



Share the love

A mural in Murray Hill by Christopher Sweeney combines two signature themes, an XoRobot and a stretched heart, which signifies Sweeney's philosophy: Be open to sharing and stretching your heart out big enough to love everyone. [Read More, Page 50](#)



Season's 'must-attend' event includes U.S. Congressman DeSantis

16th Annual Delicious Destinations guests Nina and Samer Garas, M.D., Congressman Ron and Casey DeSantis, along with Virginia Hall, Bob Shircliff and Mark Scruby pause for a photo op at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

[Read More, Page 26](#)



Arms, elbows exercised at annual 'flying disc' gala

Sporting bow ties, Ultimate League President Matt Bishop and William Kilgannon attend the annual gala to raise funds for Youth Ultimate, an upcoming high league and other youth events. Glasses of beer were raised at the Jan. 27 benefit at Intuition Ale Works.

[Read More, Page 29](#)



America's first African-American female combat pilot speaks at annual breakfast

Decorated Marine veterans Ronald Jackson, Alpha P. Gainous, Jordan McIvory and George Gillis with Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour (center), keynote speaker at the 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Jan. 12. This special group of veterans were members of the first unit of U.S. Marine Corps servicemembers who enlisted in 1942 as part of the Montford Point Marines. They provided the shoulders upon which future generations of black Marines would stand.

[Read More, Page 29](#)



Berry Good Farms students show off skills at annual benefit

Among the many supporters of North Florida School for Special Education, Frank and Rosemary Rossi, Susan Hamilton and Jason Hamilton enjoyed dining al fresco at the annual Dinner on the Farm Jan. 27. The school's transition and post-grad students prepared and served a delightful dinner, and guests browsed artwork created by students.

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Avondale resident pushes back against Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

Planners say proposed addition out of scale with original structure

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

It's tough to make changes to buildings in a historic neighborhood, as Avondale resident Virginia Harris well knows.

In November 2017, Harris was turned down by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) when she submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to build a two-story addition onto her 1909 one-story home on the corner of Challen and Riverside Avenues and reconstruct the garage.

The primary concern put forth by the planning staff was that the addition, at 28-feet high, was much taller than the original structure's front parapet wall, which is a character-defining feature.

"The scale of the addition combined with the height confirms the addition is not subordinate to the main house and conflicts with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Riverside-Avondale Design Regulations," stated the staff report.

Harris made changes to the proposed design, as recommend by the commission in August 2017, reducing the addition to

26 feet in height and moving it away from the rear property line so the eave would not be on the property line.

The revisions were supported by Adrienne Burke, executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation. In an Oct. 20, 2017 email to Harris and to JHPC staffers Christian Popoli and Blair Mullins, Burke noted "The actual impact to the historic structure is only in one place and on the rear of the building, so it would be reversible in the future per the SOIS (Secretary of the Interior's Standards). The primary goal is protecting the original historic structure, and it is largely left intact as part of this project. The façade will have no changes."

Even then, Harris' application for a COA was denied.

The staff report stated "the reduction of two feet from the addition is not enough to warrant a change in staff's original recommendation as the addition is still a two-story addition attached to a one-story landmark house."

So, as Harris had indicated last fall, she is appealing the denial. "I will work within the guidelines," she said after the August 2017 hearing, "but if I don't think they are fair, I will oppose them."

A public hearing by the Land Use and Zoning committee will be held Wednesday, Feb. 21, 5 p.m. at City Hall, at which time Harris can plead her case.

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Letter TO THE Editor

Concern raised about alley behind Whiteway Building



Whiteway Corner's streetscape behind Park Street businesses

I am writing about a concern I have in regards to a blocked alley behind the Cool Moose. The owner of Whiteway Corner took the liberty of blocking the alley with very large white planters with rumored plans for future outdoor dining and entertainment space. There has been no public notification about these changes.

In addition, now most delivery trucks are having to park their large trucks on King and Herschel Streets because they can no longer get behind the businesses to make their deliveries. This is causing traffic hazards and safety issues.

My neighbors are concerned there is a lack of access for emergency vehicles not being able to access the businesses because there are obstacles in the way.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Nan

Editor's Note: *The Resident* spoke to Whiteway Corner's property manager, Roy Reeves, who indicated City of Jacksonville inspectors have visited the property on numerous occasions and did not find the streetscape project to be out of compliance.

Reeves noted that smaller delivery vehicles can access the alley from Herschel Street, but large delivery trucks generally park on the street as the alleys are not wide enough. According to the City, Riverside alleys were created in the early 1900s as a means of access to the abutting owners' rear yards. Over the years many of the alleys have grown up in vegetation, while others remain in use as joint drives for access to the rear yards.

Public Works does not maintain the alleys because they were never intended as public thoroughfares and were never built to local road standards. Most of the alleys in Jacksonville's Historical Enclaves are between 10 feet and 15 feet, which does not support standard traffic flow. The responsibility for maintenance of the alleys is that of the abutting owners, with the City assuming no responsibilities or liabilities.

Whiteway Corner's owner, George Martin, has improved the rear yards of his property with pavers, landscaping, motion detectors and security cameras.

The planters noted by the reader are located on the property's rear yard, which begins behind the Cool Moose Café and extends south to the parking lot between Magic Sweethouse and Dan's Sports, Cards & Games (formerly World Famous City Cycle).

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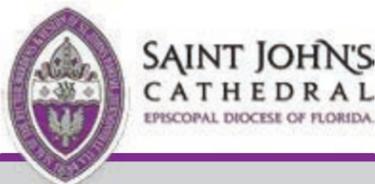
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Friends of Murray Hill Library announce annual meeting

The Friends of the Murray Hill Library will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Maple Street Biscuit Co., 1171 Edgewood Ave. S in Murray Hill. Social will start at 6:30 p.m. with meeting at 7 p.m. Discussion topics will include the beautification project currently underway at the library and the library's 50th anniversary celebration taking place in December 2018. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments provided.

RAP to hold 43rd annual meeting

The annual meeting to ratify Riverside Avondale Preservation's new board members and to announce winners of the preservation awards will be held Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Forbes Street entrance.

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) was founded in 1974 to serve as an advocate for active preservation of the neighborhood's historic assets, commercial and residential.

CORRECTION

In a story on solar energy in our January 2018 issue, we inadvertently indicated that the Jacksonville Energy Authority's SolarSmart program was set to launch this coming April when, in fact, it had launched June 1, 2017, followed by SolarMax in November.

In the same story, we also noted the JEAs Northside generating station would be retired in 2018, however, it is the St. Johns River Power Park which will shut down this year.

We sincerely regret the errors.

Patrons robbed at gunpoint at Avondale restaurant

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

An armed robbery took place again at The Brick, a restaurant in The Shoppes of Avondale.

The first robbery, Oct. 17, 2017, targeted two employees who were leaving the restaurant after it closed. A little more than three months later, after exiting the restaurant Jan. 24, patrons were accosted by a gun-toting purse snatcher.

While the armed robber, described as a slender black male, 20 to 30 years old, wrestled a handbag from one woman, her friend ran back into the restaurant for help. Several witnesses took chase until the man pulled a gun before jumping into a waiting black Dodge Neon.

The next evening following the incident, a larger-than-usual crowd attended the monthly Sheriff's Watch meeting for Zone 4, Sector J at Ortega United Methodist Church. Questions were raised about an increased police presence, but Zone 4 encompasses a large portion of the City of Jacksonville. Although much of the crime typically occurs west of the historic

district, during the same week The Brick's patrons were targeted, three other armed robberies occurred in Riverside and an unarmed snatching occurred in Avondale.

More officers for Zone 4 had been approved last fall in the new City budget, but it takes about one year to fully train them before they are deployed.

While a conversation on social media suggested that the merchants in the Shoppes hire a security guard, that's not going to happen unless more merchants get involved with the merchants association.

"I wish we had the money to do that. We are a very small association, and we only get half of the merchants to participate in the association by paying dues," said Dianne Garcia, merchants association president and owner of J. Ashley Boutique.

Anyone who has any information in reference to the identity of this armed robbery suspect is asked to contact the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at 904-630-0500 or email JSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org. To remain anonymous and receive a possible reward, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS.

Two bills under consideration affect parking, sidewalks

Two proposed ordinances currently before City Council's Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee would affect parking spaces for bikes, motorcycles and cars, and the size of sidewalks.

Under Ordinance 2017-806, on-street parking spaces for motorcycles would be required to be 7-foot long and 4-foot wide (the current rule is 5 x 10 feet).

On-street parallel parking for cars would be required to have a minimum width of 7 feet and a step-out zone of at least 2 feet along the curb.

Parking spaces angled at 60 degrees would be required to have a 2-foot overhang at the curb and a 2-foot step-out zone.

The ordinance also changes the rules for bicyclists, who would be allowed to "stop, stand or park a bicycle on a sidewalk" as long as it doesn't impede pedestrians or other traffic.

Bicycle racks would be required to support the frame in two places and allow space for locking wheels and frame.

Bike racks also would be required to be conveniently located near buildings, in well-lighted areas but not interfere with pedestrian traffic, or block entrances or disabled parking spaces. Five feet of clearance would be required between a rack and a driveway or curb cut.

Ordinance 2017-805 addresses sidewalks, increasing the width of new or reconstructed sidewalks to 6 feet in most areas and to 8 feet downtown.

The ordinance also would require new or constructed streets to accommodate bicyclists in keeping with city's 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

You can view the ordinances here: <http://cityclts.coj.net/coj/cojBillSearchNew.asp?type=PL>

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Year-end land donation in Fleming Island and Middleburg, adjacent to the North Florida Land Trust's Black Creek Preservation Priority Area

Conservation nonprofit gains land, wins federal funds

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

After ending 2017 with donations of hundreds of acres, the North Florida Land Trust ushered in the new year with the announcement it had been chosen for \$3.56 million in federal funding.

Following year-end acquisitions of nearly 1,000 acres from generous donors, the Land Trust was chosen to receive the Regional Conservation Partnership Program award for its Ocala to Osceola (or O2O) corridor conservation project.

The O2O corridor provides an important habitat for the Florida Black Bear and endangered species like the red-cockaded

woodpecker, indigo snakes and gopher tortoises. In total, there are 34 federally threatened and endangered species, and three disappearing habitat types within the O2O region, which stretches from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest and eventually to the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia.

"The RCPP funding will allow us to focus our attention on approximately 100,000 acres of privately owned land within the O2O corridor. We would like to acquire conservation easements on that property from willing landowners over the next five years," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT.

The year-end land gifts included 388 acres in Clay County along Black Creek and

Doctors Lake, given by South Doctors Lake, Ltd.; more than 522 acres of land along the O2O wildlife corridor in White Springs, Florida in Columbia County from Rebecca Carter Nowicki in memory of John Michael Carter; more than 21 acres of land near the Jacksonville-Baldwin border from the Wilensky family; more than eight acres on the Northside from the Hoffman family, and three vacant properties from PHS Industries Inc., which owned the properties originally slated to be used by Google for its fiber-optics project in Jacksonville. Two of the properties are adjacent to one another on Alton Avenue on the Southside, the third is on Plymouth Street west of Murray Hill.

The Land Trust intends to sell the vacant lots as well as the Wilensky-Hoffman donations to help fund future conservation efforts.

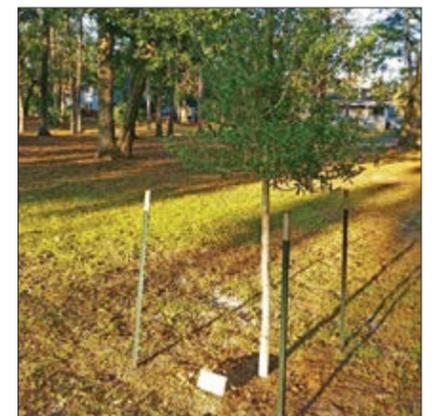
"We plan to use these properties to raise money for our mission and will be selling them to interested parties. While we normally accept donations of land for conservation purposes, we accept donations of properties, stocks and other items that we can sell to raise money to support our operations or buy more land. The donor receives the charitable deduction and we advance our mission," said McCarthy.

Community urged to show some 'love' for Boone Park South

Founded in 2015 to re-establish and maintain the forest canopy in the park, Friends of Boone Park South hold a "Love Boone Park South Day" each February. Since the park lost about 20 trees from hurricane damage in 2017, the Friends would like to engage the community to plant a replacement tree and take care of it.

"With so many coming to the playground, it might be a nice thing to visit/water a tree when they come," said Pamela Telis, founder of the nonprofit, a public-private partnership with the City of Jacksonville.

The 4th Annual Love Boone Park South Day tree planting and clean-up at Boone Park South will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to noon, co-sponsored by the Friends of Boone Park South and Greenscape.



Planting a new tree is a great way to honor and remember a loved one.

It's as easy as 1-2-3 to participate in the event.

- 1.** Adopt a tree by emailing Pamela Telis at patelis@bellsouth.net
- 2.** Plant the tree, provided free by Greenscape
- 3.** Agree to water it once a week as needed in 2018

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Landscape foundation founder speaks at annual Memorial Park meeting

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The Memorial Park Association held its annual meeting Jan. 23 at the Haskell Building where guest speaker Charles A. Birnbaum, President, CEO, and founder of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), gave a witty yet thought-provoking presentation to over 120 attendees on the goal to change the way the association looks at landscaping and how they might measure success as it embarks on the next phase of restoration.

Birnbaum spoke of his tendency to “poke the bear” when he toured Memorial Park earlier in the day with members of the association, challenging them to consider what might constitute an enhancement to park while keeping within its heritage as a commemorative landscape.

One of Birnbaum’s major projects is the web-based initiative What’s Out There (a



Ornamental fencing in the process of being removed for replacement on the perimeter of Memorial Park.

searchable database of the nation’s designed landscape heritage). Three sites in Jacksonville are listed in the database: Memorial Park, The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, and the 1925 San Jose Estates.

A reception was held following the meeting, where park supporters had an opportunity to meet Birnbaum.

Two new board members – Mary Jarrett and the Rev. Dr. Canon J. Allison DeFoor – were welcomed at the reception. While Paula Skitsko steps down from the board, all other officers and board members remain.

Refurbishment to the entrances at Margaret Street and Memorial Park Drive are taking place concurrently with restoration to the plant beds.

Through the generosity of the Haskell Company, Restoration Landscape Architect Eric Lycke worked tirelessly and donated his time in the design of the new perimeter fence, which will be funded by the City of Jacksonville. The remainder of Phase II, with estimated costs at around \$125,000, will be supported through private donations made to the Memorial Park Association.

The City awarded the bid for the perimeter fencing to Southeastern Ornamental Iron, who began removing the existing fence in early January; the new fence will be installed thereafter. The new perimeter fence will stop before the entrances on the river side of Memorial Park Drive and Margaret Streets, allowing for more flexibility in the design of those new entrances to the park and for hurricane clean-up and repair to be easily done.

This phase of the project should be completed by spring.



Mary Jarrett and the Rev. Canon Allison DeFoor are the two newest members of the Memorial Park Association board.

Park projects underway

In Phase II of the park’s major restoration project, restoration of the planting beds parallel to Riverside Avenue and the entry beds at Memorial Park Drive and Margaret Street began in January. Many of the plants will be reused in new locations; some of the azaleas have historic significance and the same varieties were used in the garden at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

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City still working to make April deadline for ADA compliance

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Five years after the City of Jacksonville reached a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice over noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the April 2018 deadline to get public buildings, parks and sidewalks into compliance fast approaches.

When the agreement was made in April 2013 under Mayor Alvin Brown, the City originally had three years to comply to get 64 buildings into compliance, but in June 2016, the DOJ extended that portion of the deadline to the end of 2016.

The five-year deadline for everything, including curb cuts for sidewalks, has not changed.

The cost of compliance was estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars in 2016, when the five-year capital improvement program estimated \$57 million for ADA compliance, with the bulk dedicated for sidewalks.

“Barriers within our community can be more limiting than disabilities, themselves. Ensuring accommodations, as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, allows for the full access, enjoyment and use of everything which makes our City great. It is the shared responsibility of every individual, regardless of their



City of Jacksonville workers put in new ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps at the corner of Herschel and James Streets.

disability status, to help remove undue barriers and consider the needs of people with disabilities. The Independent Living Resource Center continues to work with our local and state government to achieve our shared goals in serving our community,” said Tyler Morris, executive director for The Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC).

Although *The Resident* requested information about the percentage of completion, particularly for sidewalk curb cuts and ramps in Riverside and Avondale, the City of Jacksonville did not respond.

To review the settlement agreement, go to residentnews.net and enter ADA in the search bar.

If you have ADA compliance concerns, let us know! Email editor@residentnews.net

The Community Foundation opens applications for grants in three areas

Applications are now open for nonprofit organizations serving aging adults in Northeast Florida and young children in Duval County, and for organizations promoting visual art and art education in St. Augustine.

All grantmaking is through The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Applications can be found at www.jaxcf.org/receive and are limited to these areas at this time:

Aging Adults

Preliminary applications for competitive grants of \$20,000 are now available to nonprofit organizations serving older adults and their caregivers in Northeast Florida. These applications should focus on work to improve the quality of life for older adults by assisting under-served and under-resourced seniors in Duval, Clay, Baker, St. Johns and Nassau counties. Preliminary applications are due by March 1, 2018 for grants that will begin on September 1, 2018.

Early Childhood – Programmatic

Preliminary applications for competitive Programmatic grants up to \$15,000 are now available for nonprofit organizations who serve at-risk children in Duval County from birth through pre-Kindergarten by working with parents and/or caregivers. Proposals should help build the capacity of providers and childcare workers, bring innovative strategies to the community, and provide parent and caregiver education. Applications are due by March 8, 2018 for grants that will begin on September 1, 2018.

Visual Art in St. Augustine

Preliminary applications are now available for nonprofit organizations that promote visual art appreciation or education in St. Augustine. Grant proposals of \$2,500 to \$5,000 will be accepted. Proposals for \$2,500 or less are called Sponsorships and require only a Preliminary Application. Sponsorship applications are accepted at any time throughout the year, while funds are still available. Preliminary applications are due by April 5, 2018 for grants that begin on September 1, 2018.

More restaurants planned for Brooklyn area

Developer planning for three eateries, two retail tenants



By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

City of Jacksonville property, known as the Jug Handle, in Brooklyn is being considered for commercial/retail development. The Jug Handle is used as a storm water retention basin and includes a turnoff for motorists exiting the Acosta Bridge and desiring to enter the Florida Times-Union property across Riverside Avenue.

In July 2017, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) discussed a land-swap of that parcel on the corner of Riverside Avenue and Leila Street with three privately-owned parcels on Magnolia Street. Ferber Company, a Ponte Vedra developer, had offered to design and construct a public parking lot on the private parcels. The DIA, through the Office of Public Parking, would operate and maintain the public parking lot.

The Jug Handle parcel was originally part of a 2016 redevelopment plan for a pharmacy/drugstore, but the end user rejected the location.

At a Jan. 18, 2018 meeting, the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) offered conceptual approval of Ferber Company's plan to develop three restaurants and two commercial spaces, while noting only one

deviation among the 11 design guidelines: to allow the reduction of off-street parking from 99 spaces to 90 spaces.

The aforementioned parking lot adjacent to the development would satisfy the requirement, as well as provide additional parking for existing retail and commercial activity in Brooklyn Station. The plans were in compliance with nine of the remaining 10 guidelines, and the tenth – waterfront development design – was not applicable.

