

PUBLIX COMING, FINALLY, TO SAN MARCO AREA

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The long-awaited Publix will be built in East San Marco, but with retail instead of residential, according to the developer.

The news was announced by Chairman and CEO Martin E. "Hap" Stein April 26 at a shareholders meeting of Regency Centers Corp.

"A grocery store is the one thing that San Marco is missing. I want to recognize Stein, who is such an engaged developer, and Publix, a Florida icon, for their commitment," said Bryan Mickler, president of San Marco Preservation Society. "This is going to improve the walkability of the neighborhood."

The site, at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard, has been cleared and fenced off for more than a decade. But Stein said

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Reading programs benefit from Rotary fundraiser

Robert Harris and his wife Paola Parra Harris gathered with fellow South Jacksonville Rotarians to raise funds during their Venetian Masquerade Gala.

[READ MORE, PAGE 25](#)

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COMMUNITY NEWS



THE PLAYERS Chairman Damon Olinto with fellow Red Coat Troy Smith, Nemours Children's Clinic Medical Director, Dr. Michael Erhard, Red Coat Scot Winter, Red Coat Matt Welch, "Our Promise" campaign chairman Malcolm Jones, Dr. Gary Josephson, Red Coat 1st Vice Chairman Adam Campbell, THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice and Jack Garnett, current captain of the Red Coats.

CHECKS ROLL IN FOR NEMOURS CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY CARE

THE PLAYERS Championship helped deliver big smiles to the podium, as the charitable arm of the organization surprised guests and upped the \$350,000 Challenge Grant to \$500,000 during the check presentation on the grounds of Nemours Children's Specialty Care, April 26. The community will be challenged to match the funds pledged dollar-for-dollar during the \$7-million-dollar drive titled, "Our Promise" - A Campaign for Children's Health, on behalf of the children served in our community through Nemours.

[READ MORE, PAGE 33](#)



Select group enjoys opportunity to savor Italian wines, local cuisine

Thanks to Jeannie Smith (left), of Odyssey Travel, and Tuscan vintner Gabriel Zeneli and Giulia Pozzuoli, guests were delighted by an international experience in Balis Park last month. Vintner in the Park, a benefit hosted by the San Marco Merchants Association, drew several dozen to the wine tasting party and dinner, catered by San Marco Square chefs.

[READ MORE, PAGE 31](#)



Lynda Erwin and Suzanne Perritt from the San Marco Garden Circle were on hand to help visitors purchase plants grown by Garden Club members at the annual Blooms Galore.

[READ MORE, PAGE 33](#)



Sunita Malik, Liz Joiner, Mariela Groschell and Elsa Montgomery have fun at Junkanoo, a Bahamian Carnival to support a worthy local cause.

[READ MORE, PAGE 31](#)



Guardian ad Litem supporters Debbie and Jack Hanania were on hand to celebrate stories of hope, love and compassion.

[READ MORE, PAGE 25](#)

INCREASING NUMBER, LENGTH OF TRAINS SPOIL NEIGHBORHOOD AMBIANCE

RESIDENTS PETITION FOR QUIET ZONE

By Karen J. Rieley, Resident Community News

Whether you find train horns nostalgic and soothing versus annoying and disruptive seems to be a function of distance. Those who grew up in more rural areas or who remember a time when Jacksonville's population was much less dense and trains were shorter and ran less frequently recall the melancholy and yet reassuring sound of whistles as steam engines chugged along through distant fields and mountains.

Others, like Lilla Ross, who lives three houses from the railroad crossing on River Oaks Road in San Marco, find the train horns increasingly aggravating, and she is taking steps to do something about the issue.

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Letter TO THE Editor

Boating community unhappy with state of city docks

On behalf of myself and other fellow boaters, we are messaging you in hopes to get the word out about the city's negligence to fix the public docks in downtown Jacksonville. The docks have been almost inaccessible to boaters since Hurricane Matthew which hit Jacksonville in October 2016. Currently, there is only dock space for less than eight small boats at The Landing and zero public dock space on the entire Southbank. This issue affects over 14 restaurants, dozens of local shops and businesses and reflects poorly on our entire community.

Myself along with approximately 20 other boats tried to attend the Oyster Jam Music Festival at the Jacksonville Landing this past weekend [April 14-15]. None of the boats in our group were able to dock or attend the event due to the current dock situation. Currently, the docks are in shambles and, in multiple places, falling into the water.

Additionally, this wasn't the first time in the last few months where boaters haven't been able to access an event or business. There were major issues on Florida-Georgia weekend this year too. There were only 12 boats that were able to park at the landing compared to over 50 which normally do.

One hundred percent of boaters have disposable income and if we don't welcome them to our downtown, how do we expect businesses to survive and prosper? Another pitfall of this is for visitors and potential future residents to see the city's disregard and negligence to fix such an important piece of infrastructure for our community.

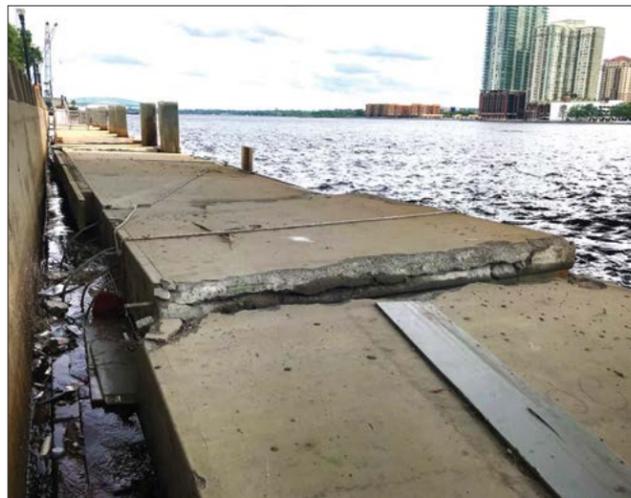
Summer is here, and it appears 2018 will be another year that downtown Jacksonville and its vital local businesses will not be a destination for boaters and water enthusiasts.

Thank you for your time and I hope you use your voice in the community to help fix this issue.

Sincerely,

Capt. Rodney Williams

Jacksonville & North Florida Boaters Community



Docks at The Jacksonville Landing in shambles for nearly two years.

You Asked For It

Resident questions exterior alterations on historic homes

A reader asked what, if anything, can be done to prevent new homeowners or flippers from altering the historic characteristics of older homes in San Marco.

The short answer is "not much."

In general, because San Marco is not a registered historic district, there are no controlling codes or guidelines to prevent a property owner from changing – or even demolishing – a home regardless of its age.

Alternatively, homeowners can choose to place their houses on a list of designated local or National Register of historic properties. This can, however, handcuff any future buyer of the property, who might wish to update the home's façade. Any changes would require an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, which is reviewed by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC), which has specific guidelines for the alteration, construction, relocation or demolition of historically designated properties.

The JHPC is also responsible for recommending the designation of local landmarks and districts to the City Council. The Commission is comprised of seven individuals appointed by the mayor. The membership includes both historic district residents, architects, lawyers, preservationists, and members of the construction trade.

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Petition for quiet zone FROM PAGE 1

The Florida East Coast track is part of the history of historic San Marco, and people who live in the neighborhood or who frequent the shopping district are accustomed to the blasts of the horns of passing trains. Train engineers are required by federal regulation to blow the horn four times to alert traffic of their approach at the 10 train crossings between the trestle bridge across the St. Johns River to Emerson Street.

In recent years, the number of trains coming through the neighborhood has increased. The trains are getting longer and louder. Some trains can be as long as a mile and require a larger locomotive to pull them. The larger locomotives have a

bass note in their whistle so, while they may stay within the decibel level required by federal regulations, they sound louder. The Federal Railroad Administration regulations require engineers to sound two long, one short and one long horn at each crossing.

“With 24-32 trains traveling through 10 crossings in San Marco every day, that’s as many as 1,500 train horns blown each day,” Ross said. “I’ve lived in San Marco for 40 years and in my current home for 32 years. In the beginning I got used to the horns. But there is a lot more train traffic now.”

Ross is leading an initiative to solve this noise pollution that she and others say interrupts sleep and affects home values. They want to create the San Marco Quiet Zone, like those that are already established all over the country, including Miami, Broward County and Orlando, in our own state.

“I decided to create a website and petition to help spread the word and establish that there is a need for a Quiet Zone. It is affecting the quality of life in the neighborhood,” Ross said. By the end of April, 160 people had signed her www.quietzone.com petition.

Quiet zones are regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration. They require that other safety measures be put in place to make it unnecessary for train engineers to blow the horns, except in the case of an emergency. The options are to install lights and four-quadrant gates (four long arms, two each on both sides of the crossing), traffic barriers to stop drivers from going around lowered gates or into opposing lanes of traffic, or close the crossing to vehicular traffic altogether.



Lilla Ross at the train crossing on River Oaks Road near her home.



A motorist waits for one of many daily trains to complete the crossing at River Oaks Road.

The crossings that are included in the San Marco Quiet Zone proposal are Prudential Drive (at Baptist Health), San Marco Boulevard, Nira Street, Naldo Avenue, Hendricks Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard, River Oaks Road, St. Augustine Road, Emerson Street and Reba Avenue (south of Walmart).

Homeowners near the tracks and crossings aren’t the only people interested in the creation of a San Marco Quiet Zone. Developers and people visiting parks and other outdoor public spaces have weighed in on the issue, too.

Chance Partners has started construction on the San Marco Promenade that will open in Summer 2019. The apartments will be on Philips Highway just south of I-95 beside the railroad tracks near the River Oaks Road crossing.

Jeff Rosen, a principal with the firm, said, “Chance Partners is very supportive of the quiet zone efforts and believe it will have a positive impact on all residents throughout San Marco and nearby neighborhoods.”

The firm also has plans for a proposed San Marco Crossing apartment development near their San Marco Promenade location and a second phase of San Marco Promenade in the future.

While The Resident was unable to reach District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer for comment, “Ms. Boyer has indicated that she is supportive of a San Marco Quiet Zone,” Ross said.

Funds needed to create Quiet Zone

This is not the first time in recent San Marco history that the idea of a Quiet Zone has been brought to Boyer’s attention. In October 2013, Donald C. Jones, then CEO of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and the American College of Endocrinology, wrote to Boyer to express his frustration about “ear-piercing sounds” that went on 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Like Ross, he had lived on River Oaks Road for more than 40 years and hoped to find a solution because he didn’t want to move.

In a later letter to Boyer, Jones questioned why City Ordinance 2013-676-E, which sets restrictions on noise decibel levels, could not be applied to limit train noise levels in San Marco. He wrote, “This is becoming a health and public safety issue, not to mention an ongoing source of irritation and frustration. The noise levels can cause hearing damage if you are outside.”

Unfortunately, Jones died in July 2017, so he is not part of these new efforts. The biggest impediment to creating a San Marco Quiet Zone seemed to him then, as it does for those currently wanting to pursue this route, to be funding to add the safety measures required by the FRA

Continued on page 5

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Resident COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.

PUBLISHERS
 Seth Williams - seth@residentnews.net
 Pamela B. Williams - pamela@residentnews.net

MANAGING EDITOR
 Kate A. Hallock - kate@residentnews.net

GOT NEWS? Email - editor@residentnews.net

SALES
 Debra McGregor - debra@residentnews.net
 Tarryn B. Poling - tarryn@residentnews.net
 Kelly Bushloper - kelly@residentnews.net

DESIGN:
 Joshua Garrett
 Danielle Smith-Boldt
 Christine Tarantino
 Shannon Young

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
 Phyllis Bell-Davis
 Susan D. Brandenburg
 Robert DeAngelo
 Marcia Hodgson, Marian Johns
 Karen J. Rieley, Lilla Ross

The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2018. Locally Owned and Operated

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to make it unnecessary for train engineers to blow the horns.

All 10 crossings in the current San Marco Quiet Zone proposal have lights and two-quadrant gates (long arm and short arm). River Oaks and Emerson already have traffic barriers. A San Marco Quiet Zone would require new traffic islands and/or upgraded gates at these crossings. The level of upgrade needed at each crossing would determine the cost.

“We hope to develop a public-private partnership, like what was accomplished in south Florida, for funds that will be needed. Public money from city, state and federal governments and perhaps private developers would help,” Ross said.

San Marco resident Earl Higginbotham wonders why train engineers are still required to blow horns at all. “Trains blowing horns is anachronistic,” he said. “They were for remote, rural communities that didn’t have lights and gates at crossings.”

“With all of the warning devices – signs, flashing lights, road impediments and gates – trains shouldn’t need horns,” Higginbotham said. “We drive our cars through many intersections every day and aren’t required to blow our horns to warn pedestrians, because it is their responsibility to obey the walk/don’t walk signs and signal lights.”

Higginbotham is a retired locomotive engineer, attorney and breeder of Dilute (Silver) Chocolate Labrador Retrievers. He lives in Lakewood, but walks his dog, Jack, in Alexander Oaks Park twice a day on most days.

He worked a total of 25 years as an attorney specializing in Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA) practice and all other areas of personal injury and wrongful death. Prior to that he was an associate attorney/manager of labor relations for CSX and general chairman of United Transportation Union. And, he was a locomotive fireman and engineer for Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company for 10 years.

“A San Marco Quiet Zone would be a great improvement for everyone – businesses, the neighborhood and individuals and visitors to the area,” he said.

When Higginbotham and Jack walk in Alexander Oaks Park, which parallels the train tracks, he said, “Even in the field, the decibel levels are sufficiently high as to



Park visitors Pam Sorenson and Piper and Earl Higginbotham and Jack in Alexandria Oaks Park near the train track.

almost automatically encourage one to cover one’s ears as the trains approach and transverse River Oaks Road.”

Pam Sorenson lives in The Peninsula condos on the Southbank. “The train horns are particularly aggravating at night,” she said. “The sound ricochets off the water and the high-rise buildings.”

Joe Honeycutt, who signed Ross’ online petition, said, “Our home is about one mile from the railroad crossing at Emerson and the same distance from the St. Augustine Road crossing. We can hear the train horn but it is barely noticeable. I primarily signed the petition because I believe [the sound of train horns] has some effect on property values of the people that live much closer to the crossings.”

Not everyone agrees with the need for a Quiet Zone, however. “Some residents have pointed out to me that I knew I was buying a home next to a railroad track and crossing, so I should just put up with it or move,” Ross said. “That’s easier said than done after living 32 years in one place.”

“I’m aware that some neighbors have actually expressed no concern with the horn noise,” Earl Higginbotham said. “No one can reasonably state a preference for hearing damaging levels of horn exposure to that of peace and quiet.”

City Council to consider District financial deal

Not all city leaders in agreement with deal

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The redevelopment plan for The District — A Life Well Lived goes to the City Council May 2. It’s the final hurdle for the long-awaited mixed-use development on the Southbank.

The Council will consider the financing deal for the redevelopment of 30 acres on the Southbank proposed by Peter Rummell and Michael Munz. The property, owned by the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA), is the former site of the Southside Generating Station.

By 2020, The District would have 950 residences, a 200-room Marriott, 285,000 to 134,600 square feet of retail, 200,000 square feet of office space and a 125-slip marina.

The project was first proposed in 2015 and has encountered many delays and obstacles, including redevelopment rights and environmental issues. An unconventional financing scheme that generated controversy was withdrawn and a more conventional one proposed.

Under the financing proposal, already approved by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), the City would provide \$56 million in property tax rebates over 22 years to the developers’ company, the Elements of Development Jacksonville LLC. The rebates, called Recaptured Enhanced Value or REV grants, are 75 percent of the property taxes and are dependent on how

much of The District is built and added to the tax rolls.

As part of the deal, the city would create a community development district that would enable Elements to issue bonds to raise \$30 million for streets and utilities in the development. Community development districts are commonly used in suburban projects, but this would be the first time one has been used downtown.

In addition, Elements would give the city four acres of riverfront property where the DIA would spend \$26.4 million for public amenities including 3.5 acres of park space, a 1,900-foot Riverwalk extension with bulkhead, a boardwalk trail, 100 parking spaces and three road extensions.

DIA CEO Aundra Wallace said the DIA has \$5 million for the project and expects \$4 million to come in the next two years. The remainder of the money would be borrowed from the city at 2.66 percent over 20 years, pending council approval. The loan would be repaid using tax revenue from the Southside Tax Increment Financing District, which encompasses part of the Southbank.

Rummell and Munz have yet to buy the property from JEA for \$18.5 million. They have until July 18 to close the deal. And they are expected to encounter resistance from District 6 Councilman Matt Schellenberg, who calls the financing plan “a giveaway” by the city and wants the incentives withdrawn. He said if Rummell and Munz are unable to proceed with the project, JEA should rebid it.

Munz said he is confident the project will proceed. Once the Council signs off on it, construction could begin by the end of summer, he said.



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Street safety appropriations bill approved

About one month after District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer introduced Bill 2018-189 to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, the 19 members of Jacksonville's City Council voted April 24 to adopt the ordinance.

Council's approval to appropriate \$250,000 from the Special Council Contingency designated for Jacksonville Sheriff's Office recruiting will purchase and install 10 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) Crosswalk Signals or their equivalents on city streets in addition to the 88 locations currently listed as priorities in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

In a 2017 study, which led to the master plan, the City identified RRFBs as one countermeasure to supplement standard uncontrolled pedestrian crossings and help enhance pedestrian safety. The beacons use LED flashing beacons to provide a high-visibility strobe-like warning to drivers when activated by pedestrians.

To determine location priority, the study looked at four variables: proximity to pedestrian deaths, proximity to pedestrian crashes proximity to schools, and proximity to senior centers.

The funds designated in the Special Council Contingency for JSO to hire new officers in this year's budget will not be used, so Boyer filed the bill March 27 to move the funds to the Roadway Safety Project.

Additionally, the ordinance amends the 2018-2022 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program approved by Ordinance 2017-505-E to provide additional funding for the project entitled "Roadway Safety Project - Ped X-ing."

Fuel tanks removed at former Lakewood Shell station

Just over two years ago, plans were announced First Coast Energy LLP would convert a former Shell service station at the corner of San Jose and University Boulevards to a new Daily's.

Then in September 2016, permits had been applied for site clearing and construction of a \$1.5 million, 4,480-square-foot service station on the 0.64-acre site. At the time there was no construction schedule, nor did First Coast Energy know if the Daily's would include a DASH convenience store.

The site had been one of 21 purchased by First Coast Energy from Shell Oil in April 1997 for \$5,404,400.

Despite the recent removal of the underground fuel tanks at 5640 San Jose Blvd., the local energy company is not forthcoming with plans.

"At this location, we just took tanks out of the ground and have no other plans at this time," said Andrea Kane, a spokesperson for First Coast Energy.



Underground fuel tanks are removed from a former Shell station at the corner of San Jose and University Boulevards.

FDOT releases landscape plan for Overland Bridge project

Members and supporters of Scenic Jacksonville and Greenscape will be pleased to know many a palm tree will be planted in the Interstate 95 Overland Landscaping project.

Instead, landscaping from San Diego Road to the Acosta Expressway will include plantings of numerous species of trees, such as the Southern Red Cedar, Muskogee Crape Myrtle, Southern Magnolia, Slash Pine, Live Oak and Bald Cypress; shrubs like Big Blue Liriope, Coontie and Walter's Viburnum, as well as Crown Grass, Creeping Fig and Minima Jasmine.

"Our goal is to make Florida the most attractive place to do business, attract visitors and businesses to invest more time and money in Florida," said Odette Struys, Florida Department of Transportation public information officer.

