

Community garden growing pains

Plot holders try to protect their bounty from theft while visitors want full-time access to garden.

Read More, Page 10

Landmark home approved for change

City Council upholds committee decision to allow homeowner to double size of historic home.

Read More, Page 14

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

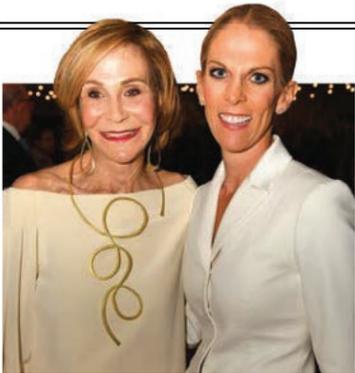
RIVERVUE GARAGE SPARKS CONCERNS; DEVELOPER ADHERING TO PLAN

By Kate A. Hallock, Resident Community News

After the two-story parking garage went up at RiverVue, the new apartment complex on St. Johns Avenue at Fishweir Creek, Avondale residents began “seeing red” or, more accurately, a lot of gray.

When Chance Partners LLC’s planned unit development (PUD) was initially submitted two years ago, the only barrier indicated for a narrow area between the street and the garage was a “green screen” (trellis, lattice, or mesh with vegetation).

Story continues on page 11



Gala Celebrates 30 Years for JCA

The Jacksonville Community Alliance marked three decades at its annual gala Feb. 24, where patrons like Elli Zimmerman and Ali Korman Shelton combined fellowship with fundraising.

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Historic PITCH ON OPENING DAY

Opening day kicked off Feb. 24 at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, as the ceremonies for the Navy Ortega Lakeshore’s (NOL) debut games and opening action began its 58th season. With the ceremonial first pitch, NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Michael Connor threw out a pitch that made history. It was the first opening day pitch caught by a female player since the founding of the league.

Connor welcomed the crowd before throwing out the pitch and shared some thoughts about his commitment to the league. “Obviously this partnership we have with

NOL is the oldest and most important partnership we have. Since 1960, NAS Jax has supported this league and the players. We are committed to ensure that partnership continues into the future. To all the coaches and players, have a great season, work hard, play hard and most importantly, have fun,” he said, following the presentation of colors, awards, and the national anthem.

NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Michael Connor shakes hands with Frances Thoburn, catcher for the softball league’s 12-u Wildcats.



Red Rose Ball lives up to stellar reputation

Gathering to support the work of the St. Vincent’s HealthCare Foundation, David and Amy Meyers take time for a photo op at the Red Rose Ball with Co-Chairs Tracy and David Tracy Williams, resplendent in the tartan of Clan Wallace.

Read More, Page 26



Support strong for English Gardens

Getting into character at the British Invasion benefit dinner were “Queen Elizabeth” Kelby Siddons, Guard Devin Reardon, Cam and Michelle Anderson, Guard Drew Brown with the Andersons’ 1965 Triumph TR-4A (Photo courtesy of Cummer Museum).

Read More, Page 24



Masquerade madness at annual Equality Gala

Glenn Jones and Ron Episcopo took the masquerade challenge seriously while having a great time at the Equality Gala Feb. 3 at the Florida Yacht Club.

Read More, Page 30



A Grand Gatsby Gala for 30th at Epping Forest

It was an unforgettable evening, Feb. 24, as Gate Hospitality rolled out a stunning evening of music, fine food and décor for the club’s 30th anniversary. Members Annie and Wayne Tutt joined Tyler and Lauren Corn for a good time – from the mansion to the tented dance floors – the night was alive with celebration.

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Lifesaving efforts of TraumaOne recognized

Representing Florida Blue, one of the gala sponsors for A Night for Heroes, was North Florida Region Market President Darnell Smith with Holland Gibbs.

Read More, Page 26

Letter - TO THE - Editor

Childcare director shares guideline changes

If your child attends a childcare center, preschool or after-school program licensed under the Department of Children and Families, you may have noticed some changes.

The Department of Children and Families issued an updated edition of their "Child Care Facility Handbook," which includes rules and regulations for childcare centers in such areas as infant care, transportation, meals, sleeping/naps, recordkeeping, etc. The new edition is intended to be more user-friendly, and there are some new regulations that have been added.

One noticeable change is that providers must contact parents/guardians within one hour of the normal drop-off time to verify a child's absence, so parents need to be prepared for phone calls. These rules and regulations are in place to protect children, parents and providers.

So when your child's center calls to find out why your child is not at school, or will not let your Aunt Mae pick up Joey without written permission, even though you called and said it was okay... know that they are following procedures, which are in place to protect you and your family, and that they can be fined heavily for not complying.

The Child Care Facility Handbook is available online at myflorida.com/childcare.

This website also has a Parent Resource Section which may be helpful to parents who are looking for childcare.

Cindy Lawrence
Preschool Director, CDO Avondale

Waterways Commission gives Fishweir Creek dredging project 'green light'

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The long-awaited dredging of Big Fishweir Creek has inched forward with the approval by the City of Jacksonville Waterways Commission of an ordinance to authorize a partnership between the City and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Under the partnership, the city would fund 35 percent of the \$6.5 million project that would be undertaken by the Corps. About \$2.5 million is already in the City budget for the project. The City would be responsible for long-term maintenance.

Big Fishweir Creek is classified by the state as a Class III Waterbody, which means it should be swimmable and fishable, but it has been years since it has been either. The Corps recommended the dredging in 2007 but lack of funding has delayed the project.

The work would include removing silt and invasive plants and planting new vegetation to restore the ecosystem and make the waterway navigable and swimmable, City Engineer Tom Fallin told the Commission at a Feb. 14 meeting. The dredge material would be used to form an island at the mouth of the creek.

"Even though this project involves sedimentation removal, the purpose is aquatic restoration," Fallin said. "We want to create channels for the manatees and plant suitable species to improve the habitat and water quality."

District 14 Councilman Jim Love, who represents the area, noted the creek doesn't have much vegetation because it has been killed by the sediment that has accumulated over the years, mostly from construction.



Big Fishweir Creek from the bridge over St. Johns Avenue looking toward the St. Johns River

"About 35 years ago I could take a small boat up there," Love said. "I know a lot of people are excited about it because they remember what it was like many years ago."

Love said he thinks the restoration also will be welcomed by the future residents of the RiverVue apartments being built at the site of the former St. Johns Village.

"Once you get nice-looking wildlife and plants, it's going to raise the value of all the homes. That raises the ad valorem, so we'll get our money back," Love said. "It will pay for itself over a long period of time."

Several people had questions about whether the dredging would be self-sustaining or have to be redone every few years.

Fallin said the Corps' model for the project is self-sustaining and other measures by the Public Works Department are being taken to ensure that silt doesn't get into the newly dredged creek.

"Is there no neighborhood action plan to protect the investment?" asked District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, commission chair. "I really think that should be part of the focus."

If we are going to invest this much money to get the creek back, how do we protect it?"

Public access to the creek also was an issue.

Fallin said the Parks and Recreation Department had evaluated areas around the creek and found two sites with City right-of-way that could be used for public access. In addition, Stinson Park on the Ortega River to the south could be used to launch kayaks.

Bob Skalitzky of Parks and Recreation said the launch at Stinson Park is being repaired after damage by Hurricane Irma, but would be functional by the time the dredging is complete.

The Commission approved the measure, which now heads for City Council committees. Boyer said one issue she wants to look at more closely is whether the City would be liable if private docks or bulkheads are damaged by the dredging.

Fallin said the liability would fall to the contractor, but Boyer was skeptical because the City ended up paying for damage to private docks during the dredging of Fishing Pen Creek.

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2823 ARAPAHOE AVE
Charming brick bungalow, 2/1, 1352sqft, oversized lot, detached garage



CONTRACT PENDING

4929 KING RICHARD RD
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SOLD

3840 BOONE PARK AVE
Uniquely charming home, 1972sqft, huge master suite, detached garage



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'Love Boone Park Day' brings community together

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Boone Park South and Greenscape, 20 trees representing five varieties, were planted at the annual Love Boone Park South Day, Feb. 10. Eighteen individuals and families sponsored the trees, provided by Greenscape, also picked up trash and fallen limbs.

"Our goal is to plant 20 trees every year," said Pamela Telis, founder of Friends of Boone Park South.

Joe Anderson, Jacksonville Energy Authority forester, brought shovels and provided direction for planting the live oaks, Shumard oaks, magnolias, East Palatka hollies and sweet gums. After planting each tree, the sponsor is responsible for watering it as needed throughout the year.

"We live a block away and wanted to be part of the solution to the damage done by Hurricane Irma," said Tom Caron, who



Adelae, Anne, Asa and Andrew Schmidt gather for the introductory meeting with JEA's Forrester Joe Anderson the day of the tree planting.

was there with his family and a friend. "It's a good family activity...we learned to use a shovel," he said, laughing.

Melanie Dobbins, who also lives nearby, planted a Palatka holly as her three-year-old son, Walter, watch closely from his wagon. "This park is our backyard and we want to make sure the tree canopy is rejuvenated after Irma," said Dobbins. "It's our family park; our two sons play here and we hope the tree will be here when they are older."



JEA's Forrester, Joe Anderson, speaks to the group gathered by Friends of Boone Park South, as they learn the process and proper techniques for tree planting. Anderson is to the left of the Holly Tree in the leather gloves.



Rendering of The Rec Room, a new arcade and bar planned for 5 Points.

New 5 Points arcade and bar will fit right in

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A new entertainment venue will be added soon to 5 Point's eclectic restaurant and retail business mix, and – appropriately – will reflect the disco and video game era during which many of the businesses, such as Edge City, were established.

The Rec Room arcade and bar will be located at 1049 Park St., site of the former C.A.S.K. Wine Bar & Shop, which closed Sept. 1, 2017 after about two years in business. The 98-year-old building was purchased in October 2017 by 1049 Park Street LLC for \$235,000.

San Jose resident Michael Schmidt said he and business partner Chad Munsey are working with the owner on the build-out

of the 17-by-70-foot space, for which Doherty Sommers will be the architect/engineers on the project. Build-out is expected to be quick, according to Schmidt, who anticipates opening later this spring.

"We are opening this as a complement to what is already in 5 Points," said Schmidt. "We hope to attract all ages of people that want to come play some video games, enjoy some beer and wine in a cool nostalgic atmosphere."

The "barcade" will offer cabinet arcade games, pinball, and Golden Tee – a golf arcade game series, as well as console rentals. Beer will be bottled or canned; wine and soft drinks, as well as some bar snacks, will be available.

Schmidt and his wife, Mishayla, put their skills as architects to good use in the interior design for The Rec Room. The 1,300-square-foot space will evoke a 1970s-style basement, with a 10-seat bar and a vintage-style living room, where patrons can enjoy playing console games from a large selection.

Schmidt and Munsey are owners of Tanuki Group LLC, which also owns and operates The Bearded Pig in San Marco.

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Easter Egg Hunt

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Ortega River drawbridge to undergo improvements

The Ortega River Bridge at State Road 211 (Grand Avenue/San Juan Avenue) is undergoing rehabilitation, including cleaning, painting, concrete work and updates to its electrical system.

To complete the improvements, lane closures will be implemented Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. When necessary, a one-time, consecutive 10-day full bridge closure will be required to complete the electrical and bridge painting work, which is not accessible while maintaining vehicular traffic.

Electronic message boards will be in place to notify motorists when the detour will be implemented in advance. The channel will be open for marine traffic at all times, unless unforeseen circumstances occur.

The 90-year-old bridge has gone through several rehabilitations, including in 1978, 1996 and 2011-2012, when the repair project cost \$4.8 million. Designed during the Florida Boom period in the 1920, the bridge was installed to provide better access to Jacksonville from the "suburbs" of Ortega and Venetia. In 2011, a traffic inventory report noted average daily traffic of 4,800



The historic 1927 bascule bridge over the Ortega River will undergo rehabilitation this spring.

vehicles with a projection of more than 8,300 by 2033.

The bridge was also designed with aesthetics in mind, according to the website historicbridges.org. Its four bridge tender houses are two more than would generally be needed to operate a bascule bridge in the 1920s (today only one house needs to be staffed). The presence of four houses was likely more of an aesthetic decision rather than a necessity. The approach spans

have unusual ornamental concrete railings featuring stylized Maltese crosses that are the distinctive design of T. B. Carrick, a local engineer of note.

Astron General Contracting Co. Inc., is scheduled to complete the \$1.7 million rehabilitation improvements by late December 2018, weather and schedule permitting.

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

Tree giveaway an opportunity to repair Irma damage to yards

If Irma left you with a bare yard last fall, you'll want to take advantage of the second annual Arbor Day Festival and Greenscape Tree Giveaway, Saturday, March 24, at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.

Greenscape will give away 4,000 trees, including Fringetree, American Holly, Red Maple, Riverbirch, Tulip Poplar, Redbud, Live Oak and Winged Elm. The giveaway is on a first-come, first-served basis.

"This is a chance for people to replant some of the trees we lost to Hurricane Irma," said Executive Director Anna Dooley.

The festival is a fundraiser for the nonprofit that advocates for protecting and planting trees in Jacksonville. Since its founding, it has planted 300,000 trees.

The festival, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., replaces the flowering tree sale that was one of its signature events in years past. Activities will include children's arts and crafts, a petting zoo, pet adoptions, entertainment and educational talks on trees and the environment.

"We're going to have a lot of professional foresters, landscape architects, the master gardeners to answer people's questions about trees, yards and gardens," Dooley said.

The vendors will include Stubbees Honey, Gourds Gone Wild and San Marco Books, as well as businesses selling butterfly and hummingbird plants, worm castings and wood products such as birdhouses and feeders.

Parking is free, and volunteers will be available to help people carry trees to their cars.

FDOT begins safety improvements on Murray Hill roads

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's safety improvements on State Road 228 (Post Street) at Hamilton Street in Murray Hill, traffic signal updates and school zone enhancements are underway.

The safety project includes upgrading traffic and pedestrian signals at Hamilton Street, installing two additional street lights, restriping existing crosswalks, and making ADA improvements along with the installation of two new flashing

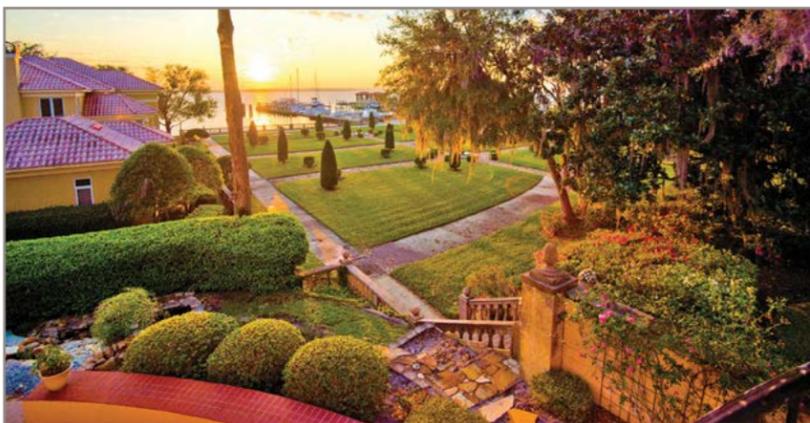
beacons. The new flashing beacons will be placed on State Road 228 east of Dancy Street and west of Hamilton Street.

Lane closures will be allowed Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and after 4 p.m.

American Lighting and Signalization is scheduled to complete the \$510,000 safety improvements by early April.

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

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\$319,900



3626 San Jose Boulevard
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\$419,000



3680 Pine Street
3/2, 1,884 sq. ft.
Listed by Wade Griffin
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4410 Lexington Avenue
2/1, 1,092 sq. ft.
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2750 Lydia Street
2/2, 1,256 sq. ft.
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\$299,000



1623 Riverside Avenue 9
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\$279,000



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Library ‘friends’ board holds annual meeting

The agenda for the Friends of the Murray Hill Library annual meeting was a full one, with updates on the beautification efforts in front of the library and the formation of a committee for the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in December. Judy Klein presided in the absence of Jay Stuckey, board president, at the Feb. 20 meeting at Maple Street Biscuit Company.

Klein also circulated a petition to restore Saturday hours at the library and at several others in Duval County.

Special guests included Jimmy Peluso, a legislative and planning analyst for the St. Johns River Water Management District; Ryan Bass, district representative for Congressman John Rutherford, and new library manager Shurdellah Groulx.

Board member Florence Rando shared news about an essay contest for children in the fourth to 12th grades. Children and young adults are encouraged to read the book “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle and submit an essay to the library, located at 918 Edgewood Ave. S., no later than March 15. The board will review the essays and announce a winner at a pizza party at the library on March 17. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to see the movie, “A Wrinkle in Time,” and 10 contestants will receive a copy of the book.

Riverside Avondale Preservation holds annual meeting

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

It was nearly “standing room only” with well over 130 in attendance at the 44th Riverside Avondale Preservation annual meeting Feb. 15 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

After remarks by Keith Holt, board chair, Adrienne Burke, executive director, and John Silveira, Riverside Arts Market senior market manager, the meeting was turned over to Julia Burns, of Converse Consulting, for a brief presentation.

Burns shared general results of the survey, focus groups and interviews she conducted last fall as part of RAP’s strategic planning efforts. Burns noted that of the 455 online survey respondents, 361 (79 percent) live in the historic district; 237 (52 percent) are current or past members of RAP. The focus groups included 31 residents, eight landlords, realtors and architects, and six merchants, while Burns conducted 15 interviews with elected officials, “opinion” leaders and detractors.

A look at survey responses indicate 111 respondents put architectural integrity at the top of the characteristics they feel are essential to the historic neighborhood. Less traffic and fewer retail/restaurant chains were two of the highest dislikes. A future town hall meeting is planned to share the results in detail with the community.

Zoning Committee Chair Nancy Powell noted that the four largest projects approved last year were not in the historic district. They include River & Post Restaurant in the Summit building; Wendy’s in 5 Points; the TriBridg Residential Apartments on



Front: Nancy Powell, Lawson Carr, Daniel Miller, Iris Eisenberg, Christina Bottomley, Angela Schifanella; back: Mark Moss, Bill Shelton, Allan DeVault, Rick Pariani, Janice Young, Thad Crowe

Bishopgate Lane, and RiverVue, another apartment complex under construction at the former St. Johns Village near Fishweir Elementary School.

“None of their plans had to go through the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission,” said Powell. “What that confirmed for me is the true value of being in a historic district, because for 95 percent of the district the plans do go through the Historic Preservation Commission.”

Holt and Burke presented preservation awards, which were selected by credentialed judges Jose Miranda, principal architect with Miranda Associates; Jenny Wolfe, Historic Preservation Officer for the City of St. Augustine, and Melissa Wyllie, executive director for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, based in Tallahassee.

Those receiving awards include Gino Cogorno of Real Estate Pros of North Florida, for New Construction at 2550 College Street in the Florida frame vernacular style; Luke

and Mary Jensen, for a large-scale (interior and exterior) residential rehabilitation of their home at 2637 College Street; Angel Corrales of Austin Historical, for a small-scale (exterior) residential rehabilitation of the windows at the 1922 Fenimore Apartments, 2200 Riverside Ave.; and Christina and Jeff Starmer of Center Beam Construction for a small-scale (interior) residential rehabilitation of the G. W. Gibbs Jr. House, a pre-1913 building at 1817 Bayard Place.

Other awards included Regions Bank as Neighborhood Friendly Business; Angel Corrales and Joel McEachin as Neighborhood Advocates; and Keith Holt as Outstanding Volunteer and Board Member.

The meeting wrapped with election of the 2018 Board of Directors, with Nancy Powell serving as chair, Lawson Carr as secretary and Bill Shelton as treasurer. The board welcomed new members Thad Crowe, Angela Schifanella and Rick Pariani.

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Cummer gardens soil recovers, plants take harder hit

The lower level of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens' historic gardens remain closed to the public five months after Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc Sept. 11, 2017, on yards, homes and business on the riverfront.