The applicant also requested a special exception for monument signage, which will be reviewed by the DDRB at final approval presentation. There are currently three monument signs at the adjacent Brooklyn Station project.

The 12,500-square-foot multi-tenant building will front Riverside Avenue. The architect will be FWH Architects, and the engineer and landscape architect is England-Thims & Miller. The project is estimated

to begin in fourth quarter 2018 with completion in July 2019.

The proposed tenants will be a mix of national, regional and experienced local businesses consistent with the existing Brooklyn Station tenant mix, according to the proposal presented to the DDRB. The height of the proposed building will not exceed 30 feet and will be consistent with the retailers at Brooklyn Station.

Two of the proposed restaurant spaces would seat up to 137, while the third would seat up to 241. The two commercial spaces are each 1,900 square feet. There are currently five eateries in Brooklyn Station, including First Watch, BurgerFi, Zoe's Kitchen, The Hyppo, and Burrito Gallery. Grabbagreen closed its doors last month after just 10 months in business.



Rendering of the north elevation for a new five-bay commercial/retail building in Brooklyn.

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Local Jewish agencies agree to merge

The boards of directors for the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville and the Jewish Community Foundation of Northeast Florida unanimously approved the merger of the two organizations at separate meetings in December 2017.

The Federation was established in 1939 as a fundraising organization to support the local and global Jewish community. Alan Margolies has been executive director since 1990, and Ken Jacobs was elected president for a two-year term in June 2017.

“When it was determined [in 1996] to begin a planned giving program for our Jewish community and to do this as a partnership for the Federation, its major local recipient agencies and the synagogues, it was determined that the best way to proceed was to establish a separate organization,” said Margolies.

The Foundation was established in 1996 to help donors develop charitable giving plans and to ensure synagogues and Jewish agencies would exist to provide future generations with the Jewish heritage and traditions.

It was funded in the beginning by the Federation, providing perhaps 50 percent of the funding and the other partners providing together 50 percent, according to Margolies. Currently, there are approximately 100 funds; 30 are permanent and the balance are Donor Advised Funds, he said.

Sue Nussbaum has served as the foundation president of the board of trustees



Ken Jacobs



Sue Nussbaum

since 2015, and Laura Thompson has been interim executive director since July 2016, following the departure of Jeff Klein, when he took a position with a similar foundation in Boca Raton in January 2017.

“In December of 2016, a little more than a year ago, leadership of both organizations decided it was the right time to take a fresh look at what might be the best way, going forward, to be responsible for planned giving for the Jewish community,” said Margolies. “A number of models in other cities were explored and together it was determined that a merger would be in the best interest of the Jewish community.”

With the merger, the Jewish Federation will take responsibility for planned giving, with the goal to build upon relationships with donors to the annual campaign and to do all they can to ensure the future of the Jewish community, according to Jacobs, in a message to readers of the Jacksonville Jewish News.

While conducting a search for a planned giving director, the Federation will establish a new Planned Giving Development Committee to work with the new director. Jean Brantley, of the Jewish Foundation, has joined the Federation staff during the search for a director of planned giving.



There’s more to love about Sweet Pete’s

Jacksonville’s sweetest destination adds ice cream parlour and toy shop



There’s always something new at Sweet Pete’s! From top to bottom of the three-story candy factory and emporium, you’ll always find handcrafted quality chocolate and more than a thousand different types of candies – but now there’s even more to explore!

Check out the new Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlour on the second floor, where you’ll find good, old-fashioned ice cream and other treats for dessert. Plus, it’s a great place to host a birthday party for any age. As servers bring out special creations, like the 30-scoop “Zoo” on a stretcher, they’ll serenade the birthday child – or adult – because everyone loves ice cream!

If you want to melt your young ones’ hearts even more, don’t skip Pete’s Over the Top Toy Shop on the third floor. The new, circus-themed toy store – under a red-and-white-striped tent – offers nearly

a thousand items, from classic books and plush characters to match, to educational toys, and playsets. For make-believe play beyond your child’s wildest imagination, visit the Princess Room, full of dress up, unicorns, baby dolls and all things pink! Under the main tent you’ll find magic show items and puppets of all shapes and sizes.

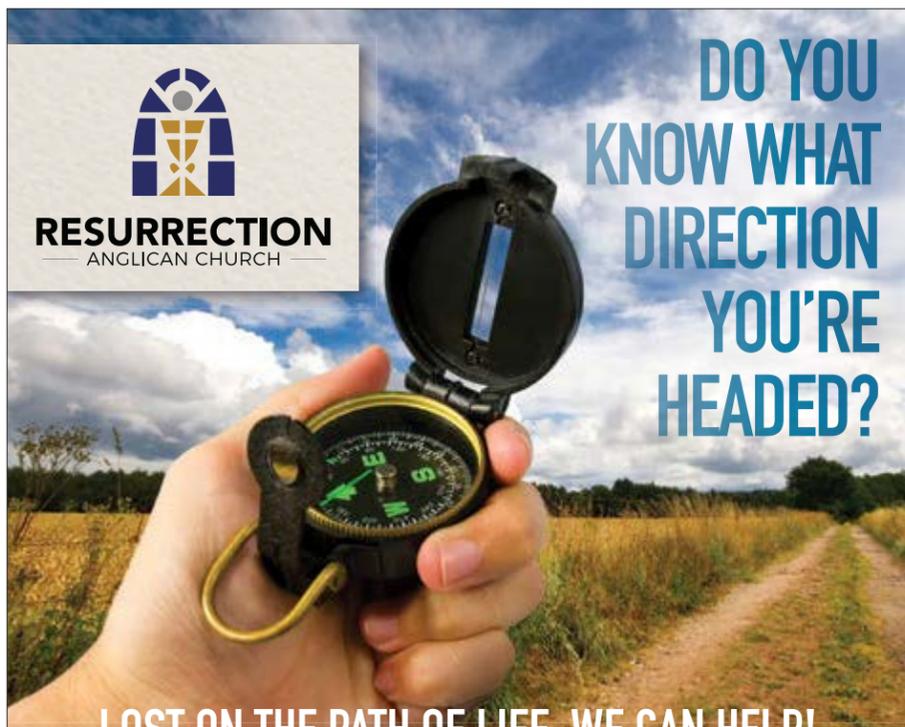
From one floor to another, you’ll find no excuse for being empty-handed on Valentine’s Day – or any day. Drop in at Sweet Pete’s, Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlour, and Pete’s Over the Top Toy Shop at 400 Hogan St. downtown. Visit sweetpetescandy.com for hours and more information.

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Parking problems persist despite spending, striping

Local stakeholders share frustrations

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

For many of the three dozen or so people who attended a community meeting last month on the issue of parking in Riverside and Avondale, it was a flashback to five years ago.

And, as several participants noted, not much has changed since 2013.

Some streets in the historic district were striped to demarcate legal parking spots and to indicate illegal areas, such as those within 20 feet of an intersection, but otherwise, none of the other solutions recommended by Ghyabi & Associates – to the tune of \$100,000 – were implemented. Those recommendations included residential parking permits, enforcement of ticketing illegally parked cars, and providing distance lots with shuttles for businesses' employees.

"Very little was done, after a lot of effort and a lot of money," said Tom Merten, owner of The Jenks House Bed and Breakfast on Post Street. "Other than striping, nothing has changed since the last study."

The City of Jacksonville has engaged Timothy Haahs and Associates, a parking strategies consulting firm based in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, who sent Roamy Valera of New Town Advisors, LLC in Miami, to re-visit the parking issue in Riverside/Avondale, as well as in Springfield and San Marco.

Valera and members of the Downtown Investment Authority, under which the Office of Public Parking resides, met with Riverside/Avondale residents and business owners Jan. 24 at the Winston Family YMCA to solicit comments on the issue of how parking or the lack thereof creates a tension between residential quality of life vs. economic development in the historic district.

There are six business corridors in the Riverside/Avondale area, and business owners from at least three (5 Points, Park and King Streets, The Shoppes of Avondale) were present to voice their opinions.

Karin Tucker, owner of Biscottis in The Shoppes of Avondale, said not having enough parking in that area "has created a huge conflict" with the nearby residents. They don't want us to go away, but they also don't want our customers parking in front of their houses, she said. "The City needs to put in a lot or a garage," Tucker said, later noting that the Riverside Avondale Overlay has restrictions on doing that in the historic district.

Alicia Grant, who has lived in the Avondale area for 40 years, the most recent 26 on Riverside Avenue behind The Shoppes,

noted the current mix of restaurant and retail "is terrible," citing the loss of the retail shop Cowford Traders to Barrique, a restaurant in that space, with no change in the requirement for providing parking.

It's not just the change from boutique to bar that can create a parking issue. After a new playground was installed in Boone Park on St. Johns Avenue in October 2016, it became a destination park for many visitors outside the immediate area, resulting in cars parked on residential side streets.

In the 5 Points area, where there has been a great increase in restaurants within the past seven years, Black Sheep Restaurant's managing partner, Allan DeVault, noted there is a lot of parking inventory in the area, but much of it is privately owned and

"Very little was done, after a lot of effort and a lot of money. Other than striping, nothing has changed since the last study."

— Tom Merten
Owner, The Jenks House

the businesses are not willing to share it. "We've tried to work out shared leases with medical offices and churches nearby, but haven't gotten very far," he said.

In addition, shared-use parking is not recognized as applicable for meeting parking credits, said Jennifer Mansfield, a Riverside resident and attorney. She also commented that the City's inability to maintain alleys have forced vehicles to find parking on the streets.

The consultant noted that it will take about three to four months of data gathering before any solutions can be determined and then recommendations must be agreed upon by 60 percent of the residents and/or businesses affected.

New rescue units added to two District 14 fire stations

On Jan. 20, District 14 Councilman Jim Love and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department celebrated the addition of two new rescue units in District 14, one at Fire Station 14 (shown here) on Herschel Street and another at Fire Station 10 on McDuff Avenue. Each new unit requires the addition of six new fire fighters, two per shift. This will improve the service for emergency medical rescues in the Riverside/Avondale area.



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Former filling station to house Nashville barbecue franchise

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

First Coast Energy, which owns and operates Daily's convenience stores, recently demolished a long-defunct station at 5344 Ortega Blvd. to make way for a business of a different kind.

Instead of putting in a Daily's, the company will lease the property to Ortega residents Virginia and Todd Ogletree, who will own the first Jacksonville franchise of Edley's Bar-B-Que.

This will be the sixth location for the nationally-recognized eatery, based in Nashville and founded by Virginia Ogletree's sister and brother-in-law in 2011. The family-owned business is named after the brother-in-law's grandfather, Edley Newman.

The Ogletrees originally looked at trying to work with the former gas station, but "it was like trying to put a square peg in a round hole," said Virginia, who is a realtor and active at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Day School. "I don't sit still very well," she said, referring to plans to be active in the restaurant.

The Ogletrees are working with Finial Custom Builders of St. Augustine, using a plan from one of Edley's newest Nashville locations. Although the property did not take on water during Hurricane Irma, they want to raise the floor higher than what the gas station had.

Edley's will seat 150 indoors and on an outdoor patio, serving traditional barbeque as well as Mexican cuisine. A full bar will offer craft beer on tap and Southern cocktails.

Aiming to be open mid-summer, the Ogletrees plan to serve lunch, dinner daily and breakfasts on weekends. The décor will



A 60-year-old gas station was demolished at Roosevelt and Ortega Boulevards to make way for a new restaurant.



Rendering of proposed barbecue restaurant in Venetia area

include a nod to Jacksonville's military and nautical industries, and Virginia Ogletree said she hoped to attract business from Naval Air Station Jacksonville. "We want to be supportive of all our First Responders, including those on the base," she said.

The former gas station, built in 1958, was torn down in January by Lockwood Quality Demolition Inc. at a cost of \$10,000. First Coast Energy's predecessor, Petro Distributing, bought the property in 1993

from BP Oil Company. Then in 1997, that and 18 other parcels in Duval County were granted to First Coast Energy, when the company began to build Daily's convenience stores in Jacksonville.

Immediately north of the former gas station is a decommissioned JEA 4KV substation. When asked whether JEA intends to sell the 4,800-square-foot property, a spokesperson said, "I don't believe we are actively selling that property."



Rendering of the new CubeSmart self storage facility currently under construction located behind Animal Care and Protective Services

New self-storage facility under construction in Brooklyn

Another CubeSmart self-storage facility will be available by year's end for residents at 220 Riverside, The Brooklyn Riverside, and other nearby homes and apartments to rent units. It will be located less than a mile at the CubeSmart facility at 645 Park St. in Riverside.

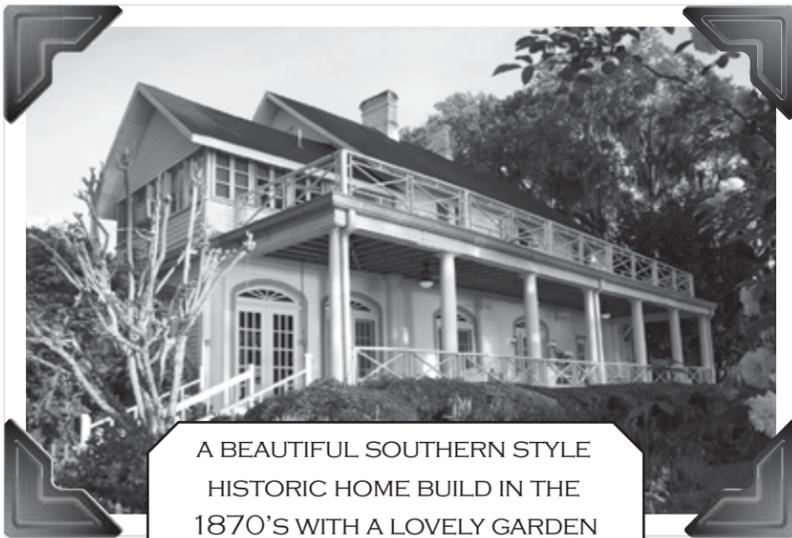
In July 2017, Jernigan Capital, Inc. of Memphis, Tenn., announced it had closed an \$8 million investment in a proposed multi-story climate-controlled 749 unit facility in Jacksonville.

Property at 2004 Edison Ave. was purchased by Edison Capital Jacksonville LLC in July 2017 for \$1.17 million. Structure Development LLC of Orlando is the developer of the proposed project, and this is the third self-storage development in which the Jernigan and Structure Development have co-invested.

Construction was expected to begin Fourth Quarter 2017 and will be finished in Fourth Quarter 2018. The proposed 68,700 net rentable square foot facility will be a ground-up project visible from both Interstates 10 and 95.

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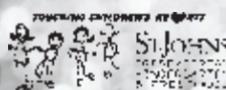
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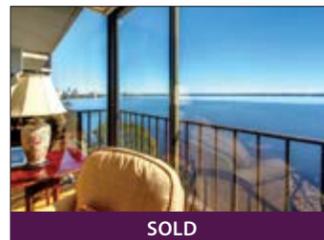
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From the wrought iron balcony to the unique brick work, this home is full of historic charm. And once you step inside, the beautiful renovations will charm you even more! The updated kitchen features stainless appliances and plenty of storage.



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\$340,000

2323 FORBES ST – 3br / 1.5ba / 2,266 sqft

Located in a neighborhood rich with history, this home is ready for you to add your story to its walls. Enjoy your morning coffee on the newly restored front porch or walk on over to Bold Bean for a yummy cup of Joe.



SOLD

1461 AVONDALE AVE – 3br / 3ba / 2,811 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Live in one of the friendliest neighborhoods of Jacksonville! Enjoy a glass of wine on your front porch with your friends while you reminisce about your house when it was painted pink.



\$384,900

3685 HEDRICK ST – 3br / 2ba / 1,576 sqft.

This historic 2-story home has been lovingly preserved with only two owners. Original amenities include wood shake siding, wood floors, working windows, 10' ceilings, wood paneled sunroom, picture molding, baseboards, and ample parking.



SOLD

4331 LEXINGTON AVE – 3br / 2ba / 1,588 sqft.

SOLD by Taft Alexander! This is a great opportunity to own a fully renovated Spanish style bungalow. Full electrical rewiring, all new roofs on the home and garage, new hvac units, and all new plumbing.



Joy Walker
REALTOR®
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Melissa Lewis & Marcia
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(904) 716-1342 / 708-2423



SOLD

1239 BELVEDERE AVE – 3br / 2ba / 1,880 sqft.

SOLD by Josh Nugent and Liz Bobeck! Beautiful Bungalow on Belvedere! Amazing Value Under 300K!!! This is a wonderful home and consistently been on many buyers short list. Do not discount this home due to it's time on market.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

3873 OAK ST – 3br / 1ba / 1,423 sqft.

SOLD by Allison Steilberg and Genni Jett! Perhaps the most charming bungalow in Avondale is now available! Lovingly cared for with many updates including a newer HVAC & ductwork, GE Profile Gas Stove, tankless water heater and reverse osmosis water in the kitchen.



SOLD

4450 MELROSE AVE – 4br / 2ba / 1,580 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! The 1928 Sears' Crescent Model Home was part of the catalog order program, and one of only a handful still in existence in Jacksonville, Florida. The original ads claimed that "The average man can assemble a home in 30 days".



SOLD

4426 IROQUOIS AVE – 3br / 2ba / 1,533 sqft.

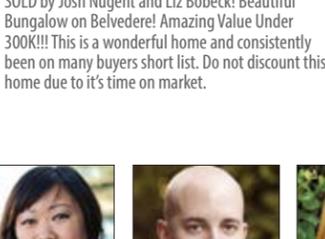
SOLD by Lisa Nguyn! Charming ranch style home in the Old Ortega Historic District! Home is equipped with new Pella windows, new HVAC system, updated plumbing, LG stainless steel appliances, GE water softener, tank-less water heater, renovated kitchen & master bath.



Susan Tuohy
REALTOR®
(904) 707-6548



Linda Maxwell & Sarah
Leuthold, REALTORS®
(904) 534-7253 / 233-5533



SOLD

1239 BELVEDERE AVE – 3br / 2ba / 1,880 sqft.

SOLD by Josh Nugent and Liz Bobeck! Beautiful Bungalow on Belvedere! Amazing Value Under 300K!!! This is a wonderful home and consistently been on many buyers short list. Do not discount this home due to it's time on market.



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Doggy daycare and ‘people’ pub proposed for Brooklyn area

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Dog parks are great places to let your pooch romp with other four-legged friends, but what do you do in the meantime? Kanine Social thinks it may have a unique answer.

Owners Daniel Moffatt and Dustin Fries plan to repurpose nearly 12,000 square feet of an existing 15,434-square-foot warehouse at 580 College Street for a doggy daycare and private indoor/outdoor park with a craft beer, wine and coffee bar.

With one tenant in the building, Sport Academy, approximately 11,767 square feet would be reused for the proposed pet and pub business. There would be only daycare with a maximum of 30 dogs, and no overnight boarding, according to the application. The project cost is estimated to be \$1.57 million, which includes the purchase of the land/structure and improvements.

The 63-year-old Brooklyn warehouse was previously occupied by a cabinet making company, N & N Cabinets, which sold the property to Moffatt’s 3M RE Holdings in November 2017 for \$935,000.

The dog parks would consist of approximately 7,000 square feet of indoor, climate-controlled play area with epoxy flooring designed specifically for indoor dog parks. There will be separate play areas for small dogs and larger dogs with three self-washing bath stations. There would be approximately 7,000 square feet of outdoor play area with an outdoor patio that will have K-9 grass artificial turf. Both dog parks would be off-leash environments.