Given the urban location and characteristics of the corridor, the Overland Project

has limited Right-of-Way available for landscape development, which presents a challenge in the development of a bold landscape design, according to Struys.

Drainage design cannot be compromised, ponds can limit landscaping opportunity, and placing irrigation to every plant can be difficult to achieve. Therefore, the impact and intensity of proposed landscape treatments will vary throughout the corridor, she said.

Plans representing 60 percent of the landscape design were presented at an FDOT Open House March 29. The plans were developed to establish a sustainable landscape which offers low maintenance, low water requirements, durability, drought tolerance and disease resistance, according to Struys.

The project is scheduled to begin in summer 2019. Completion is anticipated

in 12 months, depending on weather and unforeseen delays permitting. The programmed budget of the project is just under \$2 million but the design may fall short of that figure due to various factors.

When the project is completed, the public can expect landscape along Interstate 95 mainline local roadway frontages at local street level, retention ponds, and embankments meeting the criteria for landscape placement. Landscape improvements will be limited on the elevated portion of the mainline roadway project.

The landscaping project has been developed through the FDOTree program, an initiative from the Florida Department of Transportation's Northeast Florida landscaping programs. For more information, visit www.nflroads.com/FDOTree.

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Hurricane debris still a water hazard; more access opening to waterways

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The weather is warming up, which means boaters will be taking to the rivers of Northeast Florida, where they will find something old: reminders of Hurricane Irma – and something new: more access.

The impact of last September's storm is still being felt in the area. Millions of gallons of water have finished draining through the St. Johns River Basin, and the salinity levels of the rivers have returned to normal, according to Dr. Quinton White, executive director of the Marine Science Center at Jacksonville University.

But debris from docks and bulkheads is still causing an issue, said Capt. Jim Suber, Jacksonville's waterways coordinator and dockmaster.

"Irma is still affecting our city," Suber said. "The debris issue is getting better, but we still have an occasional piece of a dock or bulkhead large enough to cause damage. I advise all boaters to pay attention to what's ahead of you. Be on the lookout for floating debris or anything that could cause damage or injury."

Many of the docks damaged in the storm have been repaired but those with major damage that required engineering work have taken longer to fix, Suber said. They include The Jacksonville Landing, County Dock, the pier at the Lions Club Boat Ramp, Dames Point Park and the Trout River floating dock.

The City of Jacksonville is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to get the repairs done.

"There's a procedure that has to be followed, and we're in the middle of it," Suber



Whether you're looking at the cityscape from the St. Johns River or meandering down one of its inlets, the vantage point from a kayak is like no other.



said. "We're in the engineering stage of most of the work. We'll be getting the jobs out for bid and repair."

Some of the docks will have improvements made, mostly raising them a couple of feet, in an effort to prevent future damage.

"In Irma the floodwater carried the floating docks over the pilings, so they were sitting on the pilings. We're going to do some mitigation so that when you have a good flood like we got with Irma, it doesn't go over the dock. We want to make them more stable and wider, so they can take a wave hit," he said.

The County Dock boat ramp in Mandarin was replaced and a kayak access point was added, said Brian Burket, City waterfront project manager. Old pilings that were navigational hazards were removed. The fishing pier that was destroyed by Irma will be replaced. That project is in the design phase. In addition, parking has been improved so that people will not block nearby driveways.

The Mayport Boat Ramp, which is the busiest in the county, has an additional launch lane and dock improvements. The

floating docks at Wayne B. Stevens on the Westside were replaced, Burket said.

The Riverfront Park Bulkhead Replacement project, on River Road in San Marco, which was delayed by Irma, is expected to be completed next month, according to city spokeswoman Tia Ford. It will include lighting and landscaping.

Most of the derelict vessels that sank during Irma have been removed by the Coast Guard and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Suber said.

"They've done a fabulous job cleaning the derelict vessels that ran aground or ran astray. They pulled them out and put them on land and they are now dealing with the owners."

But Suber cautioned that some derelict vessels might be on private property and could be a hazard to watercraft.

City getting serious about river access

Boaters, especially kayakers, will find it easier to get on the river this summer, and more access is on the way.

The new kayak launch at Sidney Gefen Park on Riverside is now open. Burket said

the shoreline launch at the end of Forest Street is the best place for downtown paddlers.

By next year, paddlers will have a new floating launch near the School Board Administration building on the Southbank. The launch, which is in the permitting process, will be accessible with adaptive features like grab bars and transition seats for people with varying abilities, Burket said. Construction will start later this year.

New floating docks are being planned for Post Street and Jackson Street in Riverside with space for the water taxi and four to six private vessels. And the floating dock on the Southbank behind Riverplace Tower will be expanded. They should be completed by early next year.

The City also is looking at ways to improve river access to the Riverside Arts Market, which has a floating dock that is restricted to Saturdays and daylight hours. Suber said the City is in talks with property owner Black Knight to expand access.

Exchange Island is adding two picnic shelters this month. Last year a floating dock, nature trail and benches and picnic tables were added, Burket said.

Jim King Park and Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek has two projects that will be underway this summer. Lights will be installed to the parking lot in the 24-hour facility, and the boater access points on the docks will be moved to deeper water. Burket said at low tide boats hit the mud bottom and can damage the docks. The work will not interfere with the kingfish tournament in July, he said.

The Joe Carlucci Boat Ramp, which was damaged by Irma, will get an upgrade with

continued on page 9



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“I advise all boaters to pay attention to what’s ahead of you. Be on the lookout for floating debris or anything that could cause damage or injury.”

— Capt. Jim Suber, Jacksonville waterways coordinator and dockmaster

longer floating docks. “That’s a busy ramp,” Burket said. “During peak times people have to wait their turn to stage and launch their boat. We hope to make it a little easier. Work should start on that in late summer or early fall.”

Construction on a shoreline kayak launch in Northshore Park should begin in about a month, Burket said. And a 100-foot fishing pier parallel to the shore will be built this summer in Charles Reese Memorial Park.

The park at Half Moon Island at the north end of Main Street, a quarter of a mile from the Nassau County line, is in the design phase, Burket said. It will have a new boat ramp to give boaters access to the Nassau River, a fishing platform, a picnic shelter, restrooms and a lighted parking lot. Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year.

“We’re just trying to get the general public out on the waterways whether it’s in kayaks or Kraken Cycleboats that just opened up downtown,” Suber said. “Anything to make the downtown riverfront more entertaining for residents and visitors.”

The cycleboats are party boats that can be operated with pedaling power as well as an outboard motor, Suber said. They are based at River City Brewing Company.

Waterways Commissioner Jed Davis is heading up the Downtown River and Waterfront Experience Task Force that is looking at float-in movies somewhere off the Southbank, Suber said.

District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer and the Downtown Investment Authority are working on a series of small thematic parks along the Southbank and Northbank Riverwalks that would include activities like light and music shows, interactive features and more access to the river.

New guides for water usage

For paddlers, the Intracoastal Salt Marsh Paddling Guide has been updated. It’s the companion to the Greater Jacksonville Paddling Guide and the Timucuan Trail Waterway Guide. All three guides are available online and in print at publictrustlaw.org/paddling-guides.

The new Intracoastal guide more accurately reflects the location of launches, including new ones, route descriptions, ease or difficulty of access, GPS coordinates and whether they are near restrooms and restaurants, said John November, executive director of the Public Trust which produces the guides.

The new guide includes all the new conservation land that has been purchased by Atlantic Beach, including Riverbranch Preserve and Crying Child Island.

“It addresses how easy each launch point is to get to and where there is a long trail to the dock,” November said. “We also show the depths, so people know which launch points can be difficult to get to at low tide.”

The Public Trust is working with the City of Jacksonville to update and reprint them regularly, November said.

In addition, boaters and fishermen can find lots of information at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website — www.myfwc.com.

Visit Jacksonville has recently enhanced its website to include more information about water-based activities. Check out the new information at www.visitjacksonville.com/things-to-do/water-activities. The City also is working on an upgrade for its website that will feature more outdoor recreation information. It will be launched later in the year.

Dredging projects

Boaters need to be alert to several dredging projects that are occurring in the river and the Intracoastal Waterway. Boaters are urged to use caution in these areas.

The first phase of the controversial \$484 million project to deepen three miles of the shipping channel is expected to be underway by summer, Suber said. Initial work began in February but then stopped because of equipment issues.

In the Intracoastal, the Mile Point construction site in the Chicopit Bay is in phase two of a dredging project designed to improve navigation at the point where the Intracoastal intersects the St. Johns River. The project includes the restoration of the Great Marsh Island with oyster and grass beds and the construction of a waterway wall. When the project is complete, Suber said, the waters in the area should be calmer. Farther north, sediment is being dredged at Saltpit Creek and Amelia Island Park at Nassau Sound.

Safety first, fun follows

Suber said the first priority of any boater should be safety.

He recommends all boats be inspected by the Sail and Power Squadron or the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and boat owners take the American Boating Course.

Every boat should be outfitted with usable, wearable life vests for every person on board and a whistle or horn to get someone’s attention.

Fire extinguishers are another important piece of equipment, Suber said. They should be charged and not too old. If it is more than 10 years old, it should be replaced. And, if it’s a Kidde brand, check the manufacturer’s website because several models have been recalled. Go to <https://bit.ly/2mQJPaD>.

And before going out on the water, make a boat plan and tell someone where you’re going and when you expect to be back.

“Tell someone who will miss you if you don’t come back,” Suber said. “If they know where you’re going, that can help narrow the search and give the searchers a better chance of finding you.”

And, like cars, boats need insurance. If, for instance, a boat hits a private dock, it’s the boater who pays for the damage, he said.




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Urban residents take on trash along Riverwalks

Southbank statue needs hurricane damage repairs

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The goal is 600 hours, and it won't be long now.

The Downtown Dwellers are tracking the hours that people spend walking on the Southbank and Northbank Riverwalks. They have logged more than 450 hours. The walkers were rewarded recently with a wine tasting cruise on the river, catered by the Flavors of Thai and Wine Decadence.

Sandra Fradd, president of the Downtown Dwellers, said the Riverwalks are considered to be parks by the City of Jacksonville and she wants to show the City how invested the downtown residents are in the riverfront paths.

About 1,500 people live in the Berkman Plaza, the Riverwalk Townhouses and Churchwell Lofts on the Northbank, and the Strand, the Peninsula and San Marco Place on the Southbank.

Fradd and representatives from each of the buildings meet regularly with Daryl Joseph, head of the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

"The Riverwalks require a lot of upkeep," Fradd said.

Approximately 60 walkers have made it a project to collect trash and to monitor other issues.

One of those issues is the Lone Sailor statue and fountain, which was refurbished last year, but has damage from Hurricane Irma that still needs to be repaired, Fradd said.

Another perennial issue is the homeless, who congregate near the public restroom near the Strand.



The Lone Sailor statue requires repairs due to damages incurred during Hurricane Irma.

Fradd said the City has assigned two armed security guards to monitor the area in the morning and evening to discourage the homeless from bedding down.

"It's a public access thing," Fradd said. "We're not thrilled that we have to have a guard but if that's what it takes."

Down the road, Fradd would like to decorate the restroom with murals, but said it would cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

And in the fall, Fradd wants to start a walking club.

"We're building community," she said. "In this day and age, we are so separated, so isolated. We are afraid to reach out because we don't know if people will bite us or welcome us. But this will help us get to know each other."



Valerie Stanley, Ellen Siler, Councilman Garrett Dennis, London Kite, Michael Aubin, Dr. Randell Alexander, Teresa Simak, Robert Miller, Jessica Winberry, Tim Crutchfield

Hit-Free Zones launch at Wolfson Children's Hospital and other organizations

City Council approves similar initiative for city-owned properties

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

"Not in our four walls." That's the stance being taken by administration and staff at Wolfson Children's Hospital when acts of corporal punishment, violence or abuse are observed within the San Marco-based medical center.

Michael D. Aubin, hospital president, announced April 5 the facility would launch a Hit-Free Zone initiative, promoting a welcoming, safe and healthy environment for patients and their families.

"As the regional children's hospital, folks come from all over a gigantic area, and this is a stressful place. It's hard enough to have all the stresses of life, but when you add that your child is sick that creates a lot of tension," said Aubin. "Within our four walls, we decided to make sure this is a safe place, a place where people didn't have to worry about any kind of violence or abuse."

"We want to make a difference in our community, and make sure physical abuse of any kind is eliminated, especially in this kind of environment. We know that it's controversial. We know there are folks who have reasons why they should be able to do this...but not in our four walls. We're going to make sure that doesn't happen here," Aubin said.

Hit-Free Zones will be created in all of the hospital's locations in Florida and Georgia. The focus is education, he said. "You can't tell someone 'Don't do this' without providing the tools to do something different. We believe we can do that."

In the near future, all 40-plus Baptist Health hospitals and facilities will join Wolfson Children's to ensure no adult shall hit another adult, no adult shall hit a child,

no child shall hit an adult, and no child shall hit another child, said Aubin.

Also speaking at the launch conference was Randell Alexander, MD, PhD, Professor and Chief, Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics, UF College of Medicine - Jacksonville.

"This has been a long time coming," he said. "In 1783, Poland was the first country to ban corporal punishment in public schools. There are now 53 countries - over a quarter of all countries on the planet - that have now banned corporal punishment. Spanking is legal in the United States, but we're not here to talk about the laws, we're here to talk about what's happening in our house."

Alexander said while Wolfson is not the first Children's Hospital to implement such a zone, it is the first in Florida. "Our real hope down the road is all Children's Hospitals will be hit-free."

Over 1,100 employees at Wolfson Children's Hospital will have been trained how to de-escalate tension which might result in hitting, without getting in the middle of a hostile or threatening situation. Materials were developed by Wolfson Children's Hospital and the UF Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics to help families find other alternatives to hitting.

Joining Wolfson Children's Hospital and UF Jacksonville in launching Hit-Free Zones during National Children Abuse Prevention Month were other agencies, including Family Support Services; the Quigley House; the Office of the State Attorney's Homicide Divisions in Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties, and the District 4 Medical Examiner's Office.

In addition, District 9 Councilman Garrett Dennis filed legislation to require all city-owned properties and facilities be designated Hit-Free Zones. Bill 2018-171, which is under consideration by City Council, will include training of city employees for intervention, and signage to identify hit-free areas.

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‘Gator’ makes it back to the ‘Bowl’ in name change agreement

By Robert DeAngelo
Resident Community News

College football’s sixth-oldest bowl game is getting its name back.

During a press event April 12 at bestbet Jacksonville, the Gator Bowl Sports Board of Trustees announced it will reinstitute “Gator” into the official title of Jacksonville’s bowl game. Beginning this year, the late December contest will now be known as the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl.

“I think it can only help the game,” said Josh Gaudin, TaxSlayer head of strategic partnerships. “The name has a history and it’s synonymous with the game. Calling it the Gator Bowl makes sense.”

The bowl has taken place annually since 1946 and was called the Gator Bowl until 2014 when TaxSlayer.com, an online tax preparation service based in Augusta, Georgia, became the game’s primary sponsor. Under a six-year deal reached with Gator Bowl Sports, the name was changed to TaxSlayer Bowl.

But a recent mutual agreement between the board and TaxSlayer restored “Gator” into the bowl’s moniker.

“If you grew up in Jacksonville like I did, you grew up with the Greater Jacksonville Open, Georgia-Florida and the Gator Bowl,” said Rick Catlett, CEO/president of Gator Bowl Sports. “To have TaxSlayer make this decision speaks to the history and tradition in this community and their respect for college football in general. We’ve married two great brands back together and I think it’s going to continue our major economic impact.”

Recent estimates peg that economic impact at between \$14-16 million for Jacksonville and its surrounding communities. According to the Gator Bowl Sports Board of Trustees, more than \$500,000 is donated annually to local charitable organizations.

“We love college football and what it means to the history of our city. TaxSlayer working with us to help preserve our heritage is nothing short of spectacular,” said Jamie Shelton, the new chairman of Gator Bowl Sports, and bestbet Jacksonville president.

In a statement, TaxSlayer CEO/President Brian Rhodes said the game “has a rich tradition and legacy in college football and we at TaxSlayer are extremely proud to be a part of such a dedicated and professional



JaxSports Council committee members Rich Thompson, Robert Dilts, Amanda Napolitano and John Duce with Alan Verlander, JaxSports Council, Jamie Shelton, 2018 game chairman, Rick Catlett, TaxSlayer Gator Bowl, Billy Catlin, committee member, and Josh Gaudin, TaxSlayer

bowl family. We look forward to continuing to build on the Bowl’s historic foundation.”

The game, entering its 74th year in 2018, was played at Gator Bowl Stadium from 1946 through 1993. With renovations to the stadium under way, the 1994 game was played at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. The bowl returned to its original site, now known as TIAA Bank Field (formerly Jacksonville Municipal Stadium and more recently EverBank Field), in January 1996.

This year’s game, which will once again be televised on one of the ESPN networks, will feature a team from the Southeastern Conference against an opponent from either the Big Ten Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference or the independent University of Notre Dame. An announcement about the date and time was expected in late April. In addition to Shelton’s new role presiding over all three Gator Bowl Sports entities, chairman-elect will be Rich Thompson, of The Adecco Group.

San Marco Publix

FROM PAGE 1

it will become a construction site by the end of the year. The 50,000-square-foot shopping center, possibly with a different name, will open next year with a 30,000-square-foot Publix and about 20,000 square feet of shops and restaurants.

The project that would give San Marco its first grocery store has been under discussion since 2002. Regency Centers and The St. Joe Co. announced a mixed-use project in 2006 and bought the property from SunTrust Bank the following year. The plan was for a six-story building, anchored by Publix and topped with 125 condominiums.

But the Great Recession hit, and the project stalled. It was revived in 2013 when

Whitehall Realty Partners joined the project, briefly. The project was modified; instead of 125 condos, the building would have 240 apartments.

But the following year, Whitehall withdrew from the project, and Regency Centers bought out St. Joe’s interest. The City Council gave the go-ahead for the project.

In 2016, Regency Centers announced that Bluerock and ArchCo would buy the property, develop it and sell it back to

Regency. Permits were issued, and construction was expected to begin by the end of the year, and then delayed until spring. Then in March, the partnership collapsed, and the project was put on hold again.

Residential is still a possibility, Stein said, but it would be built on an adjacent lot next to Fletcher Park. That project would require a modification to the approved Planned Unit Development.

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City neighborhoods event reintroduced

Awards presented to organizations, individuals

It was billed as the first Neighborhood and Community Summit, but perhaps the April 21 City-sponsored event should have been more accurately publicized as “the first in more than two decades.”

The original Neighborhood Summit, held Sept. 20, 1996 during Mayor John Delaney’s administration, was held to advance the efforts of the Community Advisory Planning Councils (CPACs) formed under his predecessor, Mayor Ed Austin.

Notwithstanding the oversight, the 2018 Neighborhood & Community Summit did bring community together on a rainy Saturday at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, where the event was kicked off by former Jacksonville Jaguar Donovan Darius.

In addition to displays from Jacksonville Fire & Rescue equipment to driverless electric vehicles and more, participants attended breakout sessions about crime prevention and public safety, code enforcement and keeping neighborhoods clean.

Awards were given as well. On behalf of the Murray Hill Preservation Association, Jason Tetlak accepted the Great Big Neighborhood Award (for neighborhoods with 201 homes or more) as Outstanding Neighborhood of the Year, while The Arc Jacksonville Village received the Great Little Neighborhood Award (for neighborhoods with less than 200 homes).