"But, thanks to an aggressive watering program and some help from Mother Nature in providing a wet winter, I am pleased to announce that our bi-weekly soil tests finally show plantable conditions," said Holly Keris, chief operating office and chief curator, in a message to patrons. "We will still need to adjust the pH levels once we begin planting, but this is a major step forward in our recovery."

Despite good news about the soil, Keris reported the news regarding plant health is less positive. Following a recent visit, reconstruction consultants WLA Studio from Athens, Georgia, concluded the plant survival rate is much lower than anticipated and are recommending a full replant of the lower tier. Any surviving material will be relocated to another area



The aftermath of Hurricane Irma on the Cummer Gardens in Sept. 2017

of the campus, where it can be monitored and cared for separately, Keris said.

WLA Studio's next steps providing the museum with a full plan, budget, and timeline to get the garden spaces open for public enjoyment.

The Cummer will hold its annual Spring Celebration and Plant Sale Saturday, March 3, on Weaver First Saturday Free For All, where activities will include plant vendors, educational activities, interactive art projects, and live music.

Conflict resolution in community garden an ongoing debate

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Lock it up or leave it open – that's the issue facing the Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) board of directors as they grapple with complaints of theft from the community garden at the corner of Park Street and Azalea Terrace.

The garden, which opened in April 2016 under a public-private partnership between RAP and the City of Jacksonville, contains 31 plots on one-third acre within the 17-acre Willowbranch Park. There are currently 86 gardeners renting plots (some sharing plots) to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. There is an ADA-accessible plot currently shared by two gardeners.

The reason for the lock? Poachers, who arrive at the garden armed with shopping bags, help themselves to produce grown by fee-paying plot holders.

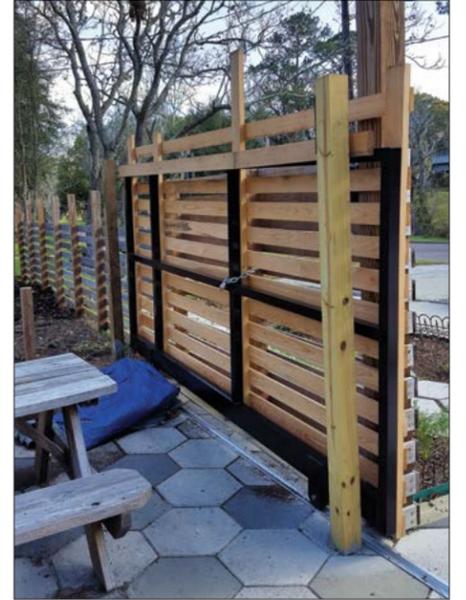
Gardeners pay an annual fee of \$100 for a 4-foot by 20-foot raised full plot to cover water, electricity, insurance and other maintenance needs. Gardeners maintain their own plots and must commit to six hours of volunteer service each quarter.

The contract with the City of Jacksonville indicates that a lock is acceptable and there were plans to secure the garden from the beginning of its inception.

"The plan has always included the installation of a secured gate, with a lock, which was communicated from the start to gardeners and the community. It was not built right away, due to time and funding, but has been recently been constructed," said RAP's board in a statement.

"Unfortunately, during this time without a locked gate, thefts of food grown in the garden have been experienced," the statement continued. "In a recent survey, 60 percent of the 33 responders reported theft. The issue of protection from theft is something that gardens across the country have struggled with, leading to a variety of different local solutions."

For public enjoyment, the garden features a butterfly garden, rose garden, herb garden



The new gate on the community garden fence

and soon fruit trees, which are all open to the public on the perimeter of the garden. There are plans to share excess produce in a community basket outside the garden.

Based on comments on social media, the community is divided about locking the garden. Some take umbrage at losing access to a public park; others understand why gardeners want to protect their investment and enjoy the fruits – and vegetables – of their own labors.

RAP is trying to bring both sides together by working with the community to organize free, scheduled events – such as lectures and workshops – open to the public.

"Riverside Avondale Preservation is working with the Parks Department and Councilman Jim Love to resolve these concerns in a way that ensures the garden's continued success, for both the gardeners and the community at large. The City does not plan to staff the garden, or maintain it, so it is up to the community to come together on a good solution," the statement concluded.

If you have an opinion about community gardens or a solution about the problem of produce poaching, let us know. Send your thoughts to editor@residentnews.net.

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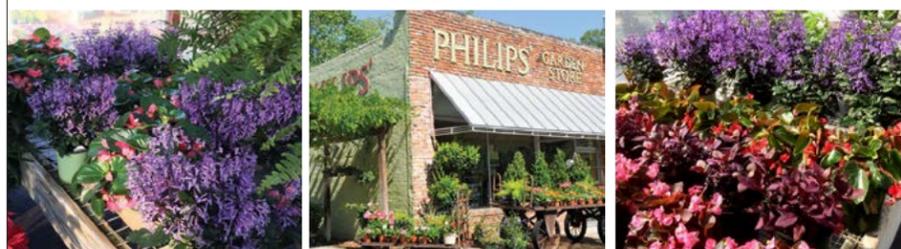
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RIVERVUE GARAGE FROM PAGE 1

Pushback by concerned residents resulted in a change to the PUD, approved Sept. 22, 2016, which stated “The parking garage shall not exceed two elevated levels and will be screened along the St. Johns Avenue frontage by the townhome residential units, vegetation, and a ‘Green Screen’ (trellis, lattice, or mesh with vegetation) and from Fishweir Creek by the Green Screen and existing creekfront vegetation.”

After a July 2017 groundbreaking, the project progressed rapidly and by the end of the year, five of the seven residential units appeared to be well underway on the property, except next to the parking garage. Complaints began to be raised with City officials and Riverside Avondale Preservation after the concrete garage was constructed in January and it appeared the large expanse of gray concrete would be the “face” of the development along St. Johns Avenue.

“Our office has received numerous complaints (and voiced concerns) as to the location and appearance of the parking lot structure / setback being constructed within the RiverVue project / PUD. Is the project on track – without variations or modifications – in accordance with the plans that were submitted and approved?” asked Kevin Kuzel, executive assistant to District 14 Councilman Jim Love, in a Feb. 12 email to Folks Huxford, Chief, Current Planning Division, Planning and Development Department.

Huxford responded that he and Planning Director William Killingsworth “went out to personally inspect [the site] this afternoon (Feb. 12). Although the residential units between the parking garage and St. Johns



Avenue are not under construction, they are depicted on the renderings submitted with the PUD Verification,” said Huxford in his email. “I do not know the timeline for construction, but it’s possible that they are waiting for the garage to be finished before moving on to constructing the residential units. Given that the site remains a work in progress, we didn’t observe any violations to the PUD.”

According to Chance Partners’ Jeff Rosen, the plans as approved will be executed with two buildings of two townhomes in the 18-to-20-foot-wide space in front of the garage. Rosen said there will be a very narrow space between the back of the townhomes and the garage wall and there will be no windows on the rear of the buildings.

“The developers and I have told everyone who has contacted us that this is simply a matter of necessary construction staging. The developers are complying, and have

every intention of complying, with the approved plans,” said T.R. Hainline, attorney representing the developers. “This is a construction site. Buildings are being built in stages. We don’t mind continuous inspections. We ask, also, for people’s patience in dealing with a site under construction.”

RAP also fielded a number of questions on the issue, but new Board Chair Nancy Powell is also concerned about traffic on St. Johns Avenue.

“This also highlights the need to get a focused effort on the S-curve and the road narrowing, widening sidewalks, and putting in a green right of way, or I’m afraid there will be accidents,” she said in an email to Love and Kuzel. “As you know, there is no curb there – the road flows right into the sidewalk, which will also go right up against the townhouses that will front the street. On that front, the RAP Transportation group will be seeking to set up a meeting with the FDOT soon.”



The final PUD for RiverVue indicates two townhouse buildings will be constructed adjacent to the parking garage.



The project began 17 months after Chance Partners LLC acquired the 5.78-acre property in March 2016 for \$5.8 million. A total of 228 units will be available among the seven buildings, including 88 units in the renovated tower formerly known as Commander Apartments. RiverVue will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, ranging from 620 to 1,400 square feet. Pre-leasing was expected to begin in late March, with occupancy sometime this summer.



A rendering of the townhomes proposed to be constructed in front of the two-story parking garage at RiverVue.



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Withdrawal of controversial state toxins rule protects surface waters

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) recently withdrew a dangerous state rule that would have allowed increased levels of toxic chemicals in Florida's surface waters. The St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Miami Waterkeeper, represented by Earthjustice, have been campaigning against this rule since it was proposed in 2016.

This rule, proposed by FDEP, was rushed through the Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC), despite having vacant seats that Governor Rick Scott had failed to fill for representatives from the environmental community and local government.

With mounting opposition and an administrative hearing looming on the horizon, FDEP formally withdrew the rule as proposed and reinitiated rulemaking. In preparation for a revised version of rule, the FDEP "intends to conduct a state-wide fish consumption survey to accurately determine the amount and types of fish commonly eaten by Floridians" before promulgation.

The rule used a controversial method to calculate cancer risk that differed from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended method and the one utilized by every other state in the nation. This resulted in toxic exposure limits that were 10 times (or sometimes 100 times) higher than EPA recommendations for most of the chemicals examined.

Because chemicals accumulate in fish or shellfish, people who eat Florida-caught seafood even just once a week would have increased their cancer risk by orders of magnitude. For the full story, visit residentnews.net and enter "toxins" in the search bar.



Women for Christ holds 33rd annual luncheon

In 1986, four women met around a kitchen table to talk about bringing female Christian speakers to Jacksonville. After taking that step of faith, Women for Christ celebrated its 33rd annual luncheon Feb. 20 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Front: Jan Andrews, Peggy Allcorn, Susie Marshall, Janice Brinker, guest speaker Whitney Capps, Vicky Yong and Colleen White; middle: Roseanne Ennis, Kim Joel, Katy Towers, Christy Mobley, Dianne Diffenderfer; back: Anne Tyre, Gail Brent, Linda Stowell, Kathy Story, Allene Zvara and Sheri Cheek

North Florida Land Trust welcomed former Senator and Governor Bob Graham



Former Senator and Governor Bob Graham was keynote speaker at the North Florida Land Trust's annual meeting Feb. 13. Citing the 1000 Friends of Florida study, Graham told the crowd of more than 150 that the state of Florida will be 35 percent developed by 2070 if we continue on the same path. "The state needs to step up its game," said Graham. "We have to start thinking 20 to 30 years ahead in our conservation goals and the

key to that is organizations like North Florida Land Trust."

Also at the annual meeting, NFLT recognized some of the major donors who are the first to be recognized as part of the McQuilkin Society (named for NFLT Founder Bill McQuilkin), outgoing board members, and Volunteers of the Year, Forrest and Nancy Penny.



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King Street median landscaping renovation moves forward

Thanks to a lawsuit, King Street's tree medians will soon be getting a makeover.

Filed in 2015 by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida, the suit challenged the City of Jacksonville's use of the Tree Mitigation Trust Fund – approximately \$20 million – established in 2000 by charter amendment. Developers pay into the fund when they cut down trees and the money is supposed to be used to mitigate the loss by paying for new trees to be planted elsewhere in the county.

The settlement, which occurred July 25, 2017, resulted in establishment of a Tree Commission, the hiring of an urban forest manager and a City arborist, and tougher penalties for developers who neglect to obtain permits to remove trees. The settlement also freed up \$20 million in funds, so District 14 Councilman Jim Love was quick to take advantage of the boon, and put in a requisition to update the King Street planters.

Approximately 25 trees will be replaced, at a ballpark cost of \$40-60,000. The trees selected by Urban Forest Manager Richard Leon and City Arborist Kathleen McGovern include 12 American Hornbeam, 13 Bald Cypress, and six Silver Saw Palmetto to plant under existing Sabal Palms at the corners of Forbes and King, and College and King, as well as seven crape myrtles on the sidewalks. Asiatic jasmine will be used for ground cover. The soil in the seven medians will be replaced to give the new trees and grasses a healthy growing environment.

After City employees cut down the existing trees, Davey's Trees will excavate the root balls, said Fred Pope, City of Jacksonville landscape architect. Once the order is placed to purchase the trees, the project is estimated to be complete in about eight weeks.

Riverside gets new parking lot across from Arts Market

Federal Department of Transportation crews are working on operational improvements and enhancements to the interchange at Interstate 95 and Interstate 10, the Fuller Warren Bridge, and along the east side of U.S.17 northbound between McDuff Avenue and Rosselle Street. Crews began filling in ponds under I-95 in June 2017 to make way for a public parking lot, which opened in January 2018, west of Riverside Avenue with access via Peninsular Place. Visitors to the Saturday Riverside Arts Market can take advantage of the free lot.

A traffic shift was recently made along Interstate 95 southbound on the Fuller Warren Bridge to create a work zone allowing crews to begin expansion work, and will remain in place for approximately two years, subject to change.

During the traffic shift, southbound lanes will shift to the inside of the Fuller Warren Bridge beginning at the Park Street ramp, and return to the former configuration after the exit ramp to San Marco Boulevard.

Root Ball 2018 – Irish for a day, green all year

For the first time in seven years, Greenscape of Jacksonville is pulling up the roots of its largest fundraiser of the year and returning to The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens for the annual Root Ball. Scheduled for Saturday, March 17, the Root Ball, produced by the Late Bloomers Garden Club, has as its theme "Irish For a Day, Green All Year."

According to Anna Dooley, executive director of Greenscape, the organization made the change in venue for several reasons. "We think the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is the perfect backdrop for promoting our mission of planting, protecting and promoting trees," she said. "And we've also been told that in addition to the wonderful exotic animals living at the zoo, several leprechauns are rumored to live there, too. There may even be a pot of gold."

Tying the event in with St. Patrick's Day will add another level of fun, Dooley said. Irish musician/songwriter (and Jacksonville transplant) Brendan Doherty will perform traditional Irish songs, as well as original

songs, which Irish Music Magazine compared to "John Denver at his very best." Doherty will be accompanied on fiddle by Philip Pan, former concertmaster for the Jacksonville Symphony and member of Canary in a Coalmine. Pan, of Murray Hill, currently performs with folk/rock band Folk is People and Mariachi Primera Costa.

The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, festive food, music, dancing and a silent auction featuring a variety of original artwork, fine wines, gift baskets, a putter autographed by Arnold Palmer and a catered yacht cruise on Innisfail, an impeccably restored 1930 Mathis-Trumpy motor yacht that hosted several U.S. presidents.

Tickets are \$130 per person and are available through 904tix.com. Attire is "green casual."

A portion of the funds raised at the event will be used to purchase and replant trees throughout the city that were damaged and destroyed as a result of Hurricane Irma last year.

RAP to host historic preservation process overview

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or have been here for a while, you may have questions about the City of Jacksonville's process for historic preservation and how it applies to your house.

You may not be aware the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission and staff are the people who review and issue Certificates of Appropriateness for projects, not Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP).

RAP will host City Historic Preservation Planning staff for an overview of the process, how to apply to the JHPC, and get answers to your questions, Thursday, Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m. at Riverside Presbyterian Church, 849 Park St., in Bittering Hall.

The meeting is free for RAP members, \$10 donation at the door for non-members. Space is limited, so register early through Eventbrite to attend.

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Land Use and Zoning upholds appeal for Certificate of Appropriateness

Oldest Avondale home gets green light for major modifications

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

What some feared may be a precedent-setting move was realized at the Feb. 21 Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) meeting when six councilmembers voted to uphold an appeal by Avondale resident Virginia “Ginger” Harris to add a two-story addition to her landmark 1909 home at the corner of Challen and Riverside Avenues.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, an attorney in land use and environmental law, finance and construction management, was the sole dissenting vote. Boyer had put forth a motion to deny the appeal, but it did not receive a second by any of the other committee members.

The process for obtaining the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) began last summer when Harris went before the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) in August and was denied the COA on the basis the 28-foot-high, 2,100-square-foot addition would not be in scale with the original home. Harris, who purchased the 1776 Challen Ave. home in 1996, was also seeking to demolish the original garage, which is considered a contributing structure in the historic Riverside/Avondale district.

Harris was asked to go back to the drawing board and submit a revised design which would comply with historic standards, making the addition subordinate to the original structure. She met with the historic

preservation commission again in November, submitting a two-foot reduction in height. The planning staff report stated, “the reduction of two feet from the addition is not enough to warrant a change in staff’s original recommendation [to deny] as the addition is still a two-story addition attached to a one-story landmark house,” so the commission upheld its original denial of the COA.

Speaking on behalf of Harris at the Feb. 21 public hearing, in addition to Paul Harden, her attorney, her Orlando-based architect, and her contractor, were half a dozen nearby neighbors, and more than a dozen friends and real estate associates from all over Northeast Florida, including St. Augustine and the Beaches. Most of the testimony spoke to Harris’ earlier significant renovations of and ongoing maintenance to her home.

Even those who opposed the addition agreed Harris had restored life to a run-down relic and continued to be a good neighbor with her property but stressed the issue needed to be reviewed according to criteria.

“The COA process is comprehensive and involves the input of multiple planning professionals, the staff researches the historic structure, performs site visits, analyzes the proposed work under the appropriate historic standards and drafts a staff report,” said former JHPC member and newly-elected RAP Board member Angela Schifanella, who is also an architect. “It is consensus opinion, thoughtful and thorough, and therefore has more merit and value than that of individual planner, even one working with the RAP organization.”

In addition to Schifanella, those speaking against the appeal were local historian Wayne Wood, founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation; current RAP Board Chair Nancy Powell; former RAP Executive Director Carmen Godwin; and Joe Miller and John Gallagher, both nearby neighbors of Harris.

“I believe in homeowner’s property rights but we all understand living in a historic district, there are some things that can’t be done in order to preserve the historic character of our homes and our neighborhood,” said Miller.

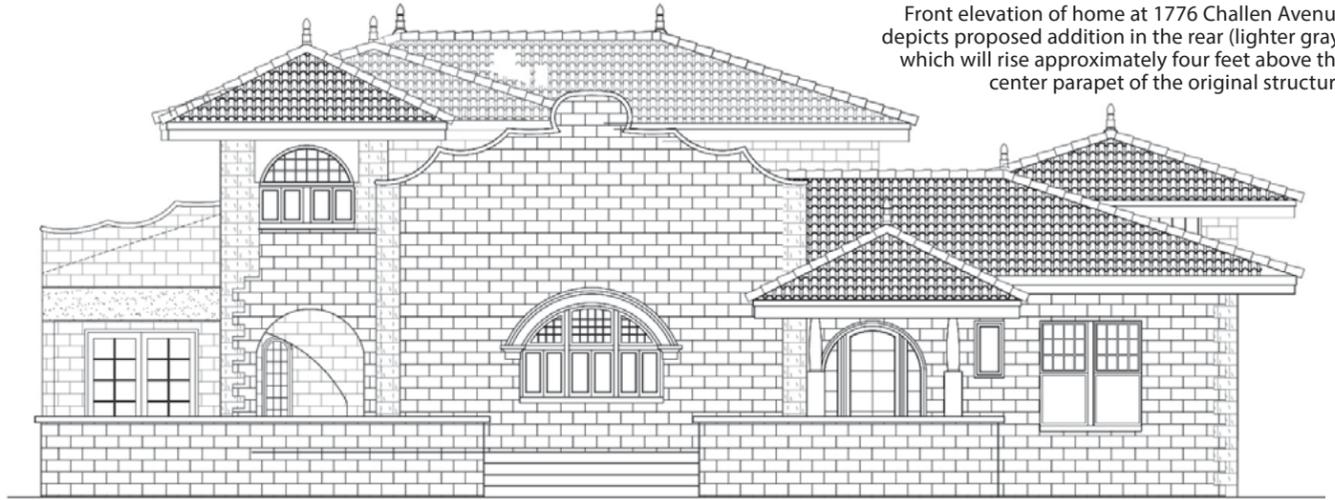
“If this is approved, it will call into question the existence of RAP, the Planning Department and the Historic Commission and their roles in providing recommendations and decisions,” he continued. “I think it will set a horrible precedent allowing people the grounds to proceed with lawsuits when their applications are denied.”