The local craft beer, wine and coffee bar will be an on-leash only environment.



Rendering of a new dog daycare and pub proposed for Brooklyn area

There are memberships proposed with discounts for military, police, fire, and other first responders.

Review board recommendations

The Downtown Development Review Board looked at the proposal at its Jan. 18 meeting, and gave conceptual approval to move forward with architectural designs. The project summary did note three deviations from the Downtown Overlay Zone and Downtown District Regulations will be required.

A deviation will be required for location of the trash dumpster off-site.

The second deviation is a request to reduce the “transparency” requirements, which require that 50 percent of each wall elevation between two feet off the ground and up to 10 feet in height has transparency. The north side of the structure has no transparency while the other three sides have between eight percent and 21.5 percent. The application notes 3M RE Holdings plan to replace existing metal roll-up doors with glass doors to increase transparency.

The third deviation proposes an alternate streetscape design on College and Rosselle

Streets, requesting aboveground planters in lieu of landscaping in the public right-of-way since the existing structure was built to the lot lines, bound by on-street parking on two sides and by a stormwater retention pond on one side and by property owned by the Florida Department of Transportation on the other.

The planner for the project is Lara Dietrich, principal at Dietrich Planning, LLC. The architect is Erik Kasper of Kasper Architecture.

Once deviations are grants and permits approved, Moffatt and Fries anticipate a two- to three-month renovation process.

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All 5K and 1-mile race registrants will receive a souvenir tech t-shirt and race packet filled with goodies for people and pups; the top 5K race finishers will be awarded hand-made ceramic dog bowls.



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Proceeds raised from the event will benefit nonprofit St. Francis Animal Hospital to provide medical care to family pets in need.

St. Francis Animal Hospital is a not-for-profit animal hospital providing affordable veterinary care to all owned pets in the surrounding Jacksonville area. For more information about St. Francis Animal Hospital, visit www.saintfrancisanimalhospital.org.

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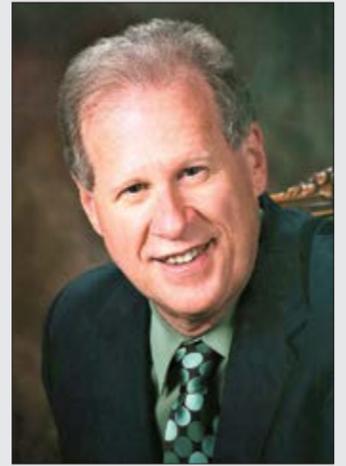
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Laurie, Sebastian, Alex and Tony Jarvis

River Garden a 'career home' for CEO



Martin Goetz

Martin A. Goetz, River Garden CEO, is celebrating a career milestone in 2018 – his 40th anniversary with the Mandarin-area nonprofit. Hired in 1978 as the Associate Administrator, Goetz became Chief Executive Officer in 2004.

Goetz is a past member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Florida Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (FAHSA) and served as its treasurer. In 2001, he received FAHSA's Public Policy Award for advocacy on nursing home litigation reform and in 2003 he was the recipient of FAHSA's Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the association. In 2007, Goetz was presented with the Chairman's Award by FAHSA in recognition of his years of service to the board and its members, and in 2008 was elected by FAHSA membership to a three-year term in the AAHSA (now LeadingAge) House of Delegates.

In 1994, Goetz was the recipient of the Dr. Herb Shore Young Administrator of the Year Award by the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) in Washington, D.C. In 2005, he was elected to the AJAS Board of Directors and served as its Board Chair from 2011-2013. In 2016, he was presented with the Dr. Herbert Shore Award of Honor.

Goetz served as a member of the Community Advisory Board for Av-Med Health Systems (2002 – 2006), a statewide managed healthcare organization with a central office in Gainesville, Florida. He has also served as a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the University of North Florida College Of Health in Jacksonville.

Neighborhood café celebrates major milestone, family business

In May 1998, Tony Jarvis opened the Cool Moose Café with the goal to deliver friendly service, excellent food and coffee to the Riverside neighborhood, and to share his love for the Red Sox and iconic moose (the namesake) throughout the café by way of décor and collectibles.

Two decades later, the family-run business has a breakfast and lunch following that extends far beyond the Park and King Streets area.

Cooking food for others was a huge leap for Jarvis, who holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in physiology.

Instead, he came to Jacksonville with the intention of partnering in a bagel shop, but on his own the business grew, taking inspiration from television cooking shows. Opening, re-investment, the Park and King streetscape project, and the economic downturn were all factors that challenged Jarvis during the first 10 years, but he appreciates the benefits of having a neighborhood gathering place.

"You form relationships with people. I didn't want to work in a little box and not get to see people," said Jarvis. "I like that

you can make personal, deep connections with customers."

The restaurant, located at 2708 Park St. since it first opened its doors, offers catering and is also a frequent venue for events, such as the JaxByJax Literary Festival and the annual Claws for a Cause, a benefit for Memorial Park Association.

Jarvis, originally from York, Maine, and his wife, Laurie, who grew up in Orange Park, will celebrate the café's 20th anniversary all year, giving away something special each month to say "thank you" to their loyal customers.

Brooklyn welcomes newcomer to neighborhood

Despite bitterly cold temperatures, customers turned out at 6 a.m. Jan. 5 to be first in line to experience the new GATE gas station and convenience store at the corner of Forest and Park Streets. A variety of grand opening offers, including free Best Bean coffee and food samples, drew visitors all day to the newest addition to the Brooklyn area.

Although Jaxson de Ville and cheerleaders with the ROAR of the Jaguars cancelled appearances due to the weather, Chester the Cheetah, the Frito-Lay mascot, and Kirby the Krimpet, mascot for Tastykakes, were on hand to meet and greet customers.

The site includes 20 pumps (with E-15 and E-85 flex-fuel and ethanol-free fuel), car wash, covered dining patio, a Fresh Kitchen

and a Yobe Frozen Yogurt bar in addition to traditional convenience store items.

John Peyton, president of the family-founded, 60-year-old GATE Petroleum Co., was on hand to welcome friends and customers to the 6,400-square-foot store. He pointed out details, such as the streetscape-style sidewalk – wide, hexagonal precast concrete pavers – on three sides of the property, the bike path on Chelsea Street behind the property to allow cyclists to avoid busy Park Street, and the large corner sign heralding the newcomer to the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Peyton, a former Jacksonville mayor, also kicked off the new year by stepping into his role as 2018 JAX Chamber chair.



John Peyton, president of GATE Petroleum, in front of the new store in Brooklyn on its Jan. 5 opening day.



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Baptist Health Foundation announces personnel changes

Kerrie Slattery, formerly executive director of development for Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Neurological Institute, was promoted to vice president and chief development officer for Baptist Health Foundation, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

In her new role, Slattery will assume executive leadership of the fundraising arm of Baptist Health, a locally governed, not-for-profit health system, which supports and enhances essential programs and services at its five hospitals along with Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center.

"I'm excited to build on the success of the Baptist Health Foundation, which was created 32 years ago to advance charitable giving for the health system's mission to serve patients, their families and the community's health care needs," Slattery said. "My goal is to bring continued growth and purpose to our work in the years ahead."

Slattery succeeds Pierre Allaire, who retired as vice president and chief development officer for Baptist Health Foundation at the end of 2017 but is maintaining a transitional role through March 2018.



Kerrie Slattery



Joanna Blinn



Ryan Ali

Ryan Ali joins the Baptist Health Foundation as Director of Development for Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center. He will oversee all fundraising efforts for Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center's new expansion, as well as its newly created Art in Healing Endowment.

"MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of the leading cancer care providers in the country, and to have an opportunity to work with the Baptist Health team to replicate the MD Anderson model for our community is the ultimate reward," Ali said. "Baptist MD Anderson is truly a gift to the community and unlike anything we have seen before."

Prior to his new role at the Baptist Health Foundation, Ali was the Director of

Development for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, leading the organization's fundraising and community outreach initiatives.

After five years with Baptist Health Foundation supporting Wolfson Children's Hospital, Joanna Blinn transitioned to a recently created position of director of operations for the Foundation.

In this new role, Blinn hopes to bring together all the philanthropic efforts for Baptist Health's four adult hospitals, Wolfson Children's and Baptist MD Anderson.

Prior to joining Baptist Health Foundation, Blinn worked as the FSCJ Foundation and then at Dreams Come True, a local nonprofit that grants dreams for local children battling a life-threatening illness.

"Across the system, we hope to convey impact and show how donations make a significant difference," Blinn said. "Our donors support underfunded programs. They enable us to maintain a high level of quality of care. They help us fill the void left by funding cuts. Philanthropy is more critical now than ever before."

Local realty firm adds three to local offices



Vanessa Deap



Tere Mari



Nicole Bishop

The San Marco and Avondale offices of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed three new associates at the beginning of the year.

Joining the Avondale office as a Realtor is Vanessa Deap, who joins the brokerage with a year of experience and fluency in speaking the Khmer language.

Nicole Bishop and Tere Mari have joined the San Marco office as Realtors. Before becoming a Realtor, Bishop was a local business owner – owning and operating a cosmetic and beauty store for eight years. Mari has a bachelor's in creative writing from Jacksonville University, a Master's of Business Administration from Davenport University, and speaks Spanish fluently.

Holt named Land Trust board chair

Keith Holt, of Avondale, immediate past board chair for Riverside Avondale Preservation and former EverBank vice president for Enterprise Risk Management, has been named the new board chair for North Florida Land Trust.

The one-year term is renewable annually for up to five years. Holt has been on the Land Trust's board for two years. He was also chair of corporate giving for American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in 2014.

Holt has a Master of Business Administration from Jacksonville University, and a bachelor's degree in business administration, management and operations from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Keith Holt

Two attorneys named shareholders at Rogers Towers

The law firm of Rogers Towers, P.A. announced the promotion of two shareholders.

Meg S. Hixon, of Ortega, joined the firm in 2005 and is a member of the Real Estate department. She earned her Juris Doctor, with honors, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Jason P. Rudderman, of Miramar, joined the firm in 2012 and is a member of the Business and Tax department. He earned his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from Florida State University.



Meg Hixon



Jason Rudderman

Rogers Towers, P.A., founded in 1905, is a Florida law firm with offices in Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Augustine, Amelia Island, and Fort Lauderdale.

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Schwartz to lead The Community Foundation board

Ryan A. Schwartz, chief operating officer of US Assure and a resident of Miramar, has begun a two-year term as chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

Schwartz has been a Foundation trustee since 2011 and served as chair of the Finance Committee from 2013 through 2016. Schwartz has also chaired the boards of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Ronald McDonald House Charities Jacksonville and the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida.

Also, two long-time community leaders have joined the board for 2018-2020: Michael R. Meyers and Julia W. Taylor, replacing Trustees Tracey Westbrook and Jim Winston, who rotated off the board at the end of 2017. Westbrook served for 11 years and Winston served for five years.

Meyers, trained as a lawyer, is an active board member for and trusted advisor to many for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. In 2016, Meyers retired after



Ryan Schwartz



Julia Taylor



Michael Meyers

23 years at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, an international law firm where he practiced corporate and finance law, mostly in the energy sector. He currently serves as the president of the LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida (an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida) and as a board member of the ACLU of Florida, and the Peter Michael Foundation (a 501(c)(3) focused on prostate cancer research and treatment).

Taylor has had an active career in both the private and nonprofit sectors, including Director of Community Affairs, UNF College

of Business and Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement at UNF; State Director of Development, PACE Center for Girls, Inc.; and Director, Boutique and Agenda, Stein Mart, Inc.

She currently chairs Barnabas Center, Inc.'s Endowment Campaign; and is a member of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center Leadership Council and the Board of Directors of the Children's Campaign, a statewide advocacy organization. Previously, she served as president of the Women's Giving Alliance (also an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida) and the Junior League of Jacksonville, Inc.

Meyers and Taylor join Martha Baker, Dr. Solomon Brotman, Peggy Bryan, the Honorable Brian J. Davis, Michael DuBow, Deborah Pass Durham, Barbara Harrell, Robert Hill, Jr., Paul Perez, Madeline Scales-Taylor, Ryan Schwartz, Richard Sisisky and Dori Walton as trustees of The Community Foundation.



Michael Wodrich

Wodrich joins Stellar as senior vice president, general counsel

Michael A. Wodrich, a long-serving member with Jacksonville law firm Rogers Towers and a Miramar resident, has joined Stellar as senior vice president, general counsel. Wodrich will also serve on Stellar's Board of Directors.

Wodrich's focus at Stellar, a fully integrated firm focused on design, engineering, construction and mechanical services worldwide, will be risk management. While at Rogers Towers, Wodrich represented contractors, architects and engineers in contract negotiations with developers, owners and subcontractors. His practice also included structuring and negotiating complex business transactions for clients in healthcare, commercial real estate and other industries.

Wodrich, an AV Preeminent-rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell, received both his bachelor's and doctor of jurisprudence degrees from the University of Florida.

Yacht Club installs Hampton as 108th Commodore



Wade Hampton

Wade "Wycke" McKissick Hampton, of Ortega, was installed as the 108th Commodore of The Florida Yacht Club Jan. 14.

Hampton grew up in the San Marco area, and is a graduate of Riverside Presbyterian Day School and The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Following high school, Hampton attended and graduated from Washington & Lee University in Virginia, where he held a double major in European History and Art.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1991, Hampton returned to Jacksonville and is currently a partner in the firm, Duss, Kenney,

Safer, Hampton & Joos, P.A., specializing in business, real estate, and business and real estate litigation. He is a member of the Florida Bar, the Georgia Bar, the South Carolina Bar (inactive), the Jacksonville Bar and the American Bar Associations.

Hampton is a past president of the Professional & Businessmen's Association of Jacksonville, and a past Captain of Ye Mystic Revellers. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Home Society, Buckner Division. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the 200 Club of Jacksonville, and on the Troop Committee of Boy Scout Troop 2.

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1153 Nelson Street

2BR/1BA Murray Hill bungalow offers unique pecky cypress ceiling in spacious LR with gas fireplace, dining room w/ built-in shelving. Freshly painted exterior. Two-car detached garage and fenced-in oversized deep lot. 1,058 sq. ft. \$144,000



1352 MacArthur Street

This 4BR/2BA home features gleaming wood floors, new tile, fireplace and lots of closets. This is a must see in Avondale. \$249,000.



2038 College Street

3BR/2BA updated 2-story with all the charm that people love in this neighborhood. Features a fireplace and tall coffered ceilings, natural wood work, hardwood floors, and a renovated gourmet kitchen, 2,530 sq. ft. \$479,000



3612 Valencia Road

Charming 2BR/1BA brick bungalow with lots of great features. Updated kitchen with granite countertops, breakfast area, sunroom, fireplace, and a great pool for entertaining in the backyard. 1,186 sq. ft. \$265,000



1288 Murray Drive

All brick 2BR/1BA cottage with sun room on ultra large lot. This home has it all, new roof, new paint inside and out with custom cedar shutters. Large garage could be converted to guest house or in-law suite. 1,266 sq. ft. \$245,900



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Locally-produced film premieres, nears movie deal

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Less than 24 hours after a private showing of the latest Duane A. Sikes Productions short film, "Ortega River Rats," Sikes received an offer for feature film distribution from a film distributor.

The premiere of the "concept" film was held Jan. 21 at the Sun-Ray Cinema for a standing-room-only crowd of cast, crew and supporters.

Sikes' Lakeside Park-based film company underwrote the 15-minute film, written and produced by Avondale resident Sharon Cobb, along with associate producer Grace Bryan of Ortega Forest.

The film focuses on four young friends who try to find Machine Gun Kelly's purportedly hidden treasure to help save Chance, a sick dog, played by Gylphie, a Golden Doodle owned by Lisa Fine of Riverside.

Flashbacks to 1933, when the notorious gangster allegedly hid out in an Ortega home on Grand Avenue, included classic automobiles on loan from the Model A Club of Jacksonville. The film also included scenes, thanks to the North Florida Land Trust, at the Ft. Caroline Spanish-American Fort used as the River Rats own hide-out.

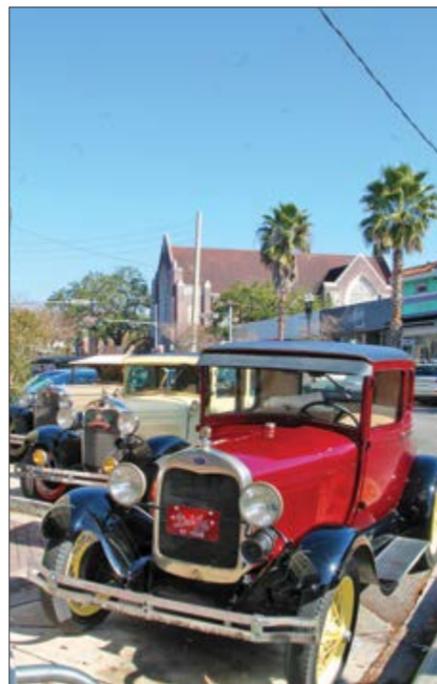
The producers intended to enter the short in film festivals with the hopes it would be picked up by a studio for a full-length feature, said Cobb during a question-and-answer session following the showing. A cliff-hanger focusing on time travel was built into the



Front: Dawn Crawford, Hailey Todd, Gylphie, Cooper Chapman, Evan Gray; back: Sharon Cobb, producer/writer, Duane Sikes, executive producer, Kenny Logsdon, Marcus Taylor, Auggie Pulliam, Samuel Portugal, Grace Bryan, associate producer

short to allow for feature development, and Cobb was ecstatic to learn about the offer the next day.

During Q-and-A, three of the six young actors said their favorite part was getting to jump out of a john boat into the river while a yacht – on loan from Lamb's Yacht Center – was bearing down on them. Dawn Crawford, an Ortega resident who played the mother of two of the "Rats," said her biggest challenge was working closely with Gylphie, as she is allergic to dogs.



Classic automobiles from the Model A Club of Jacksonville were used in the short film, "Ortega River Rats."



A private premiere for the locally-produced film, "Ortega River Rats," was held at the Sun-Ray Cinema Jan. 21.



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Episcopal Children's Services to honor 'local heroes'

Episcopal Children's Services will recognize the Hon. John A. Delaney, Dr. Nathaniel Glover, Richard G. Skinner, Jr., M.D. and Florida Blue at the 13th annual Children's Champion Awards Gala, Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Omni Jacksonville.

"These honorees are local heroes – change-makers whose efforts have made a positive difference for our youngest and most vulnerable citizens," said Connie Stophel, Episcopal Children's Services CEO. "We are grateful for their dedication to children and delighted to celebrate their accomplishments."

Since 2006, ECS has presented Children's Champion Awards to individuals and organizations, such as this year's corporate honoree Florida Blue, that make children's well-being a top priority for the community. For information about the award recipients, visit ecs4kids.org/childrens-champion-awards-gala.

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Local man thrives as Special Olympic athlete, mentor to others



Publix Store Manager Jerry Bryans volunteers with Special Olympics, where Greg Myers, a Publix employee, has participated for the past eight years.

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

As the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, kick off this month, local athletes are returning from Special Olympics state competitions in Orlando, Florida.

One Westside young man, Greg Myers, has been a Special Olympics athlete for the past eight years and plays point guard on the Duval County Special Olympics basketball team.

Myers, 25, began playing basketball while attending Lakeshore Middle School, but it wasn't until he enrolled at Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center that he was introduced to the Special Olympics, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Palm Avenue is one of seven Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools in Duval County. The schools use sports and education programs "to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities," as stated on the Special Olympics website.