Other awards included the Lifetime Community Service Award (Ann Burt); the Community Catalyst Award (Suzanne Pickett); the Perfect Partnership Award



The Fight Blight team from the City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department was one of many exhibits at the 2018 Neighborhood & Community Summit. (Photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville)

(Thomas Martin, Jesse Skinner, Moses Harrison of the Watermill Master Association); the Neighbors Get Moving Award (Historic Springfield District), and the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Award (Sandra Enochs).

Two individuals received the mayor’s inaugural Champions (Community Heroes & Advocates Making Positive Impacts on Neighborhoods) awards. Tracy Grant, president of the Eureka Gardens Tenant Association, who took the fight for Eureka Gardens to Washington, D.C., was honored, along with JSO Assistant Chief Deloris Patterson, who was recognized for her exceptional commitment to neighborhoods through more than 20 years of service by developing meaningful relationships with community members through volunteerism, mentorship, advocacy and more.

Coastline Drive construction project schedule, budget growing



The Northbank Riverwalk will be rerouted around a basin created from the demolition of a collapsed parking deck which was located south of the old Duval County Courthouse.

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Putting the Northbank Riverwalk back together at Coastline Drive and Liberty Street will cost taxpayers another \$1 million and push the completion date to next March – but it’s still less costly than what was originally proposed three years ago.

After portions of Liberty Street collapsed into the St. Johns River in 2012 and again in early 2015, original plans called for a \$65 million repair of the collapsed roadway. However, in August 2015 former City Council President Greg Anderson proposed a less costly solution, which was subsequently approved and put into the City’s budget.

Anderson’s plan called for rerouting the Northbank Riverwalk around the inlet after the parking deck is demolished.

The area supporting a parking lot behind the old Duval County courthouse began collapsing about three years ago.

Work was initially supposed to begin in October 2015 and the contract awarded to Superior Construction Southeast was \$31 million, with a \$7.5 million reimbursement from the Florida Department of Transportation. Demolition of Coastline Drive began in February 2017 and is complete; demolition of Liberty Street and the parking deck are underway with expected completion by end of June.

Replacement of the Coastline Bridge from Newnan to Market Streets was originally scheduled to be completed by early 2018,

with rebuilt, rerouted elements of the Northbank Riverwalk and Liberty Street Bridge to be completed by this summer.

Last fall, the Waterways Commission recommended the City apply for a Florida Inland Navigation District [FIND] grant to design/permit a marina within the daylighted basin, said Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson. City Council approved the final list of 2018 FIND projects which were submitted to the granting agency in March.

“Grant awards are expected to be announced later this year,” she said. “Should the grant be awarded for a marina, the Downtown Investment Authority will be involved in the design to ensure the project is compatible with adjacent re-development plans.”

According to a recent change order, the City of Jacksonville is seeking \$294,000 for benches, trash cans and light poles; \$267,000 for bulkhead repairs where Liberty Street dead ends at the river; \$379,000 more on relocation of JEA powerlines, and \$159,000 to the contractor, Superior Construction, for re-prepping the construction zones after Hurricane Irma. A design change for Liberty Street will reduce the contract cost by \$74,000, bringing the total of the requested change order to \$1,025,000.

The City is also in the process of soliciting bids to demolish the old courthouse and former City Hall building.

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Coming to the table to build tables

Volunteers assemble furniture for Sulzbacher Village residents

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The only thing better than watching volunteers assemble new IKEA furniture for Sulzbacher Village, a new community for women and families, will be to watch the faces of the residents when they finally see their new digs, said Sulzbacher President and CEO Cindy Funkhouser.

Thanks to a partnership with IKEA-Jacksonville and a \$280,000 grant from the Jim Moran Foundation, volunteers from various businesses and service organizations gathered over four days to

assemble IKEA furniture for Sulzbacher Village residents, April 24-27.

With each day highlighting various organizations – Sports Volunteer Day, Local Heroes Day, Faith Day, and Community Leaders Day – Sulzbacher benefited from the efforts of volunteers from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Availity, Allstate Insurance, Southeast Toyota, Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Bank of America, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, the American Legion Riders Post 88, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Mayo Clinic, McGuireWoods Law Firm, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the Beach Church and Church of Eleven 22.

“Over the last week we’ve had more than 425 volunteers coming to the Village,” Funkhouser said. “For all these people to come to the table literally and put the tables together, is wonderful. I can’t wait for the ribbon-cutting, and I hope all these volunteers can return and see our folks come in for the first time. Normally when we move people out they have nothing, and we have to beg, borrow, or steal to get furniture donated. For our people to walk in and see their new homes fully furnished with new IKEA furniture is really going to make this whole thing worthwhile. I can’t wait for that day.”

The construction of Sulzbacher Village, located on Springfield Boulevard near 44th Street and Pearl Street, will enable the nonprofit for the first time to provide women, families, and children with affordable long-term housing as well as the services they need to build a new life. In addition to housing, residents will receive healthcare, behavioral health services, job training and life skills, children’s programming and exposure to arts and cultural resources at the new location.



Kristina Aranilla, Leah Goodwyne, David Johnson and Rachel Harris



Members of JAX Chamber volunteered to help put together the Ikea furniture. Back: Daniel Davis, president and CEO; Ashlea Justice; Becky Arnold; Clayton Levins; Kristina Aranilla; Tina Wirth; David Johnson; Rachel Harris; Lyndsay Rossman; Monisa Thompson; Deana Harding; Tien Flowe; Matt Galnor, vice president, public affairs; Shirley Moore; Dawn Adams; Amanda Kendrick, Ikea business planner; Emily Knight-Smith, Sulzbacher volunteer coordinator; and Gene Funkhouser.

“We’ve been blessed, and as an organization, we feel obligated to give back to the city of Jacksonville and to people who may not have as much hope as most people do.”

— Daniel Davis, president and CEO of JAX Chamber

A ribbon-cutting is planned for Thursday, May 24. The \$22 million facility consists of 70 apartments – studios, one-bedroom and two-bedrooms – and will accommodate a total of 310 formerly homeless single women, female veterans, and single- and two-parent families. In addition, approximately 30 supplementary units will assist women and families in need of short-term emergency housing and medical respite.

As part of Community Leaders Day, approximately 29 members of the JAX Chamber

rolled up their sleeves April 27 to assemble couches, chairs, dressers, beds and tables. “We’ve been blessed, and as an organization, we feel obligated to give back to the city of Jacksonville and to people who may not have as much hope as most people do,” said Daniel Davis, president and CEO of JAX Chamber. “It doesn’t matter what part of the city they come from or what their socio-economic background is. We want to serve those people. We are happy to be here and appreciate the opportunity.”

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Rebecca Aleman, director of the Disabilities Ministry and Camp I Am Special, cuts the ribbon with the help of Camp I Am Special campers. (Photo by Woody Huband)

New aquatic center dedicated at Camp I Am Special

After a two-year, \$1.1 million-plus capital campaign, Camp I Am Special opened a new aquatic center, The “Rotary Club of Deerwood Abigail’s Joy Camp I Am Special Aquatic Center,” which was dedicated April 11 by the Camp’s founder, Bishop John J. Snyder.

“For some of our campers, this is the only time they get to swim because it’s so challenging to get in and out of the pool,” said Miramar resident Lauren Weedon Hopkins, regional director of Catholic Charities Jacksonville, which grants scholarships to the campers.

The new pool is specially designed for people with disabilities, including an ADA-compliant, graduated entry ramp so campers in specially-designed “water wheelchairs”

can roll right into the pool instead of being hoisted on a lift.

There are also special water features, such as bubblers and deck jets for campers with sensory-related issues. The pool is mostly shallow with support bars and social steps that can be used to enter the pool or sit in the water. Nearby are fully accessible restrooms with showers and a covered pavilion with picnic tables.

The main sponsors included Deerwood Rotary Charities, Inc., and Ed and Marlene White of Auld & White Constructors LLC, who named it Abigail’s Joy in honor of their granddaughter. The Delores Barr Weaver Fund donated the money for the Ability Pool, the Chartrand Family gave the funding

for the shaded pavilion, and San Jose residents Greg and Karen Montana were among the major sponsors as well. Heather Baxter of WET Engineering, Inc. provided the pool design as an in-kind donation. Others have donated \$100 or \$250 for brick pavers for the Friendship Walk that borders the entry inside the pool complex.

Since 1983, Camp I Am Special has provided a summer camp experience for children and adults with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities, providing activities that include crafts, talent shows, and swimming. It is made possible through private funding and in-kind donations, as well as an army of volunteers who serve at the camp in Fruit Cove.

Drew named Bolles Associate Head of School

Bolles Incoming President and Head of School Tyler Hodges named Mike Drew to the position of Associate Head of School.

Drew, who has been the Bolles Middle School Head for the past year, assumes Hodges’ former role this summer. Drew’s selection follows an international search that yielded applications from more than 130 professionals representing 35 states and three countries.

“Our search ultimately led us home and I am happy to announce we completed our search and selected Mike Drew for this position,” Hodges said, adding the applicant pool included candidates with experience at local schools, Florida schools outside of Jacksonville, schools outside of Florida, international schools and several university-level schools including Loyola University Maryland, the University of Maine, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and many more.

In his new role, Drew will be the school’s academic leader and will be



Michael Drew

responsible for the administration of faculty, curriculum, student academic affairs and programs, arts, athletics, college counseling, learning specialists and registrar functions for all grade levels from Pre-K through Grade 12. Drew also will remain a presence on the Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus through the fall.

Drew came to Bolles from Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he was the Middle School Head since 2007 and served as the school’s Dean of Sixth Grade for four years prior to that. Drew worked for eight years at Friends Academy in Locust Valley, New York as a science teacher, advisor, coach and was ultimately named Middle School Assistant Principal.

Drew attended Cornell University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. He received his Master of Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.

JCA board members receive leadership award

Jewish Community Alliance Board members Sunny Gettinger, of Avondale, and Rochelle Stoddard, of St. Nicholas, were honored with the prestigious Esther Leah Ritz Next Generation JCC Leadership Award.

Bestowed by the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America, the award identifies future leaders of Jewish Community Center Boards and includes a training program designed to enhance the skills needed to assume top leadership roles.

“I’m honored to receive the JCC Association’s Esther Leah Ritz Next Generation Award. The JCA plays a vital role in our community,

providing a place for us to come together and celebrate our culture and differences and those essential things we share too. And it’s so much more than that – with an incredible early learning center, top notch fitness facility, sports leagues, and cultural programming year round. I look forward to attending the Institute next month and learning how I can grow as a servant leader in this organization,” said Gettinger, who serves as assistant secretary/treasurer on the JCA Board.

“It is my pleasure to serve an organization welcoming of all people and providing so



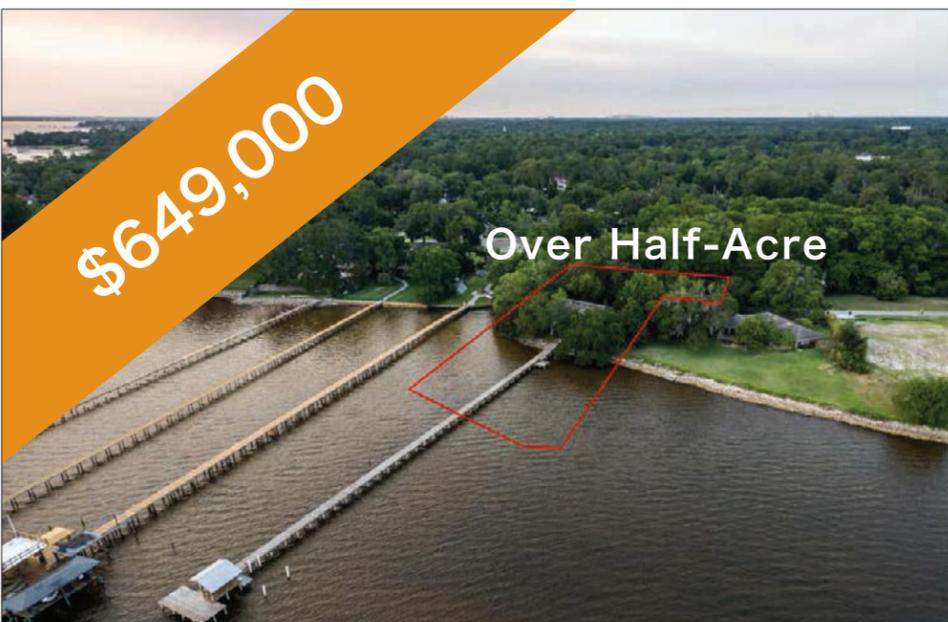
Sunny Gettinger



Rochelle Stoddard

much to our community while identifying as a Jewish entity,” said Stoddard, JCA Board treasurer.

The training program will begin at the JCC Association Biennial Convention in Memphis, Tenn., May 6-8.



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Familiar faces return to pharmacy, serve with smiles

There's a local pharmacy serving the community, not just with prescriptions, pills, and refills, but with a healthy dose of gratitude. In the Miramar Shopping Plaza just off Hendricks Avenue, two business owners are hard at work to create a different kind of experience for those trusting their advice and years of knowledge in the pharmaceutical industry. The result is OmniCare Pharmacy, an independently owned and operated business that provides locals an alternative to the big box for shopping medications and seeking sound advice from professionals.

Not only are they experienced in their field, but the familiar face of pharmacist William Nimo, Pharm. D., is one that generations of families in the area have come to know and love. Nimo worked at Winn-Dixie Pharmacy in Lakewood for over 20 years, making lasting impressions on those he served. By being an honest, trusted, and helpful steward of his customers health and wellness, he's been someone people seek out and have been eager to find since his departure from the grocery chain.

Today, Nimo works alongside business partner Dixie Murphy, Pharm. D., a former colleague from the early years of Nimo's career at Winn-Dixie. Murphy graduated from the University of Florida and met the kind, gentle-natured Nimo many years ago and knew that he would be the perfect business partner at this point in their careers. Not only does Murphy know that Nimo is a gifted practitioner of pharmacy, but he's an individual that gives more to others than he receives.

"People have been looking for William," said Murphy. "Some have even taken to local social media outlets and apps to



William Nimo, Pharm. D., and Dixie Murphy, Pharm. D.

praise him and share updates with their neighbors about his whereabouts since he left Winn-Dixie."

The two have enjoyed running their own pharmacy, seeing familiar faces, and making friends daily. "This is a community I've served for a long time," said Nimo, as he spoke of the control and independence he now has while running his own business. "Now I determine the amount of time I can speak to customers and have more time to focus on patient care."

As business owners, Nimo and Murphy have also enjoyed giving back to their favorite missions when they have time away from work to volunteer. They have both been serving selflessly by way of Volunteers in Medicine, a nonprofit that helps the working poor get the medications they need as well as access to healthcare. Both have dedicated their time to bettering the community. "You donate when you have excess," shared Nimo. "That's why I volunteer."

OmniCare Pharmacy is located at 4432 Hendricks Avenue in the Miramar Plaza. OmniCare offers FREE delivery of medicines to those located within 10 miles of their location. Call (904) 423-0123 to get help with your prescriptions today.

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Tree planting project recognized by urban forestry council



Left: Cyndi Schmidt, Anna Dooley, Mike Robinson and Mary Pietan; right: Peggy Bryan and Courtenay Wilson with Jim Whittaker, president and CEO of The Arc Jacksonville

A collaboration in May 2017 between Greenscape of Jacksonville, the HDR Foundation and the Late Bloomers Club of Jacksonville to donate and install more than 90 trees at the new campus of The Arc Jacksonville Village was recognized April 11 at a luncheon at The Village.

The project was awarded the Florida Urban Forestry Council's 2017 Outstanding Project, which recognizes a residential,

commercial or public project that demonstrates tree preservation, tree planting, tree maintenance, or environmentally-sound planning or design.

HDR Foundation had awarded Greenscape a \$8,650 grant a year ago to plant 70 trees at The Village, and the Late Bloomers donated funds for 20 large oak trees. Volunteers spent a morning last May planting the trees around The Village.

Starling joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Michael Starling, a San Marco resident, has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, working at its Avondale office.

Starling is a Bishop Kenny High School alumnus, and attended the University of Florida, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in journalism and communications, then received a Master of Arts in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

Much of Starling's 35-year professional career has been in publishing and communications before becoming a licensed Realtor in 2015.

He has three grown children - Kyle, Kayla, and Kory - who all live in North Florida, along with his three grandchildren, Kiley, Karter, and Kamren. Starling enjoys exploring the nature and beaches of Northeast Florida; he is also an avid sports fan, following his alma mater, the University of Florida Gators, and his local home team, the Jacksonville Jaguars.



Michael Starling

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McCague named interim CFO for JAXPORT



Beth McCague

Beth McCague, of Epping Forest, has been named interim chief financial officer at the Jacksonville Port Authority after current CFO Michael Poole announced he had taken a position at Port Canaveral.

Currently serving as an advisor to Jaxport's CEO and finance group, McCague has also served as a consultant to the Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund, responsible for the management of the \$1.6 billion pension portfolio and the administration of benefits.

A board member of Ameris Bancorp and the UF Health Board of Directors, McCague also served for eight years on the Florida State Board of Administration Investment Advisory Committee. She has also served as chair of Daniel Memorial and is currently co-chair of the UF Florida Tomorrow capital campaign.

Baptist Health Foundation appoints five to board



Cheryl Rackley

Lauren Rueger

Kimberly Tinning

Elli Zimmerman

Mark Shorstein

Tabitha Furyk

Baptist Health Foundation announced the appointment of five new members to its board of trustees: Cheryl Rackley, Lauren Rueger, Kimberly Tinning, Elli Zimmerman and Mark Shorstein.

The new board members will serve three-year terms. In addition, Tabitha Furyk of San Marco will replace Kurt Mori, M.D., as the chair-elect.

Furyk and her husband, Jim, established the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation in 2010 to help children and families in need. Furyk has served on various charitable organizations, including the PGA TOUR Wives Association, the Monique Burr Children's Foundation, the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation, and Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Rackley is active in the Christ Episcopal Church of Ponte Vedra Beach, the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund and Baptist Medical Center Beaches. Because of her and her husband's support, the Rackley Cardiac and Interventional Radiology Center and the Rackley Neurosurgery Family Waiting Room became a reality.

Rueger, a communications and public affairs consultant, has led global initiatives

to develop and implement strategic communications objectives for public and private entities. She is also a member of the Wolfson Children's Hospital Birth and Newborn Center Advisory Council and the Programs and Initiatives Committee for the Community Foundation in Northeast Florida. She is an alumnus of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative.

Tinning, a third generation Jacksonville native, worked in New York real estate for several years before moving home to Northeast Florida. She is involved with the Wolfson Children's Hospital Development Council and Birth and Newborn Center Advisory Council, and the Cummer Art Museum.

Zimmerman is a member of the Camp Boggy Creek Executive Committee and the Pace Center for Girls Board of Directors. A Riverside resident, Zimmerman has also been an active Women's Board member for many years.

Shorstein is president of Shorstein & Shorstein, a CPA firm with a wide variety of tax, accounting, auditing and consulting clients. He has served on the Baptist Medical Center South board since its inception in 2004, and currently serves as the chair of the Baptist Health Audit Committee.



David and Chace Caven Breitmoser

New jeweler in Lakewood Promenade continues tradition of quality

Customers of the former Richardson's Jewelry & Gifts are in good hands with David Breitmoser, a GIA-trained Graduate Jeweler Gemologist, appraiser and designer who recently took over Richardson's space at 1535 University Blvd. W.