Following nearly 90 minutes of public comment, Sondra Fetner, assistant general counsel, spoke for nearly 45 minutes in defense of the JHPC’s decision to deny the COA.

Fetner noted the year after purchasing her home Harris voted in favor of establishment of Riverside and Avondale as a historic district, and stated Harris was aware of the landmark status of the home.

“The historical significance of this house is that it is quaint,” said Fetner to the LUZ committee. “This house stands for the

Front elevation of home at 1776 Challen Avenue depicts proposed addition in the rear (lighter gray), which will rise approximately four feet above the center parapet of the original structure.



development of this historic Avondale district. It’s the only house in the district that can date back to 1909.”

The seven-member LUZ Committee deliberated for 30 minutes, during which time Boyer made a motion to deny the appeal by upholding the JHPC’s decision.

“To decide because someone has great character testimony...and would do quality construction...are not the criteria for an addition to a historic landmark or structure. It may be what you want to see in any other district in the city but that’s not what the rules are about for a historic district or landmark,” Boyer said. “The point is we have as a body have decided there is a value to preserve the history someone can see, and experience what it was like once upon a time. That’s why we created the ordinance in the first place. There are very specific criteria and people know what they are getting into. It’s a different set of rules from every place else.”

There being no second to Boyer’s motion, District 11 Councilman Danny Becton made a motion to amend the resolution to uphold the appeal.

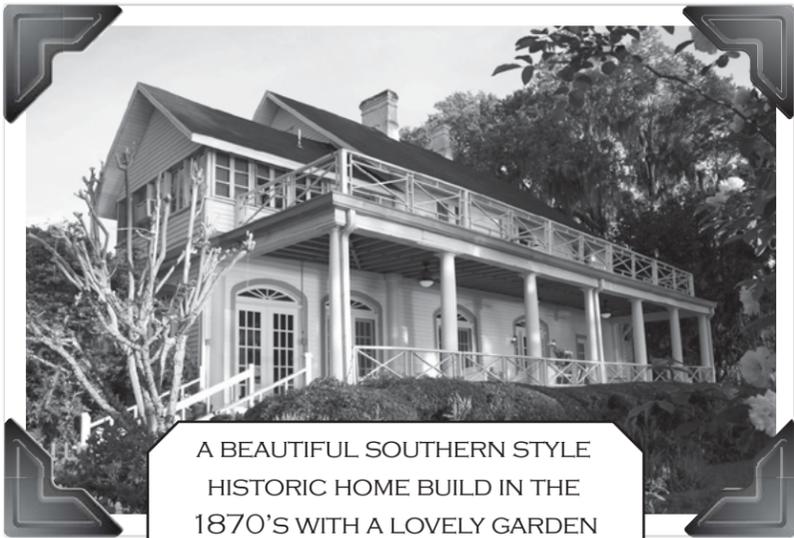
“I do not believe the façade will be compromised and will still remain prominent when looked at from the front of the house,” said Becton, who stated he felt the original plan at two feet higher would have “started to tip the scale in terms of ‘massive.’ I think it’s about the façade. The house is small in comparison to other structures nearby.”

District 2 Councilman Al Ferraro stated, “Having the neighbors weigh in was important, although I know that is not part of the criteria. I don’t believe anything I’ve heard tonight changes or harms the historic district. I think Ms. Harris is holding up to the standards and character of the home to the neighborhood.”

The committee voted 6-1 to uphold Harris’ appeal to be granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for her revised design, subject to approval by Planning and Development Department.

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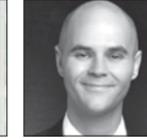
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3685 HEDRICK ST – 3br / 2ba / 1,576 sqft

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

2200 COLLEGE ST – 4br / 3ba / 2,448 sqft.

SOLD by Margee Michaelis! Beautiful two story home in Riverside on a double lot. Huge yard with possibilities for a pool, expand the garden, play area, endless possibilities. Detached two car garage.



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2840 MANITOU AVE – 4br / 3.5ba / 2,942 sqft.

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SOLD

3336 OAK ST – 3br / 2.5ba / 2,348 sqft.

SOLD by Jane Slater and Elizabeth Loftin! This beautiful historic home is loaded with charm and beautiful updates, located in the heart of Avondale, where you'll find neighborhood living at it's best. The gracious front door invites your guests in to a foyer filled with natural light and gleaming, original hardwood floors.



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4619 APACHE AVE – 4br / 3.5ba / 4,051 sqft.

SOLD by Beverly Brooke and Jane Slater! SOLD BEFORE IT WENT ON MARKET! Amazing home! Completely updated and gorgeous! Incredible outdoor space too. If you are not working with the market leaders you are missing out.



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4301 VENETIA BLVD – 4br / 4.5ba / 4,267 sqft.

SOLD by Beverly Brooke! Fabulous waterfront home. Amazing kitchen has extra large island, Wolf cooktop, gorgeous granite countertops and opens up to family room with lots of built-ins and computer area. Great mud room and laundry room to keep everyone organized!



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4358 TIMUQUANA RD 161 – 3br / 2ba / 1,194 sqft.

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Local physician treats patients with time-honored care, concern

Despite trends in medicine to compartmentalize, Dr. Ravish Narvel does what physicians have done for centuries – he works closely with his patients to help them achieve better health.

Dr. Narvel, a general Internal Medicine physician, or Internist, said for primary care, medicine has become very compartmentalized in the last 10 years. “We have outpatient doctors who see patients in the office, a hospitalist group of several different doctors who see patients in hospitals and some doctors who see patients in short-term rehab or long-term units and nursing homes,” he said.

He said compartmentalizing medicine is an efficiency model in some respects, but often creates fragmented and duplication of care, and that can be a problem for the patient as they transition from each setting. Dr. Narvel, however, is a familiar face treating his patients in all settings and works with the whole spectrum of their healthcare needs.

“I have a developed a very close relation with my patients over the years and many of them include their entire families.”

— Ravish Narvel, M.D., FACP, CMD

“I love Internal Medicine, because you do a little bit of everything,” said Dr. Narvel, who opened his practice at 3960 Oak Street in 2007.

“I am one of very few doctors in the area who is a traditionalist, someone who sees patients in the office, hospital and nursing home. When you have me as a doctor you have me for life.”

Beginning at 7 a.m., Dr. Narvel makes rounds at St. Vincent’s Medical Center-Riverside, where

he is Chief of Staff, as well as a preceptor, one who teaches medical students and residents, physicians’ assistants, and podiatry residents. By mid-morning he is at his practice in Avondale, where he sees patients of all ages from late teens to a few who are 100 years or older. Before the day is over, Dr. Narvel is visiting patients at St. Catherine Labouré Manor, where he is the Medical Director, and then he finally heads home.

“It makes for a very long day, but then the patients are happy and they get complete care,” he said.

Born and raised in Mumbai, India, Dr. Narvel received his medical education at J.J. M. Medical College, then went through residencies in India, United Kingdom and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before receiving his certification in 1998 from the American Board of Internal Medicine. His extensive work history includes Chief Resident at London for a year in Pulmonology and Geriatrics. In addition to Board Certification in Internal Medicine he is a Fellow of American College of Physicians.

He began practicing Internal Medicine on staff at St. Vincent’s Primary Care in January 1999, before starting his private practice in the LaVilla area in 2001. When Dr. Narvel moved to Avondale six years later, his patients followed him. “I have cared for many of them for over 19 years,” he said.

“I have a developed a very close relation with my patients over the years and many of them include their entire families.”

Perhaps because he does care for older patients, Dr. Narvel has identified two areas of concern in the community – dementia and diabetes.

“You can delay the onset of dementia by being active physically, mentally and socially,” he said. “Exercise three to four days a week; read



Ravish Narvel MD, FACP, CMD

and work on crossword puzzles instead of watching television, spend time with friends, family or at church, and remain engaged in the community.”

Dr. Narvel said the second biggest challenge is diabetes, which is associated with heart disease, hypertension, obesity and high cholesterol. “It needs to be diagnosed and treated early, then you need to eat the right kinds of food and stay away from processed foods” he said.

Dr. Narvel’s talented and friendly staff work closely with patients to provide exceptional care for all. The practice accepts most insurances, including Medicare, and generally accepts new patients within 24 to 48 hours.

For appointments and more information about the office of Ravish Narvel, M.D., FACP call (904) 265-3344.

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Laura Street Trio photo awarded grand prize



Billie Hayward said she appreciated the textures in a photograph by Valerie Kennedy-Grisham, titled "Empire Point."



Maggie Means, Charlotte Kuhn and Tripp Means admire a photograph by Chandelle McDonie, titled "Strolling Through 15th Street."

The Feb. 7 opening reception for the Jacksonville Historical Society's Photo Contest exhibit at the Main Library included the announcement of the contest winners. The 50 best photos chosen by the judges were presented at the opening of this month-long exhibit.

Grand prizewinner Kjell Fransson received \$1,000 for his depiction of the Laura Street Trio. Ray Murphy's image of a baseball game earned him \$500 for second place, while third-place winner Kathy Cook took home \$300 for "Chamblin's Uptown." Honorable mentions were given to Savannah Dobbs, a photography student

at Jacksonville University; Debra Heuskin, an adjunct in costuming at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts, and Laura Evans, a professional photographer.

Amateur and professional photographers of all ages were invited to enter their four best images celebrating the community. There were over 60 entrants, who submitted over 200 photos. The photos were judged based on their artistic quality, as well as their ability to creatively capture a slice of life in the Jacksonville community.

The contest and exhibition were underwritten by a grant from William H. Jeter, Jr. and Deanne M. Clark.



Sarah Crooks (Photo by Natalie McCray)

Local artist honored by exhibit in South Florida

Riverside artist Sarah Crooks is one of five Florida artists on display through Feb. 24 at Lighthouse ArtCenter Gallery and School of Art in Tequesta, Florida.

The exhibition, Arrived: Florida Artists Emerged, features the original artwork of Crooks and four other Florida artists of international acclaim who bring awareness to cultural, historic and environmental issues.

Crooks is joined by Xavier Cortada of Miami; Mary GrandPré of Sarasota; Cheryl Maeder of West Palm Beach and Margaret Ross Tolbert of Gainesville.

As an eco-feminist, Crooks creates multi-disciplinary installations that blend environmental science with expressive art, and has been commissioned for hospitals, libraries, science centers, healing spaces and private homes.

"As a child I sloshed knee deep in a suburban drainage ditch and fantasized about becoming a great botanical explorer," said Crooks. "Now I seek to mend our inherited cultural illusion of separation from Nature by creating archetypal images of wonder based on the flora and fauna of home."

Awarded the Ninah May Holden Cumber Award in 2016 for artfully connecting people with the environment. Exhibited throughout the Eastern United States, Crooks received major funding from Florida Blue and The Community Foundation. Residencies include the Museum of Science and History, the Vermont Studio Center, Jan Hus Presbyterian Church NYC, Douglas Anderson School for the Arts and the University of North Florida.

Crooks received a BFA Summa Cum Laude from the University of North Florida, studied Botanical Illustration at New York Botanical Gardens and became a certified Florida Master Naturalist in 2014. She is the Hyde Grove Elementary School Teaching Artist this year.

Two Riverside residents honored by LISC Jacksonville

LISC Jacksonville honored two Riverside icons at its Feb. 7 2018 Community Development Awards breakfast at the Jessie Ball duPont Center.

Dr. Wayne Wood, retired optometrist, author, historian and self-proclaimed "rabble-rouser," was presented with the Visionary Award, and Intuition Ale Works, founded by Riverside resident Ben Davis, with the Building Block Award.

Wood began making a difference in community revitalization when he founded Riverside Avondale Preservation in the 1970s. He was one of several who started the popular Saturday Riverside Arts Market, now celebrating its 10th season. Long an icon of the cultural scene in Jacksonville, Wood also founded Friends of Hemming Park in an effort to revitalize the heart of downtown Jacksonville.

Davis founded Intuition Ale Works in 2010 originally in Riverside on King Street in what is now called CoRK Arts District, before expanding the brewery downtown to the Doro District in 2016. Both urban core communities began to see redevelopment occur after Intuition Ale Works opened doors in those neighborhoods.

Also honored were John Crispens, who received the Igniter Award for supporting



Richard Manson, LISC National Program Vice President, with Honoree Wayne Wood

Springfield's Main Street commercial corridor by opening Crispy's, the first new Main Street restaurant to open in a decade; Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council received the Champion of Main Street Award for helping strengthen urban core communities through home restorations, commercial corridor renovations and community events; Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corp. received the EPIC Award for advocating revitalization of the city's Northwest community and developing the Mary A. Eaves Senior Living Facility, and businesses in the Rail Yard District received the Power of Community Award for working together



Honoree Ben Davis with J.F. Bryan IV, LISC Jacksonville board chair

to transform the neighborhood into a regional destination.

Peter Kageyama, the author of "For the Love of Cities" and "Love Where You Live," was the keynote speaker at the Feb. 7 awards. Kageyama is an internationally sought-after community development consultant and grassroots engagement strategist who speaks all over the world about bottom-up community development and the people who are making it happen.

The awards are made possible through underwriting support from JPMorgan Chase, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida; Danis Construction, LLC; JEA; and The Jessie Ball duPont Fund.



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School counselors, principals honored for impact on students' futures

During National School Counseling Week Feb. 5-9, Duval County Public Schools administration thanked the more than 200 elementary, middle and high school counselors who have already delivered over 3,000 hours of career, social/emotional and academic lessons, helping students navigate the path of academic and personal success.

Honored Feb. 6 at the DCPS board meeting were five educators who made a difference for students in local schools.

Venetia Elementary School was recently named a Recognized ASCA Model Program by the American School Counselor Association because of the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program that had significant impact on improving attendance. Principal Monique Chatman and former School Counselor Na'Toria Campbell, now a district specialist submitted an application that

– among other items – information about the use of curriculum that supports the academic, career and social/emotional needs of students. Campbell's application specifically received praise for the small-group interventions that helped improve school attendance. Both Chatman and Campbell will be honored at ASCA's annual conference this July in Los Angeles.

Ruth Upson Elementary School Counselor Arianne Smith, credited with bolstering the school's gifted programming, is the 2017-2018 recipient of the Lucille C. Crysell Award. Originally created to honor Crysell, a pioneer in the school counseling profession, the award is presented to educators who are proven leaders known to implement school counseling programs that go above and beyond in serving students.

At Robert E. Lee High School, Principal Scott Schneider is the recipient of two



Monique Chatman, Na-Toria Campbell, Arianne Smith, Dr. Khristi Keefe-Bowens and Scott Schneider

school counseling awards – the 2017 School Counselor Advocate award from the Florida School Counselor Association and the Laurel Kaden Anderson Administrator Award. Both recognize Schneider's continued support of the school counseling staff and programs at Lee High School, including empowering the staff to implement a program that led to increases in graduation rates, scholarship dollars and college acceptances.

Also at Lee, School Counselor Dr. Khristi Keefe-Bowens was a nominee for the 2017 Florida's School Counselor of the Year Award. Committed to increasing scholarship opportunities each year, Dr. Keefe-Bowens' efforts have helped her students earn \$3.5 million dollars in scholarships. Lee seniors participated in Instant Decision Day, an event at several local high schools this past December. As a result, seniors in the district received \$18,367,456 in scholarship offers.

Morris appointed to Florida Independent Living Council

Governor Rick Scott announced the reappointment of one and the appointment of three to the Florida Independent Living Council, among them Avondale resident Tyler Morris.

Morris, 33, is the executive director for Independent Living Resource Center, the Jacksonville Center for Independent Living. He fills a vacant seat and is appointed for a term beginning January 24, 2018, and ending June 30, 2018.

Morris received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Florida, which honored him with the 2018 Young Alumni Achievement Award at its annual Alumni Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony Feb. 13.

Nicole Attong, of Miami, is the director for Florida International University, Embrace and was reappointed for a term



Tyler Morris

ending June 30, 2020. Deborah Dietz, of Coral Gables, is the executive director of Disability Independence Group, Inc. Her term ends June 30, 2019. Keli Mondello, of North Reddington Beach, is the co-founder and chairman of the board for LiFT Academy and LiFT University and her term ends June 30, 2020.

Land Trust rounds out executive team on board of directors



Dr. Ellen Williams



Trey Mills



Patrick Carney

Last month, Avondale resident Keith Holt was featured in *The Resident* (February 2018, page 18) as new North Florida Land Trust board chair. Joining Holt on the executive team for the board of directors is Dr. Ellen Williams, of San Pablo, as vice chair, Ortega resident Patrick Carney as treasurer and Trey Mills, also of Avondale, returning to his role as secretary. All four members will serve in the positions for a term of one year.

Williams serves as senior director of behavioral health at St. Vincent's Healthcare.

Carey is director of capital planning with CSX, and Mills is a shareholder with Rogers Towers where his practice is focused on environmental and land use law.

"Each of these members bring an essential asset to our board that will help to guide us to make the very best decisions for our mission and the environment," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "I look forward to working alongside them in their leadership roles as we continue to focus on preserving environmental sensitive lands throughout North Florida."

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Dr. Jacqueline West at the Feb. 2 Gator100 Awards Lunch

Local dentist named to Gator100

West Dentistry, owned and operated by Dr. Jacqueline West on 2301 Park St., was ranked No. 41 of the 100 fastest growing University of Florida alumni-led businesses, one of nine in Jacksonville named to the Gator100.

Supported by the UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the UF Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center, the Gator100 celebrates the fastest growing UF alumni-led businesses around the world. To generate the ranking, Ernst & Young calculated each company's compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) over the past three years.

To qualify for the Gator100, companies must have been in business for at least five years as of October 1, 2017, and have had variable annual revenues of \$250,000 or more in 2014.

Additionally, UF alumni had to meet at least one of the following criteria from Jan. 1, 2014, through Oct. 1, 2017: owned 50 percent or more of the company; served as company's chief executive, or founded the company and been active as a member of the most senior management team.

"It's such an honor to work for a business woman that is determined and passionate about providing the best dental care for her patients and the community," said Lisa Peery, West Dentistry scheduling coordinator.

The full list of Gator100 honorees can be viewed at gator100.ufl.edu.

Avondale residents elected to vestry at St. John's Cathedral



Bruce Barcelo



Martha Cox



Chris Haley



Colleen Haley



Tom Burrell

St. John's Cathedral held its annual meeting and elected four new members, three of whom live in Avondale, to the vestry, a church governing body. Chris Haley, Martha Cox and Bruce Barcelo, along with Tom Burrell of Orange Park, are among 13 members of the vestry.

Each vestry member serves a three-year term, with four members rotating off each year. Members may run for a second, consecutive term, but after serving six years the vestry member must step down.

Barcelo has served on the Cathedral's finance committee, facilitated strategic

planning retreats for the vestry, served as a member of the Bishop's committee on the oversight of Camp Weed, is a 25-year cursillista (a Christian lay leader), a past rector, and is actively involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry.

Cox, who is serving a second term, is a member of the Cathedral's properties committee, Discovery, Cursillo, Alpha, Kairos Outside (ministry for women who have a loved one in prison), Civil Discourse, Prison Ministry, and Youth Ministry.

Haley has served on the finance, GROW, and stewardship committees, and has also

supported and been involved with The Cathedral School, where his three children started their early learning experiences.

Burrell's first ministry at St. John's was the AIDS ministry, where he served as a Eucharistic minister, then became involved as an acolyte, Eucharistic minister, visiting Eucharistic minister and anointer, and also served for 16 years as one of the original vergers (a church officer who carries a rod before a bishop or dean as a symbol of office).