Myers' Palm Avenue job coach, Bob Graver, encouraged the young man to participate, and he's been playing basketball, football, and soccer ever since. He also bowled in the Duval County 2017 Special Olympics.

After Myers finished school, he was hired at the Roosevelt Mall Publix store to work as a bagger and cart handler. When Jerry Bryans was brought in as store manager he began attending Myers' basketball games, met Coach Graver and was soon encouraged to become involved with Special Olympics.

"Bob Graver asked me to help them out and be a coach, and next thing you know I'm getting more and more involved. I get so much pleasure out of doing this," said Bryans, who often plays basketball and football with the young athletes to help them improve their skills and to ensure all have a fair chance to participate.

"Greg helps others, too, during practices and games. Greg is in a higher tier (two out of five) and is one of the better athletes. Because he's been doing it for so long, he's able to help others just getting into it," Bryans said. "I play with the lower level athletes as a 'unified' player to help them, guide them, make sure everyone gets to shoot or score a goal."

Two years ago, Bryans was asked to be on the management team for the Duval County Special Olympics Board of Directors and got to know many of the athletes.

"For a lot of them, that's all they live for," he said. "Greg is a good all-around person; he's a good athlete, he's a great worker, he has an outside life, a social life. A lot of them don't, they go home and look forward to the practices, to going to the games."

What Myers likes best about being involved in the Special Olympics is "making friends, doing what I love to do. I'm proud to do whatever I can. I'm working toward being certified as a coach," he said.

"I've seen a big change in Greg over the last five years, and he's a great mentor for the other athletes," added Bryans.

Myers is modest about his achievements. "I've done pretty good in my events, but we need more practice," he said. "It's not really easy to stay in shape. I'm glad I have this job because when I'm not practicing, I can eat healthy to stay in shape."



Left, Terry Duke, The ILRC operations assistant, and Director of Development Beth Meyer, right, paint wheels before Mackenzie Padgett takes her turn at creating wheelchair art at Abilities in Art, Jan. 20 at Riverside Arts Market.

Abilities in Art raises awareness for disabled residents

Abilities in Art began in 2014 to help raise disability awareness and provide an opportunity for the community to come together to create art using wheelchairs. The 5th Annual Abilities in Art was held Jan. 20 at Riverside Arts Market, where visitors were invited to hop on a wheelchair and zip down a canvas, leaving paint tracks in a pattern. Placing the canvas on a slight incline also showed participants how difficult it can be for a disabled person to move a wheelchair up a ramp.

"We use this forum to sign up new volunteers and introduce the general public to the programs and services provided at the ILRC [Independent Living Resource Center]," said Beth Meyer, Director of Development. "We also use this forum to create interest in the Mystery Trip Suitcase Party, which is on March 3rd and where we will sell the artwork created at Abilities in Art."



The ILRC's interpreter, Johanna Neely, with her daughter, Lexi, sign "I love you," before heading down the canvas at Abilities in Art.



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A great example of patient-focused healthcare is CareMax's topical compounding facilities. With a prescription from a dermatologist, using a pestle and mortar a pharmacist will hand-make unique, chemically-formulated creams proven to be the most effective to meet the clinical needs of the patient.

The pharmacy offers free delivery and mail services, free HIV testing, Hep-C, INR, free glucose testing and a large curriculum of education programs, diabetic shoes, mini-lab orders and reviewing.

Head pharmacist Mike Parihk and owner Kris Pandit opened the 2789 Park St. community location at Riverside in 2013. Shortly thereafter, the company expanded to 5547 Normandy Blvd. and, with the same model, plans to expand into other communities near you.

The CareMax staff has a combined 100 years of pharmaceutical experience. Mr. Parihk previously worked for large chain retailers as pharmacist and manger. When the opportunity arose to team with Mr. Pandit to create a unique model of clinical pharmacy with simple policies that prioritize patient care and values individual, he simply could not resist.

"Without corporate influence on local policies, we can best assist patients through local programs to save thousands of dollars on their prescriptions for pain, cancer,

post-transplant, immunosuppressants and diabetes," said Mr. Parihk.

CareMax Pharmacy is an independent clinical pharmacy offering medical services, such as long-acting psychiatric injections, even in the comfort of your home, but both locations also have private patient consultation rooms where clinical care is performed.

The Normandy location is managed by Dr. Melissa Ludington, PharmD., who is a diabetic educator and certified immunizer. This location offers a wide selection of Durable Medical Equipment like wheelchairs, canes, crutches, ostomy and tracheostomy supplies.

Sandi Ghobrial is the pharmacist and manager of the Park Street location, where her team is all about efficiency. Most patients are in and out within 15 minutes, but don't let the speedy service mislead you.

Both locations are a great resource for your health questions. Did you know certain medications cause deficiencies in minerals and vitamins? With a simple phone call, Sandi will help you determine the best supplemental treatment.

"We take great pride in learning about individual patient conditions, and in building strong relationships with local physicians to treat and cure disease faster and cheaper, yielding superior therapeutic success than ever before in the history of pharmaceuticals therapies," said Carmelo Martinez, Chief Operations Officer.

"Jacksonville is a beautiful city full of travelers who want to get a taste of life in the sun. Having an international airport created demand for our Travel Medicine Program" said Carmelo. "Our Pharmacist, Yazan Amari, specializes in Travel Medicine. We are a one-stop visit away from country-specific immunizations and immigration physical



referrals. It's easy to prevent communicable disease with affordable country-specific medications that CareMax offers."

Most patients struggle with balancing their monthly prescriptions on a day to day basis. To make the transition easier and help patients maintain control, CareMax's program CareFill® is revolutionizing the pharmaceutical industry.

"The program is easy and, more importantly, free to all current patients" said Carmelo. The mission of CareFill® is to restore patient's health to maximum by eliminating all the confusion patients encounter when taking multiple prescriptions. Free consultations help customers determine the best medicines and regimen to maximize effectiveness. The pharmacy can order lab tests directly. Customers do not have to go to a doctor for a consultation and lab test, which saves them money and time.

CareMax staff are also certified shoe fitters for Anodyne footwear specially designed to meet diabetics' foot needs with

custom inserts heat-molded to each customer's feet to help with back and knee pain. While customized fittings in-store are free, they will come to your home to measure and recommend the best style shoe, for a \$25 service fee, or at no charge for Medicare patients.

Don't haggle with prices and prior authorizations at other pharmacies. Bring CareMax all of your prescriptions and let them do the work for you. Patients who do not have insurance are always welcomed. You can find a very competitive list of medicines at www.caremaxpharmacy.com.

CareMax Pharmacy prides itself on making a positive difference in its customers' lives. As Mr. Parihk emphasized, "We aim to provide a higher level of care than you'll find elsewhere in the area."

Visit CareMax in Riverside at 2789 Park St., Monday through Saturday, or call (904) 551-9026 for more information. The compounding pharmacy at 5547 Normandy Blvd. is open Monday-Saturday, (904) 374-2692.



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*We welcome you because if you're good enough for God,
(and you are!) then you are good enough for us!*



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Chance to shoot old schoolhouse brings out volunteers

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Public School No. 4, also known as Annie Lytle Elementary School in Riverside, has long held an attraction for artists...graffiti artists, primarily, but local photographers were invited to the site to legally shoot photos inside and out...after first volunteering two hours of clean-up time.

Gathering on Jan. 6, a couple dozen people came with shovels, wheelbarrows, weed eaters and, of course, cameras. The event, hosted by the Annie Lytle Preservation Group and sponsored by local photographer Mark Krancer, was a rare opportunity to photograph the 100-year-old school building.

Despite regular efforts to maintain the exterior of the building, including mowing the grass and weeding, the interior requires coordinated events to remove decades of detritus from the old school, as it is a hazardous environment and volunteers come at their own risk.



Amy Bugge

During Hurricane Irma, plywood panels on the auditorium's windows were blown out and the group is unable to replace them which, despite a padlocked fence, leaves the building open to vandalism.

"The break-ins have been minor," said Patsy Bryant, group clean-up coordinator. "Whoever has broken in has not done any serious damage, such as tagging, etc. but what has me most concerned is a hole that has been knocked out of a cemented window. Someone has been working on that a little at a time."

Bryant said clean-up volunteers indicated they would try to fix the hole, and floodlights have been installed outside the courtyard, which should help with security.

For more than a dozen years, the preservation group has been granted permission to work on the property under a hold harmless agreement, which has been honored each time the property has been sold. The building was last purchased in June 2017 by Annie Lytle LLC, located at 2650 Rosselle St., for \$106,800 in back taxes after it went up for auction in May 2017.



Patsy Bryant checks on progress at "Shovel and Shoot Day" at the former Annie Lytle Elementary School.



Nicole Cantin, Krysty Teston, Greg Cox, Emily Martin, Katie Bartkowiak, Lori Rautio, Theresa Drawdy and George Atchley, with Amy Bugge in the background



Dan Vogel and Vivienne Frankel



Ollie Bugge with Conner Barnhart



Kevin Thornton hauls out a wheelbarrow full of debris.



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City honors legacy of King at inspirational annual events

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s only visit to Jacksonville, Florida was not planned, nor was it a positive experience 54 years ago.

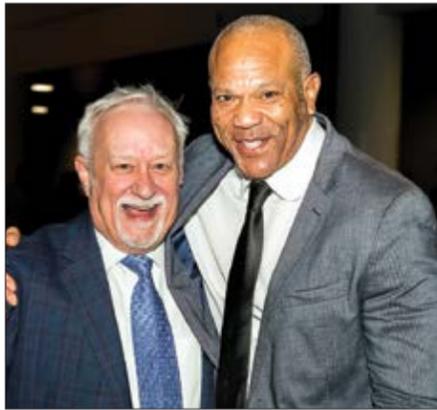
Arrested for stopping to eat at a "whites-only" restaurant in St. Augustine on June 11, 1964, King was transferred to the Duval County Jail after spending a night in jail in St. Johns County. His hearing was held before a Grand Jury at the Federal courthouse in Jacksonville.

In St. Augustine during its 400th anniversary, King and others were there to gain support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. On June 18, after being arrested for protesting segregation at a motor lodge, the Grand Jury asked them to leave St. Augustine for one month to diffuse the racially tense situation, but they remained there until July 1.

The Civil Rights Act was signed July 2, 1964, with Dr. King attending. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10, 1964.

Fifty years after his death (April 4, 1968), Jacksonville commemorated King's birth (Jan. 15, 1929) beginning with the 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, Jan. 12 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

Three young people were recognized as Tomorrow's Leaders, selected on the basis of an essay. Jerome Singleton, a fifth-grader at R.V. Daniels Elementary School, Kaila Skeen, an eighth-grader at Kirby Smith Middle School, and Kehinde



Robert Arleigh White with Earl M. Johnson Jr. at the MLK Breakfast Jan. 12.



Michael Cobb, Dexter Von Davis, Raymond P. Reid Jr. of Pajcic and Pajcic at the MLK Breakfast Jan. 12.

Daniel Sogbesan, a 10th-grader at The Bolles School, were honored for exemplifying the ideals and principles of Dr. King.

In her remarks about the breakfast's theme "Lifting the Legacy," keynote speaker Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour said "Before we lift up the legacy, we have to stand up!" and "We have so much power and possibility, but the question is 'what are we going to do with it beyond today?' It's not just about one day, it's about every day."

On Jan. 15, after a wreath-laying ceremony, the 37th annual parade was held Downtown, followed by a celebration in Hemming Park. Also on Jan. 15, hundreds volunteered across Jacksonville to spruce up schools and neighborhoods as part of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



Anne-Marie Knight, Mayo Clinic community relations administrator, with Nicole Thomas, president of Baptist Health South, at the MLK Breakfast Jan. 12.



Taylor McDonald, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, with Bishop Rudolph McKissick Sr. and Kristin Murray at the MLK Breakfast Jan. 12.

Neighborhoods enhanced through Day of Service

Approximately 800 volunteers and several community partners joined United Way of Northeast Florida and Wells Fargo for the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Jan. 15. Sponsored by Wells Fargo, the event featured 27 service projects across Northeast Florida in Springfield, New Town, Arlington, East and Northwest Jacksonville, and St. Johns County. Projects included enhancing neighborhoods, building educational trails, improving school facilities and informing neighbors about how to strengthen their financial stability. (Photos by Jeremy Paterno)



Groundwork Jacksonville kicked off its year-long project to create a community-inspired mosaic in the Sugar Hill neighborhood with the help of volunteers during United Way of Northeast Florida's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Jan. 15.



Colorful images were painted on playground sidewalks by volunteers during United Way of Northeast Florida's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Jan. 15.



Hundreds of Wells Fargo employees volunteered during United Way of Northeast Florida's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Jan. 15. Wells Fargo is the lead sponsor of this Day of Service event.

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Velma Monteiro-Tribble and Annmarie Knight



Susan Flowers, Steve O'Toole, Mr. and Mrs. Al Lewis



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'Continental' dinner series benefits Cumber Gardens reconstruction

The first of three unique dinner parties to benefit reconstruction of the Cumber Gardens, heavily damaged in September 2017 by Hurricane Irma, was held Jan. 11 to a sold-out crowd of 180 diners.

La Dolce Vita – The Sweet Life – began with a VIP tour of art selected to complement the seated, family-style Italian dining experience. Chicken caprese and a porcini mushroom and veal ragu were the offered entrée choices.

Sponsors included Jim and Joan Van Vleck, Inspired Palates Dinner Series Presenting Sponsor; Lory Doolittle, Helen Lane, Joannie

and Russell Newton, Italian Dinner Partners; Carolyn M. Lindsay, Mary Pietan, Tom and Stephanie Welchans, Italian Dinner Underwriters.

"The Dinner Party series is a wonderful way to gather the Cumber family to support the museum and help the reconstruction of our beloved historic gardens," said Joannie Newton. "It was lovely to see long-time and new supporters at this new event!"

This first benefit, in honor of the Cumber's Italian Garden, will be followed by "British Invasion," an English dinner party, Thursday, Feb. 15, and "South Hampton," a New York dinner party on Thursday, Mar. 15.

Delicious Destinations delivers funds for community outreach

After a four-month postponement, the 16th Annual Delicious Destinations was held Jan. 6, at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, a founding partner, along with Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits in partnership with Miller Electric, W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Merrill Lynch.

Event chairs for the program themed "Come Sail Away" were Sala and Ash Pradhan, M.D., Mollie and W.E. "Billy" Sumner III, M.D., and Amy and Steven Wacaster.

The celebration of inspired food and notable wines benefited St. Vincent's

HealthCare's community outreach programs, which provide free medical care for underprivileged children and adults throughout the area.

An exclusive VIP reception recognized the sponsors who support the critical mission of St. Vincent's, and was followed by the premier food and wine event, live auction, and recognition of the chefs. Wine educator Julie Pepi was on hand during a special wine tasting to discuss wines donated by Southern Glazer's. More than 180 wines were provided to accompany a stellar array of dishes prepared by 13 celebrity chefs.



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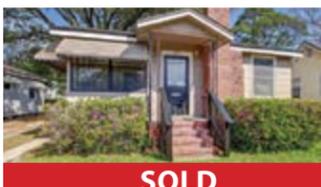


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David Anderson with Parker and Kendra McCrary

Baseball executive draws large crowd at Florida Forum

Baseball executive Theo Epstein, president of baseball operations for the Chicago Cubs, was the Florida Forum's second keynote speaker in its 2017-2018 series, held Jan. 16 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Epstein, who led the Cubs in 2016 to their first World Series title in 108 years, drew 1,300 to the lecture, which was moderated by Tim Cost, president of Jacksonville University; an estimated 350 attended the reception following.

Epstein and his twin brother, Paul, started a foundation, called Foundation To Be Named Later, which has raised \$7.3 million to help

disadvantaged youth in Chicago, and in Boston, where Epstein was the General Manager for the Boston Red Sox, the youngest GM in the history of the MLB. He also led the Red Sox to World Series victories in 2004, their first in 86 years, and again in 2007.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series concludes on March 5 with Ambassador Caroline Kennedy. For more information, visit The Women's Board website at womensboard-wolfsonchildrenshospital.com. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit The Women's Board website at womensboard-wolfsonchildrenshospital.com.



Symphony CEO/President Robert Massey with Anna McGee, Digital Marketing Manager, and Tony Nickle, Director of Artistic Administration



Bart Dunn, Deanna Tham, Cayte Connell and Brian Ganan

World-renown soprano leaves symphony guests glowing with praise

The Jacksonville Symphony's "Evening of Grandeur" began with a VIP reception before a performance of classical and contemporary works starring guest artist Renée Fleming, and conducted by Music Director Courtney Lewis. The GRAMMY-winning soprano wowed the audience with selections from Strauss, Puccini, Dvořák, Lerner & Loewe's "My Fair Lady," and George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Following the Jan. 20 concert at Jacoby Symphony Hall, guests enjoyed a VIP dinner with Lewis and Fleming, who has also received the National Medal of Arts, then finished the gala with an after-glow party.



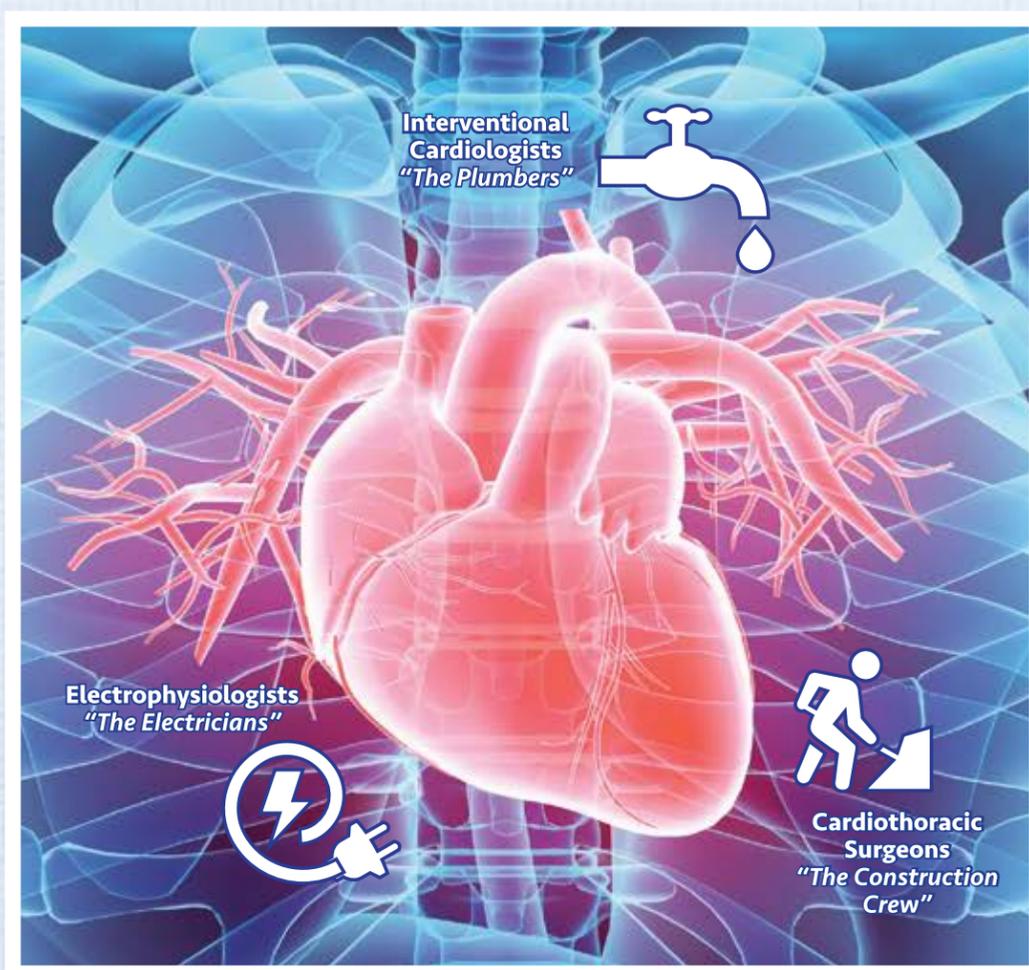
JF Bryan with Karen and Peter Bower

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Relay For Life holds kickoff for Riverside-based rally

Six of the 28 types of cancer are represented by a variety of purple ribbons, so it's no surprise Riverside Relay For Life held a "Power to the Purple" party Jan. 13 to kick off the upcoming Relay For Life.