Located in the Lakewood Promenade, Lakewood Jewelers is open Tuesday through Saturday and offers a variety of fine jewelry along with trendy pieces and unique gifts.

Breitmoser, a graduate of The Bolles School, spent 20 years working across the Southeastern United States, as well as working in Bali as a consultant, supervising the production and quality of inventory shipped to the U.S.,

before pursuing his dream of owning a jewelry store.

He said he wanted to stop traveling and open his own store in a location where he could settle down, provide customers with quality service and be a trusted resource for their jewelry needs. The Richardsons retired knowing their customers were in great hands and would be treated with the same honesty and kindness they too had provided in that location for 20 years.

Both Breitmoser and his wife, Chace Caven Breitmoser, grew up in the San Marco/San Jose area and said the area represents family, friends and home.

Local psychologist receives leadership award

Dr. Stephen Bloomfield, a Jacksonville forensic psychologist, was awarded the State Leadership Award by the American Psychological Association at its Practice Leadership Conference.

Bloomfield, a resident of Christopher Creek, was chosen as the sole recipient of the award from among nominees from the United States, and its territories and Canada. He received a doctor of education from the University of Massachusetts in 1982. His practice focuses on clinical and forensic psychology and Bloomfield has provided expert testimony for cases in all districts of Florida, in Massachusetts, Federal Court and Navy Court.



Stephen Bloomfield

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Club presidents during its first decade include Howard Dyal, Josh Becksmith, current president, Janet Reagor, Steve Ramsey, Ruth Ann Hepler, Tony Potochick, Meg Folds, Kyle Reese and Pete Helow.

Rotary Club of San Marco celebrates 10 years of service

April marked the 10-year anniversary of the chartering of the Rotary Club of San Marco. The club was formed by members of the Southside Rotary Club and West Jacksonville Rotary Club in 2008.

Over the 10-year period, the club contributed over \$105,000 to the Rotary Foundation which underwrites grants for Rotary Clubs' service projects around the

world. One hundred percent of the contributions are awarded, with no monies withheld for general overhead, and \$15,000 of those funds were specifically earmarked to help eradicate polio, one of Rotary International's primary objectives.

Other contributions include an additional \$115,000 to local charities, international water and clean sanitation projects and

awards to teachers, JSO officers, mentors and joint projects with other Rotarians.

The Rotary Club of San Marco has 30 active members and holds breakfast meetings every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Doubletree Riverfront Hotel. The club is one of 21 clubs in Northeast Florida and 62 clubs in the North Florida District.

San Marco couple to serve as Cowford Ball chairs



Donna and Tom Beames

Jacksonville's nonprofit community, particularly the American Cancer Society, are happy to have Donna and Tom Beames back in Jacksonville, after being gone from the area for the past eight years.

The San Marco couple will serve as the chairs for the 2018 Cowford Ball, and are very familiar with the organization and the event. The ball will be held Saturday, Sept. 29.

Prior to leaving Jacksonville, Donna was an active volunteer with ACS, having worked many years on the Cowford Ball, co-chaired Making Strides in 2005 and 2006, was a member of the state-wide planning committee for Making Strides, was a member of the Duval County Executive Board where she chaired the Advocacy Committee, and was selected to attend ACS Florida Volunteer Leadership Institute. She was also named the ACS Survivor of the Year for both Florida and Duval County in 2005.

Donna has also Donna co-chaired The Cummer Ball, served on the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, co-chaired St. Vincent's Red Rose Ball, and sat on the board of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School.

Tom Beames is the senior managing director for SunTrust Private Wealth Management in North Florida and Coastal Georgia. While in Jacksonville, he was a past president and board member of Ronald McDonald House Jacksonville and served as campaign leadership for the United Way of Northeast Florida.

Two local professionals join San Marco Toastmasters

Two area businesswomen have joined the active San Marco Toastmasters club. Leala Moen and Danielle Adams are in very different professions, but each has joined Top o' The Rock Toastmasters Club to improve communication and leadership skills. They know the experiences gained in Toastmasters can assist them in reaching their professional goals.

Moen is an account manager and outside sales representative for Home Depot. By improving her speaking skills, her goal is to be more effective in her group presentations. Further, she knows that Toastmasters will improve her critical listening skills so that she can more directly respond to and meet her customers' needs.

Adams is the assistant to the CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Jacksonville. Part of her responsibilities includes speaking

to community groups and universities about the agency's programs and services. While she said she "made it through" her first public speaking presentation to a group of 75 at Harvard University, Adams said she joined Toastmasters to learn how to be more compelling, dynamic, and less nervous when she speaks. In addition, Adams plans to take advantage of the leadership development program which Toastmasters offers. Already, she is impressed that at every meeting each member has a role and must be responsible to the whole group for the effective functioning of the agenda.

Toastmasters is a world-wide organization dedicated to helping individuals improve their public speaking and leadership skills. The local group, Top o' The Rock Toastmasters, meets in San March



Leala Moen and Danielle Adams

every Wednesday from noon to 1:15 p.m. at Riverside Chevrolet, 3494 Philips Hwy. It is open to the public and serves all surrounding areas. More information can be found at www.toporock.com.

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Making Strides event chairs named for breast cancer fundraiser

Celebrating 25 years of saving lives nationwide, the American Cancer Society announced its Event Leadership for the 2018 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville.

Local breast cancer survivor Stacy Hanson, Chief Client Officer of CoventBridge Group, has been selected as Event Chair for this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville.

Pat Geraghty, Chief Executive Officer of Florida Blue, and his wife Inger will serve as 2018 Honorary Chairs for the event. Florida Blue will also be recognized as the 2018 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville's Presenting Sponsor.

Hanson, a Hidden Hills resident, was originally diagnosed in 2014 with ER/PR positive invasive ductal carcinoma breast

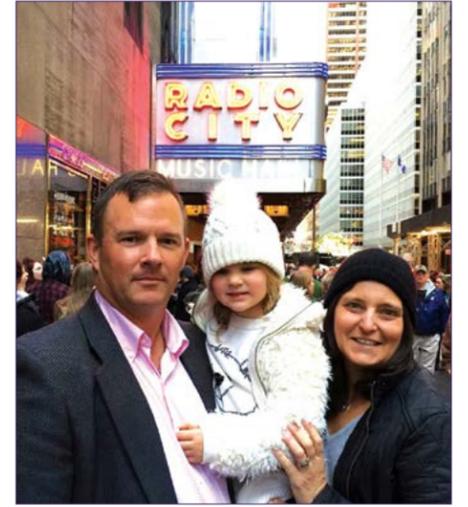
cancer. After being declared cancer-free in 2015, Hanson was re-diagnosed with Stage IV triple negative metastatic breast cancer. With no family history of breast cancer, Hanson was found to have the BRCA1+ gene and is currently in a lifesaving Clinical Trial that has reduced her cancer tumor size by over 90 percent.

According to the American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2017, an estimated 252,710 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,610 will die from the disease this year.

The 2018 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville presented by Florida Blue will take place on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at TIAA Bank Field. Last year, 10,000 walkers in Jacksonville helped to raise more than \$300,000.



Inger and Pat Geraghty



Stacy Hanson, right, with husband Kent and daughter Lucy

Harris joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Hannah Harris, a newcomer to Jacksonville, has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty as a realtor in its San Marco office.

Harris, who has a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Studies from the University of Alabama, worked previously as a veterinary technician before moving to Jacksonville with her husband in 2017.



Hannah Harris

San Marco pastor joins Baptist Health board of directors

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Reese, D.Min., was recently named to the 15-member board of directors for Baptist Health. He also serves on the Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville board, elected in May 2013.

Reese serves as senior pastor of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. Active in the community, Reese was chair of the board of OneJax and is on the Leadership Jacksonville Board. He is currently on the boards of Baptist News Global and Passport, which offers Christian summer camps for children and youth groups.

"Given our strong commitment to our faith-based heritage, Dr. Reese brings an important voice to the governance of our health system," said Hugh Greene, president and CEO of Baptist Health.

Reese earned his Bachelor of Arts in religious studies from Wayland Baptist



Kyle Reese

University in Plainview, Texas, and his Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Reese acquired his Doctor of Ministry from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill.

River Garden on the short count to a major milestone

Although three years shy of its 75th anniversary milestone, River Garden Senior Services saw more than 500 members of the community fill the campus March 25 for the agency's 72nd Anniversary Day Celebration and annual meeting.

Festivities included a barbecue, pony rides, face painting and clowns, balloon artistry, games, and a bounce house.

Many also attended the annual meeting of River Garden Senior Services, held in the Cohen Auditorium, where River Garden installed new board leadership and trustees. After five outstanding years as president of The Coves at River Garden board, Lois Schlesinger has passed the honor to Dennis Lafer, who served as vice president. Continuing as presidents of their respective boards: Gloria Einstein, Senior Services board; Susan Cohen, Hebrew Home board; Jeanine Rogozinski, Foundation board; Sheldon Gendzier, Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center board. Newly installed board trustees include Colman Brodsky, Randy Kammer,



Rabbi Avi Feigenbaum (back), Director of Education of Etz Chaim Synagogue, celebrates River Garden's 72nd anniversary with his family. (Photo courtesy of River Garden Senior Services)

Rachel Monteiro and Erik Rostholder to the Foundation board, and Nathan Goldman to the Hebrew Home board.

The day concluded with River Garden Auxiliary's popular and much-anticipated tombola (raffle) drawing, when a lucky member of the community walked away with a \$2,500 grand prize.

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Leadership Jacksonville honors three at annual celebration

The 22nd Annual Leadership Jacksonville Celebration honored Susan Green (Class of 2010) Janet Owens (Class of 1992) and, posthumously, William Brinton (Class of 1983).

The event was held April 17 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center, where the nonprofit has its offices. Now in its 42nd year, Leadership Jacksonville was formed in 1976 under the guidance of the late Frederick H. Schultz, the organization's first president, as a vehicle to stimulate the growth of leadership in the community.

The annual Celebration began in 1996 on the occasion of the nonprofit's 20th anniversary. Including the 2018 honorees, 54 men and women have been honored through the years.

Greene has been a steadfast supporter of many causes, beginning her community involvement as an early childhood teacher by developing an artist series in the public schools.

A past president on the Cathedral Arts Project's board of directors, she currently serves on its Advisory Council. Greene also chaired the Community Advisory Board for WJCT Public Broadcasting and served on its board of trustees, as well as on the board of the United Way of Northeast Florida.

Among her many honors, Greene was awarded the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Individual Award, the HandsOn Jacksonville Award for directing an adult ESOL school, and the Cathedral Arts Project Guardian of the Arts Award.



Honorees Janet Owens and Susan Greene with Leadership Jacksonville Executive Director Jill Langford Dame

Owens is the executive director for LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corp.) Jacksonville since August 2010. She was previously the vice president of marketing and communications for the United Way of Northeast Florida, and prior to joining United Way she was assistant executive director of the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc., and associate director for Volunteer Jacksonville (renamed HandsOn Jacksonville, which closed in September 2017).

Owens is a member of the Florida First Coast Chapter Association of Fundraising

Professionals, where she served as president in 2004, and is a member of the North Florida Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

The late William Brinton (1952-2017) was honored posthumously with the Frederick H Schultz Lifetime Achievement Award. A litigator and national expert on sign regulation and the First Amendment, Brinton led successful petition drives to amend the city charter to prohibit billboards (1987), limit City Council members to two terms (1991) and protect trees (2000),

all of which were approved overwhelmingly by the voters.

Brinton served as a board member and president on Leadership Jacksonville, Jacksonville Community Council, Inc., Jacksonville Bar Association, The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, and Tree Hill Nature Center. He also served on the boards for City Beautiful Jax (formerly Jaxpride), the city's Jacksonville Landscape Commission, Scenic America, Citizens for a Scenic Florida, Scenic Jacksonville, the city's Charter Revision Commission, and founded Friends of the Library organizations for the Murray Hill, Brentwood and Dallas Graham branch libraries.

Throughout his years of community service, Brinton received numerous recognitions and awards, including Lawyer of the Year in 1995 from the Financial News and Daily Record; the International Municipal Lawyers Association's Amicus Service Award (twice, in 2015 and 2017); the Milestone Award for Citizen Advocacy from Jacksonville Community Council, Inc.; the Prize for Civic Engagement from the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida; the Mimi and Lee Adams Environmental Award; the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Jake Godbold Award; the 2014 Mayor's Environmental Award; Greenscape's Canopy Award, Scenic America's Distinguished Advocacy Award for Scenic Beauty and Law; and the Cynthia Pratt McLaughlin Medal for environmental protection from The Garden Club of America.

Children's Home Society honors advocates at annual luncheon

John Cobb was named the R. David and Lorraine Thomas Child Advocate of the Year by the Children's Home Society of Florida at its annual Awards Luncheon Under the Tent March 7.

Cobb is president of San Marco-based Cobb Clark Enterprises (CCE), a construction and development industry consulting company. He served as a consultant for CHS to create cost-effective, yet beautiful, improvements to the campus, saving the agency thousands of dollars.

Also honored were HeroMe's Josh and Annie Bryan as Corporate Citizen of the Year; Daniel Lichlyter, Volunteer of the Year, and Tracy Garmon, Foster Parent of the Year.

Annie Bryan, of Ortega, accepted the award on behalf of HeroMe, which partnered with CHS to use HeroMe action

figures in the agency's therapy program. The customized action figures were used to encourage dialogue and reinforce therapeutic concepts during sessions and when the child returned home. Bryan is vice president, external affairs, and general counsel for the local action figure company, co-founded by her and her husband in 2014.

As his Eagle Scout project last summer, Lichlyter organized members of his Boy Scout Troop 288 to restore the basketball court at Children's Home Society.

Garmon has been a licensed foster parent since 2015 and is trained to work with children who have specialized therapeutic needs and/or medically complex needs.

Annie Bryan, John Cobb, Tracy Garmon, Daniel Lichlyter



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\$5,750MM
2626 RIVER RD
6 br / 7 ba / 1 hba / 8,321 sqft.

Nantucket Coastal Style living at its best! Sitting high above the St. Johns River bank, a rare find for a newer home in history filled San Marco. Current owner's spared no expense when designing and constructing this incredible family home and guest cottage.



SOLD
2141 BELOTE PL
2 br / 1 ba / 1,062 sqft.

SOLD by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett! Super Cute San Marco Charmer. This adorable bungalow is within easy walking distance to San Marco Sq. Fully updated kitchen and hardwood floors are in great shape!



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SOLD
2217 MILLER OAKS DR N
6 br / 5 ba / 1 hba / 5,700 sqft.

SOLD by Anita Vining! Incredible river views on this high bluff lot. Deep water depth for large boats, navigable to ocean from your private dock. Elegant one owner home. Gated Entrance winds through gorgeously manicured live oaks and beautiful landscape to this dramatic two story home.



\$490,000
6740 EPPING FOREST WAY N # 105
2 br / 2 ba / 1,724 sqft.

Wow, what a view! Curl up with a good book and enjoy a carefree and relaxed lifestyle in this river-front condo nestled in elegant Epping Forest. Watch the sunsets or enjoy your morning coffee from this attractive villa overlooking the St. Johns River.



SOLD
1148 EUTAW PL
2 br / 2 ba / 1,428 sqft.

Set your showing appointment to view the "Bird Cottage". This Bungalow has been lovingly maintained from top to bottom and front to back. Original wood flooring, separate living room, plus dining room that opens onto a covered screened patio over looking your own private pool and gardens.



\$1.8MM
1854 EPPING FOREST WAY S
5 br / 4 ba / 2 hba / 6,000 sqft.

The Crown Jewel of Epping Forest! Exquisitely renovated by the great craftsmen of the South. Design work by James Michael Howard. Featuring hand-painted wall murals and faux-marble baseboards by Bob Christian of Savannah, Ga. Hand crafted paneling and cabinetry by Paul Clements.



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\$385,000
1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 2602
2 br / 2 ba / 1,515 sqft.

One of the best floor plans in the building. Large two bedroom two bath has one of the largest open kitchens of any unit with an actual pantry closet. Master suite is a true retreat with marble bath and the only unit other than a penthouse that has a separate water closet.



SOLD
928 VALE ORCHARD LN
4 br / 4 ba / 2-3,878 sqft.

SOLD by Camilo Ramirez. Sublime San Marco! Newer construction within walking distance to San Marco Sq. Historic home feel with all of the modern conveniences, pool is ready for summer!!!



\$475,000
1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 2601
2 br / 2 ba / 1,666 sqft.

Urban Oasis in San Marco! Beautiful SW corner unit with PRIVATE elevator foyer. Wrap around balcony captures downtown, St Johns River, and sunset views! Open concept floor plan is great for entertaining. Italian cherry cabinets and KitchenAid appliances.



SOLD
6631 EPPING FOREST WAY N
5 br / 5 ba / 3 hba / 6,929 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Located in the prestigious Epping Forest neighborhood, the former Dupont family estate, this fabulous Mediterranean home has it all. There is room for everyone in this elegantly appointed home. The kids will enjoy splashing in the pool while the adults are cooking in the gourmet kitchen.



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SOLD
1222 RIVER OAKS RD
4 br / 4 ba / 1 hba / 2,309 sqft.

SOLD by Camilo Ramirez! Live in this highly desired neighborhood within walking distance to the shops and restaurants of San Marco Square. This newly updated 3 bedroom 3.5 bath Mediterranean home features a large front porch, sitting room with hand carved pecky cypress details.



\$645,000
1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 1005
2 br / 2 ba / 1 hba / 2,123 sqft.

Premier Peninsula Corner Unit! Private elevator foyer. Gleaming marble and wood floors in living areas. Fabulous unit situated just above the pool deck gives an illusion of being on a lower floor, but you still have all of the amazing views of a high-floor unit!



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9153 BAY COVE LN
5 br / 3 ba / 1 hba / 3,567 sqft.

SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen! Are you needing extra, extra everything? Here's the home of your dreams. A sprawling lawn with large shade trees. Sit awhile on your covered porch, enjoy your lovely front yard.



\$645,000
1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 1405
2 br / 2 ba / 1 hba / 2,123 sqft.

Peninsula Perfection! Private elevator entrance and wood flooring. Large living and dining area with wrap balcony to take in the amazing views day and night. Custom window treatments with specialized roll down shades already in place. Italian cherry cabinets and KitchenAid appliances.



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Greenscape board members Jennifer King and Doris Leach with Twane Duckworth and Ron King

Greenscape's Root Ball draws 'fun crowd' to zoo

The theme "Be Irish for a Day and Green All Year" resulted in the most fun Irish Party in Jacksonville, according to Greenscape of Jacksonville executive director Anna Dooley. Guests were adorned in "casual green" at the March 17 event at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens as they contributed to keeping Jacksonville green all year via Greenscape projects.

The Root Ball was established 11 years ago to provide operational funding for Greenscape of Jacksonville. The Late Bloomers Garden Club suggested the collaboration between the two organizations and have been recognized nationally for this innovative project. Revenue from the event provides funding for Greenscape to fulfill its 42-year history of enriching Jacksonville by planting, protecting and promoting trees. A portion of the proceeds also supports the many community efforts of The Late Bloomers Garden Club.



Julia and John Taylor with Peggy Bryan



Kim BonGiovanni with Tracye Polson and Sue Moore

The "Founding Mothers" of both organizations were honorary chairs at the event – Susan Fisher, co-founder of Greenscape of Jacksonville, and the Late Bloomers Garden Club co-founders Alice Coughlin and Jacque Loomis.