Colleen Haley, Chris Haley's wife, was also elected as an alternate delegate to the Diocesan Convention in 2019.

Conyers made honorary member of Vietnam Veterans Association

Ortega Forest resident Harrison Conyers was made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Vietnam Veterans Association, one of only four individuals so honored in the nation.

"Conyers' achievements and remarkable service reflect great credit upon himself, VVA Chapter 1046, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the U.S. Armed Forces, and the United States of America," said Bill Spann, director of Military Affairs and Veterans

Services for the City of Jacksonville. "It is our distinct honor to nominate Mr. Harrison Conyers for Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Vietnam Veterans of America."

Conyers, supervisor of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, was recognized Feb. 7 by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046 for "significantly improving and beneficially impacting the lives of countless veterans for the past 19 years."

grants to needy veterans to prevent eviction or utility cutoff. This program, funded by a local nonprofit organization, helps prevent from being made homeless or suffer utility cutoff in Florida's severe climate.

- Managing the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). This program, funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant, has placed hundreds of veterans in jobs during Conyers' tenure with the City of Jacksonville. Working in conjunction with area homeless coalition housing providers, HVRP helps develop and manage veterans' job search while also seeking the goal of long-term stable housing.
- Coordinating all aspects of annual veteran celebrations in Jacksonville, including Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Purple Heart Remembrance Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, seeking donations from area corporations and nonprofits to completely fund each of these special events.

Conyers' specific accomplishments include

- Supervising a team of state-certified Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) who process Veterans Affairs claims, letters of disagreement, and formal appeals for approximately 9,000 Jacksonville area veterans annually, resulting in more than \$25 million in new monies per year from the VA for these same veterans.
- Supervising a social services team which provides no-interest loans or



Tony D'Aleo, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046, affixes a pin to Harrison Conyers' lapel during a Feb. 7 ceremony.



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Bolles Associate Head named ninth Head of School

Associate Head of School Tyler Hodges was appointed the Bolles School's ninth president and Head of School by the Board of Trustees Feb. 5. Hodges takes over Bolles' top administrative post this summer from Dave Farace, who will leave at the end of the 2017-18 school year to become the Head of Baltimore-based McDonogh School, his alma mater.

"The Board has worked tirelessly during the past month to analyze all of the school's options for appointing our next Head of School," said C. Daniel Rice, Chair of the Bolles Board of Trustees. "Bolles is fortunate to have many skilled professionals in key leadership positions on all four campuses. We are also privileged to have an Associate Head of School in Tyler with the foresight, leadership skills and compassion that has already proven successful within our community."

Hodges said he is elated to begin his tenure as Bolles President and Head of School.

"I am honored to assume this role at Bolles and am grateful to the Trustees for providing me the opportunity to lead what is inarguably one of the foremost independent schools in the world," said Hodges, who has been working toward a Head of School position for many years.

As Bolles' Associate Head of School since July 2015, Hodges has been overseeing all day-to-day administration duties of faculty, curriculum and student academic affairs for students in Pre-K through Grade 12.

Hodges' educational career includes more than 18 years as a teacher and administrator at some of the country's top independent



Tyler Hodges

schools, including Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He received his Ed.M. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University Graduate School of Education and a Master of Arts in Diplomatic and Military History from Temple University. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia.

Local teacher judges grade school art exhibit



Although not a member of a Catholic parish, Riverside Presbyterian Day School art teacher Dale Child was honored to serve as sole judge of a seventh- and eighth-grade exhibit featuring artwork from 24 Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of St. Augustine. The Feb. 2 art exhibit was hosted by Bishop Kenny High School and its visual art teacher, Lauren Doran, and was followed by an awards ceremony. Child said she was "delighted to see many beautiful pieces exploring the use of different media and subject matter, and encourages all of the participants to continue creating." The diocesan schools include the area between Fernandina and Palm Coast and west to Gainesville and Lake City.

LaBlond installed as NEFAR officer

Avondale resident Clark LaBlond was one of four new officers installed at The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). LaBlond, Director of Career Development with Coldwell Bank Vanguard Realty in the Shoppes of Avondale, was installed as secretary for the association. He brings nearly 20 years' experience in real estate to the table, including past president for Northeast Florida MLS. He is also a founding member of Friends of Jacksonville Animals (FOJA) and frequently hosts adoption events at the real estate office.

LaBlond is joined on the NEFAR officer team by Charles "Ben" Bates (Coldwell Banker Ben Bates), president; Jeannie Denton-Scheck (Davidson Realty); president-elect, and Ron Harris (Harris Realty Partners), treasurer.



Clark LaBlond



Ron Harris



Jeannie Denton-Scheck



Charles "Ben" Bates

Two Avondale men to serve on ImpactJAX board

Two Avondale residents are among the JAX Chamber's 2018 ImpactJAX Board of Directors. Jonathan J. Cagan, Cagan & Cagan Law Firm, will serve as At-Large Board Member, and Adam Edgecombe, Jimerson and Cobb, as Community Engagement Chair.

Ashley Rogan, a Civics and World History teacher for River City Science Academy, will lead the board as Chair in 2018. Other members include Mike Belle, Catholic Charities Bureau, Service and Giving Chair; Lauren G. Braddock Alcorn, SERVPRO of Mandarin, the Beaches/Ponte Vedra, and St. Augustine, Chair-Elect; Elizabeth Feustel, Jacksonville Civic Council, At-Large Board Member; Chadwick Harris, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Professional Development Chair; Thomas D. Lee, IV, Lee & Cates Glass Inc., Immediate Past Chair, and



Jonathan Cagan



Adam Edgecombe

Richard B. Naylor, Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation, Public Policy Chair.

ImpactJAX is the young professionals organization of the JAX Chamber and the premier venue for Jacksonville's next generation of leaders to connect with each other and the community. Mike Hightower, who as JAX Chamber Chair in 2009 helped launch ImpactJAX.



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Former CEO praises employees for UF Health's success

After spending decades making an impact in academic health center and medical school administration, Russ Armistead may be forgiven for looking at retirement as a job.

"Retirement is like a new career, so I plan to stay busy," said Armistead, who retired Dec. 31, 2017, after serving as chief executive officer for UF Health since 2013. "I promised my wife, Susan, I would not get busy doing some kind of work, like consulting or something with a significant time commitment, for six to 12 months."

Armistead had retired once before, in 2000, then started a consulting firm before accepting a position in 2004 as associate vice president for finance and planning for the University of Florida Health Science Center in Gainesville and Jacksonville. In 2013 he was named CEO for what was then called Shands Jacksonville.

In addition to travel plans here and abroad in Normandy, France and in Ireland, Armistead and his wife intend to spend part of the year in North Carolina in order to be involved in their grandson's and granddaughter's activities.

He also will continue to be involved in philanthropic activities in Jacksonville. "I will be active in organizations that can use my background and have a need," said Armistead. "Having done this 'retirement thing' before, I know your time can become consumed quickly, so I will select carefully."



Russ Armistead

Recalling some of his accomplishments during the past five years as CEO, including the May 2017 opening of UF Health North, Armistead spoke highly of the UF Health employees and staff.

"I loved the people at UF Health Jacksonville and going to work every day was a privilege," said the Southbank resident. "Employee engagement is not only as measured by surveys, but by developing two-way trust with each individual. It takes time and you can't fake it. I truly enjoyed the interaction with the dedicated people at UF Health."

Armistead would take lunch in the cafeteria so he could talk to people who would not necessarily visit his office, and would perform "rounds" on the floors weekly, especially in the emergency department. "I could see and hear what was going on, so I could understand the important issues of the day," he said.

His successor confirmed Armistead's ability to relate well with people.

"Russ did so much for this organization that's it hard to pick out one thing in particular, but for me it was the way he respected and treated every employee here and made them realize they're a part of our success," said Leon L. Haley Jr., M.D., now the CEO and dean of UF Health Jacksonville. "I was honored to work with Russ, even for a short time, and will always admire his genuineness, his ability and thoughtfulness to problem solving and his willingness to work with other leaders, both in the city and the state, to improve UF Health."

Armistead cherished "being a member of an organization that is driven by a desire to provide care to anyone in need." During his tenure of leadership with the major Northeast Florida medical center, UF Health continued to receive Magnet recognition, the most prestigious national distinction for excellence awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

His parting advice for Haley underlined his passion for people.

"Always remember that the hospital is a 'people' business providing compassionate care. Physicians, nursing, pharmacists, technical and support staff are all people and they must trust that you not only care, but will make decisions that are best for the entire organization," Armistead said. "Be yourself, speak to everyone you meet and do something that makes work life better. Besides being CEO, you are responsible for their professional lives. Talk to them, trust them and they will trust you back."

"He respected and treated every employee here and made them realize they're a part of our success."

— Leon L. Haley Jr., M.D., CEO and dean of UF Health Jacksonville



Jim Draper (Photo by laird/blac palm, inc.)

'Feast of Flowers' artist, educator honored with award

The recipient of the third Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award winner is Jim Draper, a local artist primarily known for his depictions of flora and fauna in Florida habitats.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly

(now the Cultural Council) and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, among others. The award was presented at a private reception this week.

Draper is Instructor of Painting and Drawing at the University of North Florida and Curator of UNF Galleries. His best-known works include the recent Feast of Flowers exhibition at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, the Ribbon of Life environmental painting at Baptist Medical Center and his Healing Palms series. He's created several public art installations

including the glass enclosure of etched palms at Jacksonville International Airport. His current work includes Full Immersion, a serial program that explores ways in which the natural order informs structures and behaviors of the human experience, and The Ditch, which he describes as a visual reconciliation of the disturbed landscape.

In addition to being a long-practicing artist, educator, and curator, Draper is also a lecturer and a writer. He was recently awarded the Fellow Man and Mother Earth award from the Stetson Kennedy Foundation.

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Baptist Health recognizes two nurses as Schrank Scholars

Registered nurses Ciara Flowers, BSN, RN and Nathan Heathcoat, BSN, RN were presented with the Schrank Scholar Award, which recognizes nurses at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville who have shown outstanding achievement in the realm of cardiology.

For the first time in the award's three-year history it recognized two nurses instead of one. The Schrank Scholar Award began in 2015 in recognition of Joel Schrank, MD, who practiced in Jacksonville for more than 40 years and is considered among the top cardiologists in the region, along with his colleagues at Baptist Heart Specialists.

"These two are some of the best examples of people who need recognition and support – what they've already accomplished and how quickly they learn," said Dr. Schrank, a San Marco resident. "It's a real honor for me to see them get this award."

Flowers, who has been an RN with a focus in cardiac intensive care since 2010, was selected as nurse manager for the newly developed Clinical Decision Unit at Baptist Health. She's played an integral part in developing and instituting the unit, which focuses on patients with cardiac-related diseases. She has also served as chair for the Baptist Shared Governance Committee, and was awarded the Clinical Award for Student Nurse Excellence. Highly respected by all members of the medical and clinical staff, Flowers has built a strong, cohesive



Ciara Flowers and Nathan Heathcoat

"These two are some of the best examples of people who need recognition and support."

— Dr. Schrank

team that strives to deliver exceptional care to every patient.

Heathcoat started his career at Baptist Health in 2011 as a volunteer. He then transitioned to working as a transporter. In 2014, Heathcoat became a CNA, caring for patients in that role for approximately a year. After acquiring his bachelor's degree in nursing, Heathcoat began work as a RN at the Baptist Heart Hospital in June 2015. This past December, Heathcoat was presented with the Daisy Award in recognition of his extraordinary care and compassion provided to patients. In January 2018 he was promoted to assistant nurse manager, and he continues to pursue his dreams of furthering his education in the medical arena.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices honors 2017 top producers



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty honored its top producers with a celebration unlike any other at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Amid an outpouring of glitter, glamour and glitz, the exclusive gala honored the company's elite Realtors who achieved extraordinary success in 2017.

"We congratulate our award-winning associates, who are the best of the best, on their tremendous accomplishments," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer.

The festivities honored more than 80 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices sales associates and their guests from the company's branch offices throughout Northeast

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty honored its top producers from the Avondale/San Marco offices at the company's Glitz and Glitter Gala: Leighton Tesche, Josh Cohen, Josh Nugent, Allison Steilberg, Julia Fattahi, Sarah Leuthold, Linda Maxwell, Christy Budnick, Lisa Ly Nguyen and Terri Rigdon.

Florida. Dressed in stylish and sophisticated attire with plenty of bling, the company's real estate associates enjoyed a sparkling celebration featuring gourmet cuisine, libations and entertainment.

"Our company is comprised of incredibly talented, passionate and successful agents, for whom we are most grateful," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "It is because of their contributions our company is the market leader in Northeast Florida."

Local real estate office welcomes two new associates

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has added two new Realtors to its Avondale office – Nicole Olipas and Russell Russ

After a career in customer service, Olipas began her real estate career as a personal assistant for Julia Fattahi, a Realtor in the same office, before obtaining her own license.

Russ worked as a Firefighter/EMT/Hazmat Tech with NAS Jax Fire Department for 17 years before going into real estate. In addition, Russ served in the United States Marine Corps for four years.



Russell Russ



Nicole Olipas

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Bonnie Thomas, Katie Baumgardner, Autumn Sherfy, Chelsea Sherfy, Adrian Smith, Selena Czerwin and Magean Lyons were among the first to step inside the new Tropical Smoothie Café after waiting nearly seven hours.

Tropical Smoothie Café opens location in Venetia area

Tropical Smoothie Café opened its doors Feb. 23 at its newest location, 5895 Roosevelt Blvd., to a line of customers who had queued up at 12:30 a.m.

The first 50 people in line received a free 24 oz. smoothie every week for a year and included Bonnie Thomas and Katie Baumgardner, who were the first two in line. They lined up with a group of co-workers shortly after midnight to make sure they would be one of the 50 who received 52 free smoothies.

“We work next door at Tijuana Flats and have been watching the construction going on for a while,” said Baumgardner. “The Tropical Smoothie crews were bringing us smoothies as they went through training and told us about the chance to line up for free smoothies, so we decided to do it together. We spent the night playing cards and sleeping a little on the concrete.”

About 70 other people were lined up behind them in anticipation of the grand opening. Tropical Smoothie Café crews passed out samples to the crowd as they waited for the doors to open.

“This café was the first built from the ground up and a prototype for the company, who plans to use this design for new cafés around the country. The changes include new awning designs and new colors and we are excited to be able to roll this out,” said Nick Crouch, co-CEO of DYNE Hospitality, which owns and operates this new Tropical Smoothie Café.

Tropical Smoothie Café is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, and includes drive-thru service, delivery and catering.

Custom builder offers new homes in Riverside

Prospective buyers seeking to live in Riverside now have the option of purchasing a new home with a historic feel.

John Merrill Homes LLC, a custom builder, is offering 23 new homes over two locations in Riverside. Spear heading the development is Adam Merrill, owner of John Merrill Homes, and his partner, Pike Hall IV, director of sales and marketing.

The larger of the two developments is located at the end of Green Street, where 17 new homes are being constructed using

four unique floor plans. Buyers in the Green Street development will automatically join a small homeowner’s association where the monthly fee will cover lawn maintenance for the entire Green Street development.

The second development will consist of six single-family homes on Ernest Street, within walking distance Stockton Street’s small commercial district.

The model home for both developments will be located at 2843 Green Street and is slated to open in March.



Adam Merrill and Pike Hall IV of John Merrill Homes

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Art patrons treated like royalty at restoration benefit

Almost as magnificent as the British art in the Cummer Museum of Art and Garden's galleries inside and the English Garden outside, the British Invasion on Feb. 15 was a "jolly good evening" for the 175 guests who mingled with British "royalty" and enjoyed the pub crawl-style evening, all for a good cause.

Beatles tribute band Liverpool Live, palace guards and two classic British roadsters helped complete the authenticity of the evening. Cam Anderson's 1965 Triumph TR-4A and Barry Northway's 1968 Triumph TR-250 were on loan for the evening on the front lawn.

"I've owned the car since 1981 and my wife and I were married in 1987. We left



Kenyon and John Merritt with Julie Pope

our wedding in that car!" said Anderson, a State Farm insurance agent.

British Invasion was the second of three dinners in the Inspired Palates Dinner Series, with Lory Doolittle as English Dinner Partner and David and Elaine Strickland as Dinner Underwriters. Proceeds will help restore the gardens, which suffered damage from Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The last event, a New York Dinner Party, will be held Mar. 15.



Pattie Houlihan and Richard Skinner



Tom and Stephanie Welchans

Annual gala, golf gig support nonprofits who serve those on autism spectrum

The HEAL Foundation (Helping Enrich Autistic Lives) hosted its annual gala Feb. 22 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, followed by Bobby Weed's Golf Gig on Feb. 23 on Dye's Valley Course. After the scramble, an awards lunch was served in the clubhouse.

The gala featured world-renowned performance painter David Garibaldi, and dancing to the music of The 7 Street Band. A live auction included a South Africa photo safari for two, a four-night stay for

two at Belize Thatch Caye Private Island Resort, and a Banfi wine dinner for 12 at TPC Sawgrass.

HEAL has granted over \$2 million locally since its beginnings, and in 2016 began iHEAL, a program to put iPads into Exceptional Student Education (ESE) classrooms. Proceeds from the gala will go towards purchasing iPads and funding grants to programs and organizations who support individuals and families living with autism in Northeast Florida.



Deanna Thornton and Robert Lombardo



HEAL Board of Directors members Chriss Spires, Rebekah Gleason Hope and Larry Celzo



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Young lawyers charity chili cookoff bigger, better than ever

The 2018 Charity Chili Cook-Off hosted by the Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (YLS) was the biggest ever, with 49 chili teams vying for prizes.

The YLS brought chili, charity and community together Feb. 17 at the Riverside Arts Market (RAM), raising approximately \$10,000 to benefit Rethreaded, which fights human trafficking and supports survivors of the sex trade on a local and global level, by providing a safe, supportive work environment for survivors to earn money, forge business skills and create beautiful artisan items for sale.

Local state and federal judges selected winners of the cook-off, including Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball, P.A. (spiciest); Coker, Schnickel, Sorenson, Posgay & Iracki (meatiest and best overall); Lewis Longman Walker (most original); Liles Gavin, P.A. (best fixins'); Moseley Prichard Parrish Knight & Jones (best cornbread); Kubicki Draper (most spirited); and McGuireWoods LLP (crowd favorite).



Dan and Katie Dearing, who is running for Circuit Judge



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Children's Champion Awards honors distinguished pediatrician, former mayor, former sheriff

Established in 2006 by Episcopal Children's Services to recognize individuals and organizations who work passionately on behalf of children in order to help elevate their welfare to the highest priority in the community, the 12th annual Children's Champion Awards gala was held Feb. 22 at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel.

The 2018 honorees included John A. Delaney, president, University of North Florida; Dr. Nathaniel Glover, president, Edward Waters College; Dr. Richard G. Skinner, Jr., retired pediatrician, and Corporate Honoree Florida Blue, represented by North Florida Market President Darnell Smith.



Children's Champion Award Honorees Dr. Richard Skinner and former mayor John Delaney



Michael and Linda Lanier with Penny Thompson, Dr. Leon Haley, UF Health CEO

Gala hails heroes on both sides of operating table

Started in 2008 by a few dedicated volunteers with the goal of supporting the men and women at UF Health TraumaOne, A Night for Heroes has grown into a dynamic group of volunteers who give their time and energy to raising awareness and support for the trauma program at UF Health Jacksonville.

The 2018 black-tie optional gala began with a cocktail reception, and included a silent auction emceed by Senator Aaron Bean, dinner, music by D'Land Entertainment, dancing and casino games.



Bobbie Gittings, Dr. Joe Tepas and Jean Tepas



Karen and Matt Worsham



Andy and Betsy Ponte with Virginia Hall and Mark Scruby



Chris and Kristina Greco with Jan and Lou Walsh



Sarah and Jonathan Helms with Beth and Chris Kane



Dr. Sonia Sharma and Ashwin Sharma with Ann Kramarich and Dr. Scott Kramarich, Dr. Anika Comar and Dr. Kevin Comar, Catherine Chung and Dr. Fadi Chaloub



Carter and Cheryl Bryan, Theresa and Ed Varnes with Kathy and Tom VanOsdol, President/CEO St. Vincent's HealthCare

Love for St. Vincent's mission always in the air

The 37th Annual Red Rose Ball, themed "For the Love of the Rose," was hosted by St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation Feb. 16 at the Jacksonville Marriott at Southpoint.

The black-tie affair featured cocktails, dinner and dancing, as well as a silent auction and a live auction. Co-chairs for the event were Sonnie Kim-Ashchi, M.D. and Majdi Ashchi, D.O, Seana and Matthew McAfee, and Tracy and David Williams.

This year, the proceeds will benefit Ascension St. Vincent's women and children programs. The funds will support equipment

like The Panda Warmer, a multi-functional infant bed used when temperature is a critical concern.

"The Red Rose Ball is a wonderful event which helps us fulfill our Mission to provide compassionate care to all people in our community, no matter where they are in life," said St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation President, Jane R. Lanier, CFRE. "Each year, our sponsors and patrons help us raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for programs that help make our community healthier for all."



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Chase and Morrie Zimmerman with Mark Emas, Charles and Elli Zimmerman and Holly Emas



David Stein with his daughter Tracey Westbrook



Ninoska Zucconi, Alex and Diana Radi, Linda Granfield and Karl Zucconi



Jason Rosen with Dena, Ellen and Barry Setzer



John and Kathryn Peyton



Rabbi Yaakov Fisch with Harry Frisch



Daniel Miller with Nicole Brown and Dr. Andy Brown



Robert and Penny Ellison with Simon and Judy Garwood



Eleanor and Wilford Lynn with Martha Jane Harris

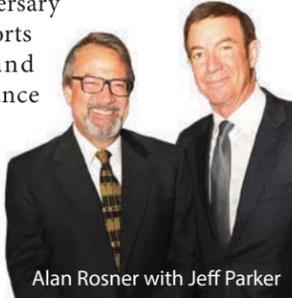
Honoring the past, recognizing the present, securing the future

Three decades ago, visionary community leaders took a bold step to establish a common meeting ground for the entire community. Now the Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is celebrating its 30th year of enriching lives in the community through unparalleled programs and services, by taking a look at its past, recognizing the present, and securing the future for generations to come.

"Past, Present, Future" was the theme of the 30th anniversary gala for the JCA. Honorary chairs for the event held Feb. 24

at the Alliance, 8505 San Jose Blvd., were David Stein, Howard Korman and Jeff Parker.

In addition to the gala, the JCA 30th Anniversary Campaign supports scholarships and financial assistance for preschool, after-school and summer camp tuitions.



Alan Rosner with Jeff Parker

A Gatsby-style affair rolled out for Epping's 30th

It was an evening to remember at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club, as founding members mingled with fresh faces in membership in celebration of the club's founding. The Gate Hospitality group rolled out a Great Gatsby-styled affair Feb. 24 to welcome attendees with sophistication and flair to the mansion on the river.

Music, fine food and good company engaged the evening's patrons, as they danced the night away in tents adorned beautifully with period décor and design. The grand gala affair commemorates the club's founding back in 1988. The club is now part of the Gate Hospitality portfolio of the Landmark Clubs of North Florida, which include the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, the Lodge & Club, and the River Club, as well as Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club.



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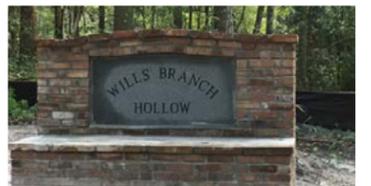
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Event plans for Celebrity Chefs in home stretch

The Salvation Army's Women's Auxiliary is on the countdown to the 32nd annual Celebrity Chefs fundraiser, to be held Thursday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

The women met at the Fort George home of Rita Cannon Feb. 26 to finalize the program for the annual event which features local celebrities dishing up tastes of their favorite recipes, as well as an extensive silent auction to raise money for the programs of The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida. This year, Jacksonville's educators will be the featured chefs.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and include admission to the tasting and silent auction, as well as a cookbook containing the recipes featured at the tasting. Parking for this event is free.



Rita Cannon and Mary Love Strum



Melina Buncome with Linda White and Carla Bourg

'Justice for girls' center celebrates five years making a difference

The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center celebrated its fifth birthday Jan. 31 with a celebration at the Jessie Ball duPont Center, where the Policy Center has offices, but the story really began nearly 20 years ago.

When statewide programming for girls in Florida's juvenile justice system faced threat of elimination from the state budget in the late 1990s, Dr. Lawanda Ravoira partnered with Roy Miller, president and founder of The Children's Campaign, to launch a focused reform initiative for justice-involved girls and young women.

Several early key efforts by Ravoira and Miller included the publication of two of the largest research studies specific to girls ever conducted in the country, funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund; Florida becoming the second state in the country to pass legislation requiring gender-specific services in the juvenile justice system the creation of the Juvenile Justice Blueprint Commission; the Women's Giving Alliance underwrote an initiative to help transform Duval County and Northeast Florida into a national model for effectively addressing the multiplicity of girls' needs in the justice system; private funding from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to open a National Center for Girls and Young Women, and then in 2012, Delores Barr Weaver supported a request to open the Policy Center.

"With all the accomplishments, what matters the most is that our community has truly opened its heart to make a difference for girls and young women who are impacted by the justice system," said Ravoira, president and CEO of the Policy Center.



Trish Meili, Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, Vicky Basra



Delores Barr Weaver, The Rev. Canon J. Allison DeFoor, Randy DeFoor

"The Policy Center has gained unbelievable credibility in the community and is participating in Tallahassee on policy issues, but we're also helping individuals," said John Taylor, board member.

"As I reflect over the past five years, what I'm most proud of is that we have served eighteen hundred girls and young women, and we've seen a very different future for them, thanks to the incredible support of the people who are here at this celebration today," Ravoira said. "Of course, it wouldn't be possible without Delores Barr Weaver, who was the first to believe in the idea of having a policy center that would focus on girls in the justice system. It is her incredible generosity that's really made this possible."



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Perfect weather draws crowds to 5th Annual Rotary Craft Beer Fest



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Kristen Hill and Ryan Gorham with Beau Leclair



Jason Rose with three generations of Martins: David Martin, daughter Claire Martin Smith, grandson Wayne, David Smith, son-in-law

The Riverside Rotary Club hosted the 5th annual Riverside Craft Beer Festival in the Riverside Arts Market space under the Fuller Warren Bridge Feb. 24, tapping beer from 93 brewery partners across the country, including some local breweries which haven't yet officially opened, such as Fishweir Brewery and Legacy Ale Works.

A one-hour VIP admission gave guests access to specialty, limited quantity brews. Food was provided by 10 food trucks and live music by Grandpa's Cough Medicine, a crowd-pleasing favorite.

The popular event benefited Community PedsCare® for the third year in a row. So

far, over the past two years, the Rotarians have presented \$175,000 to PedsCare, a Community Hospice & Palliative Care program for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

"Our goal is to have raised \$125,000 this year, which is very doable based on the preliminary figures. I feel confident in saying that we had at least 2,500 attendees this year," said Chris Croft, president of North Florida Plumbing, and a member of the Rotary Club.

The club also plans to donate a portion to Riverside Arts Market and to other charitable causes supported by the Riverside Rotary Foundation.

Fans, furs, and feathers fill ballroom for Equality Masquerade Gala

A masquerade ball was the theme for the annual Greater Jacksonville Equality Gala, held Feb. 3 at the Florida Yacht Club. The event celebrated Equality Florida's 20th birthday and honored three City of Jacksonville Councilmen – Jim Love, Aaron Bowman and Tommy Hazouri – for co-sponsoring the Human Rights Ordinance passed Feb. 14, 2017.

After speeches given by Gala Chair Patrick Douglas and Chris Altamore, representative for Presenting Sponsor PNC Bank, and by Equality Florida co-founder and Deputy Director Stratton Pollitzer, who gave a "state of the union," the councilmen were presented with awards and hand-painted portraits.

"I'd like to thank my fellow councilmen, Tommy Hazouri and Aaron Bowman. It just makes it a lot simpler when you have friends helping you do the good fight. It was a tough fight, but with them behind me, it made it a lot easier," said District 14 Councilman Jim Love, in whose district the event took place. "I was so proud to co-sponsor this extremely important bill, that will remain as the most important legislation that we have voted on."

"Equality is the essence of the American spirit. That includes equality regardless of one's gender identity or sexual partners. After the passage of the HR bill Jacksonville will no longer be considered by outsiders as a backwards or bigoted city. Our city can now move forward and reach her full potential. I'm very excited about the future of Jacksonville and will do everything I can to ensure all its citizens will be treated fairly and equally," Love concluded.

The gala, which raised \$155,000, was attended by 400 mostly masked guests, who enjoyed live music by the Chris Thomas Band, a silent auction, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and full open bars.



Mary Robinson, Marini Hodgini, Ginny Swartz, Rosan Larizza



Joshua French, Marykate Wihnyk and Steven Foster



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

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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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Riverside artist's first local exhibit shows beauty found in trash

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

The adage about one person's trash being another's treasure is a word to live by for Riverside resident and artist Lana Shuttleworth. "Nature Reconstructed," her new exhibit which opened at The Beaches Museum and History Park and runs through June 3 is, according to viewers who attended the Feb. 9 opening, "mind blowing," "fabulous," and "amazing."

"I am in love with her artwork. There is nothing like it," said Susan Stuart. "She's passionate about the environment and her work reminds people that discards can be recycled into something beautiful."

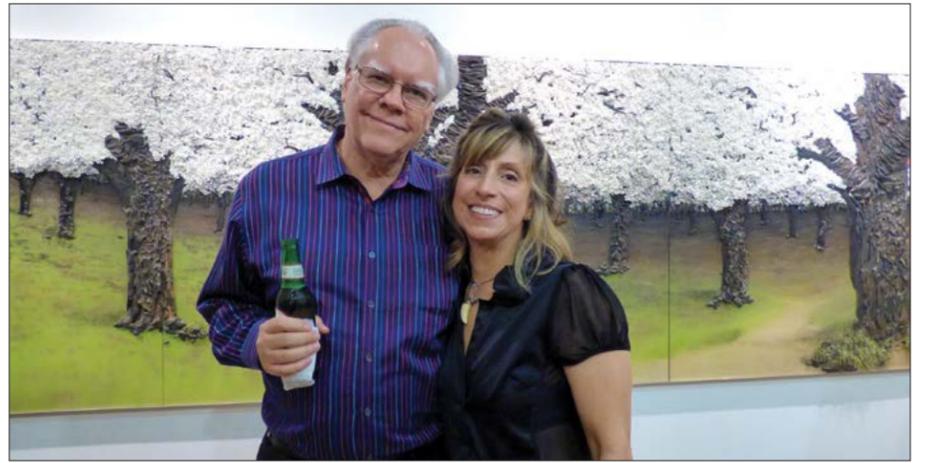
Considering that the wall constructions are created from thousands of carefully carved and arranged pieces of discarded

traffic cones, neither descriptions nor photographs do justice to the vibrant, intricate, tactile compositions.

"Safety cones are a man-made form but are produced from petroleum which comes from deep beneath the earth," explained Shuttleworth. "It is exciting to me to recycle something; use it not as it was intended but to create something beautiful."

In "Nature Reconstructed," she has turned cones, spray paint, shopping bags, coffee grounds, all sorts of cast-offs into dynamic visual impressionistic mosaics. Well-respected in the arts community, Shuttleworth has had several one-woman exhibits in Los Angeles, but found herself competing and trying to shine in a huge market of artists.

About her first one-woman show in her hometown, the former Lakewood resident said, "It was exciting to see so many people.



Architect Michael Dunlap with artist Lana Shuttleworth in front of her creation "Sakura."

Several of my former classmates from Bishop Kenny were there and a friend from my days at FSU. A woman came up to me right away and said she had purchased a piece.

"It means a lot to an artist that others see value in their work. At this exhibit I was competing with myself. I wanted to show my friends what I can do and bring a high caliber of art to Jacksonville. The past two

months of preparation have been grueling. I worked so hard for everything to be perfect," she said.

Her favorite recent pieces are "Pearls of Wisdom," tiny 4-by-4-inch sculptures of acclaimed architectural homes in Jacksonville, which emulate Japanese and Chinese ivory carvings, only made from recyclable materials.

Longtime social group spoof political climate at annual ball

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Ye Mystic Revellers 92nd Pageant and Coronation Ball celebrated Mardi Gras at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds Feb. 2. This year's theme, "Make Revellers Great Again," focused on having a friendly laugh at the expense of people on both sides of the political aisle.

Major Bobby Siddell of the United States Army Reserves presented the colors to a stirring rendition of the National Anthem



Dr. Robert Van Cleve and George Martin, 2018 Revellers' King

by Rivertown Band member Jatarra Presley, who recently auditioned for American Idol.

Among the skits were the Wild Cards Krewe "Occupy...Our Parents' Basements" and Ye Krewe of Satyrs of Dionysus spoof of Bernie Sanders, "Bernin" Down the House."

Attendees reveled in a parade of past Captains led by Ye Jester Henry D. Rogers and the presentation of the court. The reigning monarchs David D. Bassett and Sara Caroline Parsons passed their crowns to King George Martin (Past Captain 2008) and Queen Laurel Lee.

Captain Trey Martin and his lady, Christie, presided over the festivities with panache. Martin has been involved in the Ball since childhood, first serving as a page, then as a board member in adulthood.

"This year was big family involvement," said Martin. "I was Captain, Dad was King, our daughters, Allie and Peyton, our niece, Audrey Boyd, nephew, Charles Boyd V – all of them great-grandchildren

of 1978 King Charles Boyd, Jr. – were part of the pageant."

In a Saturday Night Live-worthy video tie-in of the skits which he, Alan Weldon, Robert Van Cleve, Stockton Eller, Thompy Taylor and Jason Wilson wrote, Martin sported a Donald Trump look-alike wig, then later exhibited another talent playing drums with the band on one selection.

With the cry "Revellers, Let's Revell!" this organization of jokers, which was originally limited to 53 members to represent a deck of cards, took the charge seriously. The organization has grown to include over 200 members and all present agreed there are no worries about making Revellers Ball great again – it's always great.

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Do Something

Each year, the American Red Cross responds to over 60,000 disasters and brings help where it is needed. You can be a part of that incredible effort right in your own community.

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

While disasters such as recent Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, tornadoes and wildfires often bring the work of the American Red Cross to the forefront, this vital organization does so much more on a daily basis to assist those who need a helping hand. Whether supplying shelter to local families after a house fire, supporting military families, giving international aid, collecting blood donations or offering life-saving training and certification such as CPR, the American Red Cross comes through.

Here's what you can do to be a part of that incredible effort:

- Serve in a leadership role on the American Red Cross Board, assisting with volunteer recruitment, placement or recordkeeping.
- Be a part of the American Red Cross Disaster Services or Disaster Action team and help provide food, shelter, comfort and a home for families after a major disaster.
- Become a CPR, first aid or water safety instructor.
- Help military members and their families, or stock warehouse supplies, do inventory or provide clerical support at the American Red Cross offices.

There are even American Red Cross volunteer opportunities overseas. For more information, visit redcross.org or contact the local American Red Cross office at (904) 358-8091.

In March 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt declared the first "American Red Cross Month" after the organization proved to be invaluable during both World War I and World War II. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month this month, let's someone who stepped up to "do something."



Dennis Adams Did Something

Soon after retiring from Allstate Benefits as an officer in the company's sales division, Dennis Adams found himself behind the wheel of an American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV). Now, seven years later, Adams is still a volunteer ERV driver and works alongside Red Cross staff to coordinate with emergency management professionals in 35 countries across North Florida.

Adams' volunteer role is critical to ensuring the American Red Cross is able to do its work in the event of disasters such as single family fires, wildfires, floods or any disaster that would require shelter, food, medical treatment, and mental health counseling or spiritual care. In addition, Adams also conducts training for volunteers through several American Red Cross courses.

For Adams, serving those through the American Red Cross during a time of crisis, is his biggest motivation to do something for others.

"What motivates me is to help people at a time of great need and to do everything I can to prepare so we can carry out the Red Cross mission "to alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors," Adams said.

"Working with a great team of like-minded volunteers and staff, collaborating with various government agencies and non-profit agencies to plan, train and exercise so we can perform that mission to the best of our ability is the best part of my volunteer work," said Adams.



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New preservation board chair loves her historic neighborhood

BY KATE A. HALLOCK, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Who's your neighbor?
Midwest native Nancy Powell grew up in an 1888 Victorian home.

Although having lived in one historic home or another for nearly all her life is not a criteria for Riverside Avondale Preservation board membership, it doesn't hurt that new board chair Nancy Powell developed a deep appreciation for historic structures from any early age and loves living most of her adult life in a home built in 1928 in historic Avondale.

Q. You grew up in the Midwest. When did you move to Jacksonville and where were you in between historic homes?

A. I grew up in Hinsdale, a historic town outside Chicago, in an 1888 Victorian house which was torn down in 2015. I spent my post-college life in historic cities such as Providence, Rhode Island, Boston and Charlottesville. Ted and I moved to Jacksonville in 1990 from New York City, and first lived out at the beach, then we found a wonderful 1928 brick home on Challen Avenue, a few homes up from the St. Johns River, and are still here 27 years later. The home had been renovated prior to our arrival, but now that our three children are (finally!) educated and in their mid-20s, we are hoping to do some more substantial updating.

Q. You have a Bachelor of Arts in comparative literature from Brown University and an MBA from The Darden School at the University of Virginia. Where did those degrees take you?

A. My early career was in corporate marketing with large companies such as American Express, AT&T Universal Card, and MediaOne (now Comcast). Then from 2007 to 2017, I was vice president of operations and marketing for

Stop At Nothing, a leadership consulting firm in Jacksonville Beach. I have begun project-based consulting and am very happy not to be commuting to the beach along Butler Boulevard, and to engage more here in Riverside, Avondale and the Downtown Core.

Q. How and when did you first get involved with Riverside Avondale Preservation?

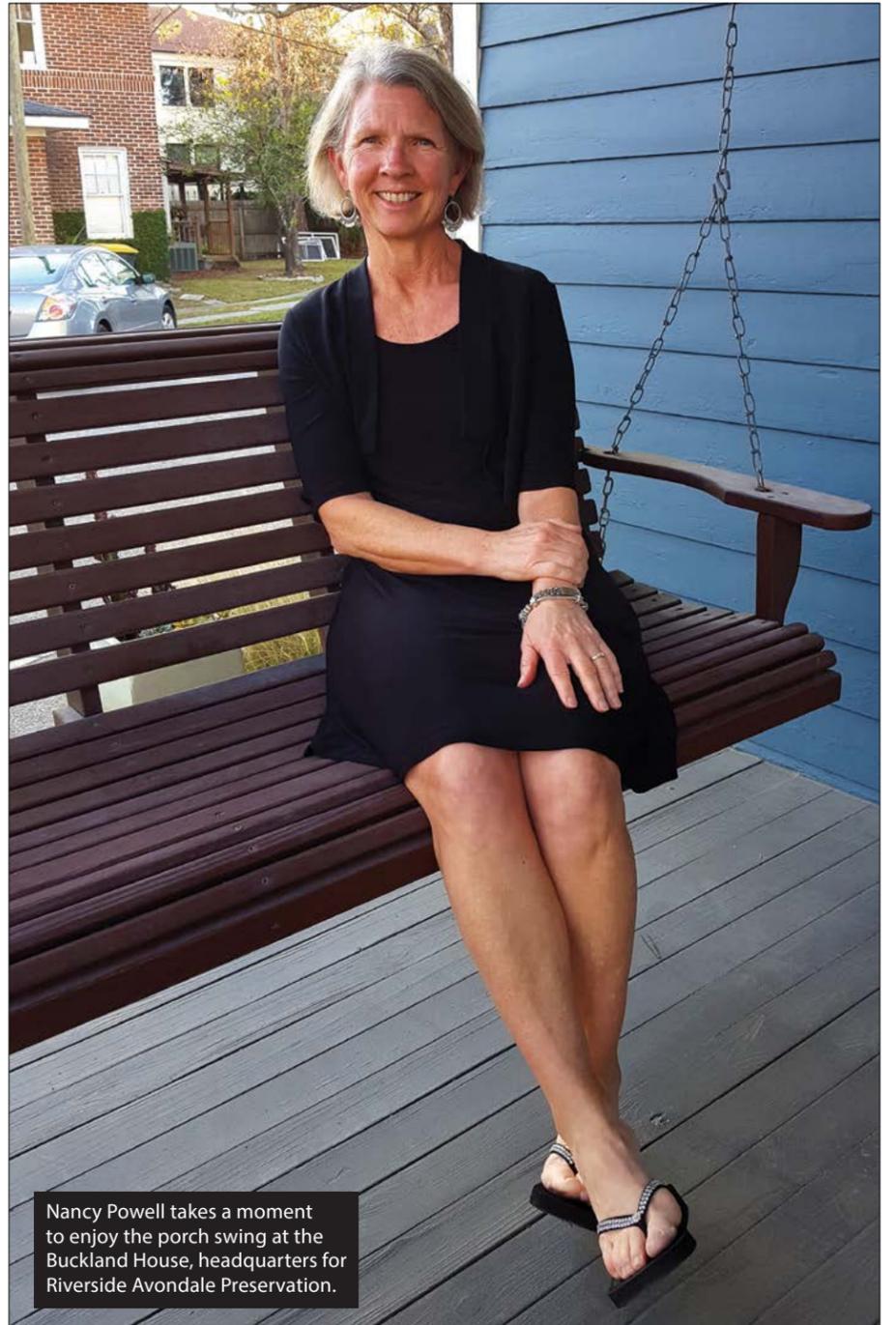
A. I always appreciated the Historic District, but was busy working, raising kids and volunteering with schools and sports, so I did not become involved with RAP until 2014. I had attended some of the community meetings around the large projects, and had been impressed with how RAP sought in a professional way to balance the interests of the residents and businesses. When Doug Coleman tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I'd like to nominate you for the board," I agreed.

Q. What are some of your priorities as new RAP board chair?

A. Obviously, our first goal as a board is to hire a new executive director. We will also finish our strategic plan, and will continue to find ways to celebrate our neighborhood with programs such as Riverside Arts Market, First Fridays, Home Tour and Luminaria. I am committed to more frequent dialogue and communication, and to provide the community opportunities for education on topics of interest. Finally, we will encourage continued grass roots innovation and engagement. RAP cannot and does not do everything; our neighborhood is the result of many people in different places caring and stepping up to make a positive difference.

Q. Where might readers run into you in the neighborhood?

A. In our spare time, Ted and I love to walk and bike the neighborhood, go to Riverside Arts Market on a Saturday, meet friends for coffee or dinner, play tennis, and make plans to do some renovations to our house (which has a long-standing wish list.)



Nancy Powell takes a moment to enjoy the porch swing at the Buckland House, headquarters for Riverside Avondale Preservation.



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THE WAY WE WERE : HANK BONAR

By Karen J. Riele
Resident Community News

Henry Bascom (Hank) Bonar II grew up on a lake in Tampa and loved all that the water had to offer – boating, fishing, skiing and even duck hunting – so the opportunity to buy a house on the St. Johns River was one he couldn't pass up. When his friend, Francis Langel, who worked at the time for the now defunct Stockton, Whatley, Davin & Company, urged him to buy Langel's mother's home on Morven Road, Hank examined his finances, worked up a budget and decided to buy it.

That was in 1975, the same year he opened his own business. "My first wife, Barbara, thought I was crazy," Hank said. Hank himself thought he might be able to afford the house for maybe a year. Hank acknowledges that his timing was a little suspect, given that the country was still feeling the negative effects of the 1973-75 Recession.

"I guess I'm kind of the dean of Morven Road at this point," said Hank, who, at age 77, has lived in the house for 42 years, well past original predictions.



Nancy Soderberg and Hank Bonar at his Morven Road home

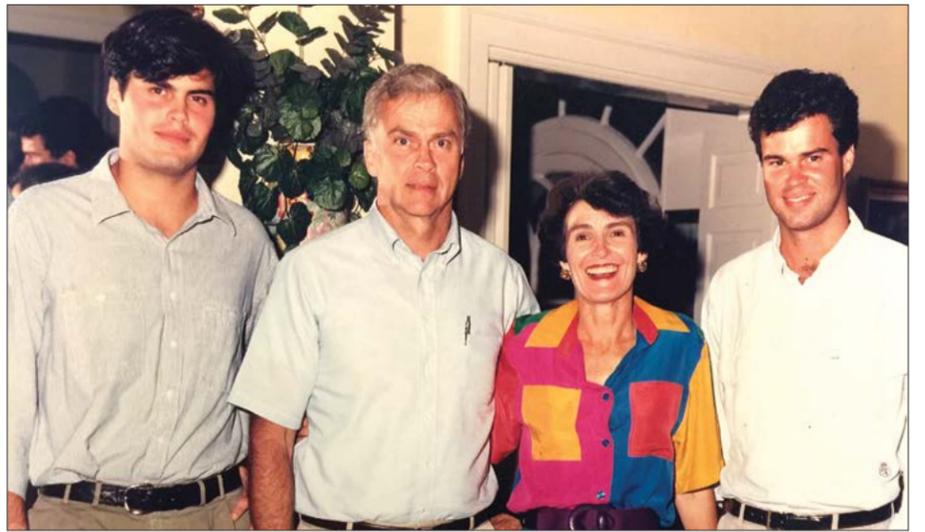
The home, built in 1941, sits on nearly one and three-quarters acres with amazing views of the Jacksonville skyline along the St. Johns River. It is the second largest home site on the road and has a huge rear yard lined with oak trees.

The house is unique among others on Morven Road as it is a one-story home. Hank renovated the house, most notably so that it would have no steps, a design feature that, while more common now, was unusual at the time. That turned out to be a help because Barbara was in a wheelchair before she died from pancreatic cancer in 2002.

The most unusual room in the house is the bar between the family room and living room. It features the original cypress wood from the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club bar. The house was designed by a New York architect in the Prairie School style that Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Klutho made famous.

"This was a perfect environment for our two sons to grow up in," Hank said. "They had woods for adventures, bonfires, dock parties, easy access to water so that they could enjoy our boat." They named their boat "Skiduckfish," because they used it to waterski, hunt ducks and fish.

Barbara also grew up in Tampa and met Hank in high school. Hank attended the University of the South for two years on full scholarship. "I wouldn't give anything for that experience," he said. Then, he went to the University of Florida for his engineering degree. Barbara and he moved to Jacksonville in 1967, and Hank spent a few years working for a construction company until he opened his own business, Bonar Engineering and Construction on



Bonar family photo of son Robert Gregory, Hank II, wife of 43 years, Barbara, and son Henry III

Edgewood Avenue in 1975. Hank's company provides engineering, general construction, refrigeration and training courses.

They have two sons, Henry III and Robert Gregory Bonar. Henry attended The Bolles School, and both sons graduated from The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. They inherited their father's love of sports, playing soccer, tennis and especially football.

After college, Henry III spent a lot of time in Honduras and eventually married Jessica, a native of Honduras. They have two children, Henry IV and Valerie. Robert lives in California with wife Heather, from Connecticut. They have three children, Robert Gregory Bonar, Jr., Anna Barbara and Nick.

Like many admiring sons, Hank wanted to follow in his father's footsteps in the refrigeration industry. But, just following Henry B. Bonar Sr. wasn't enough. Hank wanted to take refrigeration further, and he has accomplished his goal.

Hank's relationship with freezing goes all the way back to his grandfather, however. Hank's grandfather moved the family from the home place in Kentucky to New Mexico then to Okeechobee, Florida, in the early 1900s, when Hank's father, Hank Sr., was a boy. Now deceased, Hank Sr. used to tell stories about his father bringing home chunks of ice from the Okeechobee ice plant.

Hank included a quote by his father in his book that hints at his own philosophy of industrial refrigeration: "The biggest breakthrough in refrigeration really came when God made water freeze at 32 degrees Fahrenheit and turn to steam at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. These are the cornerstones of our knowledge. Then God related the growth of bacteria to these temperatures. These are the facts we live – or die – with. It's up to man to take it from there."

Today, his six employees, including son Henry, and he design and oversee

construction of some of the largest, most complex, cutting-edge freezer and refrigeration facilities all over the world, including India, Russia, Ukraine, Trinidad, the Cayman Islands, St. Kitts (an island in the West Indies), and more. They primarily work with ammonia refrigerant to cool public refrigerated processing facilities as



Hank Bonar with a display of news stories about his high school sports accomplishments

well as warehouses that serve just one company, such as Publix.

Hank has worked closely with the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses. He is often asked to advise professionals in other countries who want to learn more about the niche industry of big refrigeration. "They seek out our company because the local A & E's (architects and engineers) don't know how to build big refrigeration buildings correctly, and we have the reputation of being trustworthy and capable of doing the job right," Hank said.

With his son, Henry, Hank has reached out to help the citizens of Puerto Rico. When one of their good clients said that they needed a generator, Henry found a \$115,000 industrial generator and sent it to the country in faith that he would

Continued on page 37

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Clipping from St. Petersburg Times, April 11, 1958, about Hank Bonar's participation in one of the main attractions of the Third Annual Florida State Science Fair. Hank (center) directed the robot's moves that another student and he had built.

eventually be paid. To meet the need for home generators, Hank bought 30 and sent them to Puerto Rico, too. The company sent a repair person to Puerto Rico, as well, to help repair generator buildings, refrigeration systems for food and roofs. Henry and the repair person have been making regular trips to continue the work.

Hank has accomplished so much in the fields of engineering, construction and refrigeration facilities one could easily define the man by his work. What really drives Hank, however, is sharing his knowledge. "Education is my thing," he said. "It is the hallmark of good living standards."

Bonar's book, *Florida Comes of Age*, tells the history of Florida's refrigeration and frozen food distribution. He wrote the book partly as a way to help developing countries envision how they might handle perishable food more effectively.

"If the insights presented here help save or improve the quality of life of one individual, I have received my reward," he wrote in the acknowledgments in his book. Maybe that is why he dedicated the second edition to "The Hungry Children of the World."

"The evolution of refrigeration and the changing face of Florida are inextricably bound," he wrote. Likewise, he believes, it is for developing countries. "Some of these places don't even know what refrigeration is all about," Hank said.

His belief in the importance of education led Hank to establish The Casey Carter Bonar Leadership Award in 2010 for Vanderbilt University to honor the memory of his late wife, Casey Carter Bonar, who Hank married after first wife Barbara died in 2007.

The university's description of the award speaks to the many positive qualities of Casey, who died in 2010: "Based on the legacy of extraordinary leadership she left behind, this award is presented annually to a Vanderbilt undergraduate student who embodies the unique qualities that Casey brought to the university - leadership, broad collaboration, enthusiasm, passion for campus involvement, selfless service

to Vanderbilt, and, always, dedication to positive change."

Hank is engaged to Nancy Soderberg, a foreign policy expert who moved to Jacksonville 12 years ago and has taught at the University of North Florida for 10 years as Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Director of Public Policy Initiatives. Currently, she is running for Ron DeSantis' seat in Congress in Florida's sixth congressional district.

"Nancy's thing is negotiating," Hank said. "She gets things done."

She founded the Public Service Leadership Program at UNF when she arrived and uses her extensive contacts in government and the nonprofit world to build a network of opportunities for UNF students to gain first-hand experience in the field, building their resume and contacts — keys to future employment.

Nancy and Hank say they are amazed at how many of the same countries they have visited throughout their lives but not at the same time. Elizabeth Head, who is the former associate vice president of development at University of North Florida, introduced Nancy and Hank seven years ago. Hank had been given tickets to the Florida Forum Speaker Series when Bill Clinton was scheduled to speak. He wanted someone to go with him, and Elizabeth suggested Nancy.

"Do you think she'd want to go with me?" Hank asked Elizabeth. She did.

"Hank later asked me to go to a boat show with him," Nancy recalled. "I thought it was going to be a small boat. Well, a small boat did pick me up, but it took me to Hank's 67-foot yacht that he calls 'The Magic Castle,' because, before Hank bought it, the boat belonged to a family relative who was a magician."

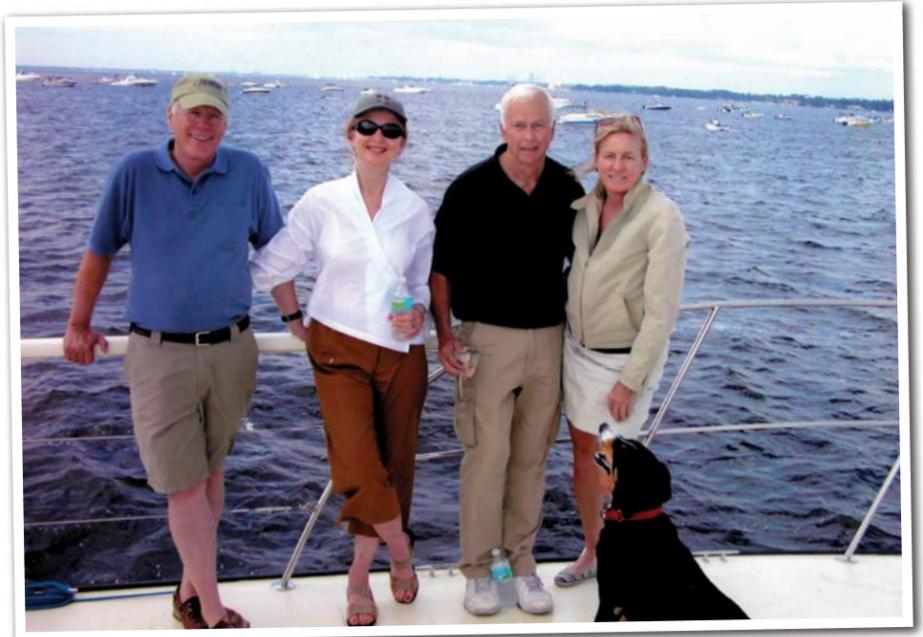
With Hank, there is always something more to learn. Hank's hobbies are quite a departure from big refrigeration systems. He loves woodworking and made all the continuous-bow Windsor armchairs in his dining room. He won first place in the Florida State Fair for one of the other chairs he made. He likes to paint as well, and his works are hung around the house.

Also on shelves and tables throughout the house are examples of agatized coral, which his father got the State of Florida to officially declare in 1979 as the state stone. The coral is cut open and the exposed interior surface is polished until it is smooth and shiny to show its beautiful colors.

"I have tons of these pieces of coral stored in boxes that I hope will be displayed somewhere someday," Hank said.

Hank is fond of motivational sayings, too. One of his favorite is "You're only as old as you think you are." A favorite toast of his is "May the best in your past be your worst in your future." And, "Remember this is not a dress rehearsal."

With Hank, there is always something more to learn.



The late Robert Head, his wife Elizabeth Head, Hank Bonar II and Nancy Soderberg enjoying time on the St. Johns River. Elizabeth is responsible for Hank's and Nancy's first date, according to Hank.



Hank Bonar II and Nancy Soderberg flank Bill Clinton at a New York fundraiser for Nancy's run for a state office. With them, at left, are Heather and Robert Bonar, at right, Henry Bonar III.

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Cyclists led the start of the three-hour race.

More than 100 compete in the heat in Mt. Acosta Classic

With February temperatures historically in the high 60s, the 6th Annual Mt. Acosta Classic should have been an easier race. But the 82-degree high at 3 p.m. on Feb. 17 promised runners, walkers and cyclists would need to hydrate often.

After 78 cyclists shot out of the starting gate for a one- or three-hour race, 28 runners came next for their one- or two-hour race. Seven hardy athletes – four men, three women – accepted the 90/90 challenge, alternating running and cycling for 90 minutes each. Former Murray Hill resident Jonathon Babilonia, now of San Marco, had hoped to repeat his 2017 17-leg first place win, but came in third after completing 15 legs in 2:41:44.

Eight walkers completed the roster of 121 registered for the annual fundraiser that honors the memory of Jared Bynum, a triathlete who lost his life in 2012 when struck from behind by an SUV while on



Kara Montgomery flashes a Victory sign to psych herself up for the grueling Mt. Acosta Classic. She finished first in women's open in the two-hour race, running seven legs in 2:10:30.

his last 100-mile training ride for the Florida Ironman.

The race proceeds benefit a scholarship fund for Julia Landon College Preparatory students from underprivileged backgrounds. Bynum and his wife, Kelli, had mentored at-risk Landon students through their church, Southside Baptist, which manages the fund.

Sponsors for this year's race included Haskell, Southside Baptist, Lakeshore Bicycles, OpenRoad Bicycles and Champion Cycling.

Annual Dinner of Champions recognizes local agency for its support

St. John & Partners Chairman and CEO Dan St. John and agency employees were recognized for their ongoing contributions at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 35th Annual "Dinner of Champions." Held Feb. 8 at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse, the dinner raised nearly \$150,000 to help support much-needed research, resources and services for people living with MS.

St. John accepted the MS Silver Hope Award as the highest tribute given by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to a corporate or community leader who has demonstrated outstanding philanthropic generosity and community service. The award also recognized the employees of St. John & Partners, a full-service public relations and advertising agency, for their Kindology community giving program.

The Valentine-themed event featured FSU Baseball Head Coach Mike Martin as special guest speaker, and was emceed by Action News Jax Anchor Paige Kelton. Other activities included live entertainment by The Chris Thomas Band and a seated dinner for over 160 guests and generous contributors to an annual event that has raised more than \$1.7 million since 1983.



FSU Head Baseball Coach Mike Martin with Dinner of Champions Honoree Dan St. John



Susan Oehler and Mike Oehler



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– IN MEMORIAM –

Dr. James L. Borland Jr.

NOV. 20, 1932 – JAN. 30, 2018

Not long after celebrating his 85th birthday and 57th wedding anniversary, Dr. James Loudon Borland, Jr. of Ortega, died peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Jan. 30, 2018.

Borland was born Nov. 20, 1932 in Durham, North Carolina, to Dr. James Loudon Borland, Sr. and Kathleen Scott Randolph. At age 14, he moved to Ortega and graduated from The Bolles School in 1950, then from the University of Florida in 1954 with a B.S. degree.

While attending Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland, Borland met his future wife, Lee-Margaret Vogel, who was studying nursing. Borland graduated in 1958 and began an internship at Johns Hopkins. They married Dec. 17, 1960.

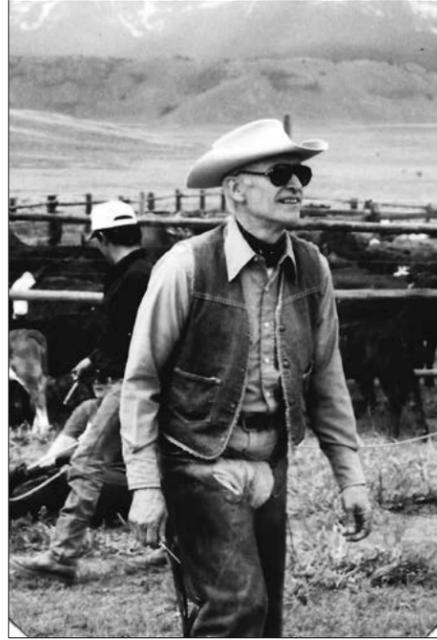
Upon completion of a gastroenterology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in 1963, Borland served as a U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander at Naval Air Station Jacksonville 1963-1965, then moved into the Borland family home on Apache Avenue in 1968.

