



# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Old board, new logo

Desiree Bailey, Gordon Mott, Rob Smith and Scott Alters at the annual San Marco Preservation Society awards party.

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WWW.RESIDENTNEWS.NET | JULY 2018, VOL. 11, ISSUE 07

## Business association seeks to rebrand Philips corridor as San Marco East

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

It's been called Jacksonville's "Miracle Mile" and more recently by locals, "Hooker Highway," the northernmost stretch of US-1/Philips Highway, between Emerson Road and Atlantic Boulevard. But if a growing group of Philips Highway business owners have their way, the section of Philips Highway that lies between I-95 and the railroad tracks may soon be called by a different moniker – San Marco East.

Led by Bryan Croft, owner of Holmes Custom, Mathew Hugo of Hugo's Interiors, and Jeff Rosen of Chance Partners, 16 business owners representing 13 Philips Highway companies have banded together to form a new alliance, the San Marco East Business Association.

...

*"We're here to improve the neighborhood for our families, companies, and city."*

— Bryan Croft,  
Holmes Custom

...

Along with Croft, Hugo and Rosen, at present the members of the new business association include Steve Fernandez, Croft's partner at Holmes Custom; Craig, Alex and Michael Meek of Meek Companies; Brad Correia of Crown Pools; Ken Vontz of Mac Papers; Mike Sims and Morrie Zimmerman of Far East Brokers; Mary Fisher of Mary Fisher Design; Ben Patterson of Antique and Modern Cabinets, Inc.; Fred Dietsch of Media Works; Brad Ford of Ford Sheet Metal and Matt Jones of Tubel's Goodyear Tire and Service.

"We have a bit of a mission statement that says as business owners in this part of town we're here to improve the neighborhood for our families, companies, and city," said Croft. "We have a vision that San Marco East is a vibrant, thriving neighborhood with walkable retail."

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 6



Moro and Riviera Streets flooded after an hour's worth of rain May 31.

## Street flooding fix still nearly three years out

### City officials meet with residents to offer explanation, solution

By Karen J. Rieley  
Resident Community News

With the memories of Hurricane Irma still fresh, some San Marco residents and business owners are nervous about whether the City of Jacksonville is prepared to deal with this year's hurricane season. A reported one-hour rain event on May 31, which resulted in water levels between 12-18 inches deep on Riviera Street and the surrounding area, has San Marco resident Craig Marlowe and other neighbors concerned.

Approximately 20 residents met with city officials during a special meeting June 14 at First Citizens Bank in San Marco. Representing the City were Lori Boyer, District 5 City Council representative, as well as John Pappas, public works director, and Bill Joyce, public works operations director, who presented diagrams and fielded questions.

The meeting was called in response to localized street flooding caused by a breach in the basin at the corner of Moro and Colombo or some other unknown contributing

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



Sunshine, Carmen and Precious Townsend

### Golf, gala two-day event benefits two worthy causes

READ MORE, PAGE 24



Betsy Lovett, Emily Lisska

### Friends bid a fond farewell to Historical Society's leader

READ MORE, PAGE 26



Bill and Ann Traer with David Cohen

### Ginger and lime cocktail raises funds for special education

READ MORE, PAGE 24

## 'Kicking it for Jake' raises over \$5,000

Brian Manternach, Dean Medley, Travis McKee and Ken Brannon were referees for the Kick Batten for Jake 2018 kickball tournament to remember Medley's son, who died of Batten's disease. Medley's daughters, Caroline and Anna, keep their brother's memory alive by funding research for the rare affliction.

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### Jaguar's Coughlin looks after siblings of childhood cancer patients

Chris Tomberlin, his daughters, Addison and Emerson, and his sister-in-law, Ashley, left, were among many local families treated to a day at TIAA Bank Field, thanks to a new support group founded by Tom Coughlin.

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# New neighbors on the Southbank, The District deal almost sealed

## Development means big progress for city's riverfront

By **Kate A. Hallock**  
Resident Community News

The clock is ticking toward closing the deal on what will be the largest development project by acreage and impact to come along for downtown Jacksonville. It is a deal that "is not uncomplicated," said Michael Munz, a partner in The District—A Life Well Lived, a mixed-use development proposed for the Southbank.

Munz and his partner, Peter Rummell, a former Disney executive, will be signing the paperwork July 16 – right on time – with the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA) to close on the 30-acre site of a former generating plant.

"With a project of this magnitude, there are a lot of complicated details that have to be dealt with, but we are still targeting July 16," he said about a project that's been three years in the making.