The third annual fundraising event was hosted by Intuition Ale Works, and included live entertainment by The Committee Band FLA, food catered by Mojo's No. 4, live and silent auctions, raffles and games. Sponsors included CSX and Century Ambulance.

Kellie Ann Kelleher, American Cancer Society Major Gifts Director, shared news about the new Hope Lodge, and served as auctioneer during the live auction.

Approximately 150 attended the party, which raised \$9,000, according to American Cancer Society Community Development Manager Kayla Nasr.



Kellie Ann Kelleher, American Cancer Society Major Gifts Director, and Addie Hall accept a new high bid for a bottle of wine.

The annual Relay For Life is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at Memorial Park, 1620 Riverside Ave., and will include opening/closing ceremonies, a survivor/caregiver walk and a luminaria ceremony.



American Cancer Society Community Development Manager Kayla Nasr, Cindy Brown, Riverside Relay For Life Event Lead Addie Hall, Nicole Outler, Meg Gadley, Brian Hughes, MJ Schroff, and Julie Pickren – all on the event planning committee



Alana and Torrey Smith with Keifer and Britney O'Conner



Nick Romanek and Carleigh Stirling



Leslie Foote Alvarez with Greg and Barbara Jo Foote



Robert Tebbs with Kristin Krancer

Annual gala benefits Youth Ultimate

Frisbee flinging isn't just for Fido nor is it a sport for the fearful. As strenuous as soccer, Ultimate (as it is officially known) uses hands instead of knees or feet to advance the ball, but there's just as many opportunities to hit the ground.

Jacksonville Ultimate League has been around since at least 2004, although it officially organized as a nonprofit in 2012 and over the years has accumulated as many as 800 unique players, according to Matt Bishop, league president.

For the past several years, the league has hosted a gala to raise funds to put high school leagues into Duval County private, public and charter schools. This year the 3rd Annual Gala to Benefit

Youth Ultimate in Jacksonville was held Jan. 27 at Intuition Ale Works, with all proceeds going to subsidize an upcoming high school league and other youth clinics/events.

"We run the youth league so it's as affordable as possible for the youth and, by extension, their families," said Bishop. "The revenue brought in from the gala helps defer costs we have for insurance, fields, supplies, and more. A typical league season costs several thousand dollars to run. Teams are still forming but we hope to have between six and eight this spring."

The gala included a Best Bow Tie competition, giant Jenga and cornhole games, photo booth, and trophy presentation.



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Commitment to families and customer service are credos for a family-owned business with locations on both sides of the St. Johns River. With facilities in both the San Marco and 5 Points neighborhoods, Naugle Schnauss Funeral Home and Cremation Services prides itself on being a family-owned funeral home which puts those beliefs into practice.

"We focus first on customer service, because we believe that our business will take care of itself if we take care of our customers," Roger Delaney, funeral director, said. "Our job is to be professional by serving everyone, regardless of race, creed or lifestyle choices, with empathy, reasonable prices and the highest quality of service."

Delaney, who joined the 5 Points location six months ago, has about 30 years' experience as a licensed funeral director/embalmer, spending many years in corporate and family-owned funeral homes in Texas and Florida before moving to Jacksonville in 2010.

The move to Naugle Schnauss has been very rewarding, Delaney said. "We become personally involved with each family. Every time a family calls or visits to have questions answered, the family gets me."

"I am fortunate to work for the Naugles," Delaney said. "They have the same values as I do – providing services to people in whatever way they need us to."

Delaney notes that, in addition to traditional services, they are experienced in providing more contemporary services as well. The funeral home's life celebrant, Shauna Allen White, has helped families



Cameron Naugle, Roger Delaney and Roy Schnauss

plan speakers, food, services held in unique locations, and life celebrations.

"While we don't have a chapel at the 5 Points location, we are fortunate to be able to use the chapel in our Hendricks Avenue facility, a worship facility of the family's choice, or often we use Friday Musicale, a beautiful, historic building in Riverside," Delaney said.

Locations for services can be as creative as a family wishes. "We've held services on the beach, on a golf course and even on a 51-foot schooner with a biodegradable, floatable urn for a military family."

"We are proud to serve our veterans with military burials," added Delaney, a member of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee.

Naugle Schnauss offers a number of options in addition to burials and cremations, such as certified green burials in which the unembalmed body is placed in a shroud or wicker casket and placed directly

in the ground, biodegradable urns holding ashes and seeds to grow a tree, art glass keepsakes made with ashes, jewelry that holds or is made out of ashes, and urns in every shape, size and configuration that can be imagined.

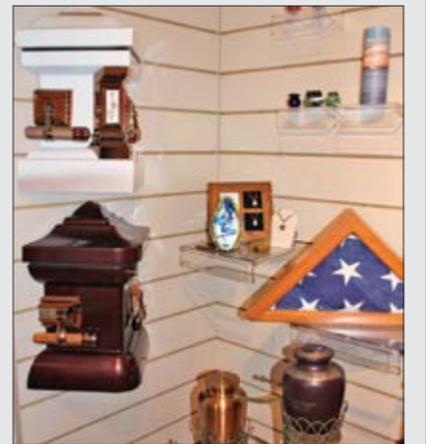
"We have held one green burial from this location so far," Delaney said. "City codes don't allow for green burials in Jacksonville, so we used Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery." The cemetery is a natural burial ground within a protected conservation area in Gainesville, Florida.

Naugle Schnauss extends the option of prearranging your own funeral with or without prepayment, however prepaying takes care of the financial burden of the ever-increasing costs of funeral and cremation services by freezing the cost. Purchasing an insurance instrument along with prepaying also allows for the unpaid balance of the prepaid contract to be paid by insurance, rather than by your estate or survivors.

Naugle Schnauss Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 808 Margaret St., marries two families in a nearly century-old mission of commemorating those who have passed away. Cameron Naugle is married to Katherine Schnauss, whose father, Roy Schnauss, M.D., previously operated his ophthalmologist office in the space now occupied by Naugle Schnauss Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

In the office next door to the funeral home on Margaret Street, Katherine Schnauss Naugle, practices law in the areas of Estate Planning, Elder Law, Probate and Guardianship, as well as handling the legal affairs for Naugle Schnauss Funeral Home in Riverside and Naugle Funeral Home in San Marco.

Dr. Roy Schnauss is the funeral home's consulting physician and advisory board member. For more information, call (904) 683-9288 or visit nauglefuneral.com



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Congressman Yoho attends Navy League dinner

U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho, representing North Central Florida's 3rd Congressional District, was guest speaker at the Jacksonville Council of the Navy League of the United States Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers, Jan. 25, at the Florida Yacht Club.

Hugh Howton was honored for his stellar contributions to Navy League, and new officers were elected and installed. Bill Webb will serve as president of the league's board of directors with Bill Cousins as senior vice president, Mary Alice Phelan as secretary and Frank Upton as treasurer.

Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Congressman Yoho brought as guests Pham Quang Vinh, Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S., and Vinh's wife, Hoang Bich Lien.



Leighton Tesche, Tom Watson, U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho with Hoang Bich Lien, wife of Pham Quang Vinh, Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S.



Hope Eller and her sister Leigh Philips with their father, Hugh Howton



Tim and Roslyn Volpe with Beth and Nick Pulignano



Mary Love McArthur and Jodie Marchman with Ami and Carl Finney, a former Navy SEAL



John Stringer

Unity Church to host acoustic concert

Spiritual singer/songwriter John Stringer (State of Man) will perform an intimate acoustic concert of songs from his new CD, "Moment to Moment," at Unity Church of Jacksonville, 634 Lomax St., Saturday, March 3, at 7 p.m.

Influenced and inspired by God, Stringer's voice has been compared to a "young Michael Jackson." The Chattanooga native began playing guitar in high school, co-leading worship during assemblies. "I used my guitar as a way to pray, as well as whenever I was feeling down, and this continued through college," said Stringer.

Stringer attended West Point, then Morehouse College, where he joined his first band. After performing world tours, the musician worked in digital marketing before returning to music and public speaking.

Tickets can be purchased at: bit.ly/stringerjax (25% discount for active military and students with valid ID).

Timeless treasures sold to support local nonprofits

Since its beginning in 1934, during the midst of the Great Depression, the Pilot Club of Jacksonville has made an impact on the quality of life for the residents of Northeast Florida. Chartered nearly 84 years ago by 15 businesswomen, the "invitation-only" philanthropic club continues to raise and donate thousands of dollars each year, primarily through its annual antiques show and sale.

First held Jan. 22-24, 1950 at the George Washington Hotel, the show is one of the oldest continuously-operated antiques shows in the United States.

Held Jan. 26-28 at the Fairgrounds, the 69th Annual Charities Antiques and Vintage Show and Sale proceeds will support organizations such as Angelwood, Children's Home Society, PACE Center for Girls, Volunteers in Medicine, K9s for Warriors, Brooks Rehab Center, Dreams Come True and many others.



Pilot Club Officers Gail Pender, immediate past president; Karyl DeSousa, treasurer; Diana Payne, president; Sherrill Casey-Bakai, president-elect, and Georgia Reed, advertising coordinator



Jane Arnold stops to check out silver at the Pilot Club of Jacksonville 69th Annual Charities Antiques and Vintage Show and Sale.

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A dry crawlspace is vital for your home's health and for yours

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Dehumidify. Dehumidify. Dehumidify. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, Chris Turner of Turners Underseal said there's no better way to restore your home to good health and keep it that way than to dehumidify it.

Crawlspaces, in particular, are breeding grounds for mold and mildew, and can make you sick, especially if you have allergies or asthma. But, whether or not you're prone to allergies, contaminants from crawlspaces can still irritate your eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs.

"Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace year-round is to use a permanently installed, commercial-quality dehumidifier, like Turners Underseal compact unit," said Turner, who is passionate about health – yours and your home's.

In Florida, there's no getting around humidity and, according to Greg Weatherman, a top indoor air professional, "Soil is always wet, even when it appears to be dry. Water from ground sources continuously moves through the particles of the soil."

Fortunately, Turner has the solution to keeping a crawlspace nice and dry.

"We install a 6-by-6-foot liner with a mounting pad under the commercial dehumidifier with an automatic pump, partial vent closings and drainage to the outside



"If you keep your crawlspace dry year round, that means you are pumping dry air into your home all the time. In Florida, our dehumidification system is the only way to keep it dry!"

— Chris Turner, owner, Turners Underseal

for trouble-free operation," said Turner, who added that since Hurricane Irma, getting your crawlspace dry and keeping it that way will prevent bad indoor air quality.

With over 30 years' experience as a certified indoor air quality professional, Turner knows his stuff when it comes to healthy, dry crawlspaces.

"After creating healthy, dry crawlspaces for years, we've found that our dehumidifier systems have resulted in tremendous improvements in our clients' homes," said Turner.

In addition to affecting your and your family's health, damp air in your crawlspace may damage the structure of the home,

its flooring, your furniture, and items stored in a crawlspace. That's why it's so important to control the relative humidity in these areas with a Turners Underseal dehumidifier system.

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

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

That "someone else" was Turner, who came to Penkala's home, and diagnosed

the problem was the crawlspace. After thoroughly explaining the process, the job was completed within a week.

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

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

In addition to the dehumidification system, Turners Underseal also does crawlspace wood sealing and crawlspace liners. For your free crawlspace inspection, contact Chris Turner at (904) 903-9569, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. or check out Turners Underseal at turnersunderseal.com/

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For the love of children

Avondale family doubles with adoption of three siblings

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

There's no doubt Tanya and Andy Hardaker love children. Their hearts are big enough, in fact, to open them to double the size of their biological family (one son and two daughters) with another son and two more daughters – a sibling set of three.

If six youngsters were not enough to love, the Fishweir couple also foster a toddler.

The seven range in age from two to 10. Four attend Fishweir Elementary School, and three are in preschool at DCL Nurse and Learn.

Since Andy currently works out-of-state during the week on a construction project, Tanya is full-time caregiver, dropping children off at two schools; next year it will be three drop-offs when oldest son, Drew, starts middle school, she said.

Adoption wasn't a foreign concept to the Hardakers, at least not for Tanya, whose mother was adopted as a preteen. "That changed the trajectory of her life, so I grew up with that normalcy," said Tanya.

"It was always kind of in the back of my mind, and when our bio kids got a little bit older Andy and I took a class at our church, Eleven22, and realized that when there's an estimated 500,000 kids in foster care in the U.S., and a hundred thousand children available for adoption...sitting, waiting...it wasn't a 'Why?' anymore. As Andy said, it was a 'Why not? What's holding us back?'" she said.

Working with Florida Baptist Children's Home, the Hardakers began the process two years ago to become approved and licensed to foster.

"Trey'Von and his brothers were our first foster placements. All through that process we kept pursuing adoption," said Tanya. "Since we had older bio children, our hearts were open and we said, 'Give us whoever you've got.' We learned about this sibling set in Volusia County, and it took a while to get them here."

The family started to get to know the three siblings in early 2017 and for the next six months "playdates" were held in Volusia County or in Jacksonville.

"These three were raised by a set of foster parents for almost three-and-a-half years, for most of their lives. They were awesome people, a good Christian family, and did an amazing job," said Andy. "They thought it would be just six months, but they prayed about it and did the right thing when the right opportunity came. It was a unique situation to transition from their end to our end. They came here a lot during the 'getting-to-know-you' stage."

The siblings moved into the Hardaker household August 5 and the adoption was finalized November 17, the day before National Adoption Day 2017, in Volusia County.

"It was really special to stand up together with other families adopting 30 children, and be a part of this so our bio kids could see other families doing this as well," said Tanya.

It was a prayerful decision to re-name the adopted children, she said. "We thought it best for inclusion and to give them a fresh start," she said. Max, 7, and his sisters, Zinnia, 5, and Rosie, 4, joined Drew, 10,



Tanya Hardaker with Zinnia, Drew and Lily behind her; Andy with Rosie, Max and Daisy, far right (Trey'Von not pictured due to privacy laws protecting foster children.)

"When there's an estimated 500,000 kids in foster care in the U.S., and a hundred thousand children available for adoption...sitting, waiting...it wasn't a 'Why?' anymore."

— Tanya Hardaker

Lily, 9, and Daisy, 7, who already had experience welcoming newcomers in the household. Foster child Trey'Von has been with them for 17 months.

It wasn't just the size of the family that doubled; the Hardakers' 1948 one-story home required a 400-square-foot addition to create bedrooms for each child.

"Once we got the court order that they would be moving in, we blew out the back wall and built four bedrooms and one bathroom in four weeks last summer. They all got to sign the wood [the studs] and inscribe Bible verses," said Tanya.

"Everyone has their own space. With the newness and getting to know each other, we didn't want the older kids to feel pressure, we wanted everyone to be able to have their own space to do homework," she said.

Daisy, a second-grade student at Fishweir, was excited to have more siblings.

"I've always wanted new brothers and sisters. I didn't always want to wake up and have just one brother and one sister. I wanted more," she said. "I'm really flexible so I wouldn't care if I shared a bedroom. Whoever else is in my bedroom I would help them in the morning and if they wanted to sleep, I would let them."

Andy Hardaker grew up in Ortega Forest and was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal

Church where his grandfather, Robert Clingman, was rector 1962-1971. He met Tanya at Stanton College Preparatory School, after her family moved to Jacksonville from Orlando during a CSX consolidation. The couple didn't begin dating until they went to the University of Florida, where Andy earned a degree in construction management and Tanya in accounting.

They married in 2001 and have lived in the Riverside/Avondale area ever since. "We love our neighborhood and care about making a difference here, which is why we support our public school and local businesses. We care about our kids' future, but also our neighbors kids and future generations," said Tanya.

"When we were having our third child, I worried about providing," said Andy. "Tanya's mother said 'Everybody still gets a slice of pie, it's just smaller.' We're blessed more for having the children. You don't have to not have dessert, you just get a smaller piece."

Tanya said they don't place a lot of value on acquiring "trappings."

"We're striving for something much more meaningful. Running after Jesus isn't easy. It's not comfortable, but it's worth it," she said.

"We're not perfect; we're just trying," Andy said. "You don't have to be perfect to be a parent."

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Two-time open-heart survivor has mission to support AHA research

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

After surviving two open-heart operations, Hunt Hawkins is a true believer in the mission of the American Heart Association (AHA).

Born with a congenital heart defect – a bicuspid aortic valve – but not discovered until he was 20 years old, the San Jose resident and self-described health nut underwent his first major surgery at the Cleveland Clinic at age 50. Several years later, after undergoing dental work in 2013, he incurred a staph infection that forced him to return to the operating table.

“I had the dental work done in September, and had traveled back and forth from the West Coast to the East Coast over four weeks,” said Hawkins, a 24-year veteran at Stein Mart’s Southbank headquarters, serving as Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief Operating Officer before becoming Chief Executive Officer more than a year ago.

“Almost exactly four weeks from seeing the dentist, I ran six miles on a Saturday morning while my wife was out shopping. When I finished running I felt like I was getting the flu. The dental work I had ended up infecting my replacement heart valve with a staph infection. I went septic

overnight. I had full-blown septic shock and DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation) from Sunday morning until Tuesday when I was able to wake up,” he recalled, adding he had emergency surgery at Baptist Heart Hospital to replace the faulty valve a second time.

“I’m a double 10-percenter for surviving the DIC and septic shock, and I’m on my second heart valve, so the American Heart Association is very important to me,” he said. “It’s a big deal to have two open hearts, and I’ve had them. It’s like the American Heart Association says, you need to eat right, you need to exercise, and you need not to smoke. I’ve never been a smoker, but my parents were. My mother died of a massive heart attack and my father died of lung cancer,” he added.

As a top administrator for Stein Mart, Hawkins made sure his company became involved with the American Heart Association when it was asked to take part in the non-profit’s annual Heart Walk. “We raised a little bit of money then, and the next year we raised \$45,000 in corporate,” he said.

It was last year that Stein Mart got serious, quadrupling its annual donation to \$210,000 by getting customers in its stores involved nationwide during Heart Month in February.

“We talked to our customers and said, ‘How would you like to give to the American

“As a company we encourage our people to get into exercise and make sure they take care of themselves.”

— Hunt Hawkins



Hunt Hawkins

Heart Association? Heart disease is the No. 1 killer and stroke is the No. 5 killer.’ We want to educate our customers with posters and messages in the stores and give them a chance to support heart research. So many of our associates and their families have been impacted by heart disease, as have our customers,” he said.

Stein Mart also encouraged its employees to participate in free CPR classes taught by AHA representatives at its corporate headquarters. At its corporate office, employees were asked to form teams that were challenged to take the stairs, walk the Riverwalk, and join company walking and running clubs,” said Hawkins, who served several years on the AHA’s executive Heart Walk team before joining AHA’s Jacksonville board this year.

“I’m one of those individuals that keeps an eye on employee health because healthy

individuals are better and more productive employees. Health insurance is a major cost to the company, and it’s a major concern for the country. As a company we encourage our people to get into exercise and make sure they take care of themselves,” Hawkins explained.

This February, Stein Mart stores will continue their campaign as part of the American Heart Association’s annual “Life is Why We Give” fundraiser. “Its goal is to raise \$300,000,” Hawkins said. “Heart disease goes on in my mother’s side of the family pretty far back, so I’ve been conscious of it for a long time. Even when I gave to the United Way – which I still do – I designate those funds to the American Heart Association to support its research. There is no question, it’s important to get heart disease and stroke off the list as the country’s No. 1 and No. 5 killers.”

“There is no question, it’s important to get heart disease and stroke off the list as the country’s No. 1 and No. 5 killers.”

— Hunt Hawkins

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Free program helps residents maintain healthy blood pressure

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The guidelines for high blood pressure have changed, and a free community-based program is making a difference to help participants battling the health threat, which is the second leading cause of death in the United States, according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

Sponsored locally by Florida Blue, the free online program, *Check. Change. Control.*, helps residents track and manage their blood pressure. So far, participants in the science-based program have seen an average drop in systolic blood pressure of 11 mmHG, according to Lisa Craig, a spokesperson for the Heart/Stroke non-profit. Those wishing to take part in the program can sign up at www.ccctracker.com/aha/floridablue. The Jacksonville community campaign code is FBY17.

“Only cigarettes kill more people than high blood pressure,” said Florida Blue Chief Medical Officer Elana Schrader. “You can’t see or feel high blood pressure, so regularly check your numbers and be accountable in a program like *Check. Change. Control.* This program can help motivate people to make life-saving changes. And we encourage the community to participate in this free program.”

According to the American Heart/Stroke Association, such programs need more extensive use because more than 100 million American adults fall into the first stage of high blood pressure (hypertension) as defined by the new perimeter reading of 130/80 or higher, down from the former old standard of 140/90. A reading below 120/80 is considered normal. High blood pressure increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, and heart failure, and also can contribute to vision loss and kidney disease.

Blood Pressure Category	Systolic mm Hg upper number		Diastolic mm Hg lower number
Normal	Less than 120	and	Less than 80
Elevated	120-129	and	Less than 80
High Blood Pressure Hypertension - Stage 1	130-139	or	80-89
High Blood Pressure Hypertension - Stage 2	140 or Higher	or	90 or higher
Hypertension Crisis Consult your doctor immediately	Higher than 180	and/or	Higher than 120

African Americans are more likely to have high blood pressure at a younger age, and blacks along with Hispanic Americans are less likely to have their blood pressure under control, according to recent research by the heart/stroke association.

Florida ranks 33rd in the United States in high blood pressure rates, according to the Center for Disease Control. Nationwide, more than 65,000 people have enrolled in *Check. Change. Control.*, which offers a way to keep blood pressure in check with monitoring, group activities, and mentoring.

Informational events about the program will be held simultaneously at Florida Blue Retail Centers and the Winston Family YMCA, located at 221 Riverside Avenue, on Monday, Feb. 5, Monday, April 2, and Monday, May 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Florida Blue is located at 4855 Town Center Parkway and 13141 City Station Drive.

For more information about *Check. Change. Control.* in Jacksonville, contact Ashley Plotts at (904) 903-5212 or email Ashley.Plotts@heart.org.



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THE WAY WE WERE : SARAH TOWERS VAN CLEVE & DR. ROBERT VAN CLEVE

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

“Growing up in Avondale was the most perfect childhood,” remarked Sarah Towers Van Cleve. “I had cousins close by, a neighborhood full of kids; we walked to Fishweir Elementary School, waded in the creek and played everywhere. I had everything a child could want. I had loving parents, a nursemaid, Emma Gould, who was also the family cook, and Liza Scott, our housekeeper – I have to mention her or her angel will cry.”

Born November 9, 1932, Sarah was the baby of her family – 10 years younger than Elizabeth (Betty) Towers Miller, nine years younger than Charlie, and six years younger than Billy. She and brother Charlie were

especially close. When she was born he informed his classmates, “God gave me a Christmas present – a baby sister!”

After graduating from Lee High School where she was a cheerleader, Sarah left for Duke University. “Daddy said to go to a coed school and stay in the South because that was what I was used to. So, I went there two year, then to Vassar. My sister went to Vassar and my brothers went to Princeton, like my father.”

Princeton played into Sarah’s life in unexpected ways and solidified her motto of Faith, Family and Future. “The first time I laid eyes on Bob [Van Cleve] was at Princeton. He was playing Ping-Pong,” said Sarah. “I had a date with another guy, but the next thing I knew Bob came up to Vassar with a date. A group of us went bowling; the losers had to buy the beers. My date had the car and we were all smashed in. We were driving to get the beer and this creature (she gestured at Bob) in the back seat said to me, “Hey, stop talking Southern. I threw a little pillow and hit him in the head.”

Bob laughed. “Right then I decided to come back to Vassar and date her. A friend, Art Canady, who was (later) a judge here in Jacksonville told me her nickname was Icebox Towers. I considered that a challenge,” he said.

Robert Van Cleve grew up near St. Louis, Missouri, where his father was editor of the Moberly Monitor-Index. Bob attended Andover, then Princeton, where fate, his prodigious Ping-Pong prowess and competitive spirit (the Sequence Board on his present gaming table has a sign which states “No matter who plays this game Bob Van Cleve is the winner!”) intervened to put Sarah in his sights.



Sarah Towers as a debutante in 1953



Sarah Towers with her grandfather, Charles Robert Towers

Sarah explained that she was crazy in love with someone else at that time, but Bob, a persistent and determined young medical student, would not be discouraged. He came to Jacksonville with a carful of boys for spring break and to visit with her cousin Bobby.

“I had a date to go sailing with my true love. It was so romantic; he brought champagne. But on the way home he was so rude to someone I saw a side of him I hadn’t seen before,” said Sarah. “The day before I was going to leave to go back to school I had a date with Bob, which I wanted to break so I could go see a dear friend, Herman Weibert, who had been sick. I asked Bob if he would mind stopping by so I could run in and talk to Uncle Herman. He agreed, then Uncle Herman asked me to go get Bob so he could meet him, and they sat around and spoke German for an hour. Uncle Herman was so

happy, and I came out with a heart full of gratitude. When we got home, Bob tried to kiss me, but I told him I had someone else.”

Bob interjected, “I told her it doesn’t matter, I want you to kiss me.”

“So,” Sarah said, “I broke my rule and kissed the rascal right on the steps of this house.”

Bob agreed that he was not only determined but a very good kisser. He said, “I knew I was in love with her after the first date. I had never had a girlfriend but I knew she was the one.”

After college graduation Sarah went on her European tour as was fashionable in those days. Bob and friends met Sarah and her group in Paris.

“I got dates for his friends. We walked by the Seine all afternoon and night. We went to the Follies and I was so impressed because

Continued on page 37

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he looked at me instead of the naked women," said Sarah, who confessed she did sneak some peeks at the dancers but mainly watched Bob gazing at her.

Sarah, who admired her Aunt Sis (Mary Agnes) Towers who was engaged to five men simultaneously, worked all over the world for Kodak and scandalized her father by getting a job as a Rockette while in college, planned to travel and "not get married so soon. But, by the time we were in Paris, Bob had changed my whole plans. He did that!" Following after Aunt Sis was not in the stars.

Sarah returned to teach at her old alma mater, Fishweir Elementary School. Bob and his family came down to meet her family. Sarah stayed after school to tutor a student in long division when Bob walked in and went to the chalkboard. On the first board he wrote WILL then went to the next one and wrote YOU.

"I excused the student as he was writing MARRY ME? on the other board. Then he pulled out one of those cardboard ring sizers from the jewelers to figure out what size ring to get me," Sarah said.

Bob explained that he had saved up \$1,700 from jobs delivering mail, working for the railroad, and as a garbage collector. He and Sarah, who always see the fun in everything, laughed that he got to know people's secrets (like how much liquor they drank) by picking up the garbage.

On July 9, 1955 with "about a dozen attendants each" they were wed at First Presbyterian Church, where their future children would be baptized and wed, and where they are now Elders.

"We had a reception at the Yacht Club; Bob got dunked in the pool in his rented tux and we went to Sea Island for our honeymoon as a present from my brother Charlie," said Sarah. "We went back for our 60th anniversary but stayed in a less



Sarah Towers with her grandmother, Agnes Towers, in 1954 at her graduation from Vassar

expensive hotel. I couldn't have slept a wink knowing how much it cost."

The next few years the young couple crisscrossed the country from Virginia to San Diego to New York (where Sarah completed her M.A. at Columbia University) to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis as Bob completed his residency and internship. "We had babies all over the place," Sarah joked.

Sarah bribed her father that they would return to Jacksonville if he would agree to take Wednesday afternoons off and play golf with Bob.

Sarah and Bob live in the gracious three-story house on Richmond Street built by her parents in 1949-1950. She said it's a house filled with joyful memorabilia and quite a step up from the attic of her grandparents' house at 305 E. Church Street.

"My parents didn't have much money. This was back before lawyers made the kind of money they make now," Sarah said. "That attic didn't even have a bathroom and they had two children while living there. Daddy would buy a lot and build a house. They would go out in the woods and dig up trees to landscape it, then he would sell it. They completed this house the year I left for college."

Sarah laughed at the irony of her parents living in the attic of her grandparents' house and then she and Bob and their four children lived in her parents' basement when they first came back to Jacksonville. After living near Boone Park, they moved back to Richmond Street in 1985 after Sarah's parents passed on, but not in the basement this time.

Family and fun is important in the Van Cleve family. Sarah and Bob were mixed doubles champs at Boone Park and Timuquana Country Club. He even donned galoshes to play a Bobby Riggs-type match at the Yacht Club.

The children hosted football games every Sunday, had a pony named Buttons, a ferret, a pig, a skunk, a goat, a squirrel named

Gollum, who ran from the bedpost to an outside tree on a rope and, of course, several generations of Boston Bull Terriers.

The entire family participated in fabulous Halloween parties where over 100 children might show up to be terrorized. On Christmas they continue the tradition of staying in their pajamas all day, even wearing them to church if Christmas fell on a Sunday. New Year's Day finds them reading last year's resolutions aloud and having the group Yea or Nay each person's success or failure. Another tradition included serving coffee cake on Christmas morning and writing a Happy Birthday note to Jesus on an index card, many of which Sarah has saved over the years. Riding in the back of a pick-up truck and voting on the best Christmas decorations then giving the winner a bottle of wine is another fun tradition.

A cardiologist, Bob chose Riverside Clinic to practice medicine, retiring in 2008. He volunteered and was a professor at Duval Medical Center, now Florida Health, and was professor at University of Florida.

"I wanted the best for my patients," he said. "By limiting my practice each person got one hour of my time. I believe in treating people who cannot afford health care and teaching the next generation of doctors."

The Van Cleves have served on numerous boards and received many accolades and awards for their contributions to the community. Sarah "The Literacy Lady" continues her work at Community Transitional Center to promote reading and literacy for inmates and is adamant about procuring an ordinance that part of the Sheriff's job would be to ensure that illiterate inmates receive basic literacy training by trained inmates every day. That is the "award" she would most like to receive – a legacy of literacy to cut down on recidivism and change lives for the illiterate as well as the tutors.

Sarah is past president of Jacksonville Urban League, Historical Society, Learn to Read, the League of Women Voters, and Literacy Pros. Bob and Sarah are past King and Queen of Ye Mystic Revellers Ball, and



Sarah and Robert Van Cleve

several of their children and grandchildren have served as well. Both are active in their church and donate time serving food at the Sulzbacher Center, where Sarah is known as "The Sauce Lady."

The Van Cleves are proud of their four highly accomplished children and 11 grand-children. Dr. Beth Weldon (Dr. Alan Weldon), Catherine Bauman (Greg Bauman), Sis Miller (Tib Miller) and Robert Van Cleve (Elizabeth Drew) have continued the sixth generation family traditions of serving and contributing to the Jacksonville community established by their grandparents and parents.

When asked how to maintain balance in a 62-year marriage, the Van Cleves agree that being fully committed is key.

"We had fights like everybody else but we enjoyed making up. Realize that it takes work. We took courses on how to have a better marriage through our church," said Sarah.

They also mentioned writing love letters to each other. "Once a year we write one thing we wish the other person would do or not do – it's the little irritating things that can build up. One time we kept a fortune cookie that said, 'This cloud will pass.' We passed that fortune back and forth for years. Of course, anger and frustration are like Jello. Don't wait to settle things and or it will set."



Robert Van Cleve with his brother in Moberly, Missouri



Everyone in the Van Cleve family wears Christmas pajamas all day on Christmas Day.

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Morning Star School classroom named after former student

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

At Morning Star School, bright futures are forged with love and care for some of Jacksonville's most deserving children. The family of one of those children has never forgotten the warmth, concern and great start given to Sharon Cascone Ray, one of the first students of Morning Star back in 1956 when it was founded by Bishop Joseph Hurley and the Sisters of St. Joseph to serve students with learning disabilities. At first, the school was located in a small home in Riverside, before moving to its Arlington location in 1968.

"The Cascone family approached us about helping to fund our new Life Skills Center – that in itself is a gift from God," said Morning Star School Principal Jean Barnes. "Through our new high school and now the Life Skills Center, we will be finally able to provide a thorough education for all of our students. I've been at Morning Star for over 30 years and this is answered prayer."

The fourth child of Michael and Dorothy Cascone of Jacksonville, Sharon Cascone Ray was born with a hearing disability which led to speech impairment. Sharon and her family attribute much of her success in life to her foundational learning experience at Morning Star School, and for this reason, The Michael, Jr. and Elizabeth Belyea Cascone Family Foundation has made a naming donation in her honor to the school's new Life Skills Classroom.

On December 18, 2017, Sharon, her son, Charles Ray, and her brother, Michael Cascone, Jr., visited Morning Star School. They were there to take a tour of the school (specifically the new high school wing and the Life Skills classroom) hosted by Principal Jean Barnes, Sister Elise Kennedy (former principal of St. Pius and now on staff at Morning Star), and Deacon Scott Conway (Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of St. Augustine).

Also on hand to greet Sharon Cascone Ray for the first time in 60 years was Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ (principal of Morning Star School when Sharon was attending in the late 1950s).

For the Cascone family, the dramatic reunion of former student and teacher took precedence even over the tour of the school's beautiful new high school wing and planned Life Skills classroom.

"This is my teacher!" declared Sharon, enthusiastically introducing Sister Elizabeth Marie to her brother and son. "We haven't seen each other for 60 years!"

Embracing her former student, it was obvious that Sister Elizabeth Marie remembered Sharon fondly. "Sharon was a stand-out student to begin with," she said.

"There were only a few students at the beginning and all of us on the staff were responsible for the whole shooting match, so I got to know Sharon well. First, she was one of the most helpful students I ever taught. There were different levels of learning and different ages of children in the classroom and Sharon wanted to assist me in teaching them all."

Sister Elizabeth Marie grinned, recalling that "Sit down, Sharon!" was a phrase she used frequently.

"Sharon was smart and knew exactly what she wanted," continued her former teacher, "but sometimes it was hard for her to express her needs and she would get impatient. That's where I came in. I've been told I'm a very patient person...and it helped that I could understand what she was saying."

The positive support she received at Morning Star School from second grade on helped Sharon to grow and flourish, preparing her for the challenges she would face as a sixth grader in public school.

"I was so proud of her when she went into the public school," recalled Sister Elizabeth



Sharon Cascone Ray and Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ

Marie. "It was before the law was passed giving special needs children the right to education and she went into a situation that took real courage."

Sister Elizabeth Marie shared an old black and white photo of Sharon's class at Morning Star "back in the day," and the two laughed as they pointed out the young girl in a plaid dress standing directly in the middle of the photo. "That's Sharon," said Sister. "Right in the middle of everything!"

Sharon's assertiveness and positive attitude, reinforced by Morning Star School, were also the result of being born into a nurturing family. Sister Elizabeth Marie remembered the Cascone family well. "It was a very caring, close-knit family and Sharon was no more special to them than any of her siblings. They treated all of their children alike and obviously had great love and high expectations for each of them. I've heard they all achieved success, too."

Friendly, fearless, and outgoing, with high self-esteem instilled in her at home and at



Sharon Cascone (in plaid dress)

school, Sharon was an all-around athlete and a good student. She made many friends among her classmates at public school, but not all of them were understanding about her deafness. At a Paxon High School reunion in 2010, she marched up to a fellow alumni and declared, "I know you! You were a bully!" Embarrassed, the man apologized profusely and gave her a big hug.

After graduating from Paxon High School in 1970, Sharon worked for the Civil Service in the Handicapped Program, teaching life skills to persons with disabilities.

On June 26, 1971, she married Air Force Airman Charles Edward Ray II and thus began her wanderlust as the young couple were stationed at Air Force Bases in California, Florida, Germany, Washington State and Alabama. During those years in the Air Force, their daughter, Yvette, and son, Charles, were born.

Today, Sharon, who lives in the Ortega Farms area, is the doting grandmother of Yvette's daughter, Maya Pinfield, a talented performing arts student at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. In addition to carpooling her granddaughter after school and providing caregiving to her elderly parents, Sharon continues to enjoy traveling the



Michael Cascone Jr., Jean Barnes, Sister Elise Kennedy, Sharon Cascone Ray, Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ, Charles Ray, and Deacon Scott Conway

"She went into a situation that took real courage."

— Sister Elizabeth Marie

world. She has traveled to Costa Rica, South Africa, Europe and Amsterdam, where her son, Charles, currently resides.

A woman of substance, humor and determination who has lived her life her way and enjoyed it to the fullest, Sharon Cascone Ray is an inspiring example for others who were born with a disability.

Neither Sharon nor her family have ever forgotten the integral role played by Morning Star School in readying her for future challenges.

"We've always been impressed with what the Sisters of St. Joseph have done for those of us in need," said Michael Cascone, Jr. "Growing up with a sister who was deaf, we understand the importance of developing life skills as the students transition from school age to adulthood. As we looked at the opportunities to support Morning Star, that program stood out as one we had personally experienced, so we're gratified to be able to honor Sharon by donating to the Life Skills Classroom."

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- IN MEMORIAM -

Robert Murray Jenks

DEC. 25, 1924 TO DEC. 7, 2017

Lifelong Gator fan and avid fisherman, Robert Murray Jenks, 92, passed away Dec. 7, 2017.

Known as "Murray," Jenks was part of the Riverside Breakfast Club, a group of men who met regularly at Richard's Sandwich Shoppe on Oak Street. In 2010, he was interviewed by the Whiteway Corner historian, Roy Reeves, for his memories about what the historic district was like.

Jenks was born in a home on the corner of Post and James Streets and lived there about 30 years before he married. His family home is now a bed and breakfast called The Jenks House.

"It was a great old neighborhood," he said in the interview. "It was very stable and everyone looked out for each other's kids. If you got a little sassy, one of them would pop you!"

He attended John Gorrie Middle School. "It was a real education; it was sort of a melting pot and brought all kinds of kids together," he said.

Jenks graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, then received a degree in economics from the University of North Carolina, where he was on active duty in the Navy and was enrolled in the V-12 Officer Training Program. Upon graduation, he served in the 7th Fleet in the South Pacific during World War II.

He shared a memory about the time two P-51 Mustang planes collided during a training exercise gone wrong over his home on Post Street in 1944, and killing a childhood friend, Lt. John Egar, one of the pilots. "It was a mess down there. Both pilots were killed and at least one other person," he said, recalling picking up shreds of pine trees for quite a while.

Following his service, he returned to Jacksonville and worked in the mortgage banking and insurance industry.

For 37 years, Jenks served as the managing trustee of the Thomas M. and Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Foundation, supporting charitable organizations throughout



Robert Murray Jenks

"Murray Jenks was extremely generous to our programming, especially our outreach program Project Listen, and made sure we had his support."

— Layne Thompson-Payne,
Riverside Fine Arts Association
executive director

Georgia and Florida, such as The Arc Jacksonville, LISC Jacksonville, Theatreworks Jacksonville, the University of Florida College of Nursing, the University of North Florida, North Florida School of Special Education, Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, and Riverside Fine Arts Association, which dedicated its Jan. 12 concert in Jenks' memory.

"Bill Boling, a former member of our Board of Directors and a close friend, was the one who always worked with Mr. Jenks and each year, Mr. Jenks scheduled a

special lunch with Bill to learn about what we were doing here," said Layne Thompson-Payne, Riverside Fine Arts Association executive director. "Murray Jenks was extremely generous to our programming, especially our outreach program Project Listen, and made sure we had his support."

He is survived by his daughter, Martha Sawyer (Tom) of San Marco, son Tom (Shirley) of Colony Cove, and five grandsons, Tom, Chase, Davis (Kayla), Tommy and Collin (Shelby).

Mavis Brooks Powell

JAN. 1, 1930 TO DEC. 21, 2017

Mavis Brooks Powell, an interior decorator and owner of the former Avenue Antiques in Avondale, passed away Dec. 21, 2017. Born in Jacksonville, Mavis graduated from Landon High School, was a debutante, and graduated from Mt. Vernon College in Washington, D.C.

While at Mt. Vernon College she met Albert Lee Powell, who was attending Washington and Lee University, and they were married soon after he graduated.

She was the only child of Erwin T. and Mavis McCarn Brooks, but had three

daughters of her own: Brooke Powell Stein (Martin "Hap" Stein), Lee Powell Cooney (Andrew Cooney) and the late Kim Powell Lane (James Taliaferro Lane), who in total gave Mavis seven grandchildren.

Her many charitable and community activities include the American Heart Association, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, and the Jacksonville Symphony Guild.

Later in life she married Mitchell Drew of Tallahassee. She was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.



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City Year builds student leaders through positive role models

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Now celebrating its fifth year in Duval County, City Year Jacksonville began in 2012 with an intervention and support model called “Whole School, Whole Child.”

The approach used two diverse teams of well-trained young adult AmeriCorps members who served full-time at Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School and Andrew Jackson High School.

Today, Quintin Griffin, 25, is one of 120 City Year AmeriCorps members who work with students at 12 Duval County Public Schools. As a team leader, Griffin is making a powerful impact on students at Edward White High School.

Nationally, City Year is celebrating 30 years of partnering with school districts in 28 cities. The AmeriCorps organization places corps members in the schools that are the most challenged and provide students with one-on-one support.

In addition to working daily with individual students who are at risk of dropping out, City Year also provides support to help transform whole schools – leading school-wide events and activities, after-school programming and in-class support for teachers.

In 2010, when Griffin graduated from Ed White High School, statistics showed that one in three Duval County students didn’t make it graduation. Quintin remembers that the atmosphere at the high school was tough, providing many opportunities to drop out, but he was lucky.

“I loved math and got great support from my mother,” he said. Griffin’s mother, Faithelle Kay, a Radiologist at Shands Hospital, was his mentor. “She’s amazing,” he said. “I could tell her anything.”

In addition to strong family support, Griffin had two other reasons to stay in school and make good grades: 1) He was a role model for his younger brother, Robert Kay, II (now at Stillwell Middle School), and 2) he had a close-knit group of friends who also considered learning important.

In 2016, Griffin was encouraged by his girlfriend, Amelea Gray, to apply for City Year. “Amelea is with Teach For America, another AmeriCorps program, and she thought City Year might be for me,” he explained.

To clarify, Teach For America recruits, trains and places teachers at the front classrooms, whereas City Year embeds mentors and tutors into the classroom, lunchroom, and after school settings to support students and teachers.

“At first, I didn’t know what to expect,” Griffin said. “I’ve always been a reserved person and going into the classroom was a challenge, but I fell in love with what we do and now I’m a team leader at the Edward H. White Military Academy of Leadership.”

Griffin’s current challenge is helping his team learn to interact with the students and get comfortable enough to impact their lives. “Time made the difference for me, and that’s what I tell my team,” he said. “It’s like math – it will never be easy, but the challenges can be overcome – and the rewards are worth it.”

Griffin credits the City Year training for strengthening his leadership skills. City Year AmeriCorps members commit to working full-time for 11 months, going into classrooms for two periods each day and striving to make a lasting impact on students’ lives by providing extra academic, emotional and social support.

City Year training involves several formats including BTA (Basic Training Academy), LDDs (Learning and Development Days), and ATA (Advanced Training Academy), as well as Leadership and Reflecting.

City Year’s basic ABCs come from Johns Hopkins University Research indicating that students at risk of dropping out can be identified as early as elementary school using three early warning signs: poor Attendance, disruptive Behavior and Course failure in English and math. A child exhibiting even one of these indicators by sixth grade has a 75 percent chance of dropping out.

Today, in addition to leading his team at Ed White, Griffin provides positive



Quintin Griffin and Brandie Harris

“It will never be easy, but the challenges can be overcome – and the rewards are worth it.”

– Quintin Griffin

role-modeling to the students he sees on a daily basis. He has become close to several of his students during the school year and receives great satisfaction from the impact he is making.

For instance, he talks of a 10th grader named Titus who has improved his math skills and now calls him his mentor. “Titus loves basketball,” noted Griffin. “We played basketball at the park last summer with his mom’s permission.”

“Quintin has a passion for serving his community, and we’re glad to have leaders of his caliber working with students throughout Jacksonville,” said Brandie Z. Harris, a former City Year AmeriCorps team member, and now manager of Institutional Giving and Communications at City Year Jacksonville.

Proudly wearing their distinctive City Year Red Coats, Griffin and Harris posed for a photograph in the Jacksonville headquarters, where each wall holds an inspirational message. “We Know Every Child Can Succeed,” is the message on the

wall and on the confident, smiling faces of Griffin and Harris.

Inspired to become a leader at City Year and working with students at his own alma mater, Quintin Griffin may also have found his calling for the future.

“I’d like to develop my own mentoring space on Jacksonville’s Eastside someday,” said the young leader. “There’s a void in the Eastside that needs filling with offerings like African-American studies and diversity classes. I may be able to help fill that void.”

Avondale resident Tom Caron, managing director of external affairs at City Year, notes that many City Year alumni return to schools as teachers, counselors or other support staff. Others pursue various career options outside of education, but remain engaged in their communities as mentors and advocates for students.

“We are beyond grateful for Quintin and for the hundreds of young idealists that have served with City Year Jax these past five years,” said Caron. “They are, in fact, Leaders for Life, as our alumni motto states.”



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Debutante Coterie presented at 141st Christmas Ball

The 2017 Debutante Coterie was presented at the Florida Yacht Club's Christmas Ball on December 23, 2017. Front: Katherine Peyton Hager, Caroline Grace Skinner, Shannon Eilish Read Phelan, Meredith Ann Wills; middle: Daley Anne Pajcic, Grace McLane Fewell, Emily Grace Studstill, Mary Isabelle Milne, Katherine Amelia Grich; back: Neely Margaret Egan, Emily Lynne Hawkins, Julia Katherine Madison, Emma Reeves Hilpert, Laurel Anne Lee, Grace Emily Egan

Photo by Janet Masterson

Episcopal student creates nonprofit to support arts education

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The inspiration to help others often comes from the unlikeliest of sources.

A documentary about poverty in Africa shown during Global Community Day at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville prompted Courtney Crawford, a senior, to start her own nonprofit to support arts education.

"Watching the documentary, I got a glimpse into the life of a little girl living in poverty in Liberia. Her story was the defining moment for the formulation of Creative Canvas for Kids," said Crawford. "I remember the rain and the tears and the dirt and the chalk and the drawings that filled the notebook of this little girl. She was kicked out of school for filling

up her one small notebook with drawings instead of taking notes."

Sensing there are children in Jacksonville who may be deprived of artistic expression because their families cannot afford art supplies, Crawford put money from birthday gifts into a bank account and started a GoFundMe to solicit funds for art supplies.

To formulate a plan for her target audience, Crawford met with Anthony Sznakowski, Duval County Public Schools Elementary Arts Specialist, and Jeffrey Smith, Arts Program Director. They then put her in contact with Teresa Woodlief, art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary School.

To assess what art supplies are most applicable for budding artists at Central Riverside Elementary, Crawford asked the students to write about their passion



Students at Central Riverside Elementary with their personalized gift boxes of art supplies, donated by Courtney Crawford (far right).

for the arts and then rank a list of supplies they would like to have. She delivered personalized boxes of supplies to Woodlief's students at Central Riverside before the holiday break.

Crawford also volunteers at Daniel and is co-president of the Daniel Club at

Episcopal. She plans to provide applications for art supplies to children at Daniel Home.

"My hope is that each and every student that has the desire or the need to express themselves through art will have the personal supplies that they need to do so," Crawford said.

Girl Scout Troop gives project profits to nonprofit

The Rocking Robo Narwhals from Jacksonville Girl Scout Troop 936 received the Research Project award at the FIRST Lego League (FLL) qualifier on January 13.

The all-girl robotics team of John N.C. Stockton Elementary School students makes beauty products, such as sugar scrubs that are free from microbeads (tiny plastic particles that do not degrade and contaminate waterways). The scrub is called MBG, which stands for Made By Girls.

Currently all profits from the sale of the MGB products go to support Groundwork Jacksonville, which is working on cleaning up Hogans Creek and McCoys Creek. The team has already given \$112 to Groundwork Jacksonville.



Ingrid Copple, Indiana-Jones Pulumbarit, Amelia Walthour, Gaby Bell, Anna Eulenfield, Sage Peterson



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Ambitious young woman plans global mission trip

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Catherine Bealle has never travelled overseas even just for a short vacation, so it was a surprise to her parents when she announced she wanted to take a “gap year” after graduating from Stanton College Preparatory School this May to go on a nine-month-long mission trip around the world.

“I am looking forward to seeing a world so different from the one I live in, but still spread God’s love there the same way, no matter how different it is,” said the Avondale resident.

Bealle was accepted to enter the World Race Gap Year program next fall, hoping to defer admission to college until 2019 to study nursing.

“My parents had never even heard of the World Race, and my decision to apply was very out of the blue in the midst of all my college applications,” said Bealle. “They are very supportive of what I am doing, but made it clear that it was fully my responsibility to raise enough money. I don’t really have any concerns about the trip itself, but the fundraising scares me big time.”

To fund the \$15,800 trip to Swaziland, Nepal, India, and Guatemala, Bealle set up a blog, sold T-shirts, and will distribute Mason jars decorated for each of the countries she will visit so that supporters can collect loose change for her trip. She’s also planning a garage sale this spring and perhaps a Spirit Night at a local restaurant.



Catherine Bealle

An only child, Bealle attended John N.C. Stockton Elementary School, where her mother is librarian, and James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School. “I took Spanish for a few years in middle and high school, but I don’t remember much. The little I do remember will be helpful in Guatemala, I’m sure. I have thought about taking French in college because that would open up job opportunities with Doctors Without Borders to be a missionary nurse,” Bealle said.

To help support Bealle’s World Race Gap Year, visit catherinebealle.theworldrace.org/.



Avery Perce, Yama Pouye, Robert Pritchard, Julian Rubiano, Libby Donahoo and Jessica Lynch at a Volunteering Festival Jan. 6. (Photo by Laura Evans Photography)

Volunteering festival fun way to support nonprofits

The Community Service Council, the National Art Honor Society and 21 service clubs at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville hosted a Volunteering Festival Jan. 6 in Jangro Stadium. The event supported Angels for Allison and also Creative Canvas for Kids, a nonprofit recently started by Courtney Crawford, a senior at Episcopal.

Students painted angels for Angels for Allison, played flag football with Wounded

Warriors, designed T-shirts for Help4Jax, braided twine to make gates for Heart, Hands and Hooves Too, made bracelets with the Dominican Republic Club to benefit the La Suiza orphanage, made dog toys for ESJ for Animals, cut magazine pictures to help Hope of Hand and designed motivational posters for the Daniel Foundation. Students also recycled holiday cards to use for holiday projects next year for different organizations.

Avondale resident named merit scholarship semi-finalist

Episcopal School of Jacksonville Senior Mac Lyerly of Avondale has been named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking PSAT/NMSQT, which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year, and by meeting program entry and participation requirements. Only about 16,000 students are named semifinalists. Finalists will be named in February 2018.



Mac Lyerly

Lyerly is a member of the National Honor Society, the Latin Honors Society and Mensa. He is the Senior Class President, Varsity Cross Country Team Captain and recipient of the Varsity Cross Country Coach’s Award for 2017. He also has been involved in soccer and track, serves on the school student Vestry and plays the trumpet in the school band. He attended the National Youth Leadership Forum in Medicine (Babson College, Boston, MA) in 2016.

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Middle school robotics team solves water contamination problem

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

This year's FIRST Lego League (FLL) theme, hydrodynamics, focuses on the human water cycle. Robotics students were challenged to find a solution to a problem, such as identifying and removing contaminants, and one group of middle school students developed an inexpensive way to remove microfibers from wastewater.



Fangze Chen and Sean Lang count microfibers.

The Technical Trojans, a robotics team of 10 seventh- and eighth-grade students at James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School, learned that each laundry load of synthetic and polyester clothing (such as athletic wear) releases up to 1,900 pieces or whole microfibers in the wash.

On a research visit to a Jacksonville Energy Authority water treatment facility, the team learned the microfibers are so small that they cannot be removed from wastewater during treatment, and end up in drinking water and in food.

"Through our research, we found that 95 percent of microfibers are smaller than a grain of sand," the team stated in their presentation.

They also discovered, through a web conference with Dr. Maia McGuire at the University of Florida, that microfibers are also found in fresh water springs and aquifers.

To solve the problem, the Technical Trojans developed a filter that can be fitted to any washing machine. The filter, which was made from PVC pipe, scouring pads and a mesh filter bag, costs about \$20.



Front: Sofia Lora, Sean Lang; middle: Micah Andrews, Param Gattupalli; back: Nandhu Ramkumar, Fangze Chen, Christian Perry, Carlos Alvarez, Gokul Murali, Prithvi Radhakrishnan

By comparing samples from 15 gallons of laundry water, with and without their "hydro-hooker" filter, the students discovered their solution removed 75 percent of the microfibers.

The team's project received perfect scores at their first competition, according to Mikalene Temples, teacher of Physical

Science Honors and Technical Trojans robotics coach.

The students have been in contact with Dr. Quinton White, executive director for the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University to present their research and findings to White and some of his classes.

Upson students earn science fair awards

Ruth N. Upson Elementary School was honored with a second and third place finish in the 5th Annual Duval County Public Schools' Elementary Science Fair at the University of North Florida in December.

The awards came in the group category for fifth graders. Whitson Blackwell, Charles Massey and Garrett Spinner took second for engineering entry What Makes Bridges Strong.

Third place went to Ally Jones and Shelby Secrest for Chill Factor. Other group entries included Lorianna Capes and Tijiana Walker's Consequences of Global Warming and Molly Charles entered Slime on the Go as an individual.

Principal Yvonne Spinner and parents were present at the awards ceremony held in the Adam W. Herbert University Center at UNE. Tamara Bettes is the Upson science teacher. The projects are on display at the school.



Upson fifth graders Charles Massey, Whitson Blackwell and Garrett Spinner took second place in the 5th Annual Duval County Public Schools' Elementary Science Fair.



Upson classmates Ally Jones and Shelby Secrest took third place in the county-wide science fair.

Bolles middle schoolers compete against high school students

The Bolles Bots robotics team finished its FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) season as one of the top 10 teams in the northeast region. The second-year middle school team competed against 33 area high school teams during the January 13 event at Paxon School For Advanced Studies.

The season-ender is the culmination of many months of hard work. The team, which includes Ava Sickler, Aman Shaik, Max Zhalilio, Devin Velez, Noah MacGregor, Will Chamberlain, Cameron Gratz, Sean Breuer and Michael Burgstiner, began designing, building and programming their robot in August and competed in five meets across the state. The Bartram campus also hosted an FTC tournament in December.

"These student are the future and they showed it the entire season," said coach Mark Meyers. "Their dedication and teamwork to this robotics program by working dozens of hours outside of school proves they are amazing young people and I am so very proud of them all."

While the FTC team completes its season, the Bolles Bartram FIRST Lego League (FLL) team will compete at the Northeast Florida FLL Regional Championship on Saturday, February 3, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The FLL team earned the Robot Design Award at the qualifying tournament and will be among 48 teams competing for bids to state and national tournaments.



The Bolles Bots robotics team during a competition

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Stockton student wins grand prize at science fair

Luke Dearing, a fourth-grade student at John N.C. Stockton Elementary School took the grand prize at the Duval County Public School District Science Fair in December. His project, "Irmageddon," focused on how different methods of sand retention affect the amount of sand left over after a hurricane.



Luke Dearing

Dearing compared plain sand, a sand and pebble mixture, a partial sea wall, and a full seawall. When asked how he came up with the idea, Dearing responded "I was reading a book about science projects and found one on avalanches. We don't have mountains here but, we have hurricanes. So, I did that."

Seeing all the boarded-up windows with "Irmageddon" written on them after the September 2017 hurricane provided

inspiration for his project name. Dearing used a hair dryer on high for five minutes while pouring water over each mixture to simulate a hurricane.

His favorite project at the science fair was "What Sound Do People Laugh at the Most?" Some of you may guess what won - loud passing gas sounds! Dearing was excited to be the top selected project at Stockton, as well as Duval County, and loved presenting at the county science fair.

Local girl named essay contest runner-up

Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth-grade student Lilly Rain Charles, of Ortega Forest, was awarded the 1st Runner Up in the middle school division of the Tomorrow's Leaders Writing Contest.

The contest looks to recognize and award youth in the community who exemplify the philosophies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through leadership, community volunteerism and civic responsibility.

The winners were announced at the 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, held Jan. 12 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Many members of the RPDS parent community, faculty, administration and Board of Trustees were in attendance to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King and to support the many talented young writers.



Lilly Rain Charles

Lady Falcons on a winning streak

St. Matthew's Catholic School Lady Falcons volleyball team have had an amazing season with an undefeated record of 12-0. Coming against other teams in the Diocese, although they have played well in the past, they have not played this well. The team includes fifth-grader Shayla Feliciano, sixth-graders Mia Prince, Riley Gabree, Madison Merritt, and Sarah Page; seventh-graders Ava Osborne, Scarlet Colvin, Haley Leo, Kasey Casiple, Olivia Lanahan,



Haley Leo, Scarlet Colvin, and Kasey Casiple and Kamila Ramirez, and eighth-graders Peyton Kimball, Reese Kanobroski, Mandi Green, Joselien Vasallo, Rosa Acosta and Natalie Knize. Coach is Melissa Merritt.

Stockton robotics teams head to regional competition



Dynamic Dolphin Gold: Fleming Walthour, Catherine Brewer, Jack Wheeler, Liam Gonzalez, Alcides Andrade, AJ Higbe, and Samantha Wilkes



Dynamic Dolphin Blue: Suvali Patel, Cael Thoresen, Laila Gillespie, Adam Szilagyi, Ann Craig Charnley

For the last six months, the Dynamic Dolphins Blue and Gold teams practiced and prepared for the FIRST Lego League (FLL) qualifier on January 13. They programmed a robot to perform autonomous missions using Legos and they researched a solution for finding, transporting, using, or disposing of water.

The fourth-grade Blue team researched ways to reduce the amount of microplastics in drinking water by reducing the amount

of plastics and styrofoam being used in school lunches and restaurants.

The fifth-grade Gold team researched how to harness the power found in the current of the St. Johns River to provide electricity.

Sponsored by the Friends of Stockton, both teams competed to their fullest at the Qualifier event and the Dynamic Dolphins Blue team received a bid to compete at the FLL Regional competition on Feb. 3 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

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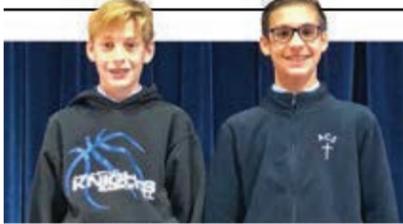
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Spelling Bee winner James Bishop with runner-up Ian Kirsch

Assumption students display geographic prowess in competition

Assumption Catholic School students participated locally in the National Geographic Bee, an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society, designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world.

The sixth- to eighth-grade students began grade-level competitions before the semester break, then narrowed down the field Jan. 17 to seventh-graders James Bishop, winner, and Ian Kirsch, runner-up.

Students in grades four through eight from 10,000 schools across the United States compete for a chance to win college scholarships and the glory of being the National Geographic Bee Champion.

The championship round winning questions at Assumption were:

1. Iowa and Missouri both share long boundaries with what other state on the Mississippi River? Illinois

2. Amelia Earhart went missing in 1937 while attempting to fly around the world with her navigator, Fred Noonan. National Geographic is sponsoring an expedition to search for the crash site at Nikumaroro Island. Nikumaroro Island is a part of the Kiribati, located in what ocean? Pacific Ocean

'Alexander Hamilton' performs for fifth-grade students

Nearly 1,600 fifth-grade students were treated to performances Jan. 16-17 by a professional historic actor representing Alexander Hamilton. The annual event was hosted and sponsored by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Florida (NSCDA-FL) and organized by Philip Little of Duval County Public Schools.

At the Jacksonville Public Library downtown, students from Duval County public and private schools watched as Eben Kuhn represented Hamilton during three stages



Essay winner Charlie Morgan, St. John's Country Day School, with Alexander Hamilton

of the character's life, including the early years and education, during wartime and establishing America's independence, and Hamilton's work in Congress for the Constitution and establishment of the National Bank.

The NSCDA-FL brings more than 13 years of historic character performances to students throughout Northeast Florida. The award-winning performances are recognized by the NSCDA-FL's historical actor program and has received Lamar Award for Excellence in the Historical Activities category.

The presenters are well versed in the portrayal of their characters including personalities, cultural nuances, and history with a 45-minute interactive presentation and question and answers from the students. The school programs are coordinated by the Dames, school teachers, and school district department supervisors, along with a curriculum and essay contest. The programs are designed to share a much deeper understanding of the people and issues that shaped the United States and inspire enthusiasm about history.

Winners of the essay contest included Bolles School student Amanda Tun, Ryonelle



Essay winner Hannah Miller, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, with Alexander Hamilton

Mijeres from Hendricks Avenue Elementary, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School student Hannah Miller, Charlie Morgan from St. Johns Country Day School, William Zang and Akhil Gayakavada, both from Jacksonville Beach Elementary, and from J. Allen Axson Elementary, Kingston Hernandez and Annie Heiry. They all received a certificate and a crisp, new \$10 bill.

The yearly performances are underwritten by the Roger L. and Rochelle S. Main Charitable Trust.

Eighth-graders develop lasting friendships

St. Matthew's Catholic School eighth-graders are enjoying their last year on campus with many different bonding activities. In addition to leading the Christmas program and taking turns hosting the school news broadcast, the class had an opportunity to swim with manatees at LOCATION. The "senior" students also serve as buddies to the younger students in pre-kindergarten through first grade, accompanying them to chapel, helping out during class parties and attending field trips with them.



St. Matthew's Catholic School eighth-graders get ready to snorkel with manatees.

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St. Mark's to send winner to state geography bee qualifier

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School fifth-grader Abram Akerstrom (left) will advance to the qualifier for the State National Geographic Geography Bee. History teacher Angela Bast, center, worked with 13 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders to compete in the in-school bee. Fourth-grade student Mason Glynn, right, is the runner-up.



Riverside girl wins Rotary regional speech competition

Yama Pouye, a senior at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, won the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville's regional speech competition. The program is designed to promote research, critical thinking and the development of a convincing argument through public speaking by the student to support their stand on the issue presented by Rotary. Pouye won a \$500 scholarship award and will compete for a chance at



the \$5,000 scholarship against the seven regional winners Feb. 15 at WJCT Studio. Episcopal students have won the regional competition four out of the last six years.



Local club names Avondale girl Student of Year

The Jacksonville Exchange Club selected Bolles School seniors Ann Maris Walton, of Avondale, and Amann Doolabh, of Jacksonville Beach, as its Bolles Boy and Girl Students of the Year. Club representatives based their decision on students' service, academic and extracurricular records, gleaned from interviews they had with students earlier in the school year. The club honored Walton, right, and Doolabh, along with their parents and other participating public and private high schools, with a special awards luncheon.

Assumption's 'Got Talent'

Winners of the Assumption Catholic School talent show include violinist Rose Ossi; Riley McDaniel, who performed modern dance; Ava Carrillo, who sang to accompaniment by Ria Saldajeno on the ukulele, and first place winners Jacob Soulbly, Cooper Lewis, Kalia Smith, Alex Lewis and Charlie Lawrence – a band which played the 1981 song "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" by The Clash. Fine Arts Night was held Jan. 25 and included student artwork on display for sale.



O'Leary to participate in Joe Berg Society

Justin O'Leary, of Avondale, is one of 12 Bolles School student, and one of 100 overall, who will participate for two years in the Jacksonville Joe Berg Society seminar series, beginning in February at the Museum of Science and History, and led by local experts in the fields of science and the humanities or by civic and community leaders. The other Bolles sophomores include Elise Anderson, Katherine Beltz, Charu Chaturvedi, Leah de George, Yash Gulani, Samantha Josephson, Rishi Misra, Anya Raheja, Dennis Rao, Annie Ruperto and Grant Szymanski.

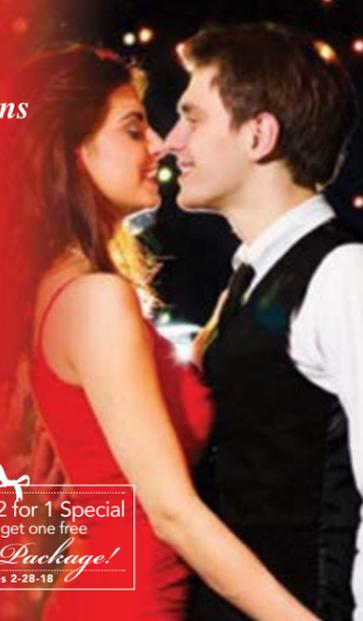


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ESJ students visit Big Apple

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Eleven students from the San Marco area were among 53 from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville to visit New York City on a four-day performing and visual arts tour in mid-January.

Among the teens who enjoyed the “Big Apple” experience were Caroline Dent, Parker Joyce, Olin Moseley, Gracie Phillips, Lauren Press, and Daniella Teixeira of San Marco, Anna Combs of St. Nicholas, Averie Perce of Empire Point, and Lizzi Duvall, Madelene Garcia, Margaux Halloran of San Jose.

All the students attended three Broadway shows and a dance performance at the Joyce Theatre. Also on the itinerary were tours of the 9/11 Memorial, the Met, and Museum of Modern Art, as well as a Sunday morning church service at Trinity Church

Students from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville pose in Times Square during a four-day visit to New York City.

on Wall Street, where the teens heard the well-known church choir. While lunching at the famous Stage Door Deli, the group was able to root for the Jaguars as they defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL Playoffs January 14.

Visual art students enjoyed a gallery walk through New York’s Chelsea neighborhood while the performing arts students participated in a workshop hosted by Broadway musical director and friend of the school, Ed Linderman, as well as a Broadway choreographer.

One highlight of the visit was a “talkback” with cast members from “SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical” following the performance. Actor and lead of the show, Wesley Taylor, a former student of ESJ Interim Director of Fine Arts and Episcopal alumnae Katie Labhar Black, shared his experiences as a working actor in New York and later met with the group for lunch and more conversation.

Former stunt double turned author enchants at celebrity reading

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Seventeen youngsters and half as many relative caregivers enjoyed an animated reading by local author Nick Loren, an Emmy-nominated actor and stunt double for John Travolta.

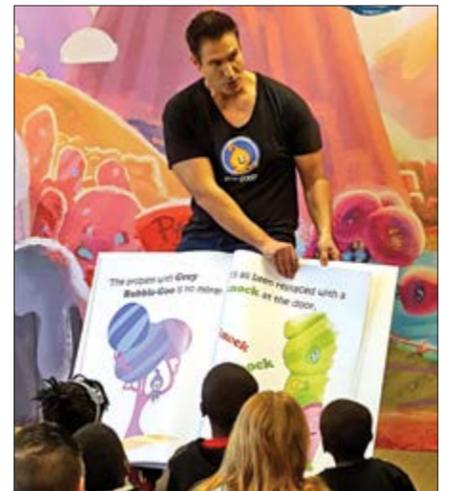
The Jan. 15 event was hosted by the Relatives as Parents Program of Jacksonville (RAPPJax), operated by Aging True, and held at the nonprofit’s Lakeside headquarters.

After leading the children through some energy-burning exercises, Loren read the tale of “Farful Foolong from Oolong Panshoo and the Yuckity-Uck.” His children’s series has been lauded by Audrey Geisel, wife of acclaimed author Dr. Seuss, as “creative and personal” with a “Seussian” echo.

Loren’s inspiration came from a drawing by his son and his wife of “this adorable little furry creature that I apparently couldn’t stop thinking about. I woke up at 3 a.m. the next morning with his name, Farful Foolong, of course!”

The author first visited Florida in 2001 during filming of a Travolta movie, “Basic,” then returned in 2005 when they filmed “Lonely Hearts.” Loren liked the First Coast so much he didn’t go back to Los Angeles. He also served as co-host of First Coast Living for four years.

Aging True’s RAPPJax program is a voluntary program open to grandparents and relative caregivers age 55 and above, who care for children under the age of 18. This support program is designed to assist the caregiver in resuming healthy aging practices



Nick Loren reads from his book, “Farful Foolong from Oolong Panshoo,” to more than a dozen children.



Melynda Rackley, RAPPJax program manager, and author Nick Loren, lead youngsters in a stretching exercise before they settle down to hear a story.

and is tailored to best suit the participants’ needs. The program delivers educational training, monthly support groups, transportation, long-term goal planning, newsletters with resources, a yearly stipend for children’s summer camp and more.

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Teen singers perform for Pope at Vatican

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Teenagers from Jacksonville helped Pope Francis ring in the new year when members of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus Touring Choir (JCC) joined with the Upper School Chorale and Honors Chorale from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville to perform during the Papal Mass at the Vatican Jan. 1.

Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were well-represented in both choral organizations during the week-long festival.

The JCC Touring Choir, under the director of JCC President and Artistic Director Darren Dailey, included Trinity Webster-Bass of Ortega, Ross Johnson of San Marco, and Katharine Conklin of Murray Hill, an Episcopal senior, who also sings with the JCC.

Singing for Episcopal were Klare Byran and Katherine Fackler of Ortega, Jake Moorehead of Avondale, Anna Combs of St. Nicholas, and Parker Joyce, Anna Mayo, and Michael Mumford of San Marco.

The choirs took part in the 3rd Annual Youth and Young Adult Choir Festival in Rome and at the Vatican. They had the opportunity to view Pope Francis up close when they sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth," in St. Peter's Square New Year's Day.

The Papal Mass celebrated the Holy Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and was performed in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. The students sat 10 rows from the Papal altar and alongside the Sistine Chapel Choir, one of the most elite choirs in the

world. The singers had all the chants of the Mass memorized and sang along in perfect unison, said Carolyn Tuttle, director of choral music at Episcopal.

There was a collective gasp when the Pope came into view the first time, she said. "I heard many students say their hard work had finally paid off from the hours of rehearsal we spent learning the Mass music prior to arrival. It was truly a trip of a lifetime for these students, and I am so extremely proud of the way they sang, the way they represented themselves, and the way they looked after one another," Tuttle said.

The JCC singers, which numbered 23 teens between the ages of 12 and 18, and the Episcopal vocalists, which included 20 students, also performed several times at the festival and at several local Italian churches, including during Mass at St. Francis Basilica in Assisi, a full concert in St. Ignatius Basilica, and impromptu performances at the Blessing of the Creche in St. Peter in Chains, San Sebastian Basilica and St. Paul's Outside the Walls.

In addition to singing in the festival, the singers toured the Ancient City of Rome and the Sistine Chapel.

"The cultural significance of this tour for Northeast Florida is quite high," said Dailey. "The JCC was invited to participate, which is an incredible honor. As we prepared to export our artistic excellence in music to one of the world's most important choral hubs, we were grateful to our local community. Without its help, none of this would be possible," he said.



Members of both the Jacksonville Children's Chorus and the Episcopal Choir joined together to sing at a Papal Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on New Year's Day.



Trinity Webster-Bass



Jacksonville Children's Chorus President Darren Dailey directs his singers in a rendition of "Let There Be Peace on Earth," as Pope Francis and his security pass through St. Peter's Square in Rome.



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Flashbacks

In 1954, under the watchful eye of their teacher, Mrs. MacKintosh, first-grade students at Fishweir Elementary School most likely created their Valentines by hand with construction paper, photos from magazines, and paper doilies, and gave one to every classmate. Happy Valentine's Day!

Photo courtesy of WhitewayRealty.com



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Do Something

From pen to pedal, you can stroke a check or pump your legs... all efforts are appreciated when it comes to local benefit races.

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jacksonville's Mt. Acosta Classic not only brings together serious, hard core endurance athletes for a unique event, but also helps to honor the memory of fellow athlete and ironman Jared Bynum. Monies raised from the race go towards funding the Jared Bynum Scholarship Foundation, which helps send underprivileged Landon Middle School students to college.

PARTICIPATE

The 6th Annual Mt. Acosta Classic will be held Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m., starting from the Haskell Building at 111 Riverside Ave. The Acosta Bridge is closed for three hours for participants to bike, run or walk the 2.2-mile loop. Participants can choose a one-hour event or try to see how well they can climb "Mt. Acosta" for the full three hours.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer to work the various water stations at the event. If you are walking the great "Mt. Acosta," you can help with set-up prior to the race or be a part of the cleanup crew. To volunteer, contact Gena Star at starg87@gmail.com or visit signup.com/go/pAguDJB. For more information about the race, visit mtacostaclassic.com/index.html



Scott Gross and Charlie Fetzer

Charlie Fetzer & Scott Gross Did Something

Cycling enthusiasts Charlie Fetzer and Scott Gross have both turned their interest of the sport into a way to help the community's young people. The two long-time Mt. Acosta Classic volunteers are motivated by knowing that the event they work to make successful is raising funds for the Jared Bynum Scholarship Foundation. For Fetzer and Gross, there is also the added benefit of getting to work with some pretty awesome fellow volunteers.

Fetzer, owner of LakeShore Bicycles and Ortega resident, considers himself a "behind-the-scenes" volunteer while Gross, who owns Open Road Bicycles in

Miramar, helps with course cleanup, entertainment and promotion of the event. Although their volunteer tasks may differ, both men have the same basic motivation each year as they work to help organize the unique race.

"The moral compass of everyone involved with the race" is what Fetzer said is the best part of his volunteer work. "This is a hard working group wanting to build a strong event with funds going to a great cause," he explained.

"This is a great way to give back to the community through cycling and helping young people continue with their education," said Gross, an Ortega resident

who has been a Mt. Acosta volunteer since the race's inception six years ago.

Fetzer said it was the uniqueness of the Mt. Acosta event that first drew him into getting involved.

"I was curious because the race is so unusual," he said. "This is sort of like the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain," Fetzer joked.

"The motivation comes from respect to a fellow fallen rider and to promote awareness of safe cycling and supporting education in doing so," Gross said. "One of the best parts of the race is watching the athletes compete and seeing them have a great time challenging themselves."



Mural artist Christopher Sweeney puts finishing touches on a colorful mural of his signature stretched hearts and popular XoRobot on the side of the CareMax Pharmacy at the corner of Park and James Streets.

Mural artist's unique style began as classroom teaching aid

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Businesses in two of Jacksonville's historic districts are spreading a message of love, thanks to the unique style of contemporary street artist – and second-grade teacher – Christopher Sweeney.

The Vero Beach resident was first engaged by Murray Hill Preservation Society to add another mural to its growing collection. Sweeney came to Jacksonville in 2017 over his summer break to paint a 25-foot by 15-foot mural at 813 Edgewood Ave. South, then he was introduced to Carmelo Martinez, chief operations officer for CareMax Pharmacy.

Martinez wanted a mural for the side of his Riverside location at 2789 Park St. and liked what he saw in Murray Hill.

"I think the XoRobot shows a gesture and relays a message to the community that we are part of the family. We are a small, independently-owned business here to support them through convenience and 'small-town' service," said Martinez. "The project was well received by recurring patients. Even some drive-by residents have paused for a quick selfie to post on Facebook or Instagram. Overall we are happy with the artwork."

Sweeney said his signature style began from a second-grade classroom coloring sheet. "I figured a robot that ran on love and had XO for eyes would be a cool image and positive character, and my class loved him," said Sweeney. "I thought if kids liked him, adults would too, so I started painting him bigger and bigger and bigger."

The other image Sweeney created was a stretched heart, which he has painted in murals in Naples and Vero Beach. "I wanted to have something to show how we can all 'share the love' or to show how people often have their hearts pulled in many directions," he said. "I feel like love is something that everyone can relate to and I love being able to have people feel something when they see my work."

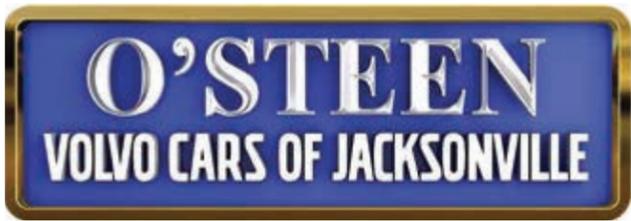
Sweeney spent five years in Jacksonville, graduating from Jacksonville University in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and credits in education and art.

"When I heard about the Jacksonville Murry Hill mural project I jumped at the chance to be a part of helping make Jacksonville more colorful," he said. "I love coming back and giving back to a city that gave me so much."

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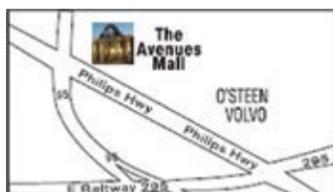


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