After completing his military service, Borland entered private gastroenterological practice with his father in 1965. He is a former director of the Borland-Groover Clinic, founded by his father in the 1940s.

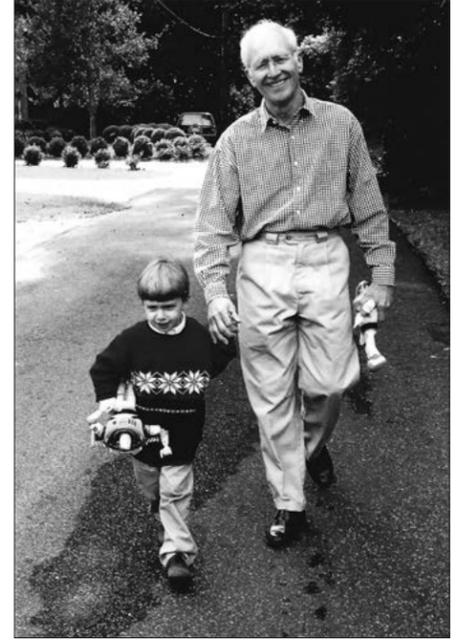
For the nearly 50 years Borland was involved in medicine, he was active in



Jim Borland at 1950 graduation from The Bolles School



Jim Borland at Davis Ranch, 1992, wearing chaps that belonged to his father



Jim Borland with grandson Max, Thanksgiving 2000

many organizations, serving on almost two dozen boards or in leadership positions at medical institutions, including Jacksonville Hospital Education Program; Duval County Medical Society; St. Luke's Hospital, Jacksonville; St. Vincent's Hospital; Foundation for Medical Care in Duval County; and the Florida Medical Association. He authored several publications and was an active teacher at the University of Florida Health Science Center as well as teaching medical students and residents in his practice and in his community.

Borland received many honors, beginning in 1972, when the American Society of Internal Medicine awarded him the Young

Internist of the Year award and up to his 15th in 2010 when he received the Exemplary Service Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Locally, Borland gave his time to many organizations, from his alma mater, where he served on The Bolles School Board of Directors, to the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Community Council, the Florida Yacht Club and more.

Enjoying travel for both medical organizations and pleasure, Borland and his wife had visited every continent except Antarctica at the time of his death. He also spent nearly 25 years seasonally working as a ranch hand on A.D. Davis' Colorado ranch, castrating bull calves.

Borland and his wife also became certified open water scuba divers in 1995 and by 2008 had logged over 265 dives in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Borland is survived by his wife, Lee-Margaret; son, James Loudon Borland, III (Sandy); daughter, Donia Elisabeth Borland; brothers, Rev. Thomas P. Borland (Sally) and Craig Lowe; sister, Susan Borland Huston; daughter-in-law, Marie Attaway Borland, mother of his only grandson, Maximilian Vogel Borland; and several extended family members, nieces and nephews. His son, Christopher, three sisters and one brother preceded him in death.

Faye Murray Armes

JUL. 16, 1927 – JAN. 4, 2018

Lifelong St. John's Park resident Faye Murray Armes passed away Jan. 4, 2018, at the age of 90.

Born Eunice Faye Murray on July 16, 1927 to A. E. and Emma Murray, who both served in World War I, Faye attended Fishweir Elementary (the first of four generations to do so), John Gorrie Junior High, and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School.

She grew up on Irvington Avenue, moved into another house down the street as a new bride, then moved back into her childhood home upon the deaths of her parents.

In her junior high yearbook, Faye said she wanted to be a fashion designer. Instead, in 1947, Faye met and married a dashing young Navy man, Pete Armes, a boxing champion stationed at NAS Jacksonville. Together they raised two children, Bruce, and Cheryl, a daughter who preceded them both in death.

Faye had a successful career as a loan officer with Seaboard Coastline Credit Union, where her leadership skills and friendly personality made everyone love her, customers and co-workers alike, said



Eunice Faye Murray



Pete and Faye Armes



Faye Murray Armes

daughter-in-law Marcelle Armes in her eulogy. "She was knowledgeable and professional and had a likable way with people that made them remember her."

After retiring in 1983, she and Pete began their second careers as managers of the Ronald McDonald House in Gainesville. Faye continued at the Ronald McDonald House after Pete's death, finally retiring in 1998 and returning to her family home in Jacksonville.

"Faye's years at the Ronald McDonald House proved to make her somewhat of a

celebrity. Her easy manner, but firm leadership made her perfect for the job, and her compassion and kindness to families in the midst of a crisis caused her to be loved and respected," said Marcelle Armes. "Many called her 'Miss Faye' and her reputation spread as far as the worldwide destinations from which these families came for their children's treatments."

Although earlier a member of Avondale Baptist Church, where she served in youth ministry and other areas, Faye was most recently a member of Lake Shore Baptist

Church. As her health declined she moved to St. Catherine Labouré Manor.

Faye was predeceased by her husband, Pete E. Armes, her daughter, Cheryl Armes Peters, her brother, Carl Murray, and her sister-in-law Tooie Murray. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Marcelle Armes; three grandchildren: Amanda Armes Royce, Matthew Armes (April Johns), and Shawn Peters; five great-grandchildren: Aubrey and Breckin Armes-Johns, and Alicia, Bo and Ethan Royce.

Volunteers in Medicine honors 11 local 'Women With Heart'

The 2018 "Women With Heart" Luncheon, benefiting Volunteers in Medicine and presented by Florida Blue, took place Feb. 7 at the Florida Blue Conference Center.

For the second year, the recognition luncheon served to kick off a year-long celebration of 11 Northeast Florida women whose leadership, advocacy and generosity have greatly impacted many in the community.

The women honored as 2018 "Women With Heart" were Dany Atkinson, certified Life Coach; Cheryl Barnett, senior vice president at First Tennessee Bank; Dr. Pam Chally, interim provost/vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Florida; The Honorable Audrey Gibson, Florida State Senator; Leslie Gordon, educator

at Flagler College; Shelley Morgan, real estate agent at Keller Williams Atlantic Partners; Silvia Pulido, St. Nicholas entrepreneur; Dr. Diane Raines, chief nursing officer for Baptist Health; Dr. Estrellita Redmon, president of St. Vincent's Medical Group and Clinical Integration; Melissa Ross, host/producer of First Coast Connect, and Dr. Elana Schrader, chief medical officer for Guidewell/Florida Blue.

Emcee for the program was Jayne Atkinson-Gill, an actor, director and producer, as well as sister of honoree Dany Atkinson.

For the second year in a row, Beard's Jewelry donated a 14 karat white gold diamond heart-shaped pendant to be worn each month by a different honoree as they spread the word about Volunteers in Medicine.



Front: Silvia Pulido, Dr. Elana Schrader, Dr. Estrellita Redmon, Volunteers in Medicine founders Dr. Jim Burt and Dottie Dorion, Cheryl Barnett, Dr. Pam Chally; back: Melissa Ross, Dr. Diane Raines, Leslie Gordon, Emcee Jayne Atkinson-Gill, Dany Atkinson and Shelley Morgan. Not available: Florida Sen. Audrey Gibson

Skilled neighborhood craftsman leaves legacy of love

What began as a commemoration of eight years in business in the Shoppes of Avondale turned into a lasting legacy for an Avondale resident.

Last fall the Florida Creamery decided to construct a "pirate ship" booth for patrons to enjoy. At the suggestion of a customer, owner Angela Wilcox commissioned a local woodcarver for the task. Affectionately known as "Carpenter Bob," Robert Bernard Bassett, 67, had recently completed the project before he passed away Dec. 18 2017, just a week after his daughter, Holly Williams, died after a battle with cancer.

A voracious builder, wood carver and musician, Bassett left behind a collection of over 20 handcrafted instruments. From discarded pianos he created beautiful, functional guitars at his home near Boone Park North. Friends and family can enjoy his legacy and artistry each time they visit his creation at the Florida Creamery, 3566 St. Johns Ave.



"Carpenter Bob" Bassett in the process of constructing a pirate ship at the Florida Creamery



Bob Bassett's grandchildren Eppie, Pearl, Arabella, Abigail pose in the pirate ship at Florida Creamery. Lamar Miles, a muralist based in Fernandina Beach, painted the wall.

New York professor shares insights on female poverty



Jenny Fernandez, Jan Healy, Aidee Chavez Frescas, Paula Liang, Donna Kuldau, Dr. Mary Gatta and Ellen Wiss, president of the Women's Giving Alliance

Breaking the cycle of female poverty is the new five-year focus of the Women's Giving Alliance, which hosted Dr. Mary Gatta, an acknowledged expert on women, sexual harassment, and the gender pay gap, at its Jan. 23 luncheon at the Junior League's Riverside House.

Gatta, a sociology professor at City University of New York, and author of several books including, "All I Want Is A Job!" and "Not Just Getting By," spoke about the economic insecurity of elderly women in Northeast Florida.

"Florida women earn just 87 cents for every dollar that Florida men earn," said

Gatta. She said factors leading to economic insecurity for aging women include age discrimination, sex segregation in the labor market, lack of access to defined pension benefit plans, caregiving costs (and taking time out of the labor market), and the fact that women live longer.

Gatta noted solutions include modernizing Social Security caregiving credits, raising benefits by 5 percent for Americans 85 years and older, improving survivorship benefits so surviving spouses do not face large benefit cuts, and strengthening divorce benefits so divorcees are eligible for more benefits.

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Local sisters reprise 1935 photograph; unknown visitor completes picture

For sisters Caroline Burroughs and Betsy Ross, both of Ortega, Memorial Park has played a role in their lives from an early age. As young girls living on Hedrick Street in Avondale, they recall spending time at the park.

Burroughs said she remembers roller skating around the statue. "My husband Dick's sister Mary was one of the girls who helped unveil the statue in 1924," she said. "They grew up on Forbes Street and spend a lot of time there. Everybody loved the park."

The former Ross sisters both are hugely supportive of the park and the efforts to raise funds for its restoration. "It's a rare jewel for our city to have," said Burroughs,

while Lovett remarked, "People don't realize how 'polished' the park was back then."

In the photo below, Ross sisters Caroline, 3, and Betsy, 5, were captured on film in Memorial Park in 1935 in front of the statue commemorating the Floridians who lost their lives serving in World War I. The boy on the bicycle on the far right is their brother, John Ross, now deceased.

In December 2017, Caroline Ross Burroughs and Betsy Ross Lovett reprised their 82-year-old visit to Memorial Park for a photo shoot coordinated by the Memorial Park Association. The unidentified man on the bicycle was passing through at the time local photographer Mark Krancer shot the photo.



'Refined' low-country boil draws rowing club supporters

There couldn't be anything more appropriate for the First Coast Rowing Club's gala than dancing to bluegrass tunes from Cain't Never Could at "A Night on the Riverbank - A refined low-country boil," held Jan. 27 at the Ortega River Club.

Originally planned for last September, Hurricane Irma had other plans for the former Stanton River Bank Rowing organization. With a new club name

and a new date, the annual fundraiser drew guests from all over Northeast Florida in support of the medal-winning rowing club.

Founded in 1990 to help children establish strong character, learn life skills and develop physically and emotionally through the sport of rowing, the nonprofit has won numerous local, state, regional and national championships.



Katherine Gibson, Karen Tramell, Marme Kopp, Sheri Hill, Miles Schueth, Mollie Dunn and Missy McCranie



Mark and Nicole Miller



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Barbara Allen, Robyn White, Ethel and Eugene White

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Runners of all ages compete in 40th annual Ortega River Run

Over 1,300 runners of all ages, including two men over age 80, celebrated the 40th Annual Ortega River Run, held Feb. 24 at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

First place in the men's category overall was taken by Kristopher Shold, 37, who ran the scenic course in 26:14, while Kelsey Beckmann, 26, picked up first for women overall with a time of 29:59 and was eighth overall in the 5-mile race.

The commemorative run was sponsored by St. Vincent's HealthCare and Digestive Disease Consultants, who presented a check for \$20,000 to St. Mark's Episcopal School for its financial aid and scholarship programs.

In the eight weeks leading up to the race, students ran a total of 2,507 (15,042 laps around the school track) to train for the big day. The race kicked off with a 1-mile Fun Run, where hundreds of youngsters expended energy running through the tree-lined streets of Old Ortega.



And they're off! With fourth-graders leading the pack, racers in the 40th Annual Ortega River Run's 1-Mile Fun Run are out of the starting gate.



Vanessa Holland with sons Cody and Blake; Vanessa came in sixth in her age category, running the 5-mile race in 39:16.



Lilliana Harrell, 12, ran the 5-mile race in 1:02:51, and her mother, Marisol Harrell, ran it in 1:20:19.



The Ortega River Run was not the first race for triplets Julia, Annabelle and Abby Olsen



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School Kindergartner Asher Fedewa and his father, Nick



The Bransford brothers, Aaron (front), Sam (left) and Gavin, attend St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, where their mother, Leslie, works as an assistant in a first-grade classroom.

Talented students inspire at annual arts performance, exhibit

The 32nd annual Extravaganza presented all art forms taught at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, from exhibits in the Visual Art Gallery to a Broadway-style show, featuring the inspiring artistry of the high school students, at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts.

The Feb. 24 showcase at the Moran Theater included musical theatre numbers; a Wind Symphony performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Slava!," a modern dance piece, "Time Lapse," choreographed by Francisco Gella of Los Angeles; an acapella performance of The 5th Dimension's "Stoned Soul Picnic" by the DA vocal

group Silhouettes; a piano performance of Beethoven's "Sonata in F Minor," and an animated student film, "Creature of My Heart," which captured the top national prize at the All-American High School Film Festival in New York City.

The Shining Star performer was 2009 graduate Tanner Lane, who has appeared in the national company of "Chicago: The Musical," performed in the musical "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" in Boston, and has starred in the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes. At Extravaganza, Lane performed pieces from "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "La Cage aux Folles."



Douglas Anderson School alumnus Craig Leavitt, co-founder of 5 & Dime Theatre, with Jen Jones-Murray, UNF/JIA art director, and her daughter, Helena Murray, a recent scholarship winner



Lana Shuttleworth and Wayne Wood



Douglas Anderson students Rose McEachern, Allye Hamson, KJ McEachern

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Students learn kindness is contagious, pass it on

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Over 300 students at West Riverside Elementary School participated in a Valentine's Day Kindness event, sponsored by the American Civility Association. After entering a Kindness Cheer Tunnel created from blue and white balloons, and getting "high fives" from parents, faculty and first responders, the students enjoyed a "Pep Rally for Kindness," in the auditorium.

Principal Shawna White and DJ, the Duval County Public Schools mascot, led the children in a "Kindness is contagious... let's pass it on" roar, then members from Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's Ladder 10 company and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office were presented with Kindness Super Hero Capes by the American Civility Association. Second- and third-grade students also created "thank-you" cards for the first responders.

The Kindness program is in its second year at West Riverside Elementary and White said after the first year there was a 66 percent decrease in discipline referrals. "Everyone focuses on finding the positive



Parents, faculty and first responders greet West Riverside Elementary School students with "high fives" on the school's second annual Kindness Day Feb. 14.

and it's made a big difference in the classrooms," she said.

Amy Barnett, founder of the American Civility Association, said West Riverside was a pilot school in Duval County and would like to see the program in every school. "It's a culture developed over time," she said. "As time goes on, grades go up."

It costs about \$5,000 per school to add the program to the curriculum, so Barnett said financial donations are greatly appreciated. Visit americancivility.org for more information.

Students at West Riverside are extending kindness beyond their own walls by holding a battery and water drive for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. Dual Language teacher Maria Laguna works with the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and was part of a supply drive last fall after Hurricane Maria hit the island. If you wish to help by donating new batteries of any type or size, or bottled water, drop supplies at West Riverside Elementary School, 2801 Herschel St., by March 15.

Avondale resident tapped for prestigious Joe Berg seminar



Front: Austin Thompson-Davoli, Jenny Chen, Abigail Crawford and Bridget Coscia; back: Ashton Body, Spencer Huie, Anders Amlie

Spencer Huie, of Avondale, was one of seven sophomores at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville selected to participate in the Jacksonville Joe Berg Seminar Series 2018-2019, beginning in February at the Museum of Science and History.

These scholars are part of the top 100-plus students out of nearly 300 nominees from both public and private schools throughout Northeast Florida. Huie, along with Anders Amlie, Ashton Body, Jenny Chen, Bridget Coscia, and Austin Thompson-Davoli, will attend the science seminars, while Abigail Crawford will attend the humanities series.

Girls' Sunday school class raises over \$2,000 for international relief

St. Mark's Episcopal Church's Girls' Breakfast Club celebrated the accomplishment of raising more than \$2,000 for Episcopal Relief and Development, thanks to cookie mix they made and sold in St. Mark's bookstore over the holidays. An oversized check for \$2,030 was presented Feb. 18 during Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday, which occurs annually in Episcopal churches on the first Sunday in Lent.

Led by St. Mark's members Margaret Cavin, of Avondale, and Christine Burkett,

of Ortega, St. Mark's Girls Breakfast Club is a Sunday school class comprised of fourth- to sixth-grade students. In addition to service projects, they learn how to apply lessons from the Bible to everyday life.

Episcopal Relief & Development serves as a compassionate response to human suffering in the world. The agency works with more than three million people in nearly 40 countries to overcome poverty, hunger and disease, create long-term development strategies and rebuild after disasters.

Front: Mamie Burkett, Helen Eyrick, McRae Busey, Sarah Frances Magevney, Hannah Miller, Taylor Spencer; middle: Ellie Stewart, Mary Carol Eyrick, Abbey Magevney, Ann Lowery Eyrick, Madeline Wilkins; back: Rev. Deacon Sandra Kidd, Rev. Canon Nancy Suellau, Rev. Tom Murray

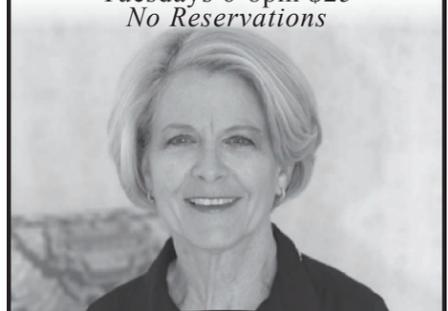


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Local student one step closer to geography bee finals

Riverside Presbyterian Day School students grades four to six participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee sponsored by Google. In the final round of competition, sixth-grader Eli Stevenson (left) outlasted classmate Russell Beard (right) by correctly answering the following question, "Nikumaroro Island is a part of Kiribati, located in what ocean?" The correct answer is the Pacific Ocean. Stevenson moves closer to the opportunity to win a \$50,000 college scholarship and



Eli Stevenson and Russell Beard

will try to advance to the national finals by completing the state test. The State Bee will be held Friday, April 6 at Jacksonville University, and the National Bee is planned for May 20-23 at National Geographic Society Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Avondale girl takes second in Rotary Oratory competition

For the past four years, the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville has conducted the First Coast Rotary Oratory Competition, awarding a total of \$51,000 in scholarships and prizes, and three of those four winners have been from Nassau County. Gabrielle Gibb, a senior at Fernandina Beach High School, competed against six other First Coast area high school seniors Feb. 15 to win first place and a \$5,500 scholarship in the 2018 Rotary Oratory Competition. Avondale resident Mariama Pouye, a student at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, took second place, winning a \$3,000 scholarship, and Molly Lantinberg of Beauclerc from the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts won third place and took home a \$1,500 scholarship.



Oratory Co-Chairs Steve Madden and Mark Mathews, Gabrielle Gibb, and South Jax Rotary President Dr. Dan Robie

This year's speech topic featured arguments about the benefits and disadvantages of technology in the use of advancing local and global goals of Rotary. The Rotary Club invited seniors from the 45 public and private high schools in the five First Coast counties. Students from 32 area high schools participated. With the help of seven area Rotary clubs, regionals were conducted to narrow the field of competitors to seven participants. The students were judged by a panel that included speech and communications professors from Edwards Waters College, Flagler College, Jacksonville University and St. Johns River State College.

Local rowers sign with colleges



The Jacksonville Rowing Club recently celebrated its senior athletes who have committed to row at the collegiate level. Shown here with Coach Bob Schumacher, (left to right) are Ryan Tefilo, a student at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, who will attend the University of Pennsylvania; Kate Begley, also at Episcopal, will row at the University of Tennessee; Carley Boyd, a West Nassau High School student, signed with Clemson University, and Ian Mignone of Fletcher High School will attend Cornell University. Before the end of the school year, the rowers will race in several regattas this spring.

Student artists in the spotlight at annual awards ceremony

On Feb. 3, 610 high school students were honored at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards ceremony at the Florida Theatre, winning 1,285 awards and \$92 million in college scholarships to partnering institutions like Savannah College of Art and Design, Jacksonville University, University of North Florida and New Hampshire Institute of Art. Individual Awards were given for a single piece of artwork for students grades 7-12 while Portfolio Awards were for graduating seniors who submit a collection of eight works.



For the second year in a row, Emma Flaire, a sophomore at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was a winner in the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards, garnering three gold, one silver and two honorable mentions.

The works of Gold Key winners will progress to national adjudication where their work may earn a place at the ceremony at Carnegie Hall where national medals, scholarships and inclusion in a national traveling exhibition will be awarded. From local schools, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts led the pack with 76, The Bolles School had 22 Gold Key winners, The Episcopal School of Jacksonville 14, Stanton College Preparatory High School six, Robert E. Lee High School two, and there was one Gold Key winner each from Bishop Kenny and Wolfson High Schools. Cathedral Arts Project is hosting an exhibition in the Heather Moore Community Gallery featuring the work of 44 Gold Key and 34 Silver Key Portfolio winners selected from 2,868 works submitted by students in Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia counties. The exhibition of Portfolio winners runs through May 1 at Cathedral Arts Project, 207 N. Laura St.



James Morgan, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was a Gold Key Portfolio winner at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards.



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Lesson in empathy kicks off Lenten season

To kick off the start of the 40 Days of Lent, St. Paul's Catholic School in Riverside decided to have the children and staff participate in something much bigger than themselves, to teach the children empathy for those who are less fortunate.

"Many times we initiate service projects that benefit others in need, but the children do not fully gain an understanding of why these projects are important," said Adrienne Baldwin, who serves as a kindergarten to fifth-grade enrichment teacher.

The teachers collaborated to plan a week of activities to help the children experience what it might be like to be homeless.

Each day they participated in a different activity. They carried their belongings (backpack) everywhere they went during the school day, they wore the same clothes two days in a row without washing, they ate a simple rice bowl instead of their regular lunch on Ash Wednesday, they spent an entire day without any electricity or technology, and they spent the last day reflecting and putting together blessing bags for the many homeless children at the Sulzbacher Center.

The students also spent a whole school day taking turns to pray with Jesus in the church so that no time passed without a prayer for the homeless.

At the end of the week the children began to understand how many blessings have been given and to feel some of the suffering that homeless must endure.



Students at St. Paul's Catholic School wore their backpacks all day to understand what it means to carry one's belongings everywhere.



Kindergartner Sophia Carangue and her classmates at St. Paul's Catholic School ate only rice for lunch on Ash Wednesday to learn empathy for the homeless.

Family trust makes generous gift for new playground equipment

After Avondale resident Davida Parker's sister, MaryEllen Willis, passed away a few years ago, the family created a charitable foundation to honor Willis' memory. Parker's daughter, Autumn Combs, serves on the PTA at Fishweir Elementary School, where her daughter, Lili, is in first grade.

For the past several years, the PTA has been working to improve the playground and when the cost for a new swing set exceeded the budget, Combs approached the MaryEllen S. Willis Charitable Trust for help. The trust donated more than \$15,000 for the new swing set and ground cushion underneath.

"Our new swing set is ready for action," said Latoya Bell, assistant principal, to wild cheers from the students at the Feb. 16 ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by Parker and Combs.

Elena Ferri and Presley Smith recited poems they wrote for the new swings. Alex Taylor, Ciara Dunn, Mia Garces and Logan Tetlak, students from the Art After School group, created a four-piece painting of the swing set under the director of art teacher Marie Escriba, and presented it to Parker and Combs.



Kimberly Davis, Latoya Bell and Autumn Combs cut the ribbon for the new swing set at Fishweir Elementary School.



Christinia Olson, Lili Combs, Davida Parker, and Autumn Combs with a poster created by Olson's first grade students.

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Toddlers learn to help others at early age

Ortega Playschool celebrated its annual Friendship Chapel with the children and their special guests. Grandparents, parents, neighbors and special friends gathered in the sanctuary Feb. 7 to sing and praise as a playschool community. The chapel began with donations of cleaning supplies and diapers for Family Promise Ministries. Beth Mixson from Family Promise told the children that, like the boy who shared his loaves and fish to feed the five thousand, they too were helping Jesus by helping others with families just like theirs.

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Episcopal students move on in science fair

Students from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville presented their science projects at the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair February 4-6, where more than 300 students from public and private schools in Duval and Nassau Counties submitted their work to judges.

The 14 Episcopal students who presented projects include Avondale residents Jack Barksdale and Spencer Huie, Ortega area residents Jackson Ravis and Sam Williams, San Marco resident Ashton Body, San Jose residents Julia Downes and Mabel Smith, as well as Caroline Anderson, David Li, Marco McGowan, Katie Nicholson, Krystal Shi, Isaac Zhang and Adrien Zhu.

Every Episcopal student who participated in the fair was an award winner, receiving certificates, gifts and cash prizes from local and national organizations and businesses. Seniors Nicholson and Zhang were selected to represent the region at the International Science & Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh in May. In addition, Barksdale, Body, Downes, Ravis and Williams will represent the region at the State Science Fair of Florida during spring break.



Front: Spencer Huie, Jackson Ravis, Sam Williams, Isaac Zhang, Adrien Zhu; back: Caroline Anderson, Katie Nicholson, Marco McGowan, Mabel Smith, Jack Barksdale, Ashton Body, Julia Downes, Krystal Shi, David Li



Lilly Rain Charles and her mother, Brandee Charles, pose in front of City Hall in downtown Jacksonville.

Sixth-grader recognized at City Hall

Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth-grade student Lilly Rain Charles was recognized by the Jacksonville City Council at its Feb. 13 meeting along with other youth in the community who exemplify the philosophies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through leadership, community volunteerism and civic responsibility.

Charles, of Ortega Forest, had recently been awarded 1st Runner-up in the middle school division of the Tomorrow's Leaders Writing Contest. Winners were announced at the 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Jan. 15.

Cardinal cheerleaders win 1A State Championship

Nineteen Bishop Snyder High School Cardinal Cheerleaders competed in the FHSAA State Championship Feb. 5 and finished as the 1A State Champs for the first time, then headed to nationals Feb. 10, under Head Coach Angi Brannon and Coaches Karsun Bragg and Tina Brown. Front: Scarlett de Luna Medina, Katherine Eatough, Hanna Terhaar, Denesha Loggins, Bailey May, Elizabeth Markoski, Mariana Gonzalez; standing: Cynthia Kellum, Elizabeth Shipley, Olivia Kanobroski, Sophie Edgington, Anna Eplawy, Abigail Galette, Keith Cook, Mira Eplawy, Isabelle Buckman, Leanne Dobrie, Olivia Ruel, Kailana Dickerson; not present, Ariana Greene





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Spartans girls soccer team wins state championship

The St. Johns Country Day girls' soccer team captured its seventh consecutive Class 1A girls championship Feb. 21, defeating Miami Country Day 6-0 at Spec Martin Memorial Stadium in DeLand. The win marked the team's 10th State Championship overall.

Spartans Payton Crews, Abbey Newton and Alisa Detlefsen began playing as sixth-graders and are now Florida's first seven-time soccer champions, taking to the field for the last time. St. Johns Country Day (26-0-0) has won 70 consecutive games, and 83 games without a loss.

St. Johns Country Day is the fourth Northeast Florida school to win seven or more consecutive titles in any sport, which includes Bolles boys swimming and girls swimming, and Bishop Kenny girls' cross-country (1994-2000).

Murray Hill resident Maddie Moody (second row, second from right) is a freshman defender and midfielder for State Champs St. Johns Country Day School Spartans.



Never too young to brush, floss regularly

Dr. Jila Mahajan, owner of Kids First Dentistry, shows St. Johns Presbyterian Preschool student Benjamin Redman how to brush teeth, using a puppet with a set of choppers. Mahajan and her staff visit local schools and preschools in the fall and spring, teaching students the importance of good dental hygiene. Kids First Dentistry, located at Roosevelt Square Mall, also helps raise awareness of National Children's Dental Health Month each February with a booth at the annual Ortega River Run.



An Episcopal student goes eyeball to eyeball with a manatee.

Swimming with 'sea cows' a lifetime experience

Marine biology students from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville traveled to Crystal River Jan. 31-Feb. 1 for the annual Marine Biology Manatee Encounter. Students and instructor Janet Buford made the three-hour, 150-mile trek to Crystal River for an up-close and personal snorkel and swim experience with Florida's state marine mammal, *Trichechus manatus*, better known as the Florida manatee.

During the winter months the warm-blooded animals congregate in the spring-fed river, using the water as a giant hot tub. "Students

were amazed by the great size and gentle nature of these animals," said Buford. "Swimming with a threatened species is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, one students will not easily forget."

Episcopal has offered this experience to over 1,200 students in the last 20 years. Participating in the Manatee Encounter were Liza Bishop, Stela Chepenik, Kirby Dent, Ireland Dodd, Emmy Fraleigh, Jackson Gallo, Jack Hines, Courtney Kurlas, Corena Mixson, Kailyn Moore, Olin Mosely, Curry Pajcic and Curt Pajcic.



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Literacy Night promotes reading in school, at home

Ortega Elementary School celebrated Literacy Night Feb. 1 to support reading in the classrooms by offering activity stations, such as creating a character origami, listening to a musical of "Pigeon Needs a Bath," creating words to complete mad-libs, making a bookmark, and reading with milk and cookies. "Parents and students had tons of fun," said Megan Barrow, kindergarten teacher.



The Hollingsworth family participates in "Books, Cookies and Milk" at Ortega Elementary School's Literacy Night.

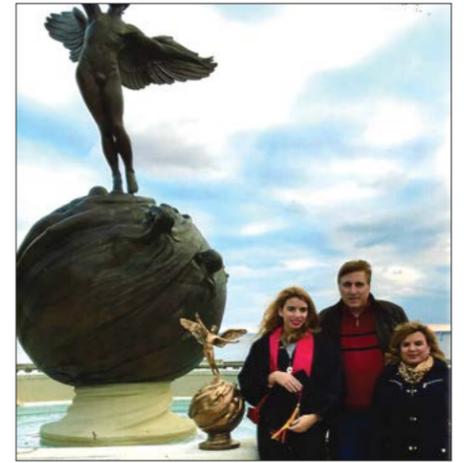


The Curry family makes bookmarks, one of the Literacy Night activities at Ortega Elementary School.

Catholic Charities reels in large 'catch' of tuna



Tuna was the big catch at Bishop Snyder High School during Catholic Schools Week in January. All diocesan schools collected cans of tuna as a service project for Catholic Charities. This year, the Tuna Trophy was created by Lisa Dobrie, a parent of a student and who works in the front office, for competition between 24 homerooms. Elizabeth Luman's junior religion class won the trophy with a class collection of 144 cans, but the big winner was Catholic Charities, which reeled in a total of 631 cans from Snyder students for the food pantry.



Memorial Park statue replica given as graduation gift

When Maria Crandall graduated from Flagler College in December 2017 with a degree in historical architecture, her parents, Steve and Regina Crandall, gave her a replica of the iconic statue, Life, as a graduation gift. The family are members of the Jacksonville Historical Society and said Memorial Park is their favorite park in Jacksonville.

Budding artist Nate Miller submits cartoon for reader enjoyment



"Fresh new day" "I wonder what the day will be like?" "Cousin James is here." "What!" "Stupid day!"

Dear Resident staff, You see in this letter there is a comic that I wrote. I would like you to consider to hire me to write a comic strip for Resident newspaper. I would very much appreciate it if you answer me soon.

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Girl Scout cookie sales support leadership development



Ellie Digesare and Eleanor McArthur, Girl Scouts from Troop 1080, kicked off their cookie-selling season with a pop-up stand in front of The Growing Tree on Herschel Street Feb. 10. Both fifth-grade students from Riverside Presbyterian Day School, the girls said their troop meets at Ortega United Methodist Church, and Scouts would be out in force at local grocery stores beginning that weekend through March 11. The annual cookie sales contribute to girls' leadership development and support the world's largest girl-led business. The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council also held a Smart Cookie 5K and Fun Run Feb. 17 to raise scholarship funds for local, college-bound Girl Scouts.



Bolles girls soccer wins seventh state title

The Bolles girls' soccer team, the Lady Bulldogs, won the Class 2A State Finals match against Oxbridge Academy 4-0, Feb. 21 at Spec Martin Memorial Stadium in DeLand, making the state title the seventh in program history, third in the last four years and the fourth for Head Coach Matt Tracy. The championship is the 131st overall for the Bolles athletic program. The Bulldogs led 1-0 at halftime on a last second goal by Avery Patterson ('20) to close the first half. Bolles broke the game open in the second half with two goals by Ariana Munoz ('18), split by another from Aunikah King ('18).

New lights a 'home run hit' for Bishop Snyder ball teams



Bishop Snyder baseball fans joined in a Burgers & Baseball Under the Lights celebration Feb. 21 for the installation of lights on the baseball and softball fields as well as the opening of a new indoor batting facility. The \$325,000 athletic infrastructure improvements were made possible by the sponsors and donors to Snyder's Spring Fling and Cardinal Classic. The first pitch was thrown out by Kelly Corrigan Wood, posing with new coach, Darlene Linke (right). The Cardinals varsity baseball played West Nassau in a non-conference game, losing 6-2.



Catherine Nichols with Kevin Conklin, Head of School

St. Mark's student advances to regional spelling bee

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School sixth-grader, Catherine Nichols, was the first runner-up in the Duval County District Spelling Bee and has advanced to the First Coast Spelling Bee to be held on Friday, March 9 at the Florida Theatre.

Nichols competed against the top 24 spellers across Duval County in grades 5-8. The Bee lasted over 20 rounds and the top three finalists went head-to-head for six rounds. The winner and runner up now move on to the regional bee.

The First Coast Spelling Bee is the regional Spelling Bee that serves as the qualifier for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The event will be televised live in prime time on WJXT, Channel 4.

Nichols will be competing against the top fifth- to eighth-grade spellers from all over the First Coast. This is the second year in a row St. Mark's has had a student qualify for this elite round.



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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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Flashbacks

How appropriate during Women's History Month to share a 1929 photo of The Woman's Club of Jacksonville, a woman's social club membered by many of Jacksonville's elites. Most interesting for the present is Linal L'Engle Barnett, who was probably the mother of Maeleine L'Engle Camp, author of "A Wrinkle in Time," in theaters now.

The cast of the playlet given by the Woman's Club, called "When We were Young," on January 28, 1929, featured, front: Mrs. Frank E. Jennings, Miss Louise Meigs, Mrs. Frank N. Stormont, Mrs. Arthur G. Cummer, Mrs. Fred B. Noble, Mrs. Fitz-Hugh B. Allderice, Mrs. Leo Benedict, Mrs. (illegible) Brook, Mrs. Jay H. Durkee; back: Mrs. Matilda O'Donald, Mrs. Malcom M. Lander, Mrs. Linal L'Engle Barnett, Miss Martha Race, Mrs. Merrill A. Ladd, Mrs. Harry Hampton, Mrs. J. H. Bland, Mrs. M.P. Capen, Miss Gertrude Jacobi and Mrs. Franklin G. Rusell.



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

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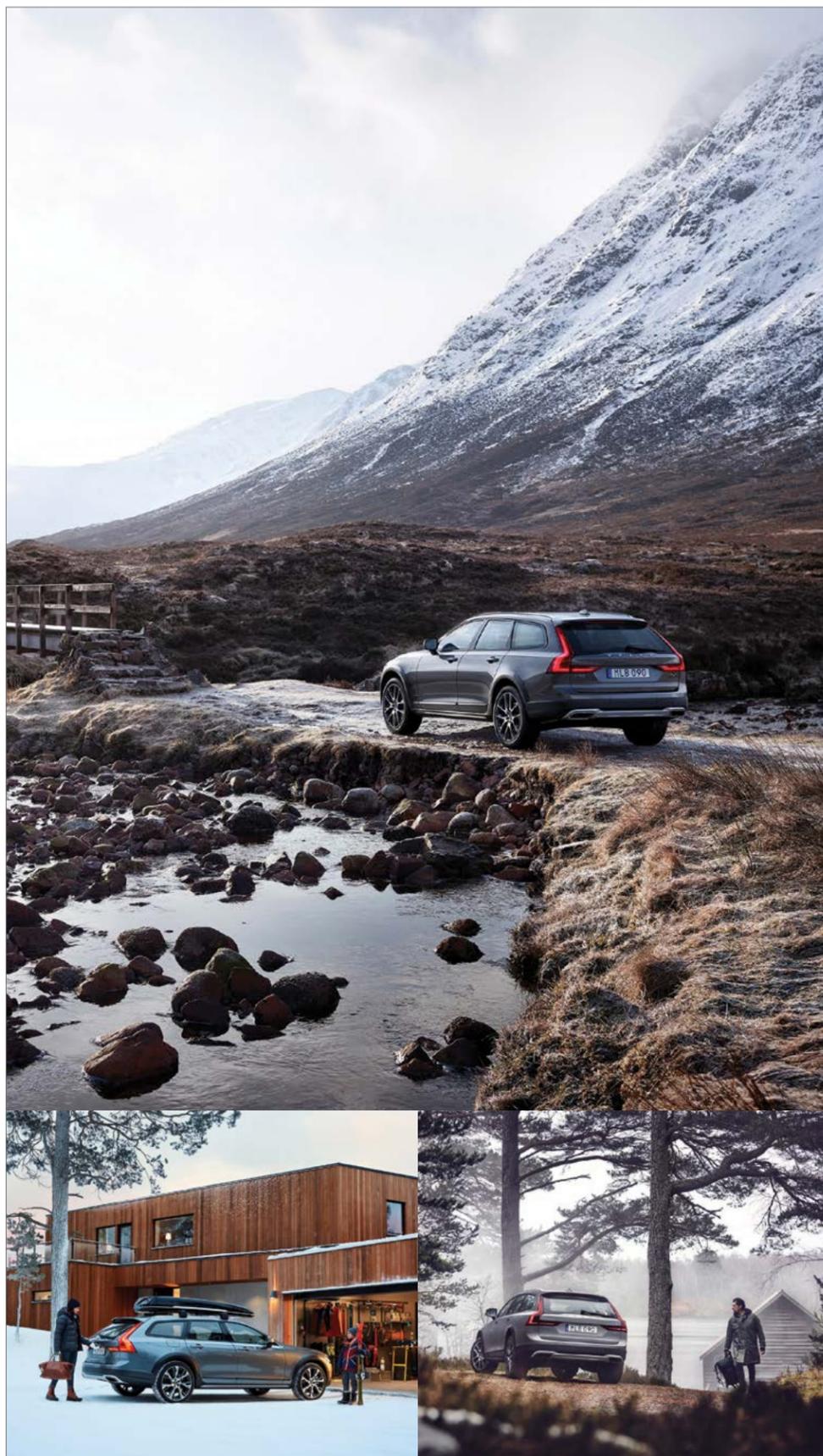
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