Parks are perfect for weekend 'wine-down'

A warm, sunny day – perfect for a day in the park – was all the San Marco Preservation Society needed to give residents the perfect excuse to visit three parks during its signature Wine Down in the Park April 14. The fundraiser began at 4 p.m. in Whatley Park off Hendricks Avenue, transitioned at 5 p.m. to Davin Park on River Road and concluded at Balis Park in San Marco Square. About 200 turned out to enjoy live jazz by the John Lumpkin Trio, tapas, and craft beer, wine and cocktails from Grape and Grain Exchange, Aardwolf Brewery, Bearded Pig, Beer 30, The Local, and High Tide Burrito.



Allison Mica, Camille Bass and Melissa Stark snagged a table near the food booth in Whatley Park.



The John Lumpkin Trio performs in the background as residents enjoy the concert in Whatley Park.



Victoria Carlucci with her year-old son, Joseph III; Jessica Lumpkin, wife of the band leader, and Katherine Wohlers enjoy Wine Down in the Park.



Meredith Mark, Matt Carlucci and Joe Mark all live within walking distance of Whatley Park, the first of three venues for Wine Down in the Park.

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The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and Steve and Anne Pajcic were honored to be able to give the largest single donation to date to Guardian ad Litem in our area.

GAL provides a voice in the court system for abused and neglected children. Steve is seen here handing over a "check" to the fundraising event honorary chairperson Julia Taylor.

Anne Pajcic served as a GAL volunteer for six years and saw firsthand the important work that is being done for our community's children.



The Pajcic Firm was proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Backyard BBQ championships to benefit Daniel Kids. Daniel helps thousands of children each year who are victims of abuse and neglect. This fundraiser helps to provide the services needed for kids suffering through traumatic events. Our own Curt Pajcic was the perfect choice to be one of the BBQ judges!

Best wishes to our fabulous law clerks who have been working hard behind the scenes in the firm. They are ready to graduate and take on new adventures. Good luck with the bar exam and all of your future endeavors.



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Lindsay FitzPatrick, Mary VanSistine, Danny Artache, Lindsay Taylor



Greg Montana, Amy Mergen, Karen Montana, Marc Mayo and Anne Mayo

Looking forward to the future

Friends and benefactors of Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) gathered at the Prime Osborn Convention Center April 26 to celebrate the mission of “Heroes Among Us: Looking Forward to the Future,” co-chaired by Debra Pataky and Tammy Shumer.

Honorees included “the JFCS Faces of the Future,” Faye Hedrick, Tmima Neihaus, Alicia Rauchwarger, Lauren Rickoff, Rachel Sandler and Lauren Setzer on the PJ Library Steering Committee, and Heroes staff Sersie Blue, Bernardo Cuadra, Jessica Grady, Tierra Holsey, Whitney Kuvin and LaTonya Waterman.

Hope, strength and generosity are hallmarks of the nonprofit which celebrated more than a century of community service assisting people in need with food and emergency shelter since 1917.

“At Jewish Family & Community Services, we are dedicated to helping people help themselves – no matter their religion, race or background. This event celebrates the incredible heroes among us who make our work possible in the community, from donors to staff members to the clients themselves. It is an honor to provide our services to the community, and we look forward to the next century of service here in Jacksonville,” said Colleen Rodriguez, CEO.



Harry Frisch with Nancy Moss



Sheryl and Todd Johnson



Joanne Cohen with James and Joanne Lawson



Leo Davis with Ellen and Barry Setzer



Michael Ward with Jennifer Glock



Fitz Pullins, Ward Lariscy and Steve Williams



Patrick Fisher and Ron Hubbard

Securing future of arts education more important than ever

As public school board leaders grapple with decreasing funds for arts education, the mission of the Cathedral Arts Project is needed more than ever. Now in its 25th year providing underserved children and youth with opportunities in the visual and performing arts, CAP’s 14th annual Spring for the Arts gala will go far in helping address the shortfall in public arts education.

Spring for the Arts has generated \$5 million through the years to fund quality arts education, thanks in large part to efforts by three-time event chair Beth Jennison, and to board members such as Marisa Martire, this year’s honored Guardian of the Arts.

Martire has been a CAP board member since 2010 and, along with husband Frank,



Marisa Martire, honoree, with Heather Moore, Cathedral Arts Project board chair

has chaired the Angels of the Arts campaign for three years. She is also involved with a variety of local Catholic charities and serves on the Mayo Clinic Leadership Board.

The benefit held April 27 at the River Club in the Wells Fargo Center drew many patrons from around Northeast Florida to join in the efforts to safeguard and advance the arts.

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Amber and Larry Payne



Rosemary and Dr. Dan Robie, president, Rotary Club of South Jacksonville



Hunter and Kaitlin Wishall with Elizabeth and Scott Brannock



Nathaniel and Heather Sprague with their sons Aaron and Jared. Nathaniel works for Coker Law, a presenting sponsor for Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Florida's First Coast evening event.



Judge Gary Flower with Kelly DeGance Assimenios and Telis Assimenios



Judge Jim Daniel with Lawanda Ravoira



Katelyn Johnston with Fred and Lisa Page



Michael and Nicole Thomas

Fancy masks can't hide generous hearts at Rotary gala

The Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, now in its 64th year of "Service Above Self," continued its community service by raising \$42,000 at the Venetian Masquerade Gala to benefit children in Duval County.

The event, held April 20 at the Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, included dinner, dancing to tunes by the Rivertown Band, a silent auction, and a live auction emceed by Sen. Aaron Bean. Funds raised will purchase 20 Nemours BrightStart! reading readiness program for Duval County public schools. Additionally, supporters who purchased masks custom-painted by local artists helped provide funds for Angels for Allison, a foundation which provides financial aid to families suffering the loss of a child. The Rotarians also



Kate Buschini and Chris Scivener with Amanda Childress and Nick Colon

gave \$2,000 to Angels for Allison and distributed \$10,000 to other charities.

The gala host committee included Mayor Lenny Curry, Public Defender Charles Cofer, Marcus Drewa, the Honorable Harvey E. Schlesinger, Martha Barrett, Dr. Dan Robie, Greg Anderson, Robert Harris, Laura Bailet, and Cheryl Grimes.

Guardian ad Litem advocate for youth in crisis

For some children, life is a challenging place void of parental guidance, love, and compassion. That's why the annual "There's No Place Like Home" gala to benefit Guardian ad Litem Florida First Coast is so important and serves such a need in our community.

The Oz-themed event held April 13 in the Duval County Courthouse's third floor atrium raised funds to support the volunteer recruitment and training for Guardians ad Litem in Duval, Clay and Nassau counties. GAL volunteers and mentors provide strong voices in the court system for abused and neglected children, helping them transition and gain guidance throughout their young lives.

In addition to proceeds raised, The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and Steve and Anne Pajcic were honored to give the largest single donation to date, a check in the amount of \$20,000 dollars, made out to Guardian ad Litem. Anne Pajcic served as a GAL volunteer for six years and saw firsthand the important work being done for children in the community.

Honorary Chair Julia Taylor, the Guardian ad Litem Foundation, Board Chair Heather Solanka, and Presenting Sponsor Coker Law Firm were joined by guests wearing red slippers and red ties as they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a live and silent auction, champagne drawing, host bar and the swinging sounds of The Chris Thomas Band.



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Sunset garden party kicks off first signature benefit for Healing Hearts Project

A waterfront home near the Timuquana Country Club with a gorgeous view of the city skyline served as the venue April 14 for the first annual signature fundraising event benefiting The Healing Hearts Project.

Guests savored internationally-inspired heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine pairings as they watch the sunset over the St. Johns River and listened to music played by a string quartet led by Anne Nasrallah. The inaugural benefit raised \$5,000 to help fund the mission.

The Healing Hearts Project was developed and is run by parents, caregivers, nurses and doctors in the pediatric heart community who have made it their mission to support those affected by congenital heart disease (CHD).

One of the first support initiatives established by the nonprofit was the Heart Cart, an aptly named red cart offering coffee, toiletries, snacks and other necessities free of charge to the families and patients who are undergoing treatment in the Cardiac ICU at Wolfson Children's Hospital.



Christina and Doug Sasser with Virginia and Clark O'Dell



Healing Heart Project leadership Sarah Johnson, Robert English and Stacey Merritt with event host Wendi Hunger

Casual, western-themed benefit an annual crowd-pleaser

Blue jeans and boots, plaid shirts and cowboy hats were in abundance at the 5th Annual Sheriff's Round-Up, a western-themed gala held at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel to raise funds for the Jacksonville Police Athletic League.

Both former Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford and current Sheriff Mike Williams were in attendance at the April 7 event, which featured live music, dancing, delicious grub, a silent auction, casino games and interactive experiences. Gold sponsors included Load King, Champion Brands, Patriot Transportation and the Hyatt Regency.

Funds raised from the Sheriff's Round-Up enables JaxPAL to provide at-risk children, many whom live in the city's toughest neighborhoods, with a safe, structured environment and academic support during out-of-school time, access to positive adult role models, and the opportunity to build trust and friendship with law enforcement officers.



Congressman John Rutherford, former Duval County Sheriff, with Lakesha Burton, executive director of Police Athlete League, and Wyllie Hodges, First Coast Crime stoppers executive director



Richard Nunn, event emcee, and Cyndi Nunn

Five major civic figures honored by OneJax

Each year since 1970, OneJax has hosted a Humanitarian Awards Dinner to honor outstanding humanitarians and raise funds to support its programs. A formal ceremony recognizes new honorees each year and, on April 12, John A. Delaney, president of the University of North Florida and former two-term mayor of Jacksonville, was awarded the 2018 Gold Medallion for Lifetime Achievement. The award is not necessarily given every year; in fact, Delaney joins a select group of nine who have been honored in this manner over the past 48 years.

Joining Delaney on stage were four Silver Medallion honorees: Barbara Drake, of Riverside, a retired business executive and community volunteer; philanthropist Lawrence "Laurie" DuBow, of Epping Forest; Avondale resident Sherry Magill, president of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund (both Drake and Magill were 2016 winners of the EVE Award), and Darnell Smith, Florida Blue market president, North Florida region, and a Turtle Creek resident in North Jacksonville.



Benjamin Shorstein, Lawrence DuBow, Silver Medallion honoree, Mark and Beth Shorstein

The four recipients of the Silver Medallion have exhibited an extensive record of involvement in civic, charitable, volunteer and professional organizations; dedication to the improvement of human relations among diverse groups in our city; impeccable personal and professional integrity; sustained commitment to humanitarian ideals; history of placing humanitarian concerns above self-interest; and realistic humility about his/her importance in the world.



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Barbecue gives teens chance for brighter future

Dozens of local amateur and professional barbecue cooks competed at the Jacksonville Backyard BBQ Championships April 14. The annual chicken, ribs and pork cookout raises money for the Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship – a fund that assists formerly homeless Daniel kids who are seeking to further their educations beyond high school.

Mary Glyn Denning, the daughter of Glyn Cook – a longtime Daniel Kids board member who passed away some time ago – was on hand to cheer on the contestants.

“Daniel Kids is near and dear to my heart as the organization was named after my great-great-grandfather. In 2008, this event was created and the proceeds benefit the Glyn Cook Memorial Scholarship that was started in honor of my late father, who was a longtime board member and board chairman for Daniel Kids,” said Denning of Ortega Forest. “We have raised more than \$100,000 over the past nine years, distributing 79 scholarships to formerly homeless Daniel Kids as they further their education. My entire family has been committed to helping these teens through Daniel Kids programs for years and we are grateful to see this



Kristen DeSmidt and Mary Glyn Denning



Brad Lee Hunt, Kristen Downing

scholarship fund continue to empower them and help them succeed in life.”

The Pro Overall Winner was Old Towne BBQ and the Backyard Overall Winner was Big Bad BBQ. More than 1500 attended the event held at Tailgaters Parking near TIAA Bank Field.



Lori Hershey, Ashley Gilhousen, Diane Hutchings, Barbara Thompson, Margaret Smith, Kathy Stark, Dr. Leon Haley, Jill Langford Dame, Deborah Tanner, Major Bert Tanner; back: Lt. Col. Dawn Luyk, Lt. Col. Ken Luyk, Bill Allen, Mike White and Martin Zubero

Tasting event raises over \$120,000 for Salvation Army

The 32nd Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction to benefit the Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary served 507 guests March 29 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center and raised about \$121,000 for the nonprofit.

Celebrity chefs serving recipes from their own kitchens included William J. Allen, FSCJ Foundation director of development; Ashley Gilhousen, Clay County School Board member; Dr. Leon Haley, Jr., UF Health Jacksonville CEO; Lori Hershey, Duval County School Board member; Diane Hutchings, St. Johns Classical Academy founder/president; Jill Langford Dame, Leadership Jacksonville CEO; Margaret Smith, Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library president; Kathy Stark, artist/author; Barbara Thompson, Barbara Thompson School of Dance owner; Mike White, Client Focused Media founder/CEO, and Martin Zubero, Episcopal School of Jacksonville aquatics director/head swim coach.

Over the past 31 years, the Women’s Auxiliary has raised \$1.789 million to impact



Volunteer Host Jacqueline Maxwell with Chef Dr. Leon Haley



Loretta and Chef Martin Zubero with Volunteer Host Carol Hamilton

the community and the lives of men, women and children who require housing in the emergency shelter, attend the Child Development Center or the daily senior programs, or seek substance abuse recovery in the Adult Rehabilitation Center.

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THE DON'TS

Don't insulate the subfloor!

Fiberglass insulation attracts moisture, critters and contaminants. Spray foam insulation can cause a moisture trap and toxins from the foam can seep into the home.

Don't encapsulate!

A permanent groundcover that extends up the walls and supports is open to leaks at the attachment points. Sewage and water leaks get trapped on top of the liner, leading to contamination and thousands of dollars in clean-up. Regular plastic rots, destroying the barrier between wood and water.

"Installing crawlspace liners that cover the soil needs to be evaluated on an individual basis," said Chris Turner.
"A proper dehumidification system is the only way to keep the crawlspace dry year-round!"



Fiberglass insulation results in a messy problem.



Spray foam insulation in a crawlspace does not seal and can send toxic fumes into the home.



Encapsulation won't allow natural decomposition of sewage spills into the soil.



Gaps and holes in plastic encapsulation trap water and mud, forcing expensive cleanup.

An Ortega homeowner had Turners Underseal completely remove the "encapsulated" crawlspace liner because it had trapped so much water and mud. Turners then removed a large amount of contaminant that had grown on the wood, and then sealed it.



Inferior Encapsulation taping lets mud and water right in.

THE DO'S

Do clean and treat the wood in the crawlspace.

A professional wood treatment and sealer permanently resists moisture, mold and mildew, all of which gets pulled into the home causing odors, mustiness, and illness.

Do keep the crawlspace dry - dehumidify!

Keep your crawlspace dry. Even when soil appears to be dry, due to the water table and sandy soil in Northeast Florida, it's always wet. Water from ground sources continuously move through the soil particles, leading to a damp crawlspace, which breeds mold and mildew, and can make you sick.



A dehumidifier system keeps crawlspace dry.



Underflooring after Turners Underseal cleaning and sealing.



Turners Underseal wood treatments prevent mold, mildew.

*Pictures featured are all from Jacksonville homes.

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In addition to drying and treating crawlspaces, Turners Underseal also does home air quality inspection. For 10% off wood treatment services, 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/



Eric Gregory, Andrew Decker, Brianna Rivas, Leslie and Jorge Barcardi, Grace Gregory

Gala benefits guests at Gabriel House of Care

Billed as “Junkanoo, a Bahamian Carnival,” the annual gala to benefit Gabriel House of Care’s was held at the Clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass April 13, where honorary chairs Jorge and Leslie Barcardi welcomed supporters.

The 7th annual Christopher Mark Gregory Angel of Hope Award was presented to Lesa and Todd Evilsizor, of Olive Branch, Mississippi, and to Paula Kennelly and her late husband Justin, of Boca Raton, Florida.

The festive evening included vocalist Leilani Nichelle, accompanied by pianist Cutter Arey, a live auction emceed by Mike Buresh, a silent auction and a sit-down dinner.

Nearly 300 guests helped raise funds subsidize Gabriel House guest rooms to keep the room rates down and for Community of Healing integrative therapy classes and programs.



Jorge and Leslie Barcardi with Eric Gregory

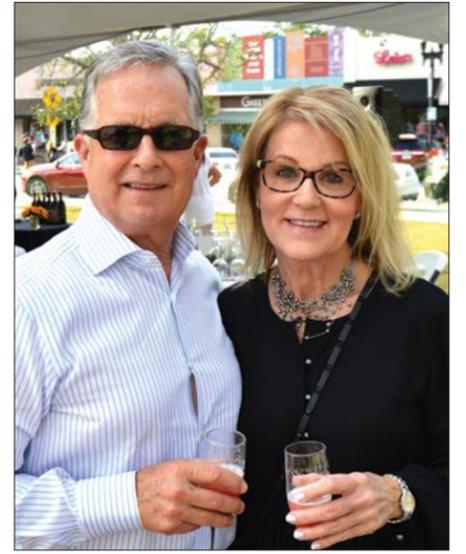


Lesa and Todd Evilsizor with Samantha, Paula and Brad Kennelly

A taste of Tuscany in San Marco Square



Pamela and Kevin Bennett



Eddie and Michele Segars

Many may travel to Tuscany to taste the delights of fine wine, but it isn’t often a Tuscan vintner from a 500-year-old family winery brings his gift of the grape to you.

Fifty local wine connoisseurs were able to enjoy such an experience when Gabriel Zeneli of the Tenuta Torciano Winery in San Gimignano, Italy, hosted a wine tasting during Vintner in the Park, a fundraiser sponsored by the San Marco Merchants Association, which was held in Balis Park April 27. In addition to the wine, patrons at the sit-down event enjoyed delicacies from the chefs at San Marco restaurants Taverna, Town Hall, and Matthews.

Zeneli was joined at the event by his girlfriend, Giulia Pozzuoli, who was on her inaugural visit to the United States. The idea for the fundraiser came from Jeannie Smith, a travel advisor at Odyssey Travel, who organized the event.

“We’d been over there several times, and on our last visit in October they told us about the wine tastings and schools they were presenting in the United States. We knew this would be a good fundraiser for our merchant’s association, and when I presented the idea they were behind it 100 percent,” Smith said. The community obviously agreed because tickets sold out immediately after the fundraiser was announced.

Bill Jaycox of San Marco arranged for the tasters to be serenaded by a quartet of musicians from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. The quartet was led by Janne Pelz, a German exchange student who is sponsored by the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, where Jaycox is a member. Also playing in the quartet were Saejin Albright, Evan Guttormson, and Sophia Shelton.

New socks, underwear restore dignity to homeless, shelter residents

Thanks to generous supporters encouraged by caped crusader Captain Underwear and his cohort Princess Pantaloons, the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council raised almost \$36,000 toward its \$50,000 goal in a fundraiser April 24 at Mellow Mushroom in the Shoppes of Avondale.

The event brought the community together for an opportunity to donate funds, which provide new socks and underwear for shelter residents and underserved struggling families. In addition to donations by supporters, the Hall Halliburton Foundation will match \$10,000.

San Marco’s Shay and Theresa Hill were top fundraisers out of 25 teams, exceeding their \$2,000 goal. Coming in a very close second was Trista’s Tightly Whites, which also exceeded their \$2,000 goal.



DESC Executive Director, David Clark with current Board President, Rolly Berrey and Immediate Past President, Clay Meux, Jr.

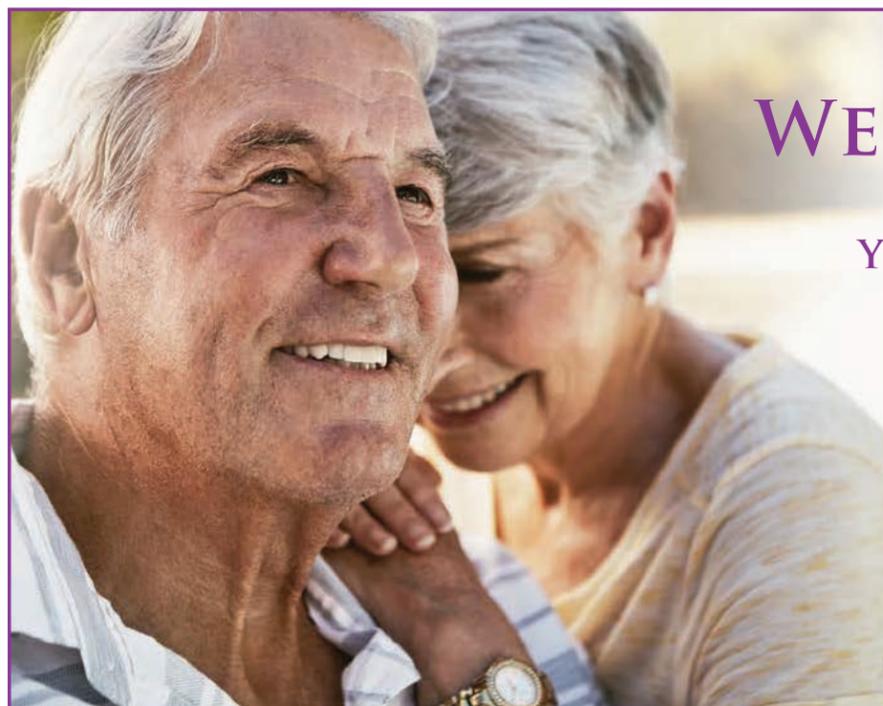
Presenting sponsors were the Hall-Halliburton Foundation (Platinum Princess); Jean and John Grant-Dooley of Riverside (Princess Pantaloons’ Honor Guard), and Mirth Creative (The Commander’s Corps).



Rylee, Heather and Ella Corey were out to make their superhero impressions and support DESC.



Susan Humes and Salli Solow show off a perfectly good pair of underpants, as they raise funds for their favorite charity, the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council.



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Annual 'hoedown' raises funds for free vision screenings

Thanks to the generosity of almost 300 supporters of Vision Is Priceless, volunteer doctors are able to provide free vision screenings for children and adults throughout Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties who are without insurance and are low-income.

Proceeds of more than \$90,000 raised through the 35th annual BBQ & Western support the sight-saving programs and services offered through Vision Is Priceless.

The event, held April 21 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, featured a barbecue meal of chicken, ribs, slaw, beans and all of the fixings. Country music provided by Jim West Productions resulted in some good 'ole line dancing to Boot Scootin' Boogie.

The meat was donated by Beaver Street Fisheries, said Tyler Merwin, event co-chair with Jami Gaff Bueker. "The whole meal is cooked by a team of volunteers that have been doing this event for 35 years. It's usually passed down from generation to generation," he said.

In addition to a silent auction, one hundred \$100 tickets were sold for a chance for one grand prize winner to choose one of five getaways, including trips to Las Vegas, Nashville, Boston, Punta Cana or a Caribbean cruise.



Jerri Bisset, Richard LaMee and Lisa LaMee



Three-year-old Jax Verducci chows down on some BBQ



Vision is Priceless staff



Dr. Jeff Levenson, Josh Treadway, Dr. Jeff Brown and Ilene Levenson



Charlie Largen and Tommy Dover from the Arlington Lion's Club

Local chamber music group announces overseas trip

Directors of the San Marco Chamber Music Society Eric and Ellen Olson along with Nick Curry, UNF's Professor of Cello, performed for an appreciative audience gathered April 8 at 6000 On the River.

The well-attended concert, hosted by Marjorie Broward and Sue and Bill Rust to benefit the group, was capped with a surprise.

"We have been invited to represent Florida at the American Celebration of Music in Germany," announced Ellen Olson.

In June 2019, the ensemble will travel to Hamburg and Berlin to perform in some of Germany's most renowned performance spaces, including palaces, churches, opera houses and concert halls chosen for their musical, historical and cultural significance. In 2016, the group performed in Oxfordshire, England.



Musicians Nick Curry, Eric and Ellen Olson with hosts Sue and Bill Rust and Marjorie Broward

The touring musicians for the Germany trip will be Aurica Duca and Clinton Dewing, violins; Ellen Olson, viola; Nick Curry, cello; Les Roettges, flute; and Eric Olson, oboe. They will play a piece composed by Piotr Szewczyk, a composer and a violinist with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, titled "San Marco Suite."

The group's final concert of the season will be Sunday, May 13, at 3 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. For information on the upcoming concert, supporting the San Marco Chamber Music Society with a fundraiser, or joining the group as they travel to Germany in June 2019, visit www.sanmarcochambermusic.org or call Erik and Ellen Olson at (904) 731-1310.

'Unhappy Hour' gathering supports Equal Pay Day



Equal Pay ambassadors from Jacksonville University



Tangi Williams, Anji Easterday, Farisha Hamid, Donna Kuldau, Susan Cornhel

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

In support of National Equal Pay Day April 10, "Unhappy Hour," a collaborative event, was put on by the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW), American Association of University Women (AAUW) Delta Sigma Theta, Women's Center of Jacksonville, and NOW - Jacksonville Chapter.

Mayor Lenny Curry signed a proclamation in support of Equal Pay Day and Florida Senator Bill Nelson wrote a letter of support as well.

Students at Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida, Florida State College of Jacksonville, and Edward Waters College served as Equal Pay Ambassadors, running education and advocacy campaigns

on their respective campuses for several months prior to the event.

A large gathering at Moxie Kitchen+Cocktails, wearing red to symbolize being "in the red" and sipping signature Equaltinis, discussed the gender gap (women are paid 80 cents per dollar that men are paid - each working full-time, year-round), and concluding that this pay gap affects the working woman's economic status to the extent that by retirement, she has \$1,000,000 less on average than a retired man.

"We were pleased with the turnout and all of the Florida representatives that attended in support of the event," said Donna Kuldau, of MCSW. "We plan to continue holding Unhappy Hours until we can celebrate with a full-on Happy Hour because we have achieved equal pay."

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Nemours launches first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

After 30 years of quietly offering quality medical care to children in the Jacksonville community, leaders at Nemours Children's Specialty Care in San Marco feel it's time to spill the beans about what may be one of Northeast Florida's "best kept secrets."

To bring a greater understanding of the internationally recognized health-care system's mission and the exceptional pediatric treatment it offers, Nemours launched the public phase of "Our Promise" – A



The Jones family has been behind the fundraising efforts for Nemours prior to the formation and construction of the hospital. Malcolm Jones is the campaign chair, his mother Mary Virginia and wife Leslie were also on hand to celebrate the check presentation from the charitable arm of THE PLAYERS.

Campaign for Children's Health, during a celebration on its riverfront campus April 26. The first-ever comprehensive fundraising drive seeks to raise \$7 million to support pediatric medical care for its Northeast Florida patients and families.

"Nemours is a wonderful organization that provides a wonderful service to the community. The problem is no one knows anything about it," said Malcolm Jones, chairman of the "Our Promise" campaign. "That's what we are trying to overcome here. We want people to see what a crown jewel this is for Jacksonville. Only if you've visited Nemours with one of your children or grandchildren do you know what Nemours does and the excellent care it gives."

Money raised by the campaign will fund the refurbishment of the San Marco facility's lobby, making it more child-friendly. The building's foyer has not been updated since it was built 30 years ago.

Campaign funds will also support the clinic's Hearing Loss Program and its Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders.

Even before launching the public phase of its campaign, Nemours was off to a good start. Over the past year it has quietly raised \$5.1 million toward its \$7 million goal through donations from individuals and organizations, including the Dolores Barr Weaver Fund through The Community Foundation, and a \$350,000 challenge grant from THE PLAYERS Championship.



Riley Ruppert-Richendollar plays with a balloon following the donor reception and check presentation. Ruppert-Richendollar is an honorary member of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD) and dreams of being a firefighter one day. He has been battling an inoperable brain tumor since his early childhood and looks forward to living cancer free with help from his team at Nemours.

Nemours also grossed \$90,000 during its first annual golf tournament April 16 at San Jose Country Club, said Jones.

During the campaign's debut reception, members of THE PLAYERS' Blue Coat and Red Coat volunteer teams were on hand when Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS, made the surprise announcement that the organization had bumped up its matching grant to \$500,000.

Dr. Michael Erhard, physician and chief for Nemours in Florida, said he was grateful for THE PLAYERS' support and to see the campaign had reached more than half its

goal so early. "It speaks to the response of the community. This is about the community coming together and supporting each other," he said. "It's a coming together to take care of kids."

Erhard's colleague, Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer for Nemours in Jacksonville, said he was not surprised about the campaign's early success. "Once the message got out, our community has been very supportive of all that Nemours does. It recognizes we are here and that we give millions of dollars of uncompensated care year after year," he said.

Eight honored for work in LGBT community

Eight individuals and organizations were honored at the black tie and evening gown Rainbow Awards held April 14 at Friday Musicale. Additionally, more than 40 local businesses, charities and groups were awarded through community nominations and voting for their support of and work in the LGBT community.

The honorees included ElderSource, for its work meeting the needs of the elderly; James Eddy honored for his work in the Duval Democrat Party; Susan DuBow honored for work with local charities and as an LGBT ally; Adrian Bray-Kelly for his work with Jacksonville Black Pride; Emily Rokosch for years of work with local LGBTQ youth through JASMYN; Heather Vaughan honored for her work in the AIDS/HIV community; Mike Nicholson honored for his work with River City Pride; and Park Place honored for years of work and donations to local LGBT charities.



Patricia and Selecia Young-Jones



James Perrigan with Heather and Ryan Vaughan

Garden Club 'sows its seeds' through sale of home-grown plants

The Garden Club of Jacksonville, Inc. hosted its annual Blooms Galore & More plant sale and festival for the public April 7, as well as a wine and cheese preview party the evening before.

Guests had the opportunity to purchase, at exceptional prices, plants grown and acclimated to the local climate by the Garden Club members. Also at the festival were professional plant nurseries, vendors with an array of unique hand-crafted items, Bee Friends Farm, and The Man in Overalls, urban farmer Nathan Ballentine.



Martha Jane Harris, Nancy Robinson, Marsha Ingram, Marika Frame and Holly McMurry



Sheryl Phipps, Bob and Ann Azroff, Joan Burchell



Julie Howard with Greg and Elise Nowikowski

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Longtime volunteer honored for dedicated service

Like father, like son.

Sheldon Gendzier joined River Garden's board in 1958 following in the footsteps of his father – and father-in-law – who both served as president of the facility's board of directors. Gendzier himself was president from 1969 to 1972.

Now, after six decades of service to River Garden Senior Services, Gendzier, 89, decided it was time to "retire."

Over the past 60 years, Gendzier has held virtually every major board and committee position. As chair of the Master

Planning Committee, he was a principal figure in River Garden Hebrew Home's decision to move from Riverside to Mandarin in 1989.

When it became clear that River Garden needed to expand its therapy and outpatient programs, Gendzier again chaired the Master Planning Committee and oversaw a 10,000-square-foot addition and facility refurbishment.

He also played a critical role in building The Coves, River Garden's independent living community, where he and his wife,

Estelle, have made it their home for the past eight years.

Gendzier was honored for his many years of volunteer service at River Garden's Anniversary Day festivities in March, and was named a lifetime honorary trustee.

"Individuals of Sheldon's character and commitment do not come along all that often," said River Garden CEO Marty Goetz. "But when they do, they make all the difference in the world. Thank you, Sheldon, for making a difference in our lives and for our community."



Gloria Einstein, River Garden Senior Services board president, and Susan Cohen, Hebrew Home board president, present the Lifetime Honorary Trustee award to Sheldon Gendzier. (Photo by Larry Tallis)

Annual Caregiver Expo features Donovan Darius as keynote speaker

Former Jacksonville Jaguar Donovan Darius shared his story of being a caregiver to his mother, Roberta Darius, at the 7th Annual Caregiver Expo, hosted by the Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida, a program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, and presented by AARP®.

The April 14 event was held at TIAA Bank Field's U.S. Assure Club East and included more than 100 community exhibitors offering information, prizes and valuable services, no-cost health screenings and personal care services, such as hair care and massage, complimentary on-site respite care on request, and more for the more than 900 attendees.



Justine Conley, associate state director for outreach, AARP Florida; Dale Farrow, community programs manager, Community Hospice & Palliative Care; Tola Wootan, community programs director, Community Hospice & Palliative Care; Donovan Darius, keynote for Caregiver Expo 2018; Roberta Darius, Donovan's mother



Kyle Williamson and Bobbie Burch, community educators with Community Hospice and Palliative Care



Rufus Bundrige, Don Guthrie and Adam Pugh



Front: Ronkay Green, Shantelle Armstrong, Peggy Spencer; back: Bruce Cathcart and Terri Allen



Rachel Weinstein, Bruce Cathcart, Terri Allen, Earl Evens and Shawn Hauerperger with the AgeWell Institute



Jay Magee with Justine Conley, AARP Florida associate state director of outreach and presenting sponsor



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Local antiques experts share knowledge at DAR show



Ward Lariscy, Gloria Wells, Eva Jean Welch, Kate Templeton, Annette Hopgood

San Marco resident Ward Lariscy, owner of Wardroom, Ltd. on San Marco Square, shared his knowledge of European, Asian and American antiques at a show held in Blairsville, Georgia.

The April 14 antiques show was hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Old Unicoi Trail Chapter. Lariscy, who was assisted by store manager Forrest Brewer, has owned and operated an interior design firm and three antique accessory shops in Jacksonville, Amelia Island, and St. Augustine since 1981.

“We are so honored to have Mr. Lariscy travel such a distance to share his wealth of knowledge with our members,” said Annette Bomar Hopgood, Chapter Regent.

Gloria Wells, a member of the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter, lived in Ortega Forest from 1963 to 2005 and was very active in fundraising for the Symphony and Guardian ad Litem. “My connection with Ward and Forrest goes back to many Symphony Showhouses, which he almost did from the very beginning,” said Wells, whose cousin, Judy Wells, once worked for the Times-Union as society editor, and arts and travel writer.

Military veterans take flight in restored biplane

By Phyllis Bell-Davis
Resident Community News

One of the first female firefighters on a destroyer tender and a former high school coach were honored recently as passengers of the Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation (AADF), a volunteer-based nonprofit dedicated to honoring seniors and United States military veterans living in long-term care communities around the country.

Rebecca “Becky” Gill and John Weeks from Arbor Terrace at San Jose flew the “wild blue yonder” Friday, April 13, at First Coast Flight Center at Herlong Recreational Airport as part of the foundation’s free Dream Flights in an open cockpit biplane, a restored 1940 Stearman, that was originally used to train pilots in World War II.



Becky Gill, front, and Col. Bob Brodie take off in a restored 1940 biplane.



John Weeks gave his dream flight two thumbs up.

Aimee Karaitis, engagement director for Arbor Terrace San Jose, said this is the second time the facility has participated in AADF.

Gill, who served as a damage controlman on a destroyer tender from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, is a former Navy firefighter who served in the Gulf War. She moved to Jacksonville from Virginia in 2006, along with her wife, Shelley, and their six-year-old son. Gill, 54, has been an Arbor Terrace resident since January 2018.

“When I was asked if I wanted to fly, I said no? Me? Then I decided okay. The flight was great!” said Gill.

After he landed from the 20-minute flight, Weeks said he was excited to “look down and see all the little people, houses and cars! It was perfect! I saw I-95 and train tracks from a different view point. It was awesome up there!”

Weeks, 78, coached football and baseball at Fletcher Middle School for 25 years and taught general science and biology at Southside Junior High and Terry Parker High schools. He and his wife of 60 years, Dorothy, have lived at Arbor Terrace since July 2017. They grew up as neighbors in Elloree, S. Carolina, and played sports at the same school.

The volunteer pilot, Colonel Bob Brodie, an active duty Marine who is in his second year with AADF, presented each passenger with an autographed cap thanking them for

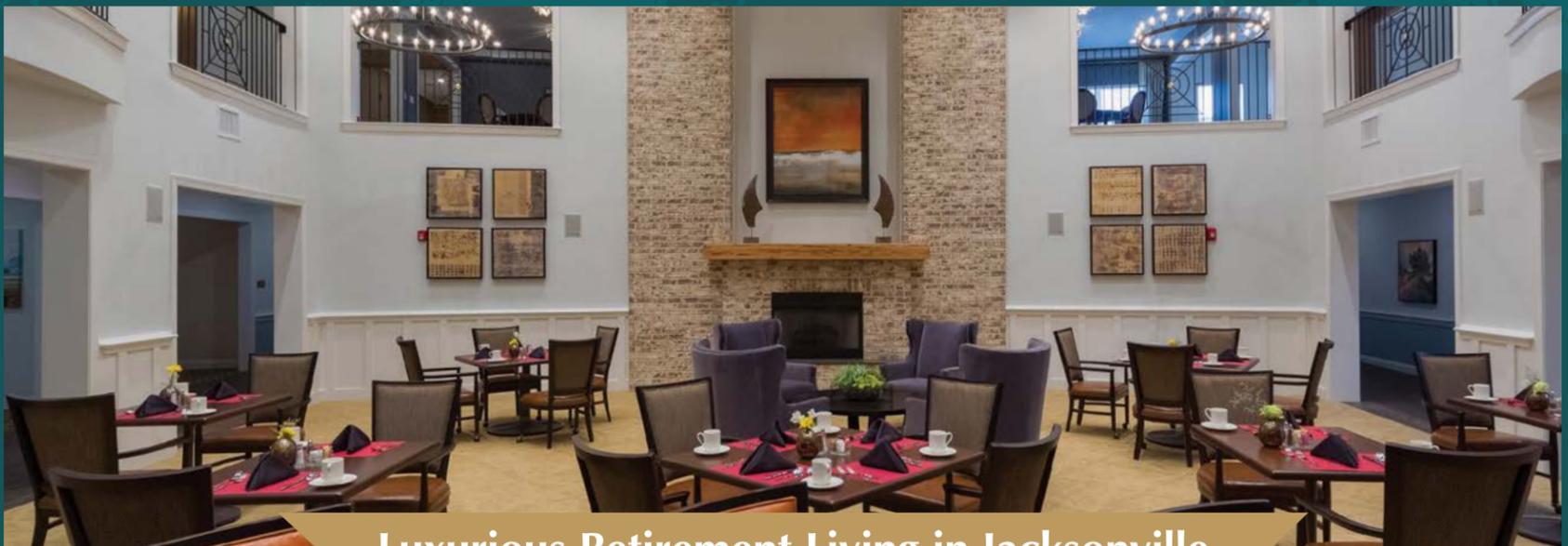


Becky Gill receives an autographed ballcap from Col. Bob Brodie.

their service to the military and to the community. Brodie noted that there have been approximately 3,000 flights since the first Dream Flight in 2011.

Lunch was catered by Silver Rehab Services and Concierge Home Care.

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THE WAY WE WERE: JIM AND MIMI PEARCE | SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Although Mimi Sherman Pearce was born in White Plains, New York and her husband, Jim Pearce, was born in Sioux St. Marie, Michigan, they both consider San Marco their “hometown.”

Mimi Pearce lives two houses down from the house on Alexandria Place where she grew up. “I came to live in San Marco as a toddler after my father, Julius Sherman, died at age 36. My mother, Ann Davin Sherman, brought us here so we could be near her brother, Joe Davin. Uncle Joe, of Stockton, Whatley & Davin, was a developer of San Marco,” she said.

An attractive young widow with two children (Jay and Mimi), it wasn’t long before Ann Davin Sherman met and married George Amos Pierce, a widower with two children (Mary Frances and George Pierce, Jr.). For a couple of years, Ann and George Pierce of San Marco had a blended family of four children, and then, Josephine Pierce (now Oetjen) was born and there were five.

Growing up in the 1950s in San Marco, Mimi and her siblings were allowed to ride their bikes or walk anywhere in the

neighborhood. “I could walk or bike to the library and to the pool, where I ended up teaching Red Cross swimming lessons,” recalls Mimi. “I could walk to San Marco Square to go bowling, pick up something for my Mother at the A&P or Pic n’ Save. I spent hours in White’s Bookstore and Peterson’s 5 & Dime.”

In what is now known as Alexandria Oaks Park, Mimi flew kites and her brother, Jay, hit golf balls. Mimi and her sister and other neighborhood kids explored the ditch that ran the length of Belote Place, between the houses and the railroad tracks. When the circus came to town, the train stopped there, and the performers lived in tents and trailers. The children were fascinated by them.

There were several parks nearby. Mimi skated and climbed trees in Fletcher Park and loved the scents and sight of the rose garden and camphor trees. River Road Park was for long adventures as it ran from her Uncle Joe’s house all the way up to Hendricks Avenue (then a two-lane road).

Mimi loved her Uncle Joe Davin, who had no children of his own, and remembers that he would take her to Guana and the Ponte Vedra Inn & Country Club, where they could ride the waves and, speaking of riding, she still has a photo of her riding a horse with Uncle Joe holding the reins.

“When they were developing San Marco, my Uncle Joe and his partners, Jim Stockton and Brown Whatley, had to move from their homes in Riverside to San Marco in order to show what a great place it was to live,” recalled Mimi. “Uncle Joe also had street-naming parties and Alexandria Street was named after a friend of his. Whatley Park, across



Mimi and Jim Pearce

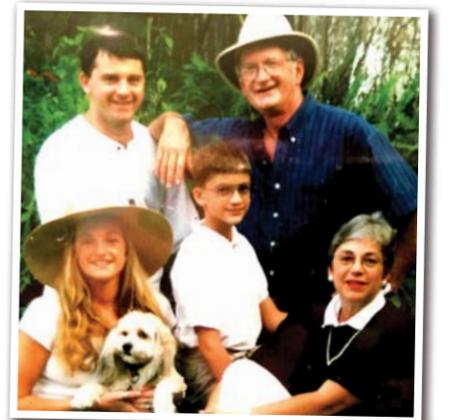
from our house now, was named after Uncle Joe’s partner, Brown Whatley.”

Parks, in fact, have played a large role in the lives of Jim and Mimi Pearce.

“Jim and I were married at the beautiful Montrose Park in Washington, D.C., in 1971,” she said. “And, while he was chief planner for the Division of Recreation and Parks for the State of Florida between 1972 and 1981, Jim set the criteria for the Florida Department of Natural Resources for selecting endangered lands like Big Talbot, the Timucuan Preserve, the Duval Nassau Marshes, St. George Island, Big Cypress Preserve and others. We both have the same passion for parks and preservation.”

Mimi and Jim Pearce also share a passion for preservation of Florida’s flora and fauna on canvas as each of them are accomplished artists who began painting long before they met.

Jim was Mimi’s brother’s roommate at the U.S. Naval Academy when she was still in high school at Bishop Kenny. Jim was



Pearce family with Buddy the dog, 1990s

serving in the Navy in Vietnam earning a Bronze Star when Mimi was earning a B.A. in English at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. It wasn’t until Jim was home-ported at Mayport aboard the Destroyer, U.S. Tattnall, that he paid a courtesy visit to the mother of his former Naval Academy roommate and found that her attractive young daughter was at home, too. “He took both of us to dinner on the ship!” declared Mimi. “And so began our courtship.”

At the time, Mimi was working in broadcasting on the Feedback Show with Fred Rebmann at WJCT – Channel 7. She worked in various broadcasting and public relations jobs, including being on the staff of Florida Congressman Charles E. Bennett in Washington, D.C. Jim was working on his Master’s in Recreation Resource Management at Michigan State University when they were married in Washington, D.C. and in 1972, the young marrieds moved back to Florida.

Continued on page 33



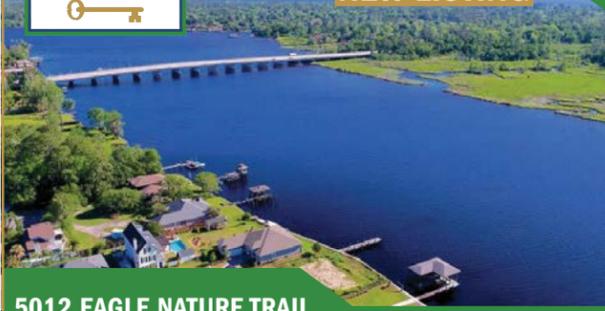
Mimi, Josephine “Joey” and Jay Sherman



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Mimi's college self-portrait

Their son, Oliver, was born in 1974, and then their daughter, Annie, in 1976, and then 12 years later, in 1987, Mimi gave birth to their son, Cody. "All three of our kids are graduates of Bishop Kenny," said Mimi. "The boys graduated from Florida State and Annie graduated from the University of Florida."

Oliver and Cody Pearce are both in show business in Los Angeles, Oliver as director of post-production for Nickelodeon and Cody a producer for ABC Mouse. Annie stayed in Jacksonville and is in educational sales.

After years of working with the State, Jim went into real estate development with Koger Properties, and then worked with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, earning a Master's in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University in 1995, and finally retiring in 2003. In the meantime, Mimi emulated her Uncle Joe Davin and kept her hand in as a Florida Real Estate Broker/Sales Associate. "I'm still a licensed realtor," she noted, "specializing in San Marco properties, but now devoting most of my time to my art."

Aw, art...throughout both their lives, art has been a continuing theme that has just in the past decade come to the forefront for Jim and Mimi Pearce.

"Back in college, there was a photo in the school paper of me painting 'what appeared to be' my self-portrait. I've since done several self-portraits, but I think that's still my



Mimi and Jim Pearce's 1971 wedding in Montrose Park

favorite," laughed Mimi, pointing out the original on her kitchen wall.

The Pearce home on Alexandria Place is filled with their art, which covers nearly every wall in every room. Jim, who formerly served as first vice president of the Jacksonville Watercolor Society, began painting at a young age and, during his tour of duty in Vietnam, painted some remarkable scenes he titled "Delta Dawn" and "Delta Dusk." Jim and Mimi are members of the St. Augustine Art Association, the First Coast Plein Aire Artists, and the Jacksonville Art Guild.

"We approach our art in totally different ways," said Mimi, describing herself as a free spirit who enjoys the process of applying "juicy oil paint to paper, panel or canvas with palette knives, finger and brush." Mimi's paintings reflect that joy and free spirit that she describes. An example is "Lavender Fields," a scene she painted because lavender is one of her favorite scents.

Jim, who paints "to capture and preserve the enduring beauty and strength of Florida's fragile biological, natural, historical and cultural treasures," uses watercolors as his primary medium. As he said, "it is liquid, lasting and immediate."



Mimi holding Uncle Joe's portrait, painted by Brown Whatley

Their art is exhibited in The Vault at 1930 and the Dancing Elephant in San Marco, and at the Jacksonville International Airport as well as in private collections. "We actually live in our studio," Mimi said, adding that each of them enjoys plein aire painting as well...and they often travel to the parks and waterways of North Florida and Georgia. For instance, Jim's dramatic painting titled "Generations" was painted at Fort Clinch State Park. The storm-weathered, gnarled tree is the Northernmost Red Cedar in Florida.

Like their art, Jim and Mimi Pearce are different, yet complementary. Mimi is an extrovert, outgoing and always seeking serendipity while Jim is reserved and prefers to commune quietly with nature. After 47 years of marriage, Mimi has decided that they are salt and sugar...a delicious combination!

Jacksonville DAR celebrates 123 years



Florida State Regent Dawn Lemongello, left, and Jacksonville Chapter Regent Betty Reed with Sons of the American Revolution: Scott Breckenridge, William Ziegenfus, Bob Gant and Ken Norwood

The Jacksonville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was formed in 1895 and, 123 years later, celebrated its birthday April 14 at a luncheon at the Timuquana Country Club.

The chapter is considered the "Mother Chapter" of the State of Florida, even ahead of the St. Augustine Chapter. The Florida State Historian, Cindy Addison, as well as women from chapters throughout Northeast Florida attended the event, which included a Color Guard from the Sons of the American Revolution, and keynote speaker Dawn Lemongello, the Florida State Regent.

Betty Reed, Regent, NSDAR Jacksonville Chapter, presented Lemongello with a check for her state project, Women in the Trades, which provides scholarships and other support for single or head of household women training for work in a trade.

Susan Brown, of Ortega, was recognized as a member of the Jacksonville Chapter for the past 52 years.

As a chapter project, the Jacksonville Chapter formed an alliance with Comfort Critters to distribute cuddly plush monkeys to cancer patients, the disabled, and veterans in assisted living.



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Local filmmaker, attorney team up for new reality show

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

Little did Jacksonville natives Warren Skeels, a filmmaker, and Lawrence Najem, an attorney, know that serving as members on the Mayor of Jacksonville's Advisory Council for Film and Television would lead them to produce MTV's hit reality show, "Siesta Key." Perhaps it was kismet.

After all, both had produced and sold a number of full-length motion pictures. Both appreciated what each other had been able to achieve in the industry. They became friends and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.



Lawrence Najem in his Prudential Drive office at Ossi & Najem, PA.

Skeels, 42, was born and raised in Neptune Beach. Filmmaking is part of his heritage. "My uncle, Arledge Armenaki, is a cinematography and film educator," Skeels said.

Skeels attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and continued his theater and film education at University of Southern California. He worked in Los Angeles and New York City after college. When he and his wife, Cristi, decided it was time to start a family, he brought her back to the place where he grew up - Jacksonville. They chose to live in the San Marco area.

"We love the quaint feeling of the area, while being so close to everything," Skeels said. Cristi and he have two children, ages 9 and 11.

Najem, 54, was also born in Jacksonville. He grew up in San Jose and attended Bishop Kenny High School. He remains rooted in the neighborhood, living with his wife in the old Oriental Gardens area of San Marco, where they have raised three children, ages 16, 18 and 20. His law firm, Ossi and Najem, is also in the neighborhood, on the Southbank.

After learning about Skeels' background in filmmaking, Najem decided to approach him about an idea he had for a reality show.

"Having served as general counsel for John Travolta, I am attracted to the production, finance and business side of film and entertainment," Najem said. "In 2015, I met with a client in Sarasota who told me that he thought his kid and friends might make good material for a reality show.

"Warren and I decided that we really had something here," Skeels said. He directed a pilot, which included framing the most



Warren Skeels (center) talking with Siesta Key stars Brandon and Madison. Notice Skeels is proudly wearing his Hendricks Avenue baseball coach's jersey. (Photo credit: Nick Shirghio)

important relationships and showcasing the personalities. They chose to partner with Entertainment One Television to pitch the project, and MTV became a natural fit for the young adult show. Skeels is both the show's creator and executive producer. Najem also has a dual role as attorney and producing partner.

"We knew from the inception that we wanted to not only capture the natural beauty of Siesta Key, but also showcase a narrative style that isn't represented in the reality TV category," said Skeels. To achieve his goal, Skeels tapped several North Florida artists for the project, among them Flagler alumnus and cinematographer Gareth Paul Cox.

While "Siesta Key" is the first reality foray for Skeels, he's an award-winning filmmaker known for his work on documentaries

"Chops" and "Thespians," and the features "Who's Your Monkey" with Jason London and Kevin Durand, and "Surfacing" with Joy Thomas and Lin Shaye.

"Siesta Key" follows a group of young adults confronting issues of love, heartbreak, betrayal, class, and looming adulthood as they spend the summer together in their beautiful hometown. Nothing is off limits while these friends come of age, figuring out who they are and who they want to become - LGBTQ issues, interracial relationships and mental health. The show has consistently been No.1 on Mondays at 10 p.m.

"We're really proud of our work," said Najem. "It meant a lot for us to represent North Florida on this show, and it was important for us to showcase local crew with us on the shoot."

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Grace Isaac

San Marco teen crowned Miss Bishop Kenny

San Marco resident Grace Isaac, 17, was crowned Miss Bishop Kenny 2018-2019.

The daughter of Brett and Michelle Isaac, she attended Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, Assumption Catholic School, and is now a junior at Bishop Kenny High School, where she is vice president of the Interact Club and a member of the Anchor Club. She is also a member of the South Jacksonville Presbyterian Youth Group.

Isaac has been a student of the Barbara Thompson School of Dance for 15 years and a member of the competitive dance team for the past nine years.

"I'm am so proud to be the new Miss Bishop Kenny! I was so lucky to share the stage with 10 other lovely ladies, who were so great to work with through the journey," said Isaac, whose talent was a musical theatre dance to Nina Simone's "Feeling Good." "This has been a dream of mine since freshman year and I can't thank my parents enough for always being there to support me."

Isaac is the oldest of four, and hopes to study elementary education in college; her top choice of colleges is currently Florida State.

"I cannot wait to get out in the Jacksonville community and represent Bishop Kenny High School. I believe Bishop Kenny is such a special place and I am so very proud that I have this opportunity to represent our school," she said.

Run, bike event fun way to keep kids fit

The turnout was terrific for the 3rd Annual Daily's Fit-4-Life Kids Duathlon, held April 14, and hosted by Riverside Presbyterian Day School. The route took 240 participants along the beautiful and scenic streets of historic Riverside.

Established in 2011 by the Physical Education faculty, the RPDS Fit-4-Life program encourages health and fitness for students and their families. In 2016, the school added the Daily's Fit-4-Life Duathlon, a one-day event that features a run, bike, run (duathlon) for children ages 5 to 15.

New this year was the Fit-4-Life Tot Trot (two laps around the RPDS track) for children 6 and under. Chaired by Ashley Jimerson and Heather Livingston Creel, the event concluded on the RPDS campus with a celebratory festival, complete with child-friendly activities (inflatables, face painters) and more.



Hank Brown and Wells Klima give it their all in the Tot Trot.



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High school sophomore address Florida Senate

Sydney VillacortaBuer, a sophomore at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and a San Marco resident, was one of a handful of high school students who addressed the Florida State Senate in March as part of the teen-led “Rally in Tally” protest to demand stricter gun laws in the wake of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County.

“Clearly there is a problem in America, and nothing is being done about it,” said VillacortaBuer, a Cinematic Arts major at DA. “I decided that I wanted to be a part of that change.”

VillacortaBuer got up at 4 a.m., and bussed to Tallahassee to join hundreds of other protestors, but she was one of the few selected to speak in front of the State Senate.

“It was very emotional being in front of all the senators, but we wanted our voices heard, not swept aside,” VillacortaBuer said. “It was an experience I wouldn’t trade for anything.”



Sophomore Sydney VillacortaBuer (right) advocates for Gun Safety in Tallahassee with two other Douglas Anderson students, Addison Saieg (left) and Emma Damon (center).

Emas awarded medallion for servant leadership

San Jose Forest resident Jaqueline Emas, a junior at The Bolles School, was one of five students who received President’s List medallions during the Third Quarter Honors Convocation on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus.

The winners are students who have gone “above and beyond” in their demonstration of The Bolles Way – Pursuing excellence through courage, integrity and compassion.

Emas was part of a group of three students, including Julian Crosby, another junior, and Ann Maris Walton, a senior, who were nominated for their positive efforts in organizing a student response to the Feb. 14, 2018 shooting tragedy in Parkland, Florida.

As part of the Student Council, they met with upper school students during an

Activities period in the auditorium to gather ideas. Two of them then formulated a plan and presented it to Upper School Head Moya Marks. They organized peers to make posters to welcome the Marjory Stoneman Douglas baseball team and to provide post-game food for the team and their families. Emas, Crosby and Walton also helped organize a March 14 commemoration event and the March 23 “Walk Into Activism” fair in the Reflection Garden on the Upper School San Jose campus.

The other two who received medallions were Lilly Healy, a junior, who organized a denim drive for Sulzbacher Center that also offered a special gift to the recipients, and senior Olivia Morello, who been working on a project for the Chinese Club since last spring, compiling a unique World



Bolles Head of School David Farace with Jacqueline Emas

War II-era scrapbook from China for display during Chinese Week, and who has also helped expand the “Twin Bridge” program, an on-campus language and cultural exchange opportunity between Bolles American and Chinese students.

Bolles senior places in national art competition

Will Skinner, a San Marco resident and senior at The Bolles School, won two silver distinctions in the recent National Scholastic Art Award competition. It is only the second time that a portfolio from the Northeast Florida region has placed at the prestigious national contest.

Skinner received silvers for his watercolor and pen painting titled “Squid Pitcher” and his art portfolio titled “Animal Amalgamation.” The portfolio collection was a grouping of eight watercolor pieces. Both national award winners achieved gold status at the Scholastic regional competition earlier this year.

Skinner’s work was selected by creative professionals as the most accomplished in the nation, according to contest officials. This year, nearly 350,000 works of art and writing were submitted and less than 1 percent were recognized at the national level. Students receiving top awards are invited to attend a ceremony at Carnegie Hall on June 7.



Will Skinner

Kobrin heads to Boys’ State this summer

Luke Kobrin, a San Marco resident and a junior at The Bolles School, was selected to participate in Boys’ State, a summer leadership and citizenship programs for high school students between their junior and senior years. Sponsored by the American Legion, Boys and Girls State programs began in 1937 and are held in each of the U.S. states, excluding Hawaii.

As delegates, Kobrin and eight other boys from Bolles will elect mock municipal officials and representatives to the mock state legislature. The participants also elect state officials, such as governor, lieutenant governor, and other state-level officials. The program’s legislature meets to organize, elect leaders, and pass bills in a way that is similar to how the actual legislature operates.

Joining Gillam at Boys’ State this summer are Jaxon Crosby, Julian Crosby, Alex Cywes, Wiley Gillam, Alex Hastings, Michael Hume, Will Shepherd and Noah Silverstein.



Luke Kobrin

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Episcopal School of Jacksonville sixth-grade students at Seacamp

Sixth-graders put philanthropy before fun

Prior to taking the annual trip to Seacamp in the Florida Keys, sixth-grade students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville first raised money to help repair the facilities damaged by Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

The fall trip was postponed until March, but first the sixth-graders held three bake sales to raise \$1,100 for Seacamp. “The sixth graders baked a variety of sweet treats and collected donations from family and friends. I was impressed by their commitment to give freely of their time,

money and resources to help this cause,” said instructor Mike Rickey.