On June 12, the Jacksonville City Council voted 9 to 5 to approve a \$82 million incentives package for Elements of Jacksonville LLC – Munz and Rummell's company. The incentives include \$26.4 million from the city for infrastructure, a new bulkhead, public parks and a kayak launch, in addition to a rebate of up to \$56 million in property taxes over a 20-year period.

Council President Anna Brosche was one of the nay votes after saying she did not receive a requested pro forma (private financial projections) from the developers. Munz said he did not receive a direct request from Brosche, but did respond to an email

from Aundra Wallace, Downtown Investment Authority chief executive officer, regarding Brosche's request.

"I wrote to Aundra, 'As you have said at several public meetings, Elements' private financial projections for the project played no role in the City's decision whether or not to participate in the construction of a public waterfront park at the site or the construction of public streets and utilities needed for the redevelopment. The investment being considered by the City is in public infrastructure, not in private commercial buildings, office buildings, apartments, homes or any other private investment,'" said Munz.

"The vote by City Council and the support by the mayor's administration was very important to send a signal that downtown Jacksonville is moving forward," he said. "We have a real appreciation for the time and effort put in by the DIA, the administration, and Council in workshops to participate in this process of bringing a complicated project like this forward."

After the \$18.6 million sale is complete, the development phase of the project will be turned over to Kitson & Partners, the real estate development company behind Babcock Ranch, the nation's first solar-powered town located in southwest Florida. Babcock Ranch, while considerably larger at 17,000 acres, took more than 10 years from announcement to beginning construction, indicating Kitson & Partners is no stranger to large, complex projects. The District construction – at least the horizontal phase – won't begin for another year at least, with vertical construction following a year or more later.

Now that the regulatory pieces are finished, Munz said he will be concentrating on what he and Rummell call the "fun phase."

"We'll be turning our attention to a lot of sales, marketing, branding and communication," said Munz, who is also president of the PR and Social Media Group at The Dalton Agency. "I've done a lot of that over the years being involved with real estate marketing. We'll also be involved with the 'software,' the programming of the development for the community."

Other aspects of the project include final negotiations with a variety of companies to bring in multi-family housing, restaurants, retail businesses and offices. "I just had a long conference call with our real estate team about letters of intent, but we are under nondisclosure agreements until they are finalized," he said in an interview June 26. "Everyone wanted to make sure City Council would approve the incentive package and we would close."

Munz said they are also working closely with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority about connectivity and mentioned the possibility of a bus stop at The District as well as a neighborhood-oriented "trolley" service and noted the JTA's Kings Avenue station is a five-minute walk away.

Elements is also beginning to put together the state-regulated Community Development District board to issue up to \$30 million in bonds, which would help pay for horizontal construction.

"Once we get through closing, we'll start drafting the legislation, which must be approved by City Council," Munz said. There will be five members on the board, which will oversee the development into perpetuity, he said. "CDDs are a very traditional structure, normally done in the suburbs. There are about a dozen in our community, but this is the first one formed in the downtown core."



*"We feel a strong sense of commitment to the taxpayers, who are ultimately the supporters and the beneficiaries of such a project."*

— Michael Munz

Munz believes the project will be good for Jacksonville's future.

"We feel a strong sense of commitment to the taxpayers, who are ultimately the supporters and the beneficiaries of such a project, because if we are successful, we will be increasing taxes to the city and the school system, and we feel a direct obligation to be successful," said Munz. "We're not out-of-town developers without a strong sense of community, and have hung in here this long because of our strong commitment to Jacksonville."

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To vote in the primary election, Tuesday, August 28, you must have registered to vote by July 30. Early voting will be held August 13-26. To vote in the general election, you must register no later than Oct. 9. The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 6.

You may register at the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office, 105 E. Monroe St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. You may also register at public libraries and at the Duval County Tax Collector's Office at 231 E. Forsyth St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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..... Wrong website .....

In the May 2018 issue regarding the story about trains in San Marco, an incorrect website was printed for a petition to make the River Oaks railroad crossing a quiet zone. The correct site is [www.quietzonejax.com](http://www.quietzonejax.com). The Resident regrets the error.

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# Preservation of downtown landmarks key for developer

A passion for the future helps preserve memories of city's past

By **Kate A. Hallock**  
Resident Community News

Steve Atkins doesn't mind giving credit where credit is due.

In fact, the longtime Miramar resident is quick to say the success of his latest venture – rehabilitating the Barnett National Bank Building and the Laura Street Trio (Florida National Bank Building, the Bisbee Building, and the Florida Life Building) in downtown Jacksonville – will have a lot to do with his partners in the project: The City of Jacksonville, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), and Danis Construction.

“Unfortunately, one of the things Jacksonville has not done exceptionally well in the past is be a very good steward of these types of historic properties, which is a key part of the fabric that makes downtowns unique,” said Atkins, principal and managing director of SouthEast Development Group. “I felt that was something we could definitely capitalize on and improve.”

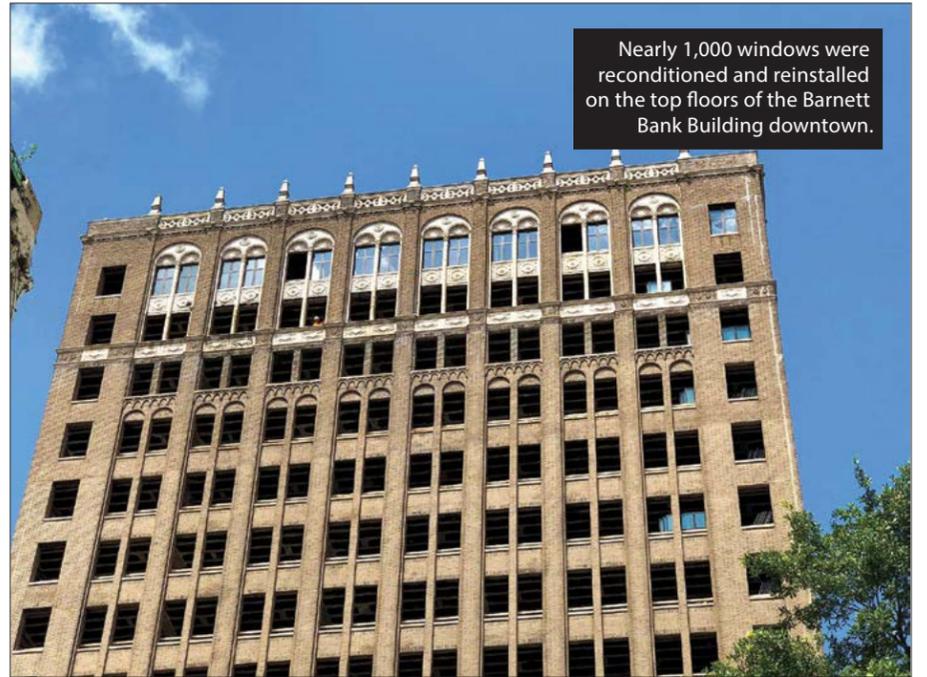
A lot of Atkins' earlier projects were greenfield development, but some were adaptive, re-use, preservation stuff, he said. “That's where my passion lies, and I want to do that here in our downtown. I'm old enough to remember what our downtown used to be like. I think I got my first suit as a little kid at Levy-Wolf downtown. It's important for me, as a resident, to do this.”

This downtown restoration project is not the first time Atkins has put his money where his mouth is. In 2013, Atkins was awarded the Historic Preservation Commission's award for the two-year restoration of the 1901 Greenleaf & Crosby Clock at the corner of Laura and Adams Streets. He donated the cost and directed the rebuilding of the clock's infrastructure and its re-installation.

Getting his hands on the four buildings was not a quick or easy process. There was a long period of time where the buildings were tied up by equity houses and banks in a portfolio with other properties, Atkins explained. The other properties were eventually sold or auctioned off, and the portfolio dwindled down to the Barnett Building and the Laura Street Trio, which could not be separated in a sale.

“It was a protracted effort and a lot of negotiation had to happen before they were willing to make a disposition of the properties in a way we could make it work. You have to have a willing and able city government to work with you. We went through three administrations and, fortunately, the current administration is business minded and the mayor made a commitment early on to Downtown. It's been a great partnership working with the City,” he said.

Atkins noted that, during the period of acquiring and holding the properties, there



Nearly 1,000 windows were reconditioned and reinstalled on the top floors of the Barnett Bank Building downtown.



Rendering of a proposed six-level parking garage with retail fronting Laura Street.

was an absence, or a vacuum, within city government with regards to specific downtown development. “There wasn't a DIA, it didn't have a director, it had no money, so that was a real disconnect, a real challenge,” he said. “I have to give a lot of credit to Aundra Wallace [who was named CEO of the DIA in 2013]. He and I have worked together for many years on this project. He's a great partner and willing to stick through the tough times.”

When Atkins began seriously looking at the project in 2009, the Barnett Building had been vacant nearly 10 years, the Laura Street Trio since the late 1980s/early 1990s, he said. “They had not been serviced well and, in many cases, were open to the elements, so there was a lot of deterioration and things have transpired over the years. You have to take that into account as you address how to rehabilitate them and put them back into service,” said Atkins.

Describing himself as detail-oriented, with a hands-on approach to his role, Atkins is on site every day, but acknowledged “at

the same time, I let people around me do their job. I feel my role is to empower them and support them in the best way I can. It makes me an effective developer, and then an effective contractor, and that's a win for everybody. That allows us to work well together, stay on track, and ultimately be successful.

“The reality is, the developer is only as good as their team, and I have to give a lot of credit to Danis Construction. They have more expertise in this field than anybody else in the local market. There is extensive planning that goes into these projects before we ever mobilize, from safety to execution,” he said.

Danis Construction began interior, structural, and window replacement work on the 18-story, 156,744-square-foot building in late October 2017. The renovation project for the 92-year-old Barnett Building at 112 W. Adams St., is ahead of schedule, according to Atkins.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 11**



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“As of today, we’re down from the 18th to around the 11th or 12th floor reconditioning and reinstalling windows; we put on a new roof, and they are framing as they go, so all the apartment floors are ready to be dry-walled. It’s moving at a very, very fast pace,” he said in an interview early in June. “We’re on a tight schedule, very regimented, but are running probably 30 days ahead of schedule.”

**Bringing tenants to downtown**

Atkins expects to turn over space in December to the first tenant. The University of North Florida – Atkins’ alma mater – announced in April it would lease approximately 13,000 square feet of space in the Barnett Building for a satellite campus. The UNF Coggin College of Business will occupy space on the fourth and fifth floors of the building and is expecting to commence classes in January 2019.

Although not officially announced, Atkins said JPMorgan Chase & Co. will have their North Florida headquarters, their largest flagship branch, on the first floor of the Barnett Building, as will Vagabond Coffee. Atkins is also negotiating with a company in health and wellness, in addition to others looking for commercial office space.

When completed, the former Barnett Bank building will add 108 studio, one- and two-bedroom loft apartments to the urban core. Ranging from 570 to 1,500 square feet, the average unit will be about 700 square feet, Atkins said.

A 600-space, \$11-million parking garage also is part of the project and will be built on property at 28 W. Forsyth St. next to the Laura Street Trio.



*“The process of bringing it back to life and putting it back together to its old glory and seeing it used in a whole new way is what’s exciting.”*

— Steve Atkins, principal and managing director of SouthEast Development Group



The JAX Chamber Board of Governors went on hard-hat tour of the Barnett Building on March 8, as part of its focus this year on downtown development.

Atkins said they will mobilize at the Laura Street Trio site this summer, but right now Danis is staged and operating on the Trio site for the Barnett project. “They are also ramping up the start of the parking deck, so to have three sites mobilized at one time is challenging,” he said. “In an urban site, people are constantly moving around.”

The Barnett Building will be finished up in early spring 2019, with the parking deck within a few months after that, and the Trio will be completed in summer 2020, he said.

The Laura Street Trio will include a Marriott, a luxury boutique programmed around the historic context of the Bisbee Building, and the Florida Life Building, Atkins said. The Florida Life Building, also known as the Marble Bank Building, will be the site for Bullbriar, a restaurant and bar. The Bisbee Building will also have a market, a grocery, on the ground floor.

**Restoring downtown’s glory**

In early March, the JAX Chamber toured the project at the Barnett Building.

“The Barnett is huge for downtown – both with what the project itself brings, but also the buzz and momentum created by breathing life back into a historic building that’s been vacant for decades,” said Debbie Buckland, JAX Chamber chair-elect, and Jacksonville market president for BB&T. “The tour was a great opportunity for business leaders to get a sneak peek at the renovations inside the Barnett and understand the investment needed to pull off a project of this magnitude.”

Atkins agrees. “It’s good for Jacksonville. I feel that it’s a privilege to be part of this

project because it’s important to our city. I’m excited about the changes that are happening to our downtown collectively,” he said.

For Atkins, the most exciting aspect in his projects is the construction phase. “Seeing it put back together is really fun. Projects like this have wrinkles along the way – you’re fixing things that are falling apart – but I like seeing it come back together. It’s a creative process so it’s gratifying from the respect it’s seeing something that was truly grand at one time and very, very special to a lot of people, seeing it fall away into a sad state of disrepair, then the process of bringing it back to life and putting it back together to its old glory and seeing it

used in a whole new way is what’s exciting to me and what appeals to me.”

Even while managing this massive project which, collectively, will cost around \$90 million, Atkins is already considering what lies ahead.

“I am looking at several other sites downtown, a variety of potential projects, some office, some mixed-used, heavy on the multi-family side,” he shared. “There is a tremendous market right now in the residential category downtown. We have received a tremendous response on the Barnett, and we feel like we can capitalize on that and create some additional opportunities. I’m also looking at a project in Atlanta and some other Jacksonