many of you, your home is your primary asset," Boyer said. "With chronic flooding, you're losing value. This would help you get your money out of your investment. This is an opportunity. It's strictly voluntary. We don't have to go there."

So, what would happen to people who decided to stay? Would they lose city services?

"If there is one house on the block, there still will be services," Pappas said.

One man on the audience wasn't buying any of it. "You've just put a bulls-eye on my property," one man called out. "No one is going to want to buy it now."

"With chronic flooding, you're losing value. This would help you get your money out of your investment. This is an opportunity. It's strictly voluntary."

— Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman

The opportunity to dismantle the neighborhood had hit a nerve.

"I have the best neighbors I've ever had," one woman said. "And my daughter lives right down the street."

South Shores has history. It is officially known as Reed's Subdivision for its developer, Harrison Reed, who was governor from 1868 to 1873. Many of the homes were built in the 1930s when the area was South Jacksonville.

The president of the South Jacksonville City Council, Alex Marjenhoff, lived in a house at Huntsford and Bee Streets. He helped turn the nearby swamp into a 1.5-acre park that now bears his name.

No Marjenhoffs have lived in the neighborhood since about 1990, said Wesley Marjenhoff, Alex's grandson, but he turned up at the meeting because he wants to know what will happen to the park where he used to play when he visited his grandparents.

The answer: Probably nothing. When it floods, no one complains.

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North San Marco Businesses bounce back after Irma

Merchants stay strong, believing the sun will shine on the Boulevard

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Like most of the business owners on San Marco Boulevard, Beth Handline, owner of Dance Trance, had a thriving enterprise on that road until Hurricane Irma came calling.

The savagery of the hurricane's winds and the St. Johns River's resulting storm surge took the city by surprise, especially when it pushed an epic amount of water into North San Marco's commercial district at levels not seen since 1846. The area surrounding San Marco Boulevard became a river with water between four and six feet deep, annihilating most businesses lining the street from I-95 to the cusp of San Marco Square.

"It was insane. I couldn't believe it. It was such a disaster," said Handline, who had no flood insurance and sustained a \$100,000 loss when a three- to five-foot lake crept inside her storefront. "If you had anything, you lost it unless it was hanging from the ceiling. Ours had been the ultimate dance studio," she continued. "It had the best flooring, best lighting, and best sound system around. We had put a ton of money into it, and it was really running well. We were here for 10 years, so it was like losing our baby," she said, noting that to replace the dance floor would cost \$20,000 alone.

Handline ultimately decided to move her business to 100 N. Laura St. on the second floor of the CenterState Bank building, within Anytime Fitness, and her customers now receive use of the fitness's gym 24/7 when they purchase a dance package.

Handline was not the only business owner to decide to either move out of San Marco or close entirely. All along San Marco Boulevard "For Rent" signs have popped up in storefronts where small enterprises once stood.

Hanger Prosthetics also decided to move permanently after its building was declared a "total loss," said employee Cheri McLaurin. It has relocated to 3728 Philips Hwy.

Brunet-Garcia Advertising, formerly located on Hendricks Avenue, has moved



The floodwaters were high at the corner of Cedar Street and San Marco Boulevard where the Hollingsworth Showroom stands.



Toilets and bathtubs were floating in the Hollingsworth Showroom during the flood.

temporarily to 25 N. Market St., while it prepares for a permanent move to 5 Points, said William Cesery, president of Cesery Properties and the company's former landlord. It was a move they had planned before the storm occurred, he said.

Meanwhile, Kitchen on San Marco, a popular eatery on the corner of San Marco Boulevard and Children's Way, is completely out of business.

"It is with regret that we confirm the closure of Kitchen on San Marco – A Gastropub. Flooding by Hurricane Irma caused such extensive damage that the difficult decision was made to cease operations. We are grateful to our loyal patrons and supporters who welcomed us warmly when we opened in 2015. If an opportunity arises for a return to the market, we would welcome it," the company announced on its Facebook page.

Taneka Harris, owner/operator of Davis & Company Hair Salon at 1545 San Marco Blvd., also closed her shop and now works

as a hair stylist for her friend at Abliss Upscale Styling Studio on St. Augustine Road.

"My salon was destroyed by four feet of water," Harris said. "I had invested my own funds in the business and didn't want to go into debt to open it again," she said, estimating her personal loss at \$200,000.

"Everything was damaged with mold and mildew on my furniture," said Harris, adding that although she had a liability policy, she did not have specific flood insurance and did not understand that floods and personal property were not covered.

"My business was destroyed, but I still have a home to go to. A lot of people were worse off," she said.

Harris' loss was, in a way, Beer:30's gain. Located next door, the craft beer concession endured 20 inches of water inside, but incurred very little damage compared to other businesses and plans to eventually expand into the Davis & Company space, said Jeff Burns, owner.

"We only lost two cases of beer. Beer products are reasonably waterproof," he said, noting his shop reopened twice, Sept. 14 and 19, after being closed for three days in between. Although Beer:30 had no flood insurance, the damage was "not outrageously expensive," he said, estimating his loss at \$7,000.

However other businesses, which also plan to eventually reopen, were not so lucky. With the exception being Flame Broiler, a Korean restaurant which began serving customers again Oct. 13, most other North San Marco eateries sustained heavy damage and were forced to gut their properties.

"The damage to Bistro AIX was catastrophic," said Fraser Burns, a partner in the Forking Amazing Restaurant Company that owns the iconic dining establishment. "The entire restaurant was under about four feet of water and every aspect of the restaurant was affected. It was an entire loss. Our Bistro AIX team and our dedicated contractors have been

Continued on page 8

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The European Street Café was a total loss due to the floodwaters of Hurricane Irma.

Continued from page 7

working hard to get us reopened." In fact, the water was so deep, a flounder was found swimming in the parking lot, said Cesery, who owns the Bistro AIX building.

"All our furniture was affected, but thankfully we were able to salvage most of it. Many of the iconic Italian gothic dining room chairs were damaged, but we decided to rebuild and refurbish them and bring them back to life instead of buying new chairs. These iconic chairs are part of the long history of Bistro AIX, so we did not want to just replace them. All the booths, tables, and other furniture had to be 100 percent refurbished or replaced," Burns said, adding although the cost of the damage is still being calculated, including repairs to the building, equipment replacement, furniture repair, funds to maintain staff and hire new employees as well as replace lost inventory, the loss could total a whopping \$700,000.

"The landlord did have flood insurance on the building, which is helping to replace some of the building items like walls and floors, but our restaurant insurance policy had flood exclusions so that all the equipment and furniture that are not part of the building were not covered," he said. "Under our policy, the repair and replacement of these items will be paid out of pocket by the owners."



Businesses along San Marco Boulevard received as much as four feet of water when Hurricane Irma caused the St. Johns River to pour over its banks.

Bistro AIX plans to hold a grand re-opening during the first or second week of December, Burns said.

In contrast, European Street Café, which was also wrecked in the storm, plans to reopen in January 2018, said owner Andrew Zarka. "The damage was devastating. We took on two to two-and-a-half feet of water throughout the whole building. It was a total loss," he said, noting that although he has flood insurance, the loss of sales by being closed for four months could easily total \$500,000.

Being forced to gut the interior has provided the opportunity to update the appearance of the restaurant, Zarka said. "There will be a color change, and we will add some community tables. It will look different when you come in, but it will still have the same European Street feel," he said.

Although it is still closed, Vino Pizza is sporting a sign in its window saying it plans to reopen, said Cesery, whose business is nearby. Owners of the popular pizzeria could not be reached for comment by *The Resident*.

Other businesses that sustained heavy water damage and reopened within three to seven weeks were Rusted, a Vintage Market; Painting with a Twist; ReMax Realty; Stephen E. Hutchins Architects; San Marco Animal Hospital, and Hollingsworth Showroom.

With no flood insurance, the owners of Rusted, a Vintage Market were forced to pay \$3,000 to have its interior restored and the landlord took care of building restoration, said owner Jeanne Kurst. Each individual vendor in the antique store was forced to take care of their own losses, she said, adding that the flood gave her the opportunity to paint the store in a lighter color and add a larger check-out area with colorful display cubbies nearby. "We had to put a large percentage of everything in the shop in the dumpster," said Wanda Aills, a vendor.

Painting with a Twist held a class in its newly renovated Private Party Bungalow on Oct. 18 and held its "grand re-opening" Oct. 27 in its upgraded main studio space.

The shop set up a "YouCaring" page to solicit donations since it did not have flood insurance, said owner Geri Bernard, noting that she has upgraded her studio so it has a "better flow" when you walk in the door and will also include some new additions, which will be ready at the end of the year.

Todd Addicott, broker of ReMax Realty, which opened Oct. 30, also had no flood insurance and estimated his losses at \$15,000. ReMax lost all its furniture and computers and was especially hurt with the destruction of its records and files, he said, adding he had "reservations" about moving back into the building after the flood. "I was looking for a new location, but the expense was greater and financially I didn't want to do it," he said.

Also with no flood insurance was San Marco Animal Hospital, which was forced to replace an X-ray machine, computers, furniture, and its front desk, sustaining a loss close to \$100,000, said Ashley Miller, a vet tech. The animal hospital opened fairly quickly, serving customers during its renovation but waited several more weeks before performing surgeries, she said.

Although it lost drywall and flooring, as well as interior design inventory, which was stored on its first floor, Stephen E. Hutchins Architects' main problem was a lack of power after the storm. "Our downstairs was finished Nov. 1," said Teresa Shepard, office manager, noting her firm was able to work with generators on the second floor for four days until power was restored.

Deborah Hyers, a sales team member at Hollingsworth Showroom, said her business may have been the "luckiest" on the street. Even though the water had not receded and toilets and fiberglass bathtubs were floating in four to five feet of water, employees, customers, and plumbers from San Marco's Turner Plumbing, a family business owned by relatives of Hollingsworth owner Worth Turner, showed up to empty the entire building the day after the hurricane, she said.

"We even had a client show up with a crowbar," Hyers said, adding that Hugo Interiors offered warehouse space to store larger items, while smaller salvaged pieces were placed on the building's second floor.

Hollingsworth's staff worked from home for over a month while the building was

Continued on page 9



Dance Trance, a fixture on San Marco Boulevard, decided to move downtown after Hurricane Irma's floodwaters destroyed its dance studio.

guttled and refurbished. The showroom was fully restored and opened Oct. 16, Hyers said, noting the worst part was losing the company's internet server.

"The whole neighborhood pitched in. Three crews worked round the clock to get us back up. We even had our insurance agent show up to help us. The vendors were great about replacing product. We had flood insurance, but it was still a tremendous loss, because we were hit with a ton of out-of-pocket expenses," she said.

As one of the larger landlords in the area, Cesery said many of his residential rentals, including Cedar Street Apartments, two residences on Larue Street, and his San Marco Boulevard headquarters sustained major damage, while his commercial space on Hendricks Avenue, which includes High Tide Burrito and Industry West, were barely touched. The Hendrick's properties were able to open the next day because they only had a couple of inches of water and his tenants were able to "squeegee" it off the floors, he said.

Fully insured, Cesery said he has filed five major flood insurance claims to cover nearly \$650,000 worth of damage. He also relocated most of his Larue and Cedar Street tenants to a building he owns in Springfield in the interim. The first set of Cedar Street apartments will be refurbished by Dec. 1, and by Dec. 15 the balance of his tenants will be able to move back in, he said.

Although their business, Pretty Paws Pet Grooming, was one of the only businesses to stay high and dry throughout the ordeal, owner Ron Huffman said he was still thinking about moving when his lease is up in July. He has been in business for 27 years on San Marco Boulevard.

"We were the only business that didn't flood at all. Our building is four to five feet higher than the street," Huffman said. "There were airboats going up and down the street rescuing

people after the storm. I thought for sure we'd be underwater, and that there was no way we'd survive this one."

The flood's effect on neighboring businesses is what concerns Huffman. "Business-wise, the street is dead," he said, adding that the city's decision to detour traffic in November to install a crosswalk and pedestrian signal haven't helped. "Digging up the street at this time is absolutely stupid," he said. "They are closing the street as we come into the Christmas holiday, and there is no pedestrian traffic anyway. They have no consideration of what this area needs."

Zarka was also concerned about the crosswalk, which will be built in front of European Street Café. He said when San Marco Square was built, the city took away several on-street parking spaces from his restaurant, which was a huge detriment to his business, in favor of putting in a wider sidewalk for outdoor seating. With the crosswalk, some of his outside tables will go away.

"They took away what they gave us. I'm disappointed in the way they configured the crosswalk. As part of my redesign, I planned to have four outdoor tables and now I only have room for two," he said.

Cindy Platt of Grease Rags Clothing Company, which had minor damage and did not lose any merchandise, was also not happy with the crosswalk. The biggest problem is misleading signage, which cautions drivers that the road is closed, she said, noting the road-closed sign should indicate a detour or mention that at least one lane is open.

Platt said her "grand re-opening" in mid-October was "fantastic," but sales afterwards have dwindled. "I had my best sales event ever that day, but since then it has been dreadfully slow. The business climate here is dead," she said. "You don't even see people out walking their dogs, and a lot of my nearby customers have not yet returned to the area.

I think the city has the misconception that San Marco is broken now, even though we all are doing everything we can to demonstrate that is not the case."

Although the 10,000-square-foot headquarters of OE&S office furniture was a total loss, Zim Boulos did not lose any business because he was fully insured and had carved out a "disaster recovery space" with 20 cubicles, phones, and computers in his Westside warehouse.

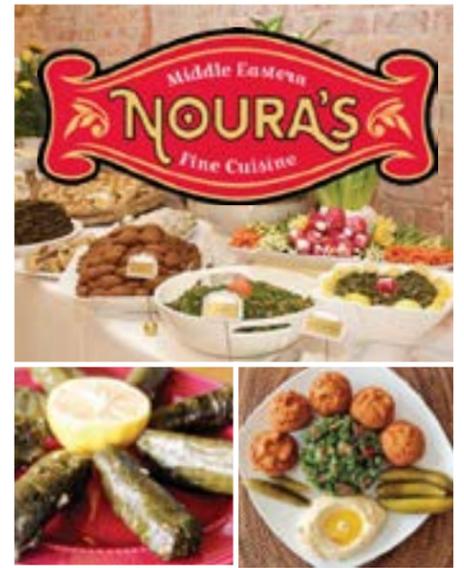
"I remember being a little kid during Hurricane Dora, standing in ankle-deep water with my father and seeing him be pretty upset," he said, noting the last time his building flooded was in 1964.

To prevent water damage as the hurricane approached, Boulos took several precautions, including putting up plexiglass water barriers over the doors. However, he did not count on high water coming through the windows and certain holes in the structure, such as air conditioning ducts.

"Four feet of water will find a way through," he said. Planning to give his business a whole new look with fresh paint and awnings, Boulos also is waterproofing the building per the advice of longtime San Marco resident Skip Alcorn, who suggested he trench around the foundation and apply Vulkem caulk and Elastomeric paint.

"I feel bad people aren't able to come back because they don't have insurance," he said. "When you write a check for \$15,000 each year for 30 straight years and don't have a claim, you begin to question why you are doing it. Now you know.

"This experience shows how strong everybody in San Marco is," he continued. "Everybody is helping each other, and we will be back, especially with Baptist MD Anderson opening next year. It will be the cornerstone of San Marco and will open at the right time to welcome everybody back. I see a bright future. The sun will shine again."



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A lone palm tree stands sentinel over construction work at Riverfront Park in San Marco.

City begins bulkhead repair in Riverfront Park

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

San Marco residents living close to Riverfront Park are happy to see construction to rebuild the park's concrete bulkhead is finally underway.

The park, which was always popular with fishermen, dogwalkers, and residents seeking a quiet place to watch the sunset over the St. Johns, has been off limits for nearly a year after Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew damaged the bulkhead and punched large holes within the grassy waterfront span along River Road between Landon Avenue and Laverne Street.

In October 2016 after the hurricanes, the City Parks and Recreation Department erected a six-foot-high, semi-permanent, chain-link fence along River Road spanning the park's entire length in an effort to protect visitors and prevent further destruction to the greenway.

In May 2017, Jacksonville City Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2017-266 to appropriate approximately \$1.99 million to repair the failing seawall. The ordinance amended the 2017-2021 Five Year Capital Improvement Program by decreasing funds from several accounts to move money over to the St. Johns River-Riverfront Park Bulkhead Replacement Project.

Construction was slated to begin in late August-early September 2017, but was delayed when Hurricane Irma was predicted to come calling. This ended up being a good call by the city as the Category 3 storm and preceding nor'easter were not kind to the park, lengthening and deepening its existing craters, and further damaging the crumbling bulkhead.

"It was pure devastation. We were essentially living in the river," said San Marco resident Anita Morrill, who lives in a condominium



A worker from Farrell Bros. Marine Construction kneels on the bulkhead at Riverfront Park as concrete molds are lowered in place.

adjacent to the property. Morrill said her family and dog were forced to evacuate through a window when more than 19 inches of river water breached the bulwark and seeped into the first floor of her home and garage.

Work began in earnest to fix the bulkhead when the flood waters receded, about a week after the savage Sept. 11 storm. The city has hired J.B. Coxwell Construction to oversee the bulkhead repairs at a cost of \$1.7 million, according to the Jacksonville Public Works Department. The project, which consists of full replacement of 750 feet of the northern portion of the bulkhead is expected to take four months, said Tia Ford, city spokesman.

"I feel happy that it is finally happening," Morrill said of the seawall repair. "It was a beautiful park and one of the only parks that runs along the water on this side of the river. If we can restore it to its original state by making it bigger, better, and safer, that would be great. It will help make this part of San Marco better than it was before."

San Marco motorists in for delays in 2018

Two repaving projects will slow traffic

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Two Florida Department of Transportation repaving projects in the San Marco area will keep motorists driving cautiously for the next year.

A \$1.1 million project to repave Emerson Street from Hendricks Avenue to Philips Highway began in November and is expected to be complete by spring.

The project includes traffic signal upgrades, the installation of countdown pedestrian timers, and sidewalk and handicap-accessible ramp improvements at the intersection of St. Augustine Road, according to FDOT spokeswoman Debbie Delgado. In addition, concrete medians will be installed on both sides of the Florida East Coast Railroad crossing, a block west of Philips Highway.

Construction will occur weekdays and weeknights with occasional weekend work, if needed. No lane closures are allowed from 7 to 9 a.m. and from 2 to

7 p.m. Monday through Friday or on holidays or special events.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited repaving of Hendricks Avenue will begin in January, Delgado said.

The resurfacing project along approximately three miles of San Jose Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue from Cornell Road to San Marco Boulevard was scheduled to begin in October but was delayed by Hurricane Irma.

On-street parking from Cornell Road to Peachtree Circle North will be removed and bike lanes will be added. The roadway will be widened by reducing the median between Peachtree Circle North and Dunsford Road to accommodate both on-street parking and bike lanes. On-street parking from Dunsford Road to San Marco Boulevard will be removed and bike lanes will be added. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

FDOT will have an open house Thursday, Dec. 7, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, 4001 Hendricks Ave., Room D, to explain the construction timeline and how it will affect traffic.

For more information regarding construction projects, visit www.nflroads.com or call (904) 831-FDOT (3368).

Paver crosswalk installed at Riviera Street

Pedestrians on San Marco Boulevard can cross the street in style on the new brick paver crosswalk at Riviera Street, near European Street. Traffic was detoured during installation in November and work on the \$300,000 project is expected to be completed by this month, according to Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson.



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Two websites developed for Duval County tree canopy

Planning tools aid landscape architects

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Jacksonville residents may never look at trees the same way after they get acquainted with two new websites. One has an interactive database of the city's tree canopy and another tracks tree removal permits and how the city is using the money developers pay in mitigation.

The website, JaxDigsTrees.org, accesses the database for the tree canopy survey completed over the summer by Plan-It Geo, which used geospatial technology to assess the density of the canopy in Duval County.

Why does canopy density matter? Trees not only provide habitat for wildlife, they clean air and water and reduce flooding. They also can increase the economic value of property. For instance, a mature shade tree planted on the south side of a Jacksonville house can reduce summer energy consumption by as much as 20 percent, according to JEA.

The website's tools allow a user to access the data in a variety of ways – to check overall density, to see wildlife corridors, heat islands, storm water and other information useful in planning the tree planting for both the city and property owners.

The data is organized by City Council districts and census tracts. So, for instance, District 5, which includes San Marco, St.

Nicholas and San Jose, has a tree density of 42 percent and District 14, which includes Riverside, Avondale, Murray Hill and Ortega, has 45 percent. The data indicates both districts could increase their canopy by 19 percent. In comparison Northside districts' canopies cover 60 to 70 percent of the area, while downtown, which includes the Southbank, is only 11 percent.

Jacksonville has been losing trees steadily to development, disease, aging and storms and the database will help identify areas where they need to be planted, said John November, executive director of Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida.

The website also has a planning tool that lets a user try out different trees and placements and then do assessments of their benefit to wildlife, storm water management, air quality and the economic value of the property.

"You'll be able to do an inventory of your block or plan a project and track it to see if it's succeeding," November said.

It also will let the city build an inventory of the trees it plants, so it can monitor their health and schedule routine maintenance.

The website is also a tool that can be used by the city's new Tree Commission that will be empaneled next year. The seven-member advisory board will make recommendations to the city about where trees should be planted in public areas using the city tree mitigation fund.

Under city law, developers are required to protect certain trees, replace those they cut



Alexandria Oaks Park in San Marco is a popular destination thanks to its numerous shade trees.

"You'll be able to do an inventory of your block or plan a project and track it to see if it's succeeding."

— John November, Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute executive director

down or pay into a city tree mitigation fund. Money from the fund can be used to plant trees around the city, such as the initiative to plant native trees at all public schools.

In 2015, Public Trust filed a complaint against the city for failing to enforce the amendment and a city tree ordinance and to make good use of the tree mitigation fund that has grown to \$20 million.

The tree commission was part of the settlement of the suit, November said. The city also agreed to make public a database

of tree-cutting permits and disbursements from the mitigation fund at jaxtreemitigation.coj.net, the second website important to environmentalists and others.

If someone sees that a tree has been cut down on public property, they can check to see if a permit was issued. The site can be searched by ZIP Code and address.

"This creates lot of transparency," November said. "Before, we didn't know much about the urban forest and now it's 100 percent transparent."

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From barber chair to artist's easel, salon owner offers unique service



By Jami Childer's own admission, the combination of a barber shop and art studio may seem strange. But, she said, it works.

"Here at Jami's Barber Shop and Art Studio we take our time and take care of every aspect of customer service," said Childers. "We have been around for almost 60 years for a reason. It may seem like an art studio and barber shop are a strange combination, but it works great for us."

Jami's Barber Salon was originally opened by Red Cannon, who sold it to Blanche Choate, from whom Childers bought it 16 years ago after having trimmed tresses and manicured mustaches there for five years.

"After I bought it, I started putting my art on the walls of the barbershop to dry. I have a small studio in the back room and I work there when we are not busy," she said. "I had a lot of customers that were interested in the work I was doing and I began to paint portrait commissions for them. People also started to show an interest in learning to paint, so I started to teach there after hours and did that for five years."

Childer's portrait business has grown so much she now only has time for hair-cutting and portrait commissions. She draws on the skills of each profession to complement the other.

"In both businesses, you have to be a people person. The two careers definitely are connected for me. My creativity gives me the idea of how hair should look, along with having the knowledge to make that happen," said Childers. "When working with a portrait, it totally helps to understand the way hair behaves and how it frames

the face, how eyebrows arch or the delicate way eyelashes turn up."

The Barber Salon and Art Studio, located in the Arlington River Shopping Center next to Publix, is one of Jacksonville's best-kept secrets, said Childers.

"We hear from new customers that they never knew we were tucked back here. However, our loyal customers know how important we are to the community. We have taken care of generations of families here," she said. "Like my 24-year-old twins, many of our 'little customers' have grown up in the shop. My children were two years old when I started here. Now the kids are bringing their children for haircuts. There is nothing more fulfilling than doing the first haircut of a customer's child. You have built a lot of trust when they want you to take care of their little ones. In addition to their hair, some customers trust me to capture their important memories in paint."

Childers is so passionate about children, she painted and donated 11 portraits to Portraits For Hope, a nonprofit that raises awareness about violence against children by presenting a portrait to the parents of the victims.



Jami's Barber Shop and Art Studio is now offering Thankful Thursday, offering \$2 off a haircut to Police, Fire and other First Responders to show appreciation for all they do.

To pose for a portrait or sit for a style, visit Jami's Barber Salon and Art Studio at 5842 Atlantic Blvd. Call (904) 724-8788 for hours or visit jamisbarbersalon.com.

PD. ADV.



Delicious Destinations Chairs, from top: Mollie and W.E. "Billy" Sumner III, M.D.; Amy and Steven Wacaster, and Sala and Ash Pradhan, M.D.

Delicious Destinations rescheduled for January

Postponed due to Hurricane Irma, the 16th annual Delicious Destinations has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 6, 2018 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The celebration of inspired food and notable wines benefits St. Vincent's HealthCare's community outreach programs, which provide free medical care for underprivileged children and adults throughout the area. St. Vincent's is part of Ascension, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system.

"We knew it was the right call to postpone the event when we did. So many of our friends were affected by Hurricane Irma, and we appreciate the support of our community through all of it," said Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, President of the St. Vincent's Foundation. "We are blessed to have so many wonderful chefs, sponsors and patrons who support this worthwhile cause each and every year and they have let us know they will be with us on January 6, 2018."

The VIP Sponsor Exclusive Reception, beginning at 6 p.m., recognizes the sponsors

who support this critical mission of St. Vincent's. The Premier Food & Wine Event follows at 7 p.m.

Chefs from some of the nation's premier resorts including The Greenbrier, The Cloister, and the Montage at Palmetto Bluff will showcase their culinary talents. Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits will provide wines from select domestic and international vineyards. The event also includes live and silent auctions, as well as a drawing of unique items including spa and restaurant gift certificates, catered dinners, and weekend getaways.

Reservations and sponsorships are still available for the event. To learn more about Delicious Destinations or to purchase tickets, visit www.deliciousdestinationsjax.com.

Don't forget about the 4th annual Corks & Forks, Clay County's premier food and wine event. Save the date – April 20, 2018 – and support the community of Clay County at The Hilltop Club and Restaurant. Visit corksandforksclay.com for more information.

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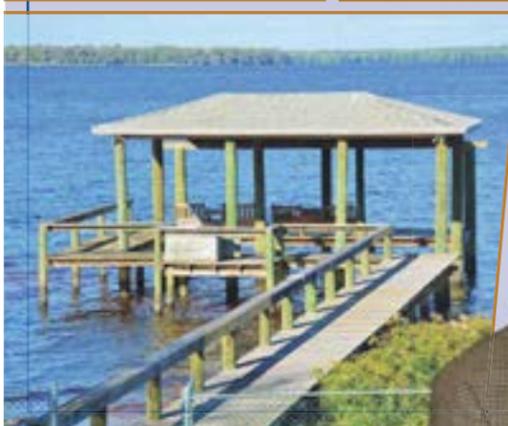
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UF Health Rehabilitation expands services with more space and new technology

UF Health Rehabilitation will nearly triple the size of its Emerson location with the opening of its new 10,000-square-foot facility on Dec. 4.

More space enables UF Health to offer specialty rehabilitation services such as neurology, sports, oncology, women's health and speech therapy, in addition to the musculoskeletal orthopaedic care it currently provides.

"There are two therapy gyms — one designed for orthopaedic and sports rehab patients and another for patients with neurologic conditions," said Jeanne Bradshaw, DPT, PT, director of UF Health Rehabilitation. "The space will house some of the latest rehabilitation technology in the field."

Both gyms have a ceiling-mounted body-weight support system that includes a harness to prevent patients from falling, while therapists work with them to improve their balance, gait, motor function and lower body strength. The system can help increase early mobility and enables patients to get a sense of what it feels like to stand and walk on their own instead of relying on another person for support.

The orthopaedic gym has an AlterG Anti-Gravity Treadmill, which takes weight



Anti-gravity treadmills are designed to reduce pain and lower impact on joints during therapy.

off a patient's joints, allowing rehabilitation of lower extremity injuries with less pain and lower impact. The gym has a designated sports rehabilitation area with turf and protective sports netting for injured athletes who are in the final phases of their rehabilitation program to practice the mechanics of their sports, such as baseball and golf.

Bradshaw said the expansion also allows UF Health Rehabilitation to provide more services to patients with neurologic conditions. Using a new functional electrical stimulation upper- and lower-limb cycle, therapists can apply electrodes to the skin of a patient with limited movement to stimulate muscles and get them "firing" at the right time and in the right order. Similarly, they use the VitalStim Therapy System to stimulate some of the neck muscles for swallowing, which helps the brain remap that function.

UF Health Rehabilitation partners with UF Health neurologists to offer a comprehensive balance program, which includes an objective assessment of issues related to balance. Using state-of-the-art Balance Master equipment, therapists can assess problem areas related to sensing (a patient's center of gravity) and control of balance to retrain the systems that support good balance.

"Our therapists work alongside UF Health physicians specializing in orthopaedic surgery, sports medicine, podiatry, oncology, otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat), urology, gynecology and other areas to provide a continuum of care. We also work with specialists at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute," said Bradshaw.

As part of an academic health center, which includes the region's only adult and pediatric Level I trauma program,



The new facility includes a dedicated sports rehabilitation area for athletes of all ages.

therapists at UF Health Rehabilitation have advanced education, certification and experience in each specialty area. By working collaboratively with UF Health physicians, they are able to treat patients with complex medical conditions.

"Our therapists are certified in advanced specialties such as hand therapy, women's health therapy, neurologic therapy, spine therapy, oncology therapy for cancer patients, speech therapy for swallowing issues, orthopaedics, sports medicine and wheelchair seating and positioning," said Bradshaw. "Their knowledge, access to current research and new technology,

as well as use of evidence-based practices, enable them to provide high-quality care to help improve the quality of life for their patients."

In addition to its Southside location at 4549 Emerson St., UF Health Rehabilitation has two other outpatient facilities — one on the UF Health Jacksonville campus at 555 W. 8th St. and another on the UF Health North campus at 15255 Max Leggett Parkway. Patients referred to any of these locations are paired with a therapist who is trained to address their individual needs.

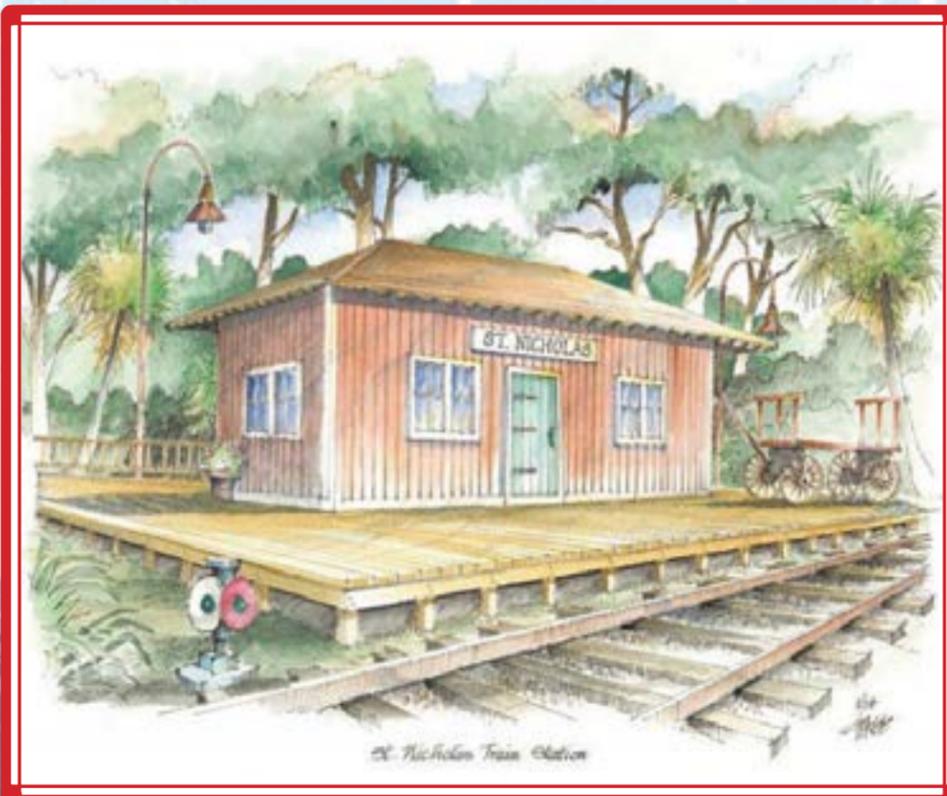
To learn more about UF Health Rehabilitation, visit ufhealthjax.org/rehab.

UF Health Rehabilitation – Emerson is hosting an open house Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, from 3:30–6:30 p.m. The event is open to the public.

UF Health Rehabilitation – Emerson
4549 Emerson St., Building 2, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32207

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State Attorney Nelson honored by lawyers guild

State Attorney Melissa Nelson was honored by the Catholic Lawyers Guild with the 2017 Law & Spirituality Award, bestowed during the annual Red Mass, Nov. 9 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

The Red Mass, a centuries-old service bringing law and government together for spiritual guidance, was celebrated by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez and priests in the Diocese of St. Augustine to honor judges, lawyers, law enforcement, first responders and public officials.

The Catholic Lawyers Guild, which meets periodically for fellowship, professional development, and to share growth experiences, sponsors the annual mass.



Ian Weldon, president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild, presents State Attorney Melissa Nelson with the 2017 Law & Spirituality Award.

Southside women's tennis team net national title



The women's tennis team, which plays at the Southside Tennis Complex, represented the USTA Florida Section and captured the national title at the USTA League Adult 55 & Over 8.0 National Championships held at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Oct. 27-29.

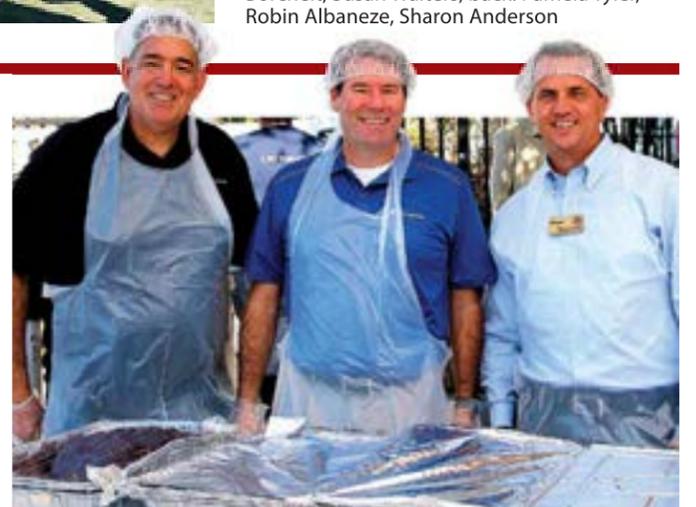
The Southside team defeated a team from Oahu, Hawaii, 2-1 in the Championship match. Earlier in the day, the women defeated a team from Roslyn, New York, 3-0 in the semifinals.

The team is captained by Mary Armstrong and features team members Carol Whitmire, Kelly Groce, Diane Snowton, Nina Appleby, Terri Borchelt, Susan Walters, Pamela Tyler, Robin Albanese, and Sharon Anderson.

Front: Carol Whitmire, Kelly Groce, Diane Snowton, Mary Armstrong, Nina Appleby, Terri Borchelt, Susan Walters; back: Pamela Tyler, Robin Albanese, Sharon Anderson

Local businesses sponsor annual Feed the City luncheon

Todd Broadwater, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Mike Lofton, United Healthcare and Shawn Sloan, Southeastern Grocers LLC, dish up food at the Clara White Mission after Broadwater and Lofton presented Ju'Coby Pittman, CEO/president, with checks totaling \$91,000 at the 25th Annual Feed the City pre-Thanksgiving luncheon. More than 150 volunteers served lunch to over 1,000 homeless veterans and low-income residents in front of the mission Nov. 18. The event was sponsored by Winn-Dixie/Southeastern Grocers LLC, Jacksonville Jaguars' Malik Jackson, and Radio Stations 93.3/V101.5.



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Founder's son joins Monique Burr Foundation board

Two decades after his mother's tragic death led to the creation of the Monique Burr Foundation for Children (MBF) in her name, Austin Burr will carry on her legacy as a member of the Foundation's board of directors.

Monique Burr had been revered as a compassionate children's advocate and the founder of a nationally-recognized nursing and daycare program for sick and disabled kids, the PALS Center.

Ed Burr established the Monique Burr Foundation in 1997, on the one-year anniversary of his wife's death, when Austin was 6 years old and his brother, Garrison, was 3.

A senior audit associate and certified public accountant at KPMG, Austin will join his father, MBF founder Edward E. Burr, on the board. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance and a master's degree in corporate accounting from Florida State University.



Austin Burr

Lynn Layton, executive director of the nonprofit, said Austin's service to the board represents a new chapter of the work that began when he was just a child.

"It represents the continuation of the Foundation – younger professionals getting involved to better protect children. I feel like this is a whole other era that is beginning with him," Layton said. "He brings a new level of understanding of the digital world and how that impacts children. This is really a fresh opportunity for Austin – and Garrison, when he's ready – to have a very big impact on the Foundation and this work and where we are headed."

River Garden receives prestigious accolade, distinction



Of the 685 nursing homes in Florida, U.S. News & World Report rated 121 of them to be the best homes in the state. And River Garden is at the very top of that list.

U.S. News used data from Nursing Home Compare, a program run by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The nursing homes were rated "poor" to "top-performing" on a scale of 1 to 5.

U.S. News said nursing home performance was evaluated over time, averaging monthly data over a year, and much emphasis was placed on strong performance in medical quality measures. To receive a high U.S. News rating, homes had to provide significantly

more than the required minimum of rehabilitation therapy. All rated homes accept residents covered by Medicaid, Medicare or both.

The 121 Florida nursing homes on the list were labeled as "top performing" and had overall ratings of 4.5 or greater.

River Garden Senior Services is a not-for-profit, mission-driven community agency offering an array of elder care programs and services on a 40-acre campus in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville. Sponsored by the organized Jewish community, River Garden serves clients from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds while maintaining an environment supportive of Jewish identity and informed by Jewish values.

In addition to being an 8-time recipient of the prestigious Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long Term Care, River Garden is a 5-star rated community by AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) and CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) and a recipient of US News & World Report's "Best Nursing Homes" designation in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016-17.

Ackerman receives 2017 Community Service Award

Scot Ackerman, M.D., was recognized by the Duval County Medical Society with the 2017 Community Service Award at the annual gala Nov. 17.

The award is given to a local physician who has shown a commitment to improving the health of the Northeast Florida community. Ackerman first received the Community Service Award from the DCMS 20 years ago and is now the only Duval County physician to be recognized twice.

The DCMS panel selected Ackerman for his long-standing commitment to improving the health of the entire Duval County population, and to recognize the importance of a lifelong commitment to service.

"Dr. Ackerman strongly believes in advocating for all patients, not just in word but in action. Whether he is fighting an insurance provider for coverage of a needed treatment for a patient, or connecting a newly diagnosed patient with a survivor who can provide them with mentorship and a helping hand, Dr. Ackerman provides



Newly-inducted Duval County Medical Society president, Dr. Ruple Galani, with award-winner, Dr. Scot Ackerman

every patient with individualized, compassionate care," said Jennifer Maggiore, LCSW, Patient Services Director at Ackerman Cancer Center.

The Duval County Medical Society is a nonprofit organization comprised of nearly 2,000 physicians who live or work in Duval County. Founded in 1853, DCMS is the oldest medical society in Florida.

McBurney declares Irma 'unconstitutional'

The Charles W. McBurney Law Firm hosted a "Re-Constitution Day, Declare Irma Unconstitutional" event using a "Hamiltonian" theme on Oct. 19 at the San Jose Country Club.

The original, annual "Constitution Day" event, scheduled for September, was rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma.

Students from Mandarin Oaks Elementary School sang the popular "My Shot" from the play "Hamilton." The attendees also



Terri Caruso, Deborah and Charles McBurney, JoAnn Theale

enjoyed door prizes and giveaways from the play, along with live music from the play and "1780s" hits.




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Watson associate learns about Beijing real estate firsthand

Anil Pathak, sales associate at Watson Realty Corp.'s San Marco/San Jose office, recently traveled to Beijing, China, for vacation and mixed a little business with pleasure

Serving as an ambassador for Watson Realty Corp., Pathak connected with Asia Pacific Properties, a fellow Leading Real Estate Companies of the World® (LeadingRE) brokerage, to learn more about their real estate market and practices.

Pathak met with Leo Xiao of APP Mobility, the Residential and Relocation Division of Asia Pacific Properties specializing in Corporate Relocation Services. The two discussed the real estate market in Beijing, as well as the current state of the market in Florida and the United States as a whole. Through this exchange, Pathak found that condominium and single-family home prices in Beijing are at astronomical highs. Overall, Pathak



Leo Xiao and Anil Pathak

felt that this meeting was an excellent networking opportunity and a great success.

“China is a fast developing country and they have prospered economically in the last 15-20 years,” said Pathak. “Leo Xiao was bilingual and very knowledgeable in the real estate field, so it was great to listen to his perspective and learn from his experience.”

Pathak moved to Florida from New York in the early 1990s. He has been with Watson for 12 years and specializes in resale homes, new construction and condominiums.

Upscale men's grooming salon opens in San Marco



Pete Helow cuts the ribbon at the Nov. 9 grand opening celebration of Rossters Men's Grooming Center in San Marco.

Men are finally getting the grooming selections and service they deserve. Roosters Men's Grooming Center, 2000 Hendricks Ave., offers a wide variety of services well beyond the traditional “shave and a haircut,” among them a seven-step facial shave, a road recovery facial not just for cyclists and the ever-popular Club Cut.

In addition to services, Roosters offers hair, skin and shave products formulated exclusively for men.

The franchise opened in late October and is owned and operated by local entrepreneur Pete Helow, a marketer, photographer and an aficionado of wines, brandy and spirits.

SMMA, SMPS volunteers aid UCOM

Board members from the San Marco Merchants Association and the San Marco Preservation Society donated their time and money to the United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM) Nov. 11. A group of 11 volunteers from both associations put together Thanksgiving food packages, which were distributed by UCOM later in the month.

The two organizations also donated a total of \$500 to UCOM.

UCOM has been working since 1979 to make sure no one faces hunger alone through a three-tiered approach. It provides emergency relief to those facing food insecurity via its food pantry and provides at least one hot meal a day to those who are home-bound through its Meals on Wheels program. It also provides a way to help individuals raise their earning potential and break their cycle of crisis through its Certified Nursing Assistant Scholarship Program.



San Marco Preservation Society President Bryan Mickler, UCOM Executive Director Sara Mitchell with San Marco Merchants Association Treasurer and Vice President Erin Byrd



San Marco Merchants Association Treasurer and Vice President Erin Byrd, Leah Roesler, William Michaelis, Scott Wohlers, Desiree Bailey, Scott Swanstron, Mimi Price, Bryan Mickler, George Foote, Susan Ebbinghouse and Alan Whitehouse

McCain joins local realty firm



Dawne F. McCain

San Jose resident Dawne F. McCain has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, working primarily from the San Marco office.

McCain has four years of experience in real estate investment and sales, with expertise also in corporate housing, business development and corporate training.

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Deborah Gervin with Kaye Glover, Elli Zimmerman, Jane Pomar and Alex Ackerman

Legendary newsman headlines Florida Forum speaker series

Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw opened The Florida Forum Speaker Series Nov. 8 with more than 1,000 people attending the program at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and more than 350 people at the post-event reception.

Brokaw, who began his career in journalism with NBC News in 1966 and anchored NBC Nightly News from 1982-2004, discussed the political climate in Washington, D.C., and the division that exists between political parties. Brokaw currently serves as a Special Correspondent for NBC News and works on documentaries for other outlets. He is the author of the 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*. Brokaw was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014 by President Barack Obama.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series is produced by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital with support from partners Wells Fargo, Florida Blue and Landstar. The series raises money and awareness for Wolfson Children's Hospital. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit The Women's Board website at womens-board-wolfsonchildrenshospital.com.



Carl Loop with Nancy Mahon, Sherrie Webb and Dr. Warner Webb



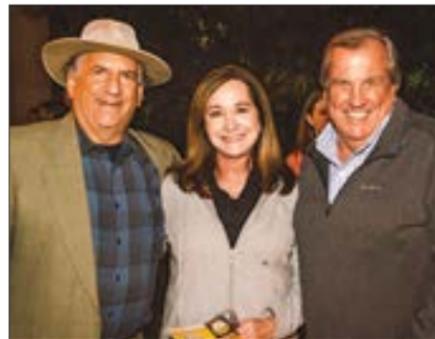
Lisa and Glenn Ullmann

Patrons at annual Brew at the Zoo have roarin' good time

Guests at the 11th annual Brew at the Zoo, guests enjoyed unlimited tastes of over 150 craft and import beers, spirits, wine and non-alcoholic beverages, and sample food from over 60 local restaurants, such as Cool Moose Café, Bearded Pig, Black Sheep Restaurant and Sweet Pete's. Live music and games let patrons "go wild" Nov. 10 for a worthy cause – the care and feeding of 2,000 animals and over 1,000 plants at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.



Emily Hughes and Ashley Bennett



Tony Vecchio, Zoo director, with Pam Almond and Blair Mosby



Vincent Sansone and Abby Elam

Library Gala celebrates new programs, awards and supportive patrons

Proving that libraries are more than repositories of books, the Jacksonville Public Library's programming contributed to many of the reasons why it bested 800 other Florida libraries to become 2017 Library of the Year.

Supporters of the award-winning public library celebrated the honor at a cocktail reception Nov. 9 in the Makerspace at the Main Library in downtown Jacksonville. Joining the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation's Chair Emeritus Betsy Lovett was Charles Moreland on behalf of the Mayor's Office and current Foundation Board Chair Kevin Hyde.



Sara and Mario Payne with Bruce Fox

Over the past several years, programs such as the Career Online High School and a partnership with Duval County Public Schools to give library cards to more than 130,000 students and thousands of teachers helped the struggling JPL turn the page and transform itself into a relevant resource for the community.



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Local celebrities take to dance floor for Jax Children's Chorus

Local celebrities put their dance skills to the test to benefit the Jacksonville Children's Chorus, partnering with dancers from A Social Affair Dance Studio for Jacksonville's Dancing with the Stars. The 2017 Champion was retired JEA director Vickie Cavey, with pro partner Wesley Kuehlthau, second place went to Tracee Holzendorf, with pro partner Timothy Schweiger and third place was Connie Hodges with pro partner Samuel Penalba.

The Nov. 4 benefit held at the Lazzara Performance Hall in the UNF Fine Arts Center featured Joy Purdy Anchor, WJXT-Channel 4, and Richard Hadden, author, consultant and speaker as show emcees. In its 13th year, the event has raised thousands of dollars to help local charities such as Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, the Boselli Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Special Olympics and more.



Holly Hammond, Jacksonville Children's Chorus development director, Wonda Willis, Joyce Devillez, Barbara Drake



Ali Macdonald, Sarah Scruby



Celebrity dancer Virginia Hall, Senior Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement, St. Vincent's HealthCare, with Muhidin Divovic



Celebrity dancer Tracee Hozendorf, practice administrator, All About Kids and Families Medical Center with Tim Schweiger

Clara White supporters put on the glitz for annual gala

"Putting on the Glitz" was the theme of the 13th annual Pearls & Cufflinks Gala to benefit the Clara White Mission, which celebrates 112 years of service to the community. The event, held Nov. 4 at Citi, also commemorates the occasion of the 141st birthday of the founder, Dr. Eartha M.M. White, who was known for the single strand of pearls she wore.

Clara White, for whom the mission is named, adopted Eartha as a young child and provided her with examples of philanthropy and humanitarianism. Eartha was honored at age 95 as Florida's Outstanding Senior Citizen by Gov. Reubin Askew. She was also designated a Great Floridian by the Florida Department of State.



Lisa Baptiste, Brooks Baptiste, serving as Emcee, Martin Baptiste, and Carlos Patino, board member



Heather Troutman, Rosa Nicholas, Merle Wright, Kris Mattson, board chair

Reasons for hope expressed at annual OneJax interfaith service



Participants in the 100th OneJax Interfaith Thanksgiving Gratitude Service pose for a group portrait, taken by Anne-Marie Campbell of OneJax.

In 1917, Rabbi Israel Kaplan of Congregation Ahavath Chesed - The Temple held an interfaith service of gratitude probably never dreaming 100 years later his synagogue would celebrate the centennial service with clergy from all over Jacksonville.

At the Nov. 16 service, themed Reasons for Hope, Rabbi Mathew Cohen welcomed members of the community to a service which included music and song, expressions of gratitude shared by religious leaders, dance performed by Native American Aztec dancers, a sermon by Rabbi Cohen, a blessing of gifts by Rev.

Dr. Nicholas Louh of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church and a call to action by Rev. Dr. Kyle Reese of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. The service was concluded with a benediction by Rev. Clare Chance of Avondale United Methodist Church and the John Lennon song, "Imagine," sung by the Interfaith Choir.

More than two dozen clergy from a variety of faiths and denominations participated in the annual service hosted by OneJax, an interfaith organization whose vision is an inclusive community where difference is welcomed and celebrated.

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Food connoisseurs sample to support March of Dimes

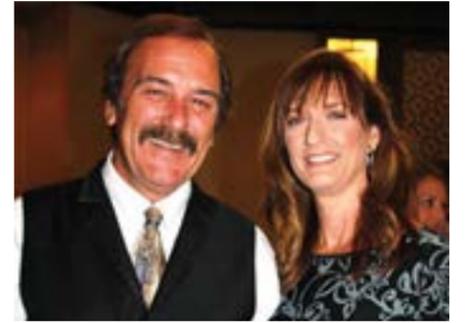
Ten of the city's best chefs offered Jacksonville foodies an opportunity to enjoy great culinary creations while raising funds to support the March of Dimes during the 27th Annual Signature Chefs Auction. The event took place Nov. 9 at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel.

In addition to sampling signature dishes from Jacksonville's top tier chefs, attendees enjoyed wine and spirits, interactive drawings and an exciting live auction featuring unique and one-of-a-kind chef experiences, getaways, and more. Nearly \$120,000 raised through the culinary benefit will support the March of Dimes mission to improve the health of moms and babies in Northeast Florida.

Signature Chefs Auction Committee Chair was Amy Turci of FordHarrison LLP. This year's Ambassador Family was represented by pediatric ophthalmologist, Dawn Duss, M.D., of Pediatric Eye Consultants of North Florida, her husband Charles Duss, M.D., of Atlantic Eye Institute, and their four-year-old twins, Jameson and Sabrie.



Laura Rushin, Shelly Gentner, Poppy Decunto, Event Chair Amy Turci, Michelle Kalil and Ariel Cook



Ron and Lori Ann Whittington



Pam Sorenson, Eunice Mathis and Lynne Ferguson



Jina Stapp, Adrianna Fominaya and Eve Krasutski



Robin Tharpe tries on earrings as jewelry designer Erica Courtney and Shelley Murillo of Underwood's look on.

Underwood's hosts Drop Dead Gorgeous trunk show

Celebrity jewelry designer Erica Courtney took time from a busy schedule searching for the perfect exotic gems for her Drop Dead Gorgeous™ collection to display her jewelry at Underwood's Jewelers last month.

Courtney started her custom jewelry business more than 30 years ago from a kitchen table in Dallas, and travels the world – including down diamond mines in Tanzania – to find the perfect stones.

Underwood's Denise Richards, a certified gemologist appraiser, "discovered" Courtney over five years ago while attending an American Gem Society education conference and, ever since, Courtney visits Underwoods annually to share new and unusual pieces in her collection.



Erica Courtney holding a pair of "I Dream of Jeannie's Ponytail" earrings

While at the San Marco shop Nov. 1, Courtney met longtime Underwood's customer, Robin Tharpe, who said she remembers visiting Underwood's as a child with her mother in the 1970s. "This is my jewelry store," said Tharpe, who tried on a pair of earrings.

Following the trunk show in San Marco, Underwood's hosted the event at its Ponte Vedra Beach location Nov. 2-4.



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Luchandra Bryant, Tabitha Hochstein and Jackie Lee

Homeless pets have 'day in the sun' at new Humane Society center

Mayor Lenny Curry proclaimed November 9, 2017 as "Generosity Breeds Joy Day" in Jacksonville to honor the Jacksonville Humane Society's 132 years of work in the community and to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for the new Adoption, Education and Community Resource Center.

Generous donors were also invited to the Nov. 9 ceremony and reception, where they toured over 44,000 square feet of new space, triple the size of the temporary structures that were previously in use.

Features of the new center include a dedicated community resource center to help families in need, a new training space for public education including youth programs, climate-controlled housing for all animals, 50 adoption kennels, 10 dog living

room suites where families can engage with dogs for adoption, five group cat rooms so felines can play together and two "catio" porches that allow cats access to fresh air and sunshine, a grooming room, multiple isolation rooms for medical treatment and a two story mezzanine.

The new space will allow JHS to bring back many of its popular programs, such as Pawsitive Reading and Camp Paw Prints, along with new initiatives such as dog behavior courses, yoga with cats, and birthday parties.

The new center was a \$15 million project and JHS is working to raise the remaining \$4.5 million. To learn more about the new center or to donate, visit jaxhumane.org or call (904) 725-8766.



David Stein with Nancy and Seeman Zimmerman



Betty and Tom Petway with Joey Kelly



Susan Dubow with Linda Stein

Youth learns lessons in homelessness at 7th Annual Cardboard City

For seven years, faith youth groups, families and individuals have gathered to create Cardboard City, held on Nov. 17 this year at CrossRoad United Methodist Church, Southside. The event raised more than \$25,000 to benefit Family Promise of Jacksonville, which helps return homeless families to self-sufficiency.

The agency reports that every Duval County public school has at least one homeless student, many with more than one. Lynn Doiron, a kindergarten teacher at Merrill Road Elementary School, has firsthand experience with that statistic.

"I was surprised and sad to discover that one of the children I taught in my school of mostly middle-class families was being helped by Family Promise," she said. Doiron

set up her cardboard box by herself and raises money to support the agency.

In the Social Service Maze, people were given a "your family" scenario and then attempted to navigate a series of stations (social service agencies) to get resources their family needed (shelter, food, a job and more). The first-time program was developed with Florida State College at Jacksonville's Honors program through the Center of Civic Engagement. Students, who manned stations, learned about the challenges faced by the homeless and the agencies that try to help them.

Seventeen local congregations and 800 volunteers help Family Promise by providing homeless families with meals and a place to sleep.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church members, Olivia Lapinski and Abigail Lapinski on Lynette Weber's lap, and (back) Jody Harkrider and Mark Weber have participated all seven years. While they weren't building a house this year, they planned to participating in all of the event's other activities.



St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church youth group members, front: Nolan Pudimat, Tahiana Rakotomandrinidra, and Naomi Heneghan; back: Jody Harkrider, Becca Jorn, youth leader Bridget Pudimat, Miora Rambeloarisoa, Ian Heneghan and Sarah Jorn. St. Mark's, in San Marco, is a participating Family Promise church. The youth group has participated every year in Cardboard City. This year, the youth presented a series of talks to church members about homelessness and raised a total of \$665.



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Connecting with differently-abled through fashion

Putting purpose into practice, area non-profits which are members of *Connectable Jacksonville* held *Fashionable*, a fall fashion show to benefit North Florida School of Special Education, The Arc Jacksonville, Special Olympics Jacksonville and Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville.

The show, held Nov. 3 at Dillard's at St. Johns Town Center, featured world-famous model, fashion designer and Internet celebrity Madeline Stuart, a 20-year-old Australian woman with Down syndrome. Local youth with intellectual and developmental differences also modeled, walking alongside Dillard's models and local celebrities.

The *Connectable* campaign is designed to enhance connections within Northeast Florida with people who have intellectual and developmental differences. By becoming connected, people better understand the strengths, abilities and value people with IDD's bring to the community. For more information about becoming *Connectable*, visit ConnectableJax.com.



Model escort Amy with Cara Stieglitz, representing Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville



Jose Ribeiro, a student with Arc Jacksonville's On Campus Transition program at UNF, escorted by Dillard's model Charlotte



Janny Rodriguez of First Coast News with Hayley Hess



North Florida School of Special Education students K.J. McCreary (left) and Drew Crass (second from right) with their escorts Xiomara and Brandon



2016 Missouri Miss Amazing Jr. Miss Kaitlin Trower with escort Adriana



Lizzie Cain, representing Special Olympics Duval County, escorted by Melanie Lawson, WJXT Channel 4

Southbank developer announces new hotel project

FROM PAGE 1

The riverfront property owned by JEA was put up for bid early in 2014 and late that year JEA chose Rummell's \$18.5 million bid to develop the site. Since then, Rummell's company, Elements Development of Jacksonville, LLC, has received extensions each time the purchase deadline neared.

On Nov. 28, a third extension was approved by JEA, with the condition that a \$250,000 refundable deposit be made nonrefundable. The 90-day extension could delay the hotel's site work.

Additionally, it was reported Elements Development is seeking to transfer its purchase agreement with JEA to the City of Jacksonville, which would pay JEA for the property.

When asked about the property transfer, the response from the Mayor's Office was a deflection to the DIA. "Any proposal on this property will be evaluated by the City if it passes through the DIA, which is the appropriate authority," said Marsha Oliver, spokesperson for the Mayor.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer said she has a concern that the City not repeat with The District the situation decades ago when The Shipyards development fell through and the City ended up owning the Northbank property again.

It is typical for a city to be involved in developing the infrastructure on new development as long as it has a security interest in the property, she said.

If and when the Southbank property negotiations are settled, the AC Hotel by Marriott will be the first in the greater Jacksonville area. The six-story hotel will be approximately 70,000 square feet with up to 200 guest rooms, and feature a variety of public spaces including a lounge, restaurant, fitness center, retail outlet and work spaces.

"The modern, edgy yet relaxing and inviting atmosphere of AC Hotels by Marriott compliments the health-focused live-work-play environment we are creating," said Rummell. "The District's location also provides guests some of the best views of the St. Johns River and downtown Jacksonville, further showcasing one of our city's best attributes."

Tampa-based Impact Properties will develop, own and manage the hotel. The terms of the deal between The District and Impact Properties were not disclosed.

"The AC brand provides for European-inspired guestrooms, a signature lobby lounge that will feature tapas, local craft beer and cocktails, all of which will be served on the scenic banks of the St. Johns River," said Kish Kanji, Executive VP of Impact Properties.

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Jean-Paul and Chelsea Cottave with Wendy and Skip Willbach, Jacey Willbach and Ryan Kelley



Ellen Larmoyeux with Gala Chair Jeanine Rogozinski



Alex Ackerman and Dr. Scot Ackerman



Sean Valliere with Kendall Sisisky Valliere, Kimberly and Richard Sisisky and Blaire Sisisky Sherman with Zachary Sherman



Linda Stein with Laurie DuBow



Jackie and Stephen Goldman

25th Anniversary Gala is pure silver for River Garden Foundation

Shimmer & Stars was the theme for the River Garden Foundation's Silver Anniversary Gala, held Nov. 18 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

The black-tie evening honored Barbara Parker, who co-chaired the Foundation's first gala in 1993 and chaired two additional galas, and recognized 25 years of Gala Chairs. It also featured luscious cocktails, an outstanding silent auction, elegant dining and dancing. Chaired by Jeanine Rogozinski, the gala was presented by Sun Trust Bank.

The gala, which benefits River Garden Hebrew Home and Wolfson Health and Aging Center, has become known as one of the finest in town, and continues to educate the general community about the unique nature of River Garden, its national reputation as a model elder care agency, and what a special role it plays in the community.



Laila Hassan and Albert Fitzgerald



Melanie Jensen, Jim Webb, Gary McCalla, Nancy Codi



Kevin and Renee O'Donnell, Grey Miller



Sally Hazelip, John MacDonald



Johnny Miller, Terese Whitley, Michael Thomas



Molly Johnson and Matt Flakes



Rachelle Garcia and Jason Rimmel

Fine wines, great music highlight annual Red, White and Blues

Supporters of the North Florida School of Special Education enjoyed another fine fundraising event, the 8th annual Red, White and Blues, Nov. 18 at the riverfront estate of Gary McCalla, who has hosted the annual food and wine event at his home many times and continues to show commendable dedication to the school's mission.

The premier wine, spirits and food-tasting event was sponsored by Rogers Towers Law Firm, The CSI Companies, and Akerman Law Firm. Live music and student artwork added to the elegance of the affair. To learn more about the North Florida School of Special Education visit, www.northfloridaschool.org.

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Sarah Gooden, Greg Ackerman

Cowford Ball Country Legends largest fundraising event for cancer

The 22nd Annual Cowford Ball: Country Legends was a hoot 'n a holler from start to Walk of Fame finish. Held Nov. 4 at Morocco Shrine, the fabulous gold (cows) and rhinestone (saddle) event helped fund local community-based patient service programs, live-saving cancer research, and education in prevention and early detection of cancer – all through the American Cancer Society.

The Cowford Ball has raised more than \$8.4 million since its first soiree in 1995. This year's honorary chairs were Betty and Buck Autrey, event chairs were Heather and Alan Creel, vice chairs were Donna and Tom Beames.



Marc and Anne Mayo, Lauren Weedon Hopkins, James Hopkins, Greg and Karen Montana



Diana Victoria Bonafede with Debbie Bonafede



Shannon LoGiudice and Nate Mayo



Lauren Weedon Hopkins with Felicia Flaum, John Lynch, Nicole Barnack

Fruit of the vine, good grains raise funds for those in need

Spread out near the majestic Treaty Oak under four tents in Jessie Ball duPont Park, the 14th annual Festival d'Vine offered supporters over 100 varieties of wines from France, Italy, New Zealand, South America and California, sponsored by Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, Wine Decadence, and Martini & Rossi.

Beers made by local brewers Intuition Ale Works, Veterans United Craft Brewery and Wicked Barley Brewing Company, as well as imported beers offered by Terra Sancta Trading and Republic National Distributing Company, were on hand for those who preferred grain over grape.



Margie and George Morales, Jan and Lou Walsh

The Nov. 3 event, sponsored by FIS, also offered superb food from local restaurants and music under the stars, all to benefit Catholic Charities and its mission to keep families safe and secure in their homes, provide food, the most basic of needs, and help them find jobs.

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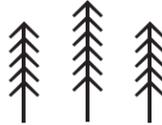
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YEAR	MODEL	STOCK #	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SAVINGS
2017	S60 DYNAMIC	V6938	\$38,355	\$30,890	\$7,460
2017	S60 INSCRIPTION	V7058	\$43,285	\$36,880	\$6,405
2017	S60 INSCRIPTION	V7095	\$39,605	\$32,880	\$6,725
2017	S60 INSCRIPTION	V7108	\$39,605	\$32,980	\$6,625
2017	S60 DYNAMIC	V7154	\$38,290	\$30,980	\$7,310
2017	S60 INSCRIPTION	V7233	\$45,020	\$37,428	\$7,592

YEAR	MODEL	STOCK #	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SAVINGS
2017	S90 T5 MOMENTUM	V7035	\$51,995	\$43,880	\$8,115
2017	S90 T6 AWD MOMENTUM	V7155	\$57,885	\$49,980	\$7,905
2017	S90 T5 MOMENTUM	V7196	\$59,635	\$51,380	\$8,255
2018	S90 T6 INSCRIPTION	V7352	\$67,640	\$58,280	\$9,360
2018	S90 T5 MOMENTUM	V7361	\$52,240	\$45,770	\$6,470
2018	S90 T5 MOMENTUM	V7443	\$53,990	\$46,380	\$7,610

YEAR	MODEL	STOCK #	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SAVINGS
2017	V60 T5 PREMIER	V6934	\$43,335	\$36,581	\$6,754
2017	V60 T6 R-DESIGN	V6963	\$52,195	\$44,807	\$7,388
2017	V60 T5 PREMIER	V6987	\$43,335	\$37,881	\$5,454
2017	V60 T6 AWD R-DESIGN	V7123	\$54,095	\$48,580	\$5,465
2017	V60 T5 PREMIER	V7159	\$44,215	\$37,980	\$6,235
2017	V60 CC T5 AWD	V7211	\$48,575	\$42,780	\$5,795

YEAR	MODEL	STOCK #	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SAVINGS
2017	V90 CC T6	V7231	\$68,835	\$63,480	\$5,355
2017	V90 CC T5 AWD	V7398	\$57,850	\$49,481	\$8,369
2018	V90 T6 AWD	V7516	\$64,645	\$59,480	\$5,165

YEAR	MODEL	STOCK #	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SAVINGS
2017	XC60 T6 AWD	V7194	\$54,210	\$45,980	\$8,230
2018	XC60 T5 AWD	V7435	\$46,340	\$43,480	\$2,860
2017	XC60 T5	V7440	\$46,635	\$39,780	\$6,855

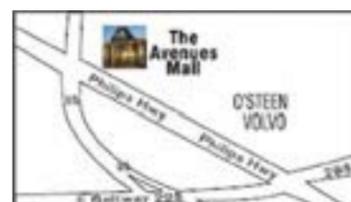
YEAR	MODEL	STOCK #	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SAVINGS
2017	XC 90 T8 R-DESIGN	V7018	\$73,515	\$63,680	\$9,835

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Friends of Arc Jacksonville turn out for annual dinner

More than \$200,000 was raised by generous supports of Arc Jacksonville at its annual Dinner with Bill & Friends fundraiser Oct. 19 at The Arc Jacksonville Village. The benefit helps 500 individuals with intellectual and developmental differences (IDDs) learn, grow and become active in their community.

The event is named in memory of an early ambassador, Bill Sackter, who spent much of his life in an institution before moving in the community. His desire was that all have a need for “a good friend, a good job and a good home.”

Presented by The DuBow Family Foundation and David and Linda Stein, the event’s honorary chair was Senator Aaron Bean, who also conducted the live auction. The event committee included Katie Dumphy, Debbie Johnson, R. Ward Lariscy, Anne Lufrano, Bernadette Moran, Charles Stewart III, Kit Thomas, Barbara Williams, Victoria Wirtz and Marian Zerbe.



Christopher, Collin and Sally Hazelip



Daisy Emmanuel with her son, Kenny



Presenting Sponsors David Stein, Laurie and Linda DuBow (seated), with Arc Jacksonville President/CEO Jim Whittaker, Board Chair Lou Vaccaro, and Dinner with Bill & Friends Chair, Senator Aaron Bean



Peter Lantzy, Ryan Galvin and Ryan Gutos



Commander Dave Brosche, Honorable Anna Brosche, City Council President



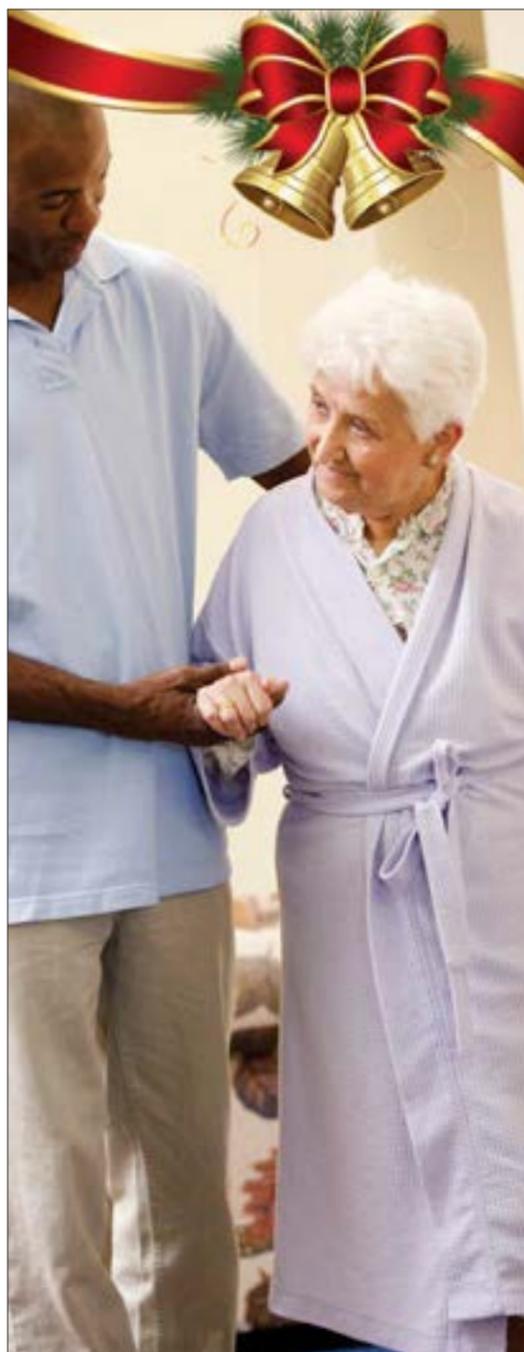
Susan Davies, Eileen Briggs, Cindy Funkhouser, Charles Stewart III



Biz Wickenden greets Judy Lanier



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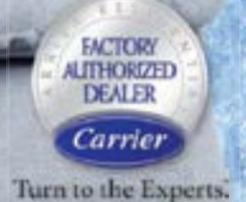
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The Clayman Flounder Pounder team goes all out for Jacksonville School for Autism.

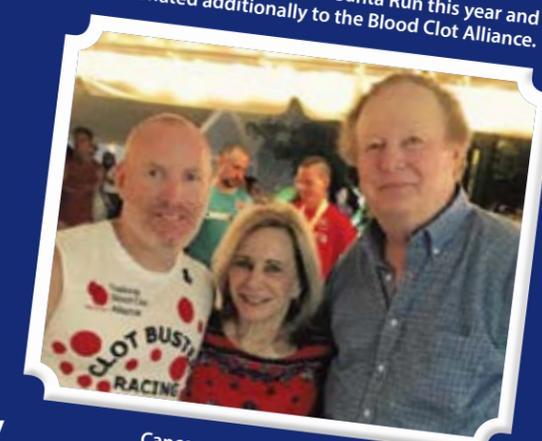


Drs. Loren and Mark Clayman give generously to victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Marie.



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The Claymans sponsor Run Santa Run this year and donated additionally to the Blood Clot Alliance.



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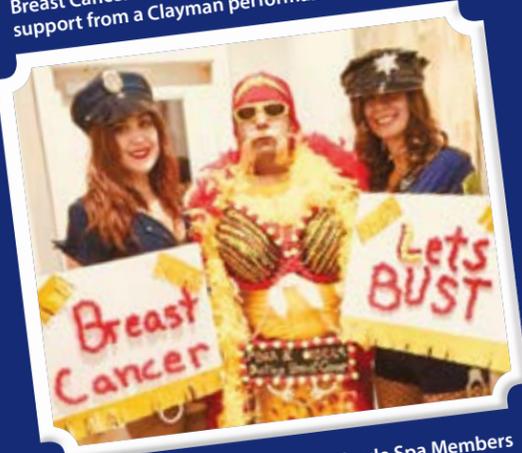
Cancer support provided by the Claymans running with a team in the Keys 100 ultramarathon.



Sponsoring 2017 Run Santa Run to spotlight the National Blood Clot Alliance and their "Stop the Clot, Spread the Word" campaign.



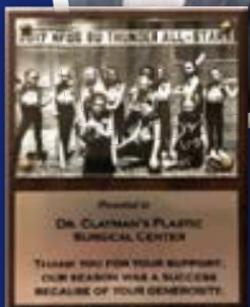
2017 JSA Sponsorship to raise funds and awareness for autism



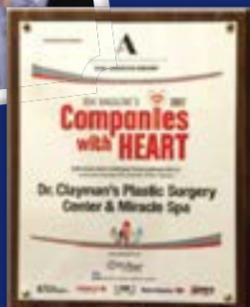
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Neighbors pitch in to help young family in need

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It was a living demonstration of the Biblical adage, "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself."

Out of the goodness of their hearts, 28 Colonial Manor residents spent the late afternoon Nov. 5 cleaning up and landscaping the yard at their neighbor's Mapleton Road home.

The neighbors were called to action by Suzanne Honeycutt, who learned that Emily and Glen Wieger were struggling after their son, Teddy, was born with complications Sept. 15. Forced to spend 29 days in Wolfson Children's Hospital's neo-natal unit, Teddy had returned home with his parents three weeks before.

"This is a great young couple, and we just wanted to love them by helping them out," said Honeycutt.

The Wiegiers, who have lived on Mapleton Road for four years, recently spent nearly a year staying with Emily's mother, Pernie Gilbert, while their home was renovated, and a new addition built.

"As first-time parents, it's been kind of a whirlwind to get accumulated. Teddy eats every two hours, so we are kind of exhausted. I don't know when we would have done it," Emily said, referring to the yard clean up. "As we have been adjusting to a new life as parents taking care of a baby, I am learning that your housework and sleep go by the wayside. It's really sweet that our neighbors decided to go down and help."

"The Wiegiers had moved back in three days after living with Pernie," explained Honeycutt. "They were thrilled it was all coming together – move in, baby born, come back, finish the fine-tuning on the house. But since Teddy returned from the hospital, Glen has slept on the floor in the nursery next to the bed and Emily sleeps in the rocker. They are teaming him 24/7. Obviously, they didn't have time for this. They were embarrassed because the yard didn't look like the rest of the neighborhood and I said, 'That we can fix. We can't fix Teddy, but we can fix this.'"

Included among some of the neighbors who assisted with the clean up were the Barnett family – Michelle, Richard and children Jacqueline, Madeline and Rawls, John Searcy, the Leonard family – Sharon, Michael, Liam and Anna, Kyle Harper, Keith Hutchison, Cathy Onur, Kim and Dallas Alexander, Cecile and Robert Rider, Tia Colao, Patty Price, Elmyra Morris, Stevie Schoof of St. Nicholas, Ian and Caroline Stake, and Joe Honeycutt.

"We live across the street, and our neighbors need something, so we're helping out," said Searcy. "I've done that all my life when somebody needs something. I learned it



Emily and Glen Wieger with seven-week-old Teddy

as a child through Scouting and in church," he said, noting he and his two brothers were Eagle Scouts, as were his two sons and two grandsons.

Michelle Barnett, whose three children helped rake the lawn and pick up debris, said it is important for kids to learn how to help other people.

"In the world we are living in, we want them to grow up knowing you've got to help others in tough times. I think we live in a fabulous community where people come together to help regardless of what the need is, even if it is just to pray, do yard work, cook meals, or lend a listening ear."

Although the Wiegiers do not attend Southside United Methodist Church (SUMC), members of that congregation have regularly prayed for Teddy since they learned of his plight.

"We've had a lot of people praying for him," said Emily, noting a SUMC prayer group has prayed for him regularly every Tuesday. "Suzanne has made him one of their projects," she said.

"We do it because we're community," said church member Ian Stake. "Teddy was a month in the hospital but he's home now, and we're all very excited about it. We will continue to pray for him," he said.

Even though she is not acquainted with the Wiegiers, Kim Alexander still decided to join the group. "God bless them. It's the neighborly thing to do," she said.

Cecile Rider and her husband agreed. "We were just inspired. We have never met this sweet couple, but their story touched our hearts, and we wanted to be here to help out," she said.

Emily Wieger said her family is grateful to live in such a giving community. "It's reassuring when things like this happen to you, the kind of people who are cleaning up at our house are around," she said. "We are grateful Teddy gets to see that and grow up around such selfless acts. It's just awesome."



Michelle Barnett, Madeline Barnett and Cathy Onur bag up debris during a clean-up of the Wiegiers' home on Mapleton Road.



Five-year-old Jacqueline Barnett assisted with raking debris.



Helping to restore the front walkway at Glen and Emily Wieger's home on Mapleton Lane were Joe Honeycutt and Ian Stake.



Richard Barnett and across-the-street neighbor John Searcy assisted with the clean-up.



More than 28 residents from the Colonial Manor neighborhood joined together to clean up the yard for their neighbors, Emily and Glen Wieger.



Joining in the fun cleaning up Emily and Glen Wieger's yard were Robert and Cecile Rider.



Helping with the landscaping were Dr. Sharon Leonard and Suzanne Honeycutt.

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Local church reflects ‘whole host of nations’ with international ministries

San Jose Baptist celebrates 60 years

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

At a time when most Protestant mainline denominations are struggling to keep the lights on and the doors open, San Jose Baptist Church recently celebrated 60 years of ministry in the San Jose and Lakewood area – thanks in no small part to the congregation’s practice of opening its doors, its arms and its hearts to atypical ministry groups.

The roots of the congregation began when Southside Baptist Church voted to sponsor a mission chapel in the rapidly expanding Lakewood-San Jose area back in 1953.

The first meeting was held in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church on October 17, 1954. A tract of land on which the first building was erected was purchased on October 27, 1954, and the Southside Baptist Church began conducting regular services at the mission site on January 2, 1955.

Services were held in the first building constructed on April 1, 1956. The building (along with additional World War II barracks) served as the Sanctuary and educational space.

The Lakewood-San Jose Chapel was constituted as a church and named San Jose Baptist Church on February 3, 1957 with 196 charter members.

“Our kids found the church through the youth group and we followed them to San Jose Baptist 42 years ago. I’ve seen the many changes in the church and the growth of the international ministry,” said Pat Gooding.

“I serve in the Children’s Ministry on Wednesday night and have the privilege of teaching many of the Burmese, Bhutanese, and Congolese children. San Jose Baptist has been our life and has always been there for us and I am glad that we are there for these children and their families. God has richly blessed us.”

That international ministry Gooding spoke of is part of the reason the church at 6140 San Jose Blvd. is thriving. There are four “churches” in addition to San Jose Baptist which call that location home:

The Burmese church started its journey at San Jose Baptist in 2007 with 60 or 70 members meeting upstairs in the Sunday School rooms of the Fellowship Hall.

The Canaan Chin Baptist Church was formed in 2011 and now has about 200 members.

The Bhutanese Nepali Community Church started in 2009 with just 11 people and now has approximately 80 members.

The Congolese Church is the latest congregation to worship at San Jose Baptist. Many of its members are new refugees, without jobs or transportation. Even with those hindrances, they are faithful to come to worship and have as many as 40 in attendance in just 10 months.

“The anniversary celebration was an amazing example of how God wants our world to be and proof of his answered prayers. We should all love one another, spread God’s love, and pray for the nations. We had six languages, people worshipping our God from different nations, families, and in different languages,” said Jennifer Chapman, a member for 26 years. “It was a true blessing. The church has been amazing to us, the support and love that has been



Congolese congregation members sing praises in their native language at San Jose Baptist Church’s 60th anniversary celebration.

shown our family from this ‘body of believers’ is beyond words and if weren’t for them we wouldn’t be where we are right now.”

San Jose Baptist Church celebrated 60 years with a special international worship service on Oct. 29 followed by a dinner featuring the cuisine of its international churches.

During the international service, Rev. Mike Reed became choked up with emotion when the four international pastors joined him to read the Great Commission in their native languages.

“It was a powerful part of our service where Jesus’ ‘marching orders’ for the church was read in Burmese, Swahili, Arabic, Nepali, Russian, and English. When I walked to the platform with these fine servants of God, I turned toward the congregation and was immediately taken back by the sight of a

room full of people from a whole host of nations. There before me were faces of many colors. It was a beautiful sight to see the church of our Lord in native dress from many nations. It was at that moment I sensed I had been able to see what I believe is a glimpse of the heart of God,” he said.

In addition to opening its worship space to Jacksonville’s resettled refugee community, the San Jose Baptist congregation makes concerted efforts to serve in the mission field through various mission trips both locally and abroad, teaching ESL classes locally, and adopting a local Title I school.

“San Jose Baptist is our family. It is neat to minister to different cultures and to realize that you don’t have to go outside of Jacksonville (even though the church does) to minister to other nationalities,” said Pam Stowers, a “newer” member of four years.



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Jacksonville sixth Florida city to establish Holocaust museum

By Karen Rieley
Resident Community News

In spite of blustery winds, more than 150 gathered under a large tent Oct. 29 to celebrate the grand opening of the 30,000-square-foot Alan J. Taffet Building and the centennial of Jewish Family & Community Services.

The ceremony included a ribbon cutting and tours of the new building, which houses the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery, the only Holocaust memorial between Atlanta and Miami. After speeches, a diverse group of community members, from a foster care child to a Holocaust survivor, added mementos to a time capsule to represent the nonprofit's main areas of service.

Speaking during the dedication, Alan Taffet's widow, Ina, shared how proud she is with every caring deed in his life. "He is not dead but he is alive in this building," she said.

Ben Frisch followed her words by noting the importance of including the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery in the new headquarters.

"The [Holocaust] should never have happened and never be forgotten," he said. "We will continue to give our support for many years to come as our family's remembrance of Lilo and Harry Frisch, both of whom were Holocaust survivors."

Laurie DuBow, lead volunteer and donor for JFCS's "The Place We Make ... The Place That Makes Us" capital campaign, challenged guests to remember what event, conversation or person first stimulated them to give back.

"I distinctly remember my mother saying that there is always something you can give to those in need, and when you do, it benefits you as well as them," he said.

Mary Edwards, vice president of fund development on the JFCS board of directors, reported the campaign has nearly raised more than \$5.3 million towards the \$6 million goal. Funds raised will also renovate JFCS's old offices on DuPont Station Court, which will be renamed the Allison Stein Robbin Building and house the new Max Block Food Pantry.

"I am committed to raising the funds necessary to construct and furnish this building and renovate the original offices so that they are mortgage- and debt-free," DuBow said.

JFCS, founded in 1917, has expanded beyond assisting people in need with food and emergency shelter to a wide variety of community services including adoption services, child welfare, counseling, emergency financial assistance, senior support and dropout prevention.

"People always say, 'I had no idea that your agency did all this,'" said Colleen Rodriguez, JFCS executive director.

Although JFCS is guided by Jewish values, the agency serves the entire First Coast community. "What most people don't know is that 80 percent of the people we serve are not Jewish," she said.

Rodriguez noted that efficiency and wrap-around support were most important as they designed their new building, with the help of Tom Duke Architect, PA, and Matt Taylor, executive vice president, and Jon Witty, senior field supervisor, The Angelo Group general contractor.

The Alan J. Taffet Building, 8540 Baycenter Road, will serve as JFCS's new headquarters. Other Florida cities which have museums, memorials or education centers about the Holocaust include St. Petersburg, Miami, Dania Beach, Maitland and Naples.



The official ribbon-cutting was done by Laurie DuBow, Lori Leach, Colleen Rodriguez, Ben Frisch, Ina Taffet, Rabbi Yaakov Fisch, Kalilah Jamall, staff assistant, Office of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Essence McKinney, a child in JFCS's foster care services, JFCS volunteer Eunice Zisser, and Matthew Villeareal, a student in JFCS's Achievers for Life program.



Ellen and George Rubens, who regularly make food donations. As an inner-city school principal, Ellen often referred children to JFCS for assistance.



Colleen Rodriguez looks on as Ina Taffet puts items in the time capsule honoring the agency's 100 years of service.



Deanna Lissner, Jeff and Staci Barnett, and Deanna's husband Mike Lissner, past vice president and board member of JFCS.



Irina Spinella, with her father, Holocaust survivor Nathan Koifman and her son, Ken. Koifman was born in Odessa, Ukraine in 1931. His family moved to Moscow, Russia. Then the war broke out and, in 1941, Koifman and his mother became one of the many families who evacuated to Uzbekistan by train. In 1943, they moved back to Moscow where his family worked in the military factories until the end of the war. "The Holocaust memorial will be a way to make sure future generations understand what we went through," daughter Irina translated his Russian to English.



Longtime JFCS volunteer Eunice Zisser with Carol Belcher



Mary Edwards, vice president of fund development for the JFCS board of directors, District 6 Councilman Matt Schellenberg, Jeff Edwards, CFO, Beaver Street Fisheries, and Charlie Cofer, public defender for Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit

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Holiday traditions warm hearts and bring joy

By Krysten L. Bennett, Resident Community News



Hannah Bachman Schaffer, Melody Bachman, Joshua Bachman, Natalie Bachman Rosander, Bryan Rosander

Melody Bachman of San Marco believes that great recipes shouldn't be kept secret, and was delighted to share her grandmother's formula for what she says is the best eggnog around.

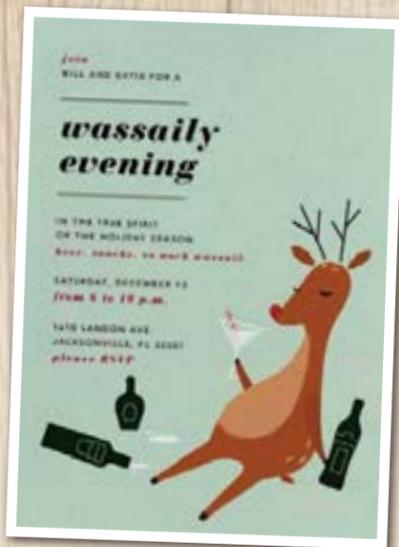
Until last year, the Bachman family hosted an annual Christmas Eve party where the highlight was – you guessed it – Great Nonna's Eggnog! Last year, with Bachman's three adult children living in Orlando, a visit to see grandchildren for the holidays meant a lot of disappointed local friends, but the Bachman children hosted a party of their own to introduce their Orlando friends to their family eggnog tradition. Bachman is thrilled her children are carrying on the Christmas Eve party legacy and spreading Great Nonna's cheer to others.

Great Nonna's Eggnog

- 12 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brandy
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- Ground nutmeg
- Whip cream with 1 Tbs. sugar until stiff. In a separate bowl beat egg whites with a dash of salt until stiff.
- In another bowl, beat egg yolks and whip in 1 cup sugar. Add brandy to yolks, stirring constantly. When well mixed, add yolks to whites, folding in gently.
- Then fold in whipped cream until fully incorporated.
- Serve with ground nutmeg to sprinkle on top.

Part of a military family, Katie Delaney of San Marco grew up in Germany where she remembers Christmas as a magical time, with outdoor winter festivals and markets with music, lights and vendors selling massive heart-shaped gingerbread cookies on strings, roasted chestnuts and mulled wassail, or Glühwein. To honor those childhood memories, she and her husband host a wassailing party each year, for which Bill spends the day mulling wine and brandy for the evening's celebratory singing and imbibing with friends.

"The smell and taste of the stuff brings me right back to my 13-year-old self, shivering in my winter jacket and blowing profusely at my steaming mug of wassail, impatiently waiting for it to cool down enough to sip," said Delaney.



In order to bring both of their families together, Stacey and Todd Orlando of Empire Point, each of whom have three siblings, began hosting a family Christmas Eve party in 1992, as each of their mothers continue to host Christmas Day festivities. Their gathering has included grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren from Ohio, New York, New Hampshire and Florida who travel to be together every year.

In the early years, Stacey's brother, Johnny Beehner, played the role of Santa, but today, a favorite tradition is serving a signature cocktail at the party, anything from espresso martinis and Irish coffees to sugar-rimmed lemon martinis and limoncello made from fresh squeezed Meyer lemons picked from the family's tree.



Barbara Maurer of San Jose was living in Germany when her children were born, as her husband was stationed there with the military for 10 years. In addition to celebrating the Christmas holiday later in the month, the family also adopted the German holiday of St. Nicholas Day, celebrated on December 6. Boots are placed outside for Sankt Nikolaus, the "bringer of gifts," who visits after the children go to bed the night before. Sankt Nikolaus fills the boots with fruits, nuts and candies if the children have been good, and with twigs if they have not.

"We always filled the boots with small toys and tiny angel figurines, but also included one or two twigs as a little reminder that they weren't perfectly behaved," Maurer laughingly shared. Her children have continued to celebrate St. Nicholas Day with her grandchildren, and they still have their collections of angels from childhood.



After neighbor Kathy Watrel hired Jacksonville Carriage Company to give hayrides to the kids of the neighborhood several years ago, Kerry Brophy of Granada decided the event would make a perfect annual neighborhood tradition. With the assistance of a committee of fellow Granada residents, Brophy has organized the evening celebration since 2009. Neighbors bring hot chocolate and other treats, served from a tent set up in Granada Park, where they await Santa's arrival by horse drawn carriage.

Approximately 60-70 kids, parents and other friends and family take turns caroling and viewing lights throughout the neighborhood during the series of hayrides. In the tent, children share their wish lists with Santa, who sits in a chair borrowed from Brophy's living room. A Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments tied with a ribbon on which the words 'Granada Holiday Hayride' and the year are written, to be taken by attending families to adorn their own family trees.



Though Brophy has passed the organizing torch to a new generation of parents this year, she looks forward to attending for years to come.



Gingerbread menorah created by River Garden Hebrew Home



Anna and Coe Ferguson with their exhibit, "Chocolate is the New Brick"



The Lopez family of Granada have a number of recurring traditions – the lighting of Advent wreath candles, traveling to Miami to visit relatives (and the beach!) for Christmas and celebrating two of their children's late December birthdays at Miami's The Big Cheese. Before heading south for the holidays though, daughter Christina Lopez, age 17, plays the role of Mary in San Marco's live nativity, and the family attends together to watch the performance. Held during San Marco's Luminaria Night Dec. 16, this year will be Christina's sixth, but hopefully not final, year as Mary.



Miramar resident Rebecca Newbill Norris, like many, is facing the holidays without a cherished loved one this year. For 35 seasons, Rebecca gathered with her entire family at her grandmother's home in the Ardsley neighborhood, built by her great grandparents, Ruby and Julian Taylor, in 1949. Each Thanksgiving, for as long as Rebecca can remember, the family would pick satsumas from her grandmother's tree for all to share with family and friends throughout the holidays. Following the matriarch's passing earlier this year, the family gathered at the house for one farewell gathering from the satsuma tree. This season, the family will spend Christmas in the North Carolina mountains where they will place her grandmother's tree skirt under the tree and begin the process of forming new traditions that honor the old.

Neighborhood traditions play major role in Gingerbread House Extravaganza

Participating in the Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread House Extravaganza is a tradition for many in the San Marco area.

A major attraction in last year's extravaganza was the Peterbrooke Chocolatier San Marco entry, a soaring chocolate clock tower. This year, Peterbrooke team member Erin Rasmussen has created Friendship Fountain.

Area residents Mabel Smith, Ashton Body, Charlotte Rosenberg and Ella Smith built the historic San Marco Movie Theater for this year's show. Last year, they were part of a construction team who created the well-known Griswold "Christmas Vacation" home.

The event, in its 15th year, opened Nov. 30 for a three-week run ending Saturday, Dec. 23.

Installed in the extravaganza is the Junior League of Jacksonville Sustainers annual "Festival of Trees." San Marco resident Janet Reagor chairs the exhibit of themed trees. This year, more than a dozen trees highlight the Cow Ford, Consolidation, the St. Johns River and even pay homage to Florida hurricanes, along with traditional holiday and history themes.

The Gingerbread House Extravaganza runs through December 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sundays, at Jacksonville Historical Society's Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. It opens at 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

Valerie Ritchie of San Marco participates in the anonymous "Angel Tree" program that her yoga studio, Hot Spot Power Yoga of San Marco, holds each holiday season. The tree, which adorns the studio's lobby, holds construction paper ornaments on which are written the first name, age, clothing sizes and interests of children in need, to guide the purchases of the studio's clients. The anonymous gifts are collected throughout the month of December and delivered to the agencies working with the specified children. "Having the paper ornament in my wallet accompanying me through the hectic season is a very humbling, grounding experience and I look forward to participating each year," said Ritchie.

Renee Farhat of San Jose and her family have a busy 24 hours of Christmas, but love the quality family time their traditions provide. After attending the children's service, during which the kids play a part in the Christmas story, followed by the outdoor live nativity at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, they gather with extended family for a visit from Santa, who brings a small gift for each of the children. Farhat's parents spend the night to be with the grandchildren for the morning's festivities, and her husband Jay's parents are sometimes able to join as they open gifts and have breakfast together. The afternoon is spent with Jay's parents and remaining family for Christmas lunch and continued celebrations.



The Ancelin family began collecting pieces for their miniature Christmas Village in 1991, the year Jennifer and Kevin married. The collection now contains more than 500 pieces and fills the living room of their San Marco home. To accommodate their now massive collection, the family built custom shelving complete with strategically-placed electrical outlets to ensure every piece can be properly illuminated.

Assembling the village is nearly a three-day process involving the help of friends and neighbors and, this year, their daughter Ava Grace's sorority sisters, who are visiting when the semester ends to assist in the family tradition. The Ancelins take pleasure in having visitors over to view the village throughout the holiday season, especially children, who are always particularly smitten with the sight.



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Rod Demont with Bill Johnson, Joe Arands and Brian Cook

CCA raises funds for conservation, grows bonds

Fishing enthusiasts, boaters and lovers of the aquatic lifestyle teamed up with advocates of our North Florida waterways to support the 27th annual banquet and auction for the Coastal Conservation Association's local Jacksonville Chapter. The annual event, held Nov. 9 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, brings out the very best in compassionate camaraderie for all things related to the salt life, as well as the healthy future for conservation and resource protections.

Presented by Merrill Lynch, the event featured an open bar, delicious steak and



Immediate Past President CCA Jacksonville Chapter Pat Orman with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Captain Blase Angiuli and Brennan Heintzman, Jacksonville Chapter President

Florida lobster tail for dinner, great prizes and an exciting live auction, plus a one-year CCA membership with any ticket purchase.

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San Marco flood victims receive free furniture from California

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News



Willie Tell of OE&S helped Mark Manship of MM Products, along with Antony Wetherill of OE&S, to deliver the couch to Israel Lopez Serrano.

Six San Marco residents who lost nearly all their furniture when hurricane floodwaters soaked their San Marco homes have benefited from the kindness of strangers from California.

After watching Hurricanes Harvey and Irma lay a one-two punch on the people of Houston and Jacksonville, factory employees from Martin Bratrud, a furniture company in Southern California knew they had to do something to help.

Using upholstery and other materials donated from their company, the workers donated their overtime to make 10 sofa/club chair sets for Texas victims and eight sets of the same for Florida victims, and had them shipped free of charge across the country.

"We're an ESOP, an employee stock ownership plan company," said Allan Stratford, president of Martin Bratrud in a statement on the company Facebook page. "The employees own a lot of the company itself, so when they decided to do something, they were deciding to take money from their own pockets to help others."

In Jacksonville, company rep Mark Manship of San Marco, who owns MM Products, joined with Zimmermann Boulos of OE&S, also of San Marco, to store and distribute six of the eight sets to folks in need in San Marco.

Working with Martin Bratrud, EDI Express, Inc. donated the freight shipping to Florida bringing the furniture directly to the OE&S warehouse on the Westside. From there, Boulos' company truck delivered the goods to the happy recipients.

Receiving a tan sofa and club chair Nov. 14 was Israel Serrano of The Towers. Serrano lost all his furniture when floodwater soaked his first-floor apartment, said Manship. Also taking delivery on Nov. 14 was an apartment dweller on San Marco Boulevard near Landon Park.

"I looked for San Marco people whose couches were out in their front yards," said Boulos, explaining how he selected the residents who would receive the freebies. "Most of the people were flooded out in North San Marco. They are people who lost all their stuff."

Manship said he was grateful to be part of the charitable effort. "I felt blessed that I could receive the furniture and orchestrate it. It's nice to know somebody cares. All the furniture is made in the USA, which makes me feel good about the company. The employees donated their time, and it's nice that they wanted to do something," he said.

Annual Oyster Roast turnout evidence of great Riverkeeper support



Carol Whitefield with Mike Miller, Sherrill Dewberry and Suzie Miller

The weather couldn't have been better for the St. Johns Riverkeeper's annual Oyster Roast, known for being one of the best parties of the year and drawing guests from all over Northeast Florida.

As it is each year, the Nov. 17 event was held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville in Riverside, where Fisherman's Dock served up delicious oysters and seafood, with other tasty food from Biscottis, and brews from Aardwolf Brewing Company, Bold City Brewery, SweetWater Brewing Company, and Wicked Barley Brewing Company.

The evening's festivities included live music from Firewater Tent Revival, and a wide array of items in the silent auction, including glass art by featured artist Brian Frus of San Marco. The Tin Can Photo Lounge, a mobile photo booth, was on hand to help guests capture the moment.

The annual Oyster Roast is a critical fundraising event for the St. Johns Riverkeeper, helping to support its effective advocacy, outreach, and education programs.



Riverkeeper Outreach Coordinator Shannon Blankenship with Jim and Mimi Pearce



Marjorie Broward with Margaux and Kristanna Barnes



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Aging True celebrates 'relatives as parents' with inaugural tea party

Grandparents, grandchildren and, in at least one case, great-grandchildren gathered at the Jacksonville Main Library on Nov. 19 for "A Grand Affair," a family-friendly inaugural event of tea and lunch to benefit Aging True's Relatives as Parents Program of Jacksonville (RAPPJax).

Aging True's RAPPJax supports grandparents who are responsible for the care of their relative minors by providing them aid with everything from summer camps grants to family fun days to computer courses.

In addition to enjoying food and a traditional afternoon tea, guests heard from Clausal Smith, 2016 Grandparent of the Year and Glinda Williams, 2017 Grandparent of the Year.

"My friend from church brought me to the program and told me to never leave," said Smith, who lives on the Northside. "She



Kyndal Fleming, Aging True Board Chair Rebecca Berg, and Latonya Fleming

knew I was in a low place and needed help. Then I adopted my great-grandchildren. This program helped me so much." Smith has been with the RAPPJax program since 2010.

The support program assists caregivers by delivering education trainings, monthly support groups, transportation and long-term goal planning.

"The program helped me tremendously in starting all over with understanding a second generation," Valerie Winstead, from Argyle Forest, said. Winstead is raising her 9-1/2-year-old grandson.



Tourea Robinson, Aging True director of development; Teresa Barton, Aging True CEO; Terry Robideau and Jim Pedoulas, event sponsors from CSI; Lee Wilson, Aging True CFO, and wife Susie Wilson



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Harry Frisch flanked by his sons Ben (left) and Karl (right)

Icons of industry honored by Junior Achievement

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Nearly 200 friends and family members of Harry Frisch and W. W. "Bill" Gay were on hand Nov. 13 at UNF's Adam W. Herbert University Center to celebrate with them as they received Lifetime Achievement Awards from Junior Achievement of North Florida (JA).

Frisch, 94, and Gay, 91, are two Jacksonville icons of industry who have climbed the stairway of success during their lifetimes and shared that success generously with many in their community, including Junior Achievement of North Florida.

Chartered in 1963, with Gay a member of the founding board of directors, JA of North Florida promotes workforce readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship programs for students K-12. JA of North Florida has grown from reaching 225 students in 1963 to reaching 60,000 students this year.

Co-chairs Ronnie Fussell, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Jeff Edwards, chief financial officer for Beaver Street Fisheries,



Harry Frisch and W.W. "Bill" Gay with Junior Achievement emcees Josh Miller, Michael Esguerra and Sabrien Bishop

both long-time supporters of JA, were credited with initiating the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Presenting the award to Gay, founder and CEO of W. W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc., Fussell noted that Gay had been a major role model and mentor for him, and had tirelessly promoted and supported JA throughout his long career. Calling Gay an "institution" in North Florida, Fussell praised Gay's business acumen and philanthropy and his passion for helping children.

Jeff Edwards, who has been with Beaver Street Fisheries for 35 years, presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Frisch, chairman of the board of Beaver Street Fisheries.

Describing Frisch's challenges in his native Vienna, Austria, and again in Palestine (now Israel), and again when he and his family immigrated to Jacksonville, Edwards talked of how Frisch has worked with four generations of his family for more than 60 years to build the business, and praised Frisch's philanthropy and generous support of countless community nonprofits, including JA of North Florida.



Harry Frisch and W.W. "Bill" Gay

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THE WAY WE WERE: BRYAN HICKOX

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

When he was in seventh grade in Manhasset, Long Island, his teacher patiently informed Bryan Hickox that there were only a few avenues for inexhaustible blowhards. Choosing one of those avenues, Hickox became a national debater and, later, after graduating from Occidental College, he ran radio and television stations in California and Arizona.

In the 1970s, Hickox became involved in film production and, in 1976, founded Hickox/Daniel Productions which, in its eight years of existence, saw Bryan Hickox and his partner Jay Daniel develop and produce 24 movies for television, five network series, and over a dozen pilots.

Hickox and Daniel also developed and produced over 90 episodes of a nationally syndicated talk show, and four network After School Specials. One of them received CBS-TV's highest rating in the network's history, another received two Emmy awards and a Writer's Guild Award, and their last Children's Special received the 1984 Emmy.



Lecturing in South Africa

Today, after more than a half century in the entertainment business, Hickox's 71 movies have been nominated for 16 and won seven Emmy awards, along with a George Foster Peabody Award and over 200 different awards in a multitude of national and international film and television festivals and competitions. In 1998, Hickox received the prestigious Florida Motion Picture and Television Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Soldiers of Change," a theatrical feature film starring Clifton Davis, Debbie Allen, Ben Vereen and Charles Shaughnessy, won the Heartland Film Festival's Crystal Heart Award and was screened at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival.

In 2011, he produced the 4-hour live television coverage of the "Global Day of Prayer" telecast broadcast in 212 countries, and his most recent theatrical feature film, "The Perfect Wave," starring Scott Eastwood, Cheryl Ladd, Rachel Hendrix and Diana Vickers, shot in Cape Town, South Africa, Bali, New Zealand and the island of Mauritius,



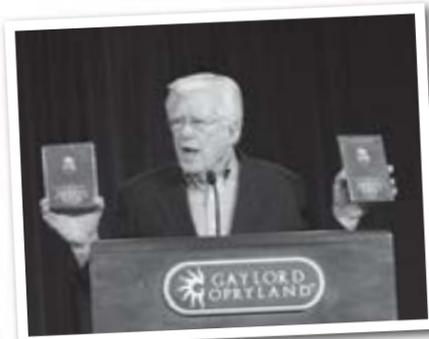
Bryan and Joanne Hickox wedding

is in worldwide release and was just sold to network television.

In 2015, Hickox received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Logos University while being involved in an eight-part television mini-series on the Apostle Paul, entitled "The Prisoner." He is presently consulting on a Canadian TV series, "Beyond the Four Walls," and an inner-cities entrepreneurial program CHAMP (Communities Heroes and Mentors Program). His production company, Bryan Hickox Pictures, is located in Lakewood.

An energetic, imaginative, prolific and highly respected motion picture and television executive, producer, director and writer, Bryan Hickox is, first and foremost, a man of God.

In Hickox' words: "I spent most of my childhood and adult life running as fast as I could, without ever dealing in a meaningful way with my purpose on this earth. I wanted everything this world had to offer – wine, women, drugs, sex, fame, acceptance, praise and adulation. I went to school, made okay grades, made films, drove the big car, lived in the big house, had a great audio-visual system that drowned out the reality of the hunger and thirst I had for deep personal questions of who was I, why was I here and what was my purpose in this life. Along



As keynote speaker at the Israel Breakfast at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention

the way, I blew a marriage, for a number of years lost a relationship with my daughter and virtually ignored a grandson. I tried just about everything seeking to make an empty heart happy. Then, on June 22, 1974, on the balcony of the Bel Air Presbyterian Church in California, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Slowly his perceptions began to change, and Hickox realized that he needed to change the way he worked and what he worked on, but it wasn't until 10 years later that he attended a religious retreat in California, sought forgiveness for much of his past and advice on how to start a personal relationship with Jesus.

It was soon after this retreat that he met and fell in love with Joanne, a young accountant in the film industry who hailed from Canada. "I was 48 and Joanne was 22 when we got married," said Hickox. "When she took me home to meet the relatives, it was like the movie, 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.'"

Laughing, Hickox recalls that Joanne's grandmother flirted with him and, he discovered to his chagrin, he was seven years



Bryan, Michael, Megan (Chad's wife), Archer, (Chad and Megan's son), Chad and Joanne Hickox

older than Joanne's father, but it was obviously a match made in heaven.

Bryan and Joanne Hickox, of Lakewood, have now been married for 30 years, have two grown sons, Chad and Michael, and are close to Bryan's grown daughter, Heather Lynn Hickox.

Both Bryan and Joanne are dedicated to Christian ministry, Joanne with her nonprofit volunteer organization, Seniors on a Mission, and Bryan with Master Media, a Christian organization that takes Jesus Christ into the film industry's decision-makers. Master Media is led by Larry Poland, formerly with Campus Crusade for Christ.

And what brought them to Jacksonville? Back in the 1990s, Hickox produced several made-for-TV movies in Jacksonville, including "Summer Switch" (1994), starring Richard Moll, Soliel Moon Frye, Jason Weaver, Rider Strong, Patrick Renna and Casey Sander; "Family Reunion: A Relative Nightmare" (1995), starring Norman Fell, Marsha Strassman, Jo Anne Worley, Joe



Attending a prayer summit for persecuted pastors in Dubai, U.A.E.

Flaherty, Peter Billingsley, Alley Mills, Melissa Joan Hart and Dody Goodman; "Saved by the Light" (1995), starring Eric Roberts, K. Kallin, Lynete Walden, Don Harvey, and Don McManus; "Sudden Terror: The Hijacking of School Bus CX-17" (1996); "Summer of Fear" (1996), and "Stand for What is Right," "Compromise" and "Somebody Told Me" (1997) starring Lauren Stalnecker, directed by Roger Flint. In 1999-2000, Hickox produced a pilot, "Safe Harbor," starring Gregory Harrison and Rue McLanahan. These are just a small portion of the films he has done here and elsewhere.

Hickox, at 79, is a man with such vast experience that it is a daunting task to squeeze his life into one story. Suffice it to say that he has filed for bankruptcy and recovered, suffered brokenness and gloried in physical and spiritual healing, experienced dramatic downturns and incredible miracles throughout his life.

Noting that he has heard the voice of God only once, he said, "One night, while lying face down in our library-prayer room, I heard the Lord speak to me. He said, 'I love you so much that I sent you Joanne.' Wow! Thank you, Jesus! I am living proof that there are miracles at work in the world."



Dr. Graham Power, founder of Global Day of Prayer, with Bryan Hickox



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– In Memoriam –

James Folson Tullis

November 3, 1941 – October 14, 2017

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

He was a man known for the size of his hugs, his friendship, and the zeal for which he embraced life.

When Jim Tullis suddenly passed away in October, Jacksonville lost more than a former City Councilman and prominent insurance agent. “He was a man who was very passionate about almost any task he took on, whether it was in politics, helping an employee, or one of his insured. He will be missed beyond words,” said Sammie Best, a Tullis employee for many years.

Matt Carlucci, Sr., a San Marco resident, agreed. “Jim grabbed life with a bear hug. An amazing husband, father, businessman, City Council president and councilman, legislator, and, last but not least, friend to me and so many others,” he wrote in a Facebook post. “Jacksonville lost a great friend today.”

Tullis, an Arlington resident who served his neighborhood on the City Council for 12 years, was a longtime fixture in the San Marco community. A second-generation insurance agent, Tullis worked with his father, Don L. Tullis, at Don L. Tullis & Associates, an insurance agency founded by his father in 1960. He joined the family firm after his graduation in 1965 from Jacksonville University with a degree in

business and economics. After his father’s death in 1963, Tullis and his brother ran the business together until 1979. In 1984, Tullis renamed the firm officially to James F. Tullis & Associates. His brother passed away in 2000.

The agency was first situated in the Greenleaf Building in downtown Jacksonville before Don L. Tullis moved it to an office at 700 Hendricks Avenue in 1962. In 1965 it was relocated again to 1665 San Marco Blvd. and later took up residence next door at its current office at 1645 San Marco Blvd.

Over the years, Tullis has also been a member of the San Marco Preservation Society and San Marco Merchants Association.

Tullis served on the City Council from 1985 to 1999 and in the Florida House of Representatives from 1991 to 2001, finishing off Jim King’s term. He fought for comprehensive rezoning and against the extension of the runway at Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport, serving as an advocate for the residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the airfield. “He was passionate about zoning,” said his wife Kay, who was his partner for 49 years.

As a councilman, he worked to revitalize the Arlington area, serving on the Renew Arlington Advisory Board and as chairman of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission. He also served a term as City Council president.



James Tullis

“Over the past month, I have heard about Dad’s integrity from just about every person I have spoken with. I would also tell you he had more energy than anyone I have ever met,” he said. “He loved life! He never met a stranger. I will most miss his big, back-slapping hug!”

— Jimmy Tullis

“Zoning, specifically chairing the 2010 Comprehensive Rezoning Plan, would probably have been Dad’s main accomplishment during his tenure on the City Council,” said his son, James Tullis, Jr., who is known as Jimmy. “The Police and Fire Departments were also extremely important to Dad. JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office) got him very interested in the Police Athletic League (PAL), a cause he never stopped supporting.”

Tullis was “a good boss, and he loved to talk about politics, which was one of his favorite subjects,” said Terry Stockman, a longtime employee. Also, he was a man who loved to help people out, she said.

“I worked with Jim Tullis for over 14 years. In 2004, when the two hurricanes hit, he went out and repaired my clients’ roofs because the insurance companies were so backed up. He must have done at least 15 or more. He told me one client still had the white shingles he put on,” said Stockman. “We had another client who had a flood claim and did not have her \$500 deductible. Jim paid it for her. She paid it back later that year. These are just some of the examples of the way he helped clients and even those who were not our clients. He was always helping people,” she said.

Tullis employee Amy Largent recalled Tullis treated her and the others in his office as family. “I will forever be grateful for the impact Mr. Tullis had on my life during the five-and-a-half years I have worked for him,” she said. “He was humble, compassionate, kind, and merciful. At the office, we are like family! We all feel appreciated, equal, and he had a very fond relationship with each and every one of us. Mr. Tullis had confidence in all of us, and that is why we worked great as a team. I will miss hearing him whistling down the hallway and his huge bear hugs! He was a great teacher and father to many. May his soul find eternal rest.”

His son Jimmy, who has taken over his duties as president of James F. Tullis & Associates agreed. “Over the past month, I have heard about Dad’s integrity from just about every person I have spoken with. I would also tell you he had more energy than anyone I have ever met,” he said. “He loved life! He never met a stranger. I will most miss his big, back-slapping hug!”

In addition to his wife, Kay and son, Jimmy, Tullis is also survived by his daughter, Kimberly Tullis, three grandchildren, and his brother, Gary, all of Jacksonville.

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Organist celebrates 50 years at Southside Baptist

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By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

In 1967, when Bette Mattox first became the organist at Southside Baptist Church, the Vietnam War was in full swing, the average price of a house was \$14,250, salaries ranged around \$7,300 a year, the price of gas was 33 cents a gallon, automobiles cost about \$3,750, and movie tickets were \$1.25.

Since then, much has changed both at Southside Baptist and in our culture, yet one thing remains constant: Mattox continues to play for the church each Sunday, 50 years later.

To commemorate her half century of service to the Baptist church on San Marco Square, musicians across the region came together Nov. 5 to perform a special tribute in Mattox's honor and to celebrate the rededication of the church's recently refurbished pipe organ.

"Bette's been a real treasure. She's outlasted every staff member, past ministers of music and anybody else," said Rev. Dr. Gary Lee Webber, Southside Baptist's senior pastor. "She has the longest tenure of anybody in the church. She started when she was 18, and she's done an outstanding job leading in worship and playing the organ for generations," he continued.



Bette Mattox

"She played for my wedding 25 years ago, as well as for my mother's funeral, and my ordination service. She even played the Sunday I was baptized when I was nine years old. I told her, 'you have played the score for the movie of my life,' because at every significant event, she has played the music. She really is a delightful person."

For Mattox, whose primary career consisted of teaching in public schools in Duval and Clay Counties for over 30 years, serving as a church organist is a part-time job and one she does not intend to relinquish in the near future.

"I have no plans to retire," said Mattox. "Everyone here knows we have an old farmhouse in North Carolina and that one day we will move up there, but it won't be any time soon. I need to be around to play this wonderful instrument for a while."