Fellow sixth-grade teacher Heather Oulton added, “I was also touched by the number of older students who didn’t purchase anything at the bake sales but simply donated to the rebuilding effort because they had such fond memories of their own Seacamp trip.”

Students snorkeled, dissected squid, learned about sharks, and bonded over campfires and through team building activities while at Big Pine Key for four days.

Register today for Budding Gardeners camp

A creative gardening camp for children in grades one through six will be held Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to noon at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.

“Flitter, Flutter, Fly!” is the theme of the class, at which students will learn about Monarch butterflies, the importance of milkweed as their host plant and will plant a native milkweed, create a nectar station, make a Mother’s Day card and more.

Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge, but space is limited to 20 children. Register no later than May 7 by calling (904) 355-4224 or emailing info@gardenclubofjacksonville.com.

School, church partner to support Firs Coast students in need

San Jose Cares, the outreach and service program at San Jose Episcopal Day School, coordinated the recent “Satchels of Support” project which aims to provide underserved students in the community with backpacks, school supplies, hygiene items, and fun toys or activities.

Sixth-grade students prepared each bag which will be put in the hands of 30 students by Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church and Outreach.

The Rev. Canon Beth Tjoflat, a Miramar resident, coordinated the event with SJEDS. Tjoflat serves as vicar for St. Mary’s and Church Without Walls, as well as canon for urban ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

“St. Mary’s is delighted to receive these backpacks full of quality items. This project is a terrific example of love in action. Having a new backpack for school isn’t even on the radar for most of the families we serve through St. Mary’s and our diocesan urban outreach,” shared Tjoflat.



Parent Volunteers Andrea Frick and Homa Guy

Tjoflat attended SJEDS as a young child and was baptized at San Jose Episcopal Church. She has fond memories and a special connection with the church and school and now has the joy of sending her own child to the school.

“Parents are so grateful and relieved, and the kids just light up as they discover all the supplies and goodies that are included in their packs,” said Tjoflat.

The “Satchels,” and items inside them, were purchased through a grant the school received from the National Association of Episcopal Schools which purpose is in part to help advance the Episcopal School Identity through service and service-learning projects.



Milan Thomas, Josie Thompson, Kathryn Almond and Maddie Young pack satchels.

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Bolles boys' lacrosse wins 12th district title

The Bolles boys' lacrosse team won the program's 12th district title and seventh straight with a 17-11 win over The Episcopal School of Jacksonville April 20. Bolles played Oak Hall in Gainesville in the FHSAA Championships Regional Quarterfinals April 27, losing 14-1.



Local residents among student athletes making college commitments

Two San Marco residents and two San Jose residents were among 11 Bolles School student-athletes who were honored April 11 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers. Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty filled McGehee Auditorium on the San Jose campus to celebrate this well-deserved achievement. Athletic Director Matt Morris welcomed everyone and several coaches introduced their respective athletes.

San Marco resident Emily Parks committed to DePauw University (Greencastle, Indiana) for women's swimming and diving, and Tai Scherer, also of San Marco will be diving for the women's team at Whittier College in Whittier, Calif.

Mackie Garwood, of San Jose, will play men's basketball at The University of the South (Sewanee, Tenn.), while Anthony Carbone, also a San Jose resident, committed to The University of the South as well for its men's swimming and diving team.

Also committing were Nathan Skinner, to Dartmouth College for baseball; Will Levinson for men's golf at The University of the South; Dragon Theam, men's golf at LaSalle University; Jake Adcock, men's swimming and diving at the University of Florida; Sebastian Enriquez, men's swimming and diving at the American University; Edie Bates for women's swimming and diving at Emory University, and John Bowers for men's track and field at the U.S. Naval Academy.



Emily Parks



Tai Scherer



Mackie Garwood



Anthony Carbone

Friends of Library schedule book warehouse sale

Books are stacking up, so it's time for another book warehouse sale from Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. The sale is Thursday-Saturday, May 10-12 at FJPL's Book Warehouse at University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. N.

FJPL President Margaret Smith said the sale will start with the typical "Members-only" night, on Thursday. Anyone who is not a member can join at the door for a \$10 membership fee.

"Our book sales are wonderful events," Smith said. "People find great bargains and the proceeds help supplement the library budget."

Book Sale Schedule

May 10 (Member Night) – 4-8 p.m.
Members receive a 25 percent discount on one \$12 bag and receive a second bag free.

May 11 – 4-8 p.m.
Buy one bag for \$15 and get a second bag free.

May 12 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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Books in the Better Books section are not part of the bag sale, but each item has a 25 percent discount.

For more information call (904) 630-2304 or visit the website at FJPL.org.

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Ashton Body

Miramar teen to study at Mayo Clinic

Ashton Body, a sophomore at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, has been selected to be a high school researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville this summer. Body, of Miramar, will be participating in the prestigious SPARK program, which is an opportunity for students to be mentored by a biomedical researcher at the world-class research laboratories.

Mayo Clinic faculty member Dr. Dev Mukhopadhyay will be guiding Body as she continues her investigation into effective drug delivery methods. Body is enrolled in the Honors Science Seminar at Episcopal and presented the first phase of her research at the State Science Fair in Lakeland in March.

Episcopal student named Ying Scholar for science project

At the 63rd Annual State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida (SSEF) Episcopal School of Jacksonville senior Katie Nicholson was named a Ying Scholar, which is the highest award presented at the competition, for her investigation of chicken embryo development.

As the recipient of this prestigious award, Nicholson will represent the State of Florida at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May. The award was accompanied by a plaque, a check for \$1,000 and a traveling trophy which will be on display at Episcopal for one year. Nicholson competed with more than 900 middle and high school students from around the state at the three-day event for place awards, cash prizes and scholarships. The only other student from Duval County to be named a Ying Scholar in the last 15 years was Avondale resident Carly Crump, a 2015 graduate.

In addition to Nicholson, Julia Downes and Isaac Zhang will present their science projects at the International Science and



Julia Downes, Isaac Zhang and Katie Nicholson

Engineering Fair (ISEF) May 13-18 in Pittsburgh. Downes investigated the bio-fortification of Romaine lettuce and Zhang explored 3-D printing techniques.

Other Episcopal award winners at this year's SSEF were Jack Barksdale of Avondale, Ashton Body of Miramar, Marco McGowan, Sam Williams of Ortega, and Adrien Zhu.

Two Landon student earn state science fair awards



Chace Caven



Nicole Stover

Two students from Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School in San Marco competed for the first time at the State Science and Engineering Fair March 27-29 in Lakeland, Florida.

Eighth-grader Nicole Stover, of San Marco, won first place in the category of Plant Sciences for her project "The Effect of Dissolved Oxygen Augmentation on the Kratky Non-circulating Method of Hydroponic Tomato Cultivation." She also received the prestigious Ying Scholars Grand Award for Best in Fair Junior Section Biological Sciences, which comes with a \$500 cash prize. Stover received a certificate from the USDA as well as a Broadcom MASTERS nomination.

Also of San Marco, Chace Caven received second place in the category of Intelligent Machines, Robotics, & Systems software, as well as a Broadcom MASTERS nomination. A seventh-grade student, Caven had received

a special award from The Office of Naval Research at the regional fair. His project, titled "Designing Ligands That Bond With Mutated LRRK2 Proteins as a Potential Intervention for Parkinson's Disease," combined medical research and computer science to create a digital simulation.

Caven's grandfather passed away in 2015 from complications due to Parkinson's disease, which was part of the inspiration for his project, according to his mother, Rose Caven.

"It was a great experience for him being able to explain his progress along the way to his mentors at NeuroInitiative and then at science fair to so many judges," she said. "He started back in September and had to overcome multiple obstacles due to the complexity of the task of combining multiple pieces of open-source software. I love that he views it as a multi-year undertaking."

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Batter up! Youth baseball has never been better

By Robert DeAngelo
Resident Community News

Baseball and softball are in full swing throughout the region this spring, and in at least two local leagues the number of players taking part has shown a marked increase.

Hendricks Avenue Baseball commissioner Jon Yost says this season, which kicked off in late February and concludes on Memorial Day weekend, has seen more participants over 2017 totals.

“We are up this year in terms of numbers,” Yost said. “We’ve got 280 players throughout the program. There are 11 T-ball teams, eight Rookie teams, four Minor and three Major teams. While the games and leagues are competitive, we encourage sportsmanship and fair play. Those are kind of the cornerstones of our leagues.”

In Rookie ball, machines are used to pitch to batters. Minor and Major teams utilize pitchers.

In the Navy Ortega Lakeshore Little League, the combined number of baseball and softball players has also increased this season, according to League Director Patrick Barnett.

“We have 325 kids and 28 teams playing in our spring leagues,” he said. “We made a push to up the numbers. We sent out 10,000 flyers to schools in December. Our program is now the second largest Little League in the district next to St. Augustine.”

NOL has six fields at Naval Air Station Jacksonville on which to play and Barnett reports they are busy seven days a week. “Games are played Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. And



Hendricks Avenue Baseball players on the Astros team

then practices are Fridays and Sundays so there’s activity all week long,” he explained.

Barnett credits Brandon Bagley, Eddy Litchfield and Tom Welch as filling key roles in program. The trio takes care of grounds and maintenance, and recently gutted and rebuilt restrooms, finishing just in time for the spring season which began Feb. 24 and concludes on May 22.

NOL also completed construction of a pavilion in time for the spring league openers.

Also volunteering on game days are the park’s “concession ladies,” Leah Barnett, Ashley Angerman and Jillian Litchfield. “We could always use more,” Patrick Barnett said, “and that includes coaches. Our goal is to have 400 players, and, of course, we’ll need more coaches to reach that goal.”

As the league continues to grow, Barnett said the contributions of Bayer White have also been instrumental. “Getting people base access can be challenging at times,” he said. “Bayer has been great in helping to arrange that for the something like 700 people we have coming in and out for games.”

Yost also credits volunteers with helping the Hendricks Avenue Baseball league run smoothly. “We are a 100-percent volunteer organization,” he said, “with a few small exceptions. For example, we pay umpires – many times they are teenagers and we give them \$10 or something. But we have lots of people step up. A lot of moms want to participate and we are grateful to have them working concessions or as scorekeepers.”

Yost cites what he feels is another key to his league’s success: its family-friendly atmosphere. Everybody plays equally over the period of a season, he explained. “The kid that is brand new is going to play as much as more experienced players,” said Yost, whose son Jonathan, now 26 years old, played in the league as a youngster.

“We also want people to know that money is not an obstacle. Those that want to participate – we’ll find a way to get them in. There’s a good scholarship program and players can come from all over. Most are from the San Marco and Southside areas, but no one is excluded.”

While Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church owns the property, “we run completely independently,” Yost said. “But the church is a strong supporter of the program. We

have a board of directors and 50 percent are members of the church.”

Barnett sees a growth opportunity for NOL’s softball program, which currently consists of three teams and 37 players. “The challenge is getting girls interested in softball when they have so many other options like dance, gymnastics and other things,” he said. The issue hits close to home for Barnett, who coaches his son, Noah, in 8-Under Advanced Baseball, while his young daughter participates in dance classes.

As NOL is currently structured, girls can play T-ball until they are 6 years old. Softball begins when the youngsters are 12. One goal is to form a league or teams to help bridge that six-year gap.

“Some play with the boys, but we’d rather have a league for girls in that age range,” said Barnett, who grew up playing baseball on Jacksonville’s West Side and saw his mother become a board member with the Normandy Athletic Association. “So a focus now is on trying to build our softball program.”

Both Yost and Barnett said the spring seasons will conclude with playoffs beginning in May before All-Stars take place throughout the summer.

“Money is not an obstacle. Those that want to participate – we’ll find a way to get them in.”

— Jon Yost, Hendricks Avenue Baseball commissioner

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D Something

School shootings rouse a variety of reactions from prayers to protests. In Jacksonville, thanks to one young woman, a high school is reaching out to victims through the power of the pen.

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Episcopal School students befriend Parkland students through pen pal mission

It was Aristotle who said “good habits formed at youth make all the difference” and students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville are certainly a good example of young people who are forming the habit of reaching out to others in need and “doing something.”

Through the Pen Pal Mission project started by freshman Gaby Diaz, Episcopal students have been able to connect with peers in South Florida who faced the Feb. 14, 2018 shooting tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Diaz, who loves to write, turned to writing as a way to cope with her feelings after the horrific event in Parkland and said she was first inspired to do something by two specific lyrics from an Elton John song, “Candle In the Wind.” She then wrote a piece titled “17 Candles In the Wind.”

“I remember feeling awfully scared and worried as my mind pondered several questions per minute,” Diaz explained after hearing about the Parkland shooting.

“And then it dawned upon me that there are kids exactly like me who were even more scared. There were kids exactly like me who

lost their best friend today; there were kids exactly like me who lost hope in all humanity today,” she said.

“I tried to put myself to bed that night, but I just couldn’t – not until I could find a way to shed a light on the good of humanity in a world that just seemed to consume evil,” she continued.

Diaz has further used the power of the pen, or the keyboard, to coordinate a group of students at Episcopal to write to Parkland students. The letters are given to a Stoneman Douglas High representative who distributes the correspondence to classmates who wish for a pen pal, Diaz explained.

“I made this pen pal group to show that we can put pride aside to come together, heal our wounds and speak our true voices through developing a relationship,” she said. “I wanted to advocate my generation’s voice for change through the kindling relationship of two humans, who were complete strangers at first glance.”

Diaz said she also provides specific topic ideas for the pen pals, in what she likes to call “sentimental building blocks,” as a way for students to connect.

“For those who are perplexed about what to write, but yet still hold a passion, I mainly emphasize to them to speak their true opinions and reveal unconditional support,” Diaz said.



Isabella Wright, Knox Greene and Gaby Diaz

“I wanted to advocate my generation's voice for change through the kindling relationship of two humans, who were complete strangers at first glance.”

— Gaby Diaz

Writing for change

Diaz’ classmate, Isabella Wright, of St. Nicholas, also shares a passion for wanting to make a difference for their peers.

“With this pen pal group, we – as teenagers – can allow our voices to be heard and read – important for this generation as we let our voices take action,” said Wright. “In the letters, we can write whatever’s on our mind, knowing we are in caring hands and there is always someone else there for us in the hardest times.”

“Especially for the students of Parkland, we can walk through this hard time with them, every step of the way, and fill them with comfort as they know there is someone their exact age there for them with the ability to communicate about anything,” she continued.

In addition to writing to their pen pals in Parkland, Episcopal students also showed their support for their peers at Stoneman Douglas as they assembled on campus for 17 minutes during the March 14 national walkout. The Episcopal students ended the event with a moment of silence for the Stoneman Douglas students who lost their lives.

“Writing these letters has opened my eyes to all sorts of opinions and ideas, while also instilling a perpetuating fight for change through the connection with one of your friends,” said Diaz.

“Personally, the best part is knowing you’re not the only one desperate for change and someone is there for you. I hope we can stimulate these same emotions and feelings for students at Douglas,” she said.

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Flashbacks

While restaurants come and go in San Marco Square, some shops are still a popular go-to for residents and visitors to the area. Where Kim's Sandwich Shop is pictured in this 1990 photo, Beach Diner now occupies the spot, succeeding the San Marco Deli, which operated in that location for 20 years prior to closing in 2013.

Shops with staying power on the Square include The Write Touch, which opened in 1987, The Wardroom Ltd. since 1980, and the San Marco Bookstore, which has served customers for more than 45 years, opening its doors in 1972. The bookstore was purchased by Janet and Mike Molyneux in 1999, then daughter Desiree Bailey joined them in 2001.

(Photo courtesy of the San Marco Preservation Society)

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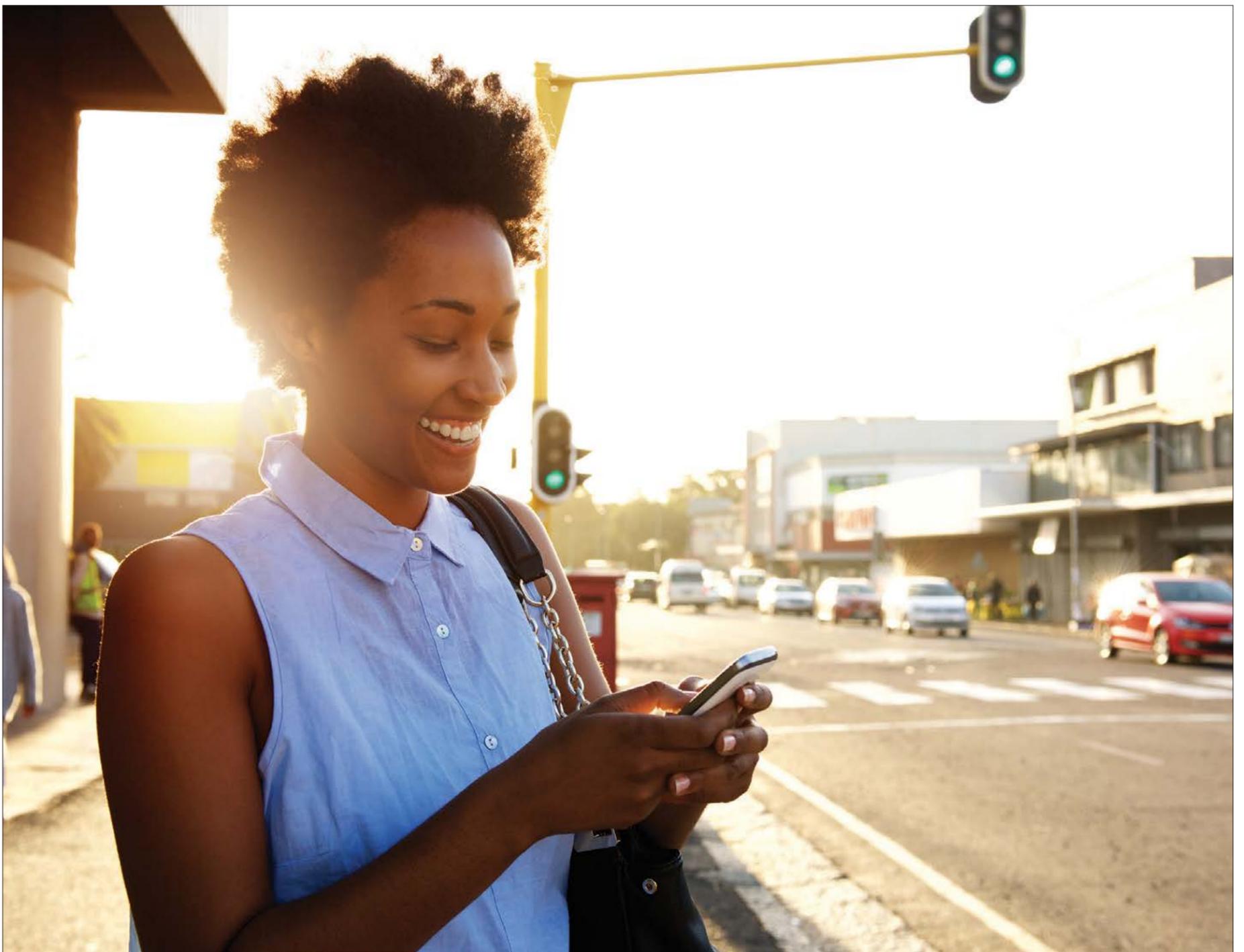
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- Our digital mammograms are fast – you'll be in and out in about 30 minutes.
- A doctor's referral is not required.
- Most insurance plans cover the cost.
- Our expanded hours mean we can get you in sooner.

Why wait? Same or next day appointments are often available.

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