The Sunday evening concert, which took place in the church sanctuary, consisted of a sampling of piano, organ, and harpsichord music, both modern and religious, with selections especially chosen to show of the range of Southside Baptist's newly restored pipe organ.

Purchased 53 years ago for \$41,000 – a special donation given by church members Marion Harlan Whatley and Brown L. Whatley of San Marco – the 11,734-pipe organ, which includes 28 ranks and 33 stops, recently underwent a \$170,000 restoration.

"It is now in better-than-new condition, and if it were purchased new today it would cost well over \$600,000," said Bob Rusczyk, a church organ consultant from Palm Harbor, Florida, who attended the event.

A Baymeadows resident, Mattox grew up in a musical family. Her grandfather, Harry Potter, owned Potter's Home of Music and performed in a jazz band at the Mayflower Hotel. Her grandmother, Edna Potter, played piano and was a sheet music demonstrator at May Cohens Department Store. Meanwhile, her mother, Harriet Potter Bishop, was a violinist, her Aunt Bettie Potter Schubert played cello with the Oakland Symphony Orchestra in California, and her Uncle Bill Potter, was a clarinetist for the Jacksonville Symphony. Mattox's sister, Susan Bishop York, is



Phil Mattox, Gwen Hernandez, James Freeman, Bette Mattox, Tony Cruz, Andrew Clarke, and Daniel Francabandiero

vocalist and makes a living singing jingles for commercials in San Diego, California.

"Everybody in my family had to play something," Mattox said.

A piano student of Genevieve McMurray's since she was five years old, Mattox took up the organ the summer after she graduated from Englewood High School at age 16. During that time, she played organ as a substitute at two other area Baptist churches before landing the job as full-time organist in San Marco.

During her tenure at Southside Baptist, she has trained five pastors and 17 music directors. In addition to playing at church, Mattox has also served as the organist for music week at Ridgecrest, a Baptist Assembly ground in North Carolina, and is a member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

Attending college on an oboe scholarship, Mattox majored in elementary education and minored in organ during her undergraduate years at Jacksonville University. Mattox received a master's degree in reading and library science at Florida State University in Tallahassee, where she also studied organ with Dr. Ramona Beard, a prominent music professor.

After graduation, Mattox spent 20 of her 35 years in education as a fourth-grade teacher in Duval and Clay Counties. She served her final 15 years as a librarian at San Jose Elementary before retiring in 2012.

During the November concert, Mattox performed on both harpsichord and organ. Joining her on the stage in the church sanctuary were Andrew Clarke, formerly of Riverside Presbyterian Church and currently organist of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church in San Marco, Tony Cruz, cantor and organist at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Marco, Daniel Francabandiero, formerly organist and choirmaster at Riverside Park United Methodist Church, James Freeman of Georgia, organist of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, Georgia, and Gwen Hernandez, music associate and pianist at Southside Baptist Church.

Before the concert's final act, Hernandez surprised Mattox by presenting her with an original work the church had commissioned especially for her by her favorite composer, Paul Halley. Entitled "God in Three Persons: A Fantasia on Nicaea," the composition is based on the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy," one of Mattox's favorites. The new piece was performed for the first time by Clarke as the concert's surprise second finale.

"The church was so gracious and nice to me, I'm just walking on air," said Mattox, adding that receiving the gift of Halley's new score "just blew me away. What an honor. It is a lovely piece. I tried playing it once I got home. It's difficult. It will require some work, but it will be worth it," she said.

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DO SOMETHING

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

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The need in our community to provide essentials goes far beyond the holiday season, but for children the holidays are especially dark without a gift. Add an extra toy to your holiday gift list, then check out the opportunities below to do something.

Toy & Holiday Gift Drives

Through December 3

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's Avondale and San Marco offices collect new, unwrapped toys for Holiday Helpers, an all-volunteer organization which helps children in Northeast Florida who are affected by HIV and other childhood diseases. Visit floridarealtynetwork.com or call (904) 296-1737 for details.

Through December 5

Roberta's Angels, through the annual Be An Angel Campaign, collects new, unwrapped gifts for children, teens and young adults, ages 10-17, in foster care. Drop off at Family Support Services, 1300 Riverplace Blvd., Ste. 700, or at Watson Realty offices: 13001 Atlantic Blvd., 11226 San Jose Blvd., 1566-1 Dunn Ave., 1395 Chafee Rd., 751 Duval Station Rd. To sponsor a child or teen, visit beanangeljax.org or call (904) 418-5816.

Through December 8

Donate a \$25 holiday gift for a Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida member. Donate a new, unwrapped gift or BGCNF will buy one for you. Businesses and individuals can participate. Volunteers are needed Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the holiday wrapping party. Visit bgcnf.org for more information.

December 9

A family-friendly street party and toy drive will benefit the 19th Annual Children's Christmas of Jacksonville. The street party, sponsored by 5 Points merchants Gloss Goods, Generation Us, Redfield Salon and Publix, will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to noon. Bring a new toy and enjoy music, food, activities and a visit by Santa Claus and the Jacksonville Roar cheerleaders.

Through December 11

New and unwrapped toys for children age 0-2 and new clothing for ages 0 -12 years old are needed for The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program which provides assistance to families who have demonstrated financial need. Visit salvationarmynefl.org for more information.

Through December 15

Toys For Tots helps provide toys at Christmas as well as a message of hope to thousands of underprivileged children. Visit jacksonville-fl.toysfortots.org for a complete list of drop-off locations for new, unwrapped toys. Sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.



The Salvation Army depends on volunteers to help ring in its Red Kettle season. At the kickoff at Publix, Roosevelt Square, were Lt. Dominic Blanford, Robert Devers, Salvation Army major gifts manager, Ella Corey, Riley Corey as Red Kettle, Major Bert Tanner, Harold Pierce, volunteer bell ringer and Heather Corey, Salvation Army development director.

The Southside United Methodist Church Angel Tree program supplies a Christmas meal and gifts to Hendricks Avenue Elementary families in need. The families receive a holiday meal plus an outfit of clothing and a toy for each child in the family. To donate or for more information sign up at sumcjax.org/angeltree.

Donate unwrapped, new toys for children and stocking stuffer items for adult men and women at the Sulzbacher Center Shelter. Donations may be dropped off at 611 E. Adams St. Visit www.sulzbachercenter.org or call (904) 394-8082 for details.

Help brighten a child's holiday and pick an angel from the First Coast YMCA's Angel Tree at any of the YMCA branches, then donate new, unwrapped toys and gifts for a child's Christmas present. Visit firstcoastymca.org for more information.

Donate to the United Way of Northeast Florida's Holiday Wish List collection drive by adopting a family or child and providing requested toys, clothing, food or personal hygiene items. Host a collection drive for food, toys and other essentials to be distributed to families to help them enjoy the holidays at home. Volunteers are also needed to help with the United Way holiday activities. Visit unitedwaynefl.org/volunteer/holidays/ for more information or to adopt a family.

Through December 21

Hart Felt Ministries delivers Christmas stockings to every client filled with items clients have asked for such as toiletry items, puzzles and even clothing items. Donate Wal-Mart, Winn-Dixie or Publix gift cards to purchase items for those in need. Volunteers are also needed to deliver stockings. Visit hartfelt.org to donate or to apply for a volunteer position.

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Singing Christmas tree returns to San Marco

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

For the first time in six years, Southside Baptist Church will host its popular Singing Christmas Tree Concert.

The concert, which was reinstated by the church due to popular demand, will take place in the church sanctuary at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening, Dec. 15-17. Each performance is free and open to the community, however concert-goers must have a ticket so the church can ensure there will be enough seats for all desiring to attend. To obtain a ticket, contact the church at (904) 396-6633. Tickets may be picked up at the church or mailed out by request.



Southside Baptist's singing Christmas tree without its singers stands nearly three stories high in the church sanctuary in San Marco.

"The church felt like it was missing an opportunity to give something back to the community, so it wanted to bring back this community-wide event," said Eddie Lockamy, who was formerly Southside Baptist's Minister of Music and has returned to the church to conduct the singing tree this year.

Currently the pastor of Arlington Baptist Church, Lockamy served as Music and Worship Minister at Southside Baptist from 1987 to 2005, conducting the singing tree for 17 years. He continued the tradition in Bradfordville First Baptist Church in Tallahassee for eight years before returning to Jacksonville in 2013.

"When I moved back to Jacksonville, I really missed doing it the first two or three Christmases because I had done 25 of them in a row," Lockamy said. "I was really excited when Southside Baptist asked me to conduct again, and I think the community will be glad to have it back again this year as well."

Southside Baptist carried on the singing tree tradition throughout the 1960s and '70s, before going on a hiatus until 1988 when Lockamy brought the concert back. It continued 17 years with him at the helm and once more in 2011, he said.

"We are resurrecting the tradition, so to speak," he continued. "Now it's the only one in town, whereas before there used to be several singing Christmas trees in the city," Lockamy said. "It's kind of like a phenomenon. People don't know what to think of a singing tree."

Standing 30 feet high, the three-story tree holds 75 singers alternately dressed in red



This photo, taken in 2011, shows Southside Baptist's Singing Christmas Tree, complete with 75 chorals.

and green capes and includes an angel-clad choralist on top, he said.

The chorus includes singers from Fruit Cove Baptist, Arlington Baptist, East Pointe Baptist, Deer Meadows Baptist, San Jose Catholic, Missionway Church, Cedar Creek Baptist, First Christian Church, First Baptist Callahan, and, of course, Southside Baptist, has been practicing since September and will perform a program of "familiar" Christmas music.

"We have a good group of singers who are very faithful to rehearsals and sing very well," he said.

"The church felt like it was missing an opportunity to give something back to the community, so it wanted to bring back this community-wide event."

— Eddie Lockamy

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Jr. Residents

New basketball club positive addition to neighborhood

Brings back memories for one resident

By Karen Rieley
Resident Community News

Champions Basketball Club's newest location at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church in San Marco is a very positive addition to the community, according to parents whose children are enrolled in the club.

Led by Coach Phillip Hobbs, founder of Champions Basketball Club and head boys basketball coach for St. Johns Country Day School, the club focuses on helping girl and boy athletes of all ages who want to develop into more complete players.

"Phillip is full of energy, positivity and enthusiasm," said Emery Noles, a Miramar resident. Her son, Grady, 9, started last summer in the club's Ortega location. "It is great to have the club in our own neighborhood instead of having to drive back and forth to Ortega."

For Noles, the club's newest location brings back memories. Her dad, James Abercrombie, coached Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church's basketball program for 10 years. While her father passed away three years ago, Noles' mother, Mildred Bishop Abercrombie, still lives in San Marco.

Noles' brother, Trey Abercrombie, a San Jose resident, played on the HAB team in the 1970s. She remembers her brother had friends from all socioeconomic levels, and



Grady Noles, Sedarius Randolph, Jack Ganoe, Stanley Bishop, Kyle Ford

they often came to her house to hang out. "I love it when people from all walks of life can come together and enjoy each other," Noles said. "The kids in the program were not just from San Marco."

And, while the gym at HAB and the Champions Basketball Club are new, that tradition of engaging all kids who are interested in the program continues on.

"We had gotten requests to open a club in the San Marco area," Hobbs said. "We chose HAB because it is centrally located."

Hobbs recalls that the church's pastor, Rev. Dr. Kyle Reese responded enthusiastically when he approached him about using the church's gym for the club. Reese's three children, Peyton, Hannah and Wyatt, attended

St. Johns Country Day School. Hannah trained under Hobbs while she was there, and Peyton currently plays for Hobbs.

"I think Champions Basketball builds on the foundation laid by Jim Abercrombie and others," Reese said. "We are a place for all children to learn and appreciate the game of basketball. The more we open our doors the more faithful we are to our founders."

Hobbs develops an individualized game plan for each club participant. "My goal is to have kids achieve success on and off court, with basketball as the conduit to becoming successful as adults," Hobbs said.

Mandarin resident Brian Pargman, director of admissions for St. Johns Country Day School, said his 9-year-old son, Brady, has continued to improve his basketball skills under Coach Hobbs' direction.

"Coach not only reinforces the fundamentals of basketball, but he also delves deeper into every aspect of the game," said Pargman.

Former Beauclerc resident Rob Lambert, a realtor with Keller Williams, was referred to Hobbs by another coach who was moving out of town. His 14-year-old son, Gabriel, had a couple of injuries in middle school, and Lambert was looking for someone to help Gabriel get back in shape, build confidence and improve skills.

"Phil did a fantastic job of developing an individualized training program for Gabriel right after Labor Day," Lambert said. Gabriel just made the JV team at Bishop Kenny High School.

"We plan to have Gabriel continue with Coach Hobbs throughout high school, even though we now live in Mandarin," said Lambert.

Noles believes her father would be very pleased that a basketball program continues at HAB. In a video filmed about the church's history, Abercrombie shared his philosophy as coach.

"My hope is that the church will continue to take care of its youth and the youth in the community and send them on their way," he said in the video. His described his style of coaching as "low pressure" because he wanted "to teach the kids how to enjoy sports."

Hobbs wants to provide the "D-1 experience," the best academic and athletic support possible to create Division 1 players. To date, about 12 girls and 24 boys participate in the club. While most are from the San Marco/San Jose area, some travel from other communities throughout the city.

He plans to open additional clubs on the Southside off Baymeadows and near the St. Johns Town Center, depending on parent interest.

"I hope these locations will be a reality by the first of the year," Hobbs said.

The club offers executive training, in addition to training kids of all ages, at all skill levels. Parents can sign their child up throughout the year by visiting championsbasketball.website.siplay.com/ or contacting CoachPhobbs@championsBC.com, (904) 479-6620.

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Students enjoy many November activities

Assumption Catholic School Sixth Grade Gardening Class: Elle Charboneau, Cat Haen, Tripp Heekin, Nick Amico weed and prune the Courtyard Gardens to make a great home for monarch butterflies around the campus.



Assumption Catholic School Madelyn Heekin, Grade 3, holds an armful of plants at the Annual Food and Farm Festival Nov. 15. Exhibits included Wolfson EMT, Flying Dragon Citrus, BK Athletics, and more. Items for sale included fresh produce, vegetables from the school garden, eggs, cheese, rice, books, and many other healthy items.

Cooper Lewis gives a thumbs-up for his project on carbonated corrosions at the Assumption Catholic School Eighth Grade Science Fair Nov. 16.



Episcopal alumna brings Shabbat dinner experience to school

An alumna of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville was instrumental in bringing a community Shabbat dinner to the school. Held Nov. 10 in the school's Buck Student Center, the event was sponsored by Caila Moed, Class of 2009, who shared her experience while a student at Episcopal.

"In addition to its world-class academics, arts and athletic offerings, Episcopal School of Jacksonville does an excellent job fostering a welcoming faith-based environment. They supported me not only as a student, but as an alumna," said Moed, an up-and-coming young professional in the field of philanthropy and nonprofit development. "Their Fine Arts department single-handedly made me into a professional dancer by my senior year, and their college prep department did everything in their power to help me gain admission to New York University. They teach Christianity through modeling agape, and for me, it was a positive way to experience another religion."

The Shabbat dinner, led by Episcopal history instructor Matthew Levenson, celebrated the culture and traditions of the Jewish Sabbath with more than 70 guests. Episcopal faculty, staff, students, parents and administrators gathered for a meal, prayers, music and reflection.

Levenson explained each step of a Shabbat dinner, including lighting the Shabbat candles, prayers over the wine (grape juice) and bread, as well as the traditional hand washing ritual.

"Hosting Shabbat dinner at Episcopal was a great way to share all the special aspects of this traditional meal with those at Episcopal who aren't Jewish," said Levenson. "It also

gave those of us who are Jewish an opportunity to celebrate together with family and friends in our community and to share with those we live and work with what makes the Sabbath so unique to our faith."

Moed gave the opening prayer for the lighting of the candles, speaking in Hebrew. Episcopal students and school chaplain, The Reverend Teresa Seagle, read a poem, "Shabbat Shalom," written by a Sephardic Jewish girl. The menu – cucumber salad, chicken pot pie, corn pudding, kugel, and matzo ball soup – was prepared from a cookbook featuring recipes from Holocaust survivors.

"The dinner was a gathering of our community in a shared experience of finding peace at the end of a busy week," said Rev. Seagle. "We celebrated with our Jewish community members and we learned about rituals of another faith tradition, which is part of the goal of an Episcopal education and the Episcopal Church – that exploration of other faiths can enrich and deepen our own personal beliefs."

Moed, who lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said "The only aspect of my experience [at Episcopal] that was missing was other families like mine. Through philanthropy, my husband and I hope to continue to support the cultivation of a Jewish community on campus so that no student or family ever feels alone or as if they are missing out."

The evening closed with an overview of the Havdalah Service, the end of the Sabbath, traditionally held Saturday at sundown, but incorporated into the event so guests could experience the full Shabbat tradition. The

Friday Night Live Band played Hine Ma Tov ("how good and pleasant it is that people live together in peace" and Shavua Tov ("a good week, a week of peace, May gladness reign and joy increase") to close the evening.

"We hope this model can be emulated at schools around the country to help us all come together and support one another. The Shabbat dinner served as a kick-off of these efforts," said Moed. "We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Head of School Adam Greene on programmatic and systemic ways to welcome all communities on the Episcopal campus."

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Crusaders sign letters of intent



Ridge Abinsay, Nikko Calabro, Chris Pratt and John Tucker

In the first signing ceremony of the 2017-2018 school year, four Bishop Kenny Crusader athletes signed letters of intent to participate in collegiate-level athletics next year.

Congratulations to three baseball players: Ridge Abinsay, Tallahassee Community College; Nikko Calabro, Drury University; and Chris Pratt, Newberry College. Bishop Kenny golf standout John Tucker also signed a letter of intent to play at Florida

Southern College. The students' parents and extended family were on hand for the Nov. 8 event.

The ceremony was held after school in the Carla Harris Performing Arts Center. Athletic Director Mark Thorson was emcee of the program. Head baseball coach Tommy Edwards and assistant coach Jason Pascual, as well as head golf coach James Wray, were on hand to congratulate these fine student athletes.



Students see Downtown top to bottom

Seventh-grade students from San Jose Catholic School spent a day exploring a variety of places in Downtown Jacksonville in a "Top to Bottom" tour. The 50 students went from the top of the Bank of America building to the bottom of the city where they saw old underground tunnels previously used to transfer money. After that glimpse into a highlight of Jacksonville's past, the students connected to the present with lunch at The Jacksonville Landing and tours of City Hall (pictured) and the press room at the Florida Times-Union.

School goes pink to fight breast cancer

San Jose Catholic School's Student Council sponsored several events during October to raise more than \$1,300 for breast cancer awareness. The Student Council raised money by selling pink lemonade, pink pops from Brusters, and pink baked goods. The student body also celebrated with a "pink out" day that ended with the entire campus coming together for an exciting pep rally.



Enzo Barakat and Michael Carralero support the fight against breast cancer on Pink Out Day.

Hendricks chess team logs two victories

The Hendricks Avenue Elementary School chess team logged two victories within two weeks this fall.

The San Marco elementary school chessmen placed first at the National Chess Day Tournament at Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History (MOSH) Oct. 14. The third-fifth grade team of James Francis, Graham Glasheen, Parker Phan, Charlie Alessandro, Grady Wilkins and Lucy Pearson won its division, while Val Kolar placed second overall in the kindergarten-second grade division.

It was the third consecutive year Hendricks took home gold in the 3rd Annual Greenwood Chess Open Nov. 4. Competing for Hendricks in the third-fifth grade



Val Kolar and Greenwood Chess Tournament Director Kevin Pryor

division were Keegan MacLean, Charlie Alessandro, Coleman Safi, James Francis. Out of 38 competitors, Alessandro was first in individual competition, while Francis placed fourth, MacLean placed fifth and Safi finished eighth.

George Foote of San Marco is coach of the team.



Greenwood Tournament winners Keegan MacLean, Charlie Alessandro, Coleman Safi, James Francis and Coach George Foote



Representing Hendricks in the MOSH Chess Tournament were Coach George Foote, James Francis, Graham Glasheen, Parker Phan, Charlie Alessandro, Grady Wilkins, and Lucy Pearson.

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San Marco area students win Hispanic Heritage awards



DuPont Middle School Principal Marilyn Barnwell; Dr. Vanessa Mangual, DCPS Dual Language Specialist; Dr. Joanne Davis, DCPS World Language Supervisor; Carlos Hernandez; Dayany Perez; Jessica Sotomayor, Spanish teacher at DuPont Middle School; Myra Johnson, DCPS World Language Specialist; Dr. Charles Moreland of the Jacksonville Mayor's Office.

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Two students from the San Marco area were the winners in the Duval County Public Schools Hispanic Heritage Essay contest.

San Marco's Andrew Lopez, a sophomore at Stanton College Preparatory School, won the high school competition, while Carlos Hernandez of Dupont Middle School was the middle school winner. A recognition ceremony was held Nov. 3 in the Mayor's Office at City Hall.

The topic of Lopez's essay was "Remembering the Great and Influential Life of Graziella Garcia-Pulido." Lopez first learned about Mrs. Pulido, a former St. Nicholas resident, and her accomplishments after reading her obituary in The Resident Community News.

"I selected Mrs. Pulido because the article in The Resident was truly inspiring and reached out to me personally, particularly because of my Cuban heritage," said Lopez. "I thought it would be neat to write about her. I learned a lot from writing this essay, including the importance of inspiring and pushing your children to be the best they can be. I also learned from her that with hard work and motivation, anything is possible. That's why I picked Mrs. Pulido, due to her truly remarkable story."

Several of Mrs. Pulido's relatives were on hand to witness the recognition ceremony including her grandson, Dr. Danny Pulido of St. Nicholas, granddaughter Teri Mari Taylor, great-grandsons Wesley and Harrison Taylor, and Mrs. Pulido's caregiver, Fidencia Bravo Flores.

Lopez's sister, Christina, now a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, won

the contest last year with an essay titled "Giving Back," featuring Dr. Juan Luis-Jorge.

Hernandez wrote about his mother, Dayany Perez, who attended the ceremony.

Also present at the event was Lopez's English teacher, Kylah Riendeau of Stanton College Preparatory School, Hernandez's Spanish teacher Jessica Sotomayor, and Dupont Middle School Principal Marilyn Barnwell, Dr. Joanne Davis, supervisor of the Duval County Public Schools (DPCS) World Languages Program, Myra Johnson, DPCS World Language Program Specialist, and Dr. Venessa Mangual, DCPS Dual Language Program Specialist.

Dr. Charles Moreland of the Mayor's Office presented the certificates and provided remarks about the students' outstanding achievements. The teachers, parents and students were treated to a complimentary lunch at Brio's Tuscan Grille before the ceremony.



Andrew Lopez, Dr. Danny Pulido and Teri Mari Taylor

LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES.



WINTER 2018 OPEN HOUSE DATES

**Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents**

Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
Jan. 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents**

Whitehurst Campus
Jan. 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**Middle School (6-8)
Open House for Parents**

Bartram Campus
Jan. 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**Upper School (9-12)
Open House for Parents**

San Jose Campus
Jan. 5, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

All Things Possible. Start Here.

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Whitehurst PreK-5
Bartram 6-8
San Jose 9-12

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Student art takes center stage in Bolles Reflection Garden

The new Reflection Garden on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus still awaits a permanent centerpiece that is thematically appropriate for the garden and Bolles community.

In the meantime, the Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Department instituted series of temporary art installations for the platform at the garden's center.

Last spring, Jim Smith, Bolles visual arts instructor, challenged several students to design dimensional pieces over the summer, creating them with material that could withstand the outdoor elements and which reflected repetitive art themes.

Senior Lanie Kirchhoff designed a whimsical, colorful piece using multiple bicycle parts and wheels stacked in a metal pile. It will be on display in the garden throughout the first semester.



Brooke Bowmaster with her "wooden" plant

Brooke Bowmaster, also a senior, created a wooden plant in a fan-like design, which will be on display at the garden center during the second semester of the 2017-18 school year.

Smith said the student art installation was the perfect solution for the pedestal platform at the center of the Reflection Garden, designed and planted last year by AP English students and Bolles maintenance staff.



Lanie Kirchhoff's "bicycle" art on display in the Bolles Reflection Garden

Spanish classes come alive during National Hispanic Heritage month



Sixth-grade students at San Jose Catholic School participate in a fun activity to celebrate Columbus Day and National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Nearly 11 percent of the 443 students at San Jose Catholic School are of Hispanic ethnicity and its Spanish program exposes many more students to aspects of the Hispanic culture. During the National Hispanic Heritage Month in October, students participated in cross-curricular activities combining the arts, sports and technology to enhance and enjoy their Spanish language skills.

An art and Spanish cross-curriculum project included decorating tissue boxes themed with Spanish artists. "I had a fun time decorating this tissue box, and I learned a lot about Joan Miró," said Millicent Fox, a sixth grader.

In addition to a cake decorating competition by the sixth grade, the seventh-grade class collaborated in a cookie decorating activity with preschool and first-grade students, saying "If you give us a cookie, we'll make a sombrero!"



Brooks Southerland, Jeff Giannone, Tyler Lamer and team coordinator Zach Crabtree, all Class of 2006, walked away with the first place tournament honors for the third year in a row. Crabtree is an attorney whose practice is headquartered in San Jose.

First place a three-peat for BK Boosters golf team

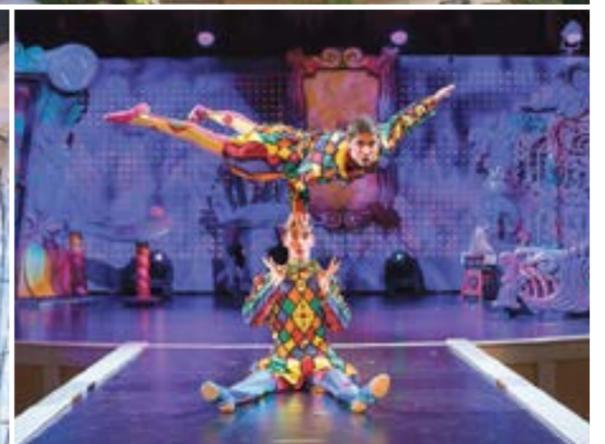
The 18th annual BK Boosters Golf Tournament, held Nov. 13 at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club, was one of the best-attended tournaments in recent memory. Net proceeds from the event will be used for project requests from teachers and coaches at Bishop Kenny High School.

Lunch for the players was provided by event partner 4Rivers Smokehouse, owned by BK graduate John Rivers '84, and on-course beverages were underwritten by Louis Joseph '93 of The Mudville Grille.

Chairman Kathy Parete remarked "the generosity of the community in support

of this event speaks to the commitment of our golfers and the community at large...we are very grateful for all of the sponsors that were involved this year, and also for the many wonderful prizes that have been donated."

Speaking about the field of golfers, BK Boosters President Anthony Parete remarked, "We are especially happy to see so many BK alumni turning out each year. This has really grown into a great event and, believe me, there's no shortage of projects that the BK Boosters can take on throughout the year."



Now – January 7, 2018

- NEW ICE! theme featuring Christmas Around the World
- All-NEW Cirque Dreams Unwrapped Show
- NEW- JOYFUL, an atrium light show
- More than 2 million lights, acres of stunning decor and a 60ft Christmas tree

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KISSIMMEE, FL



Bolles student carves flute from hurricane downed tree

Will Skinner, a senior at The Bolles School, completed an incredible project for Upper School Band with melodious results.

Using a tree downed in Hurricane Irma in his grandfather's yard, Skinner set out to make a usable wooden flute, by studying the construction, sound and use of Native American instruments as part of his band research project.

Carving the flute interior took many hours, said Skinner, who is a talented clarinetist and visual artist. The finished product was worth such extensive effort, he said.

Skinner, of San Marco, demonstrated its sound for Band Director Maggie Vance and his fellow band members. The instrument he designed and created has a rich, reverberating tone.



Will Skinner demonstrates a wooden flute carved from a tree downed by Hurricane Irma.

The experience was so meaningful, Skinner is now working on a second instrument design project. The next flute is expected to be three times the size of the instrument he just created.

Annual competition shows students' grasp of urban planning



Gabi Zlatnoff (member of a winning team), Ana Timpke (member of a winning team), Myles Sams, Grace Woodward, Jack Suddath, Olivia Bogan and Kaiyln Moore

Two winning teams – Hip and Edgy Development and Clout Development – were chosen after nine teams of Episcopal School of Jacksonville economics students presented their Urban Plan projects on Nov. 9 to members of the Urban Land Institute – North Florida.

UrbanPlan is a 15-hour course created for high school and college students by the ULI to teach students urban planning concepts. Students work in development teams to analyze and respond to a hypothetical Request for Proposal for the redevelopment of a specific urban area. Each student takes on a specific role in their development team, consisting of a Site Planner, Financial Analyst, Marketing Director, City Liaison and Neighborhood Liaison.

“Urban Plan provides students with the opportunity to participate in a realistic, project-based learning scenario that allows them to think critically about how

government, economics and the public's interest must work together to solve complex issues related to development and urban planning,” said Perry Walthour, economics instructor. “Our students greatly benefit from the experience of being able to defend their development decisions using the knowledge and information gained during the course of the project.”

Through the program, students explore how the forces of a market economy work with and against non-market forces in a democracy to create the environment in which they live. In completing their plans, the students must consider economic, social, cultural and political goals of the fictional city and its residents. Some of the items they consider are zoning and design regulations, market demand for different types of land uses and real estate products, traffic patterns, quality of life and the needs of investors and lenders providing the capital for the project.

BK seniors score high in National Merit competition

Bishop Kenny High School announced five seniors were recognized for their high scores on the 2016 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Liam O'Connell-Becker, Chadrick Schwipper and Madeline Ward were designated as Commended Students by placing among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2018 competition.

Seniors Isabel Devore-Suazo and Francisco Gallo were designated as National Hispanic Scholars in the 2018 National Hispanic Recognition Program scored in the top



Chadrick Schwipper, Isabel Devore-Suazo, Liam O'Connell-Becker, Francisco Gallo and Madeline Ward

2.5 percent among Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT test takers in their region.

Recognition by such prestigious programs enables students to highlight their outstanding educational achievements to top colleges and universities.

Paxon senior named scholar/athlete of week

Miramar resident Caroline Medley, a senior at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, was named a 1010XL Scholar/Athlete of the Week. Medley was interviewed live on the radio Oct. 17 by Frank Frangie, afternoon drive talk show host, and Brent Martineau, sports director for ActionNews.

“I'm so blessed to have received this award! It was a really neat opportunity for me to be on the radio,” said Medley.

Medley is a varsity cross country and track and field participant, as well as a member of the National Honor Society, Golden Eagle Ambassadors, and Math National Honor Society. She volunteers with Angels for Allison and has applied to several



Caroline Medley

universities, including the University of Florida, to pursue a career in physical therapy.

All Duval County Public School Athletics weekly winners are eligible for a \$2,500 scholarship which will be awarded at the Gateway Conference Banquet in May.



Flashbacks

Downtown Jacksonville was the city's Christmas shopping destination throughout most of the 20th century. In the late 1950s/early 1960s, downtown streets were packed with buses, automobiles and people on foot. An institution, Leb's Restaurant with its marquee at 228 West Adams Street, was part of the street scene.

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



Celebrate Christmas at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church

Sunday, December 24

9:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols

www.habchurch.com • 4001 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Nov. 30 – Dec. 23



Gingerbread House Extravaganza

Nov. 30 – Dec. 23, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.

Enjoy dozens of delightful gingerbread creations at the annual show, sponsored by the Jacksonville Historical Society. For more information, call (904) 665-004.

Dec. 01

London Calling: 2017 Art & Antiques Show

Friday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 3, Noon to 5 p.m. Prime Osborne Convention Center, 1000 Water St.

Over 40 art and antiques dealers from across the country and Europe; lectures by local and international experts; and the annual Children's Fashion Show featuring current and former Wolfson Children's Hospital patients.

Tinkercad Holiday Ornaments

Friday, Dec. 1, 3:30-5 p.m.

San Marco Library, 1513 Lasalle St.

Teens and adults can design and customize their own holiday ornaments using simple and free 3D design software. Hang them on the tree at home or wrap them up for a personalized holiday gift.

San Marco Square Tree Lighting

Friday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.

Balis Park, 1999 San Marco Blvd.

The annual holiday season kickoff will include performances by local students.

Dec. 02

Read & Romp

Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m.

St. Vincent's Family Medicine Center, 2627 Riverside Avenue

The 11th annual Read & Romp for children up to age 10 includes games, crafts, entertainment and activities, as well as giving away books and stuffed animals.

Children's Way 5K & Family Day

Saturday, Dec. 2, 3 p.m.

Ronald McDonald House, 824 Childrens Way

The family-friendly event features a race, a tour of the Ronald McDonald House and a Christmas Village in the parking lot. Register at 1stplacesports.com/races/childrensaway/

Dec. 07

Tree of Life Remembrance Service

Thursday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Road

The 27th annual Tree of Life and Candlelight Service of Remembrance includes refreshments, children's activities and a musical performance prior to the service of remembrance.

Dec. 08

Community Nutcracker

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9, 1 p.m.

and 7:30 p.m. performances

Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St.

26th annual presentation of "The Nutcracker," a two-act ballet directed and performed by local residents, raises funds for many local charities. Visit jaxnutcracker.org/tickets to purchase tickets.



31st Annual Historic Springfield Holiday Home Tour

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9, 5-9 p.m.

Enjoy the magic of seven 100-year-old-plus homes decked out for the holidays. Roam the beautiful interiors of these historic buildings. Stroll the neighborhood by car, bike, or foot. Tickets are \$12 in advance/\$15 on tour days. Visit www.historicspringfield.org or call (904) 633-9308.

Dec. 09

Holiday Magic

Saturday, Dec. 9, 5 p.m.

San Marco Square, 1999 San Marco Blvd.

A visit from Santa Claus, carolers, jugglers and stilt walkers will entertain visitors. Activities will include sleigh rides and bounce games for children.

Festival of Lights 5K

Saturday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m., San Marco Square

Sponsored by 1st Place Sports, the luminaria-lit event begins with a 1-mile fun run at 5:30 p.m., the 5K at 6 p.m., and a 5K for strollers and walkers at 6:10 p.m. Children's Miracle Network will benefit from the event. Register at 1stplacesports.com

Rethreaded Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rethreaded, 820 Barnett Street

Shop for a cause, make and take home a Rethreaded holiday ornament, enjoy food and beverages.

Dec. 10

Christmas in Candyland

Sunday, Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. blocks

Sweet Pete's Candy, 400 N. Hogan St.

Ticketed event (\$5 per child) includes Santa and Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating, Disney "Frozen" Princesses Ana and Elsa, ornament-making with Olaf the Snowman, and much more. Go to sweetpetescandy.com to purchase tickets.

O Lord, My God! One Achord Christmas Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 10 and Monday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

San Jose Church of Christ, 6233 San Jose Blvd.

Kathryn McGehee directs a Christian community choir. All proceeds go to one of six local charities, buyer's choice. www.oneachord.info or (904) 737-2333, ext. 4.



Dec. 14

Jolly Christmas at St. Nick's

Thursday, Dec. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

St. Nicholas Train Station Park, 2564 Atlantic Blvd.

St. Nicholas businesses get together in the holiday spirit to throw a party for local children, including a visit from Santa Claus, food, fun activities and more.

Dec. 15

Singing Christmas Tree Concert

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 15-17, 7 p.m.

Southside Baptist Church, 1435 Atlantic Blvd.

Multi-church concert features 75 singers among a lighted three-story tree. Event is free but reservations required. Call (904) 396-6633 to reserve a seat.

Dec. 16

Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville

Saturday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(or until toys are gone)

Prime Osborne Convention Center, 1000 Water St.

The Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville, a nonprofit organization, was founded in December 1999 by Travis and Margaret Storey to provide toys for Jacksonville children who otherwise might not receive toys during the holiday season.

San Marco Luminaria

Saturday, Dec. 16, dusk

Throughout the streets of San Marco, homes and businesses will light the night with luminaria. Kits can be purchased Dec. 16 at the parking lot behind Bank of America, 2011 San Marco Blvd. beginning at 9 a.m.

Dec. 30

Light Boat Parade

Saturday, Dec. 30, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

The Landing, Downtown Jacksonville

The annual Jacksonville Light Boat Parade typically includes dozens of power and sailboats all decked out for the holidays. After the boats make two circuits around the North and South Banks, a fireworks display will commence at 9:30 p.m.

SAINT FRANCIS

ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Gift Wrapping in San Marco Square

Fri/Sat/Sun, Dec 15th, 16th, 17th
& Fri/Sat/Sun, 22nd, 23rd, 24th
Fridays 4-9, Saturdays 11-8
& Sundays 12-6

996 San Marco Boulevard
(in front of the San Marco Theater)

Pet Photos with Santa

Sunday, Dec 10th, 5-7

Bring your pets and/or your entire family to 2727 Atlantic Boulevard for photos with Santa.

\$10 donation for digital photo;
\$15 donation includes printed photo and digital image.

Proceeds raised help provide veterinary care to family pets in need.

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Standing as a symbol of our partnership with world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center, our new, nine-story cancer center is designed to be uniquely responsive to the needs of patients and families, as well as their care teams. Scheduled to open in summer of 2018, this extraordinary building will expand the capacity of our current facility, serving as a beacon of hope to more cancer patients throughout the region. In this light-filled and inspiring environment, our dedicated cancer care teams will provide all-encompassing care that addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each patient.

To learn more, visit us at BaptistMDAnderson.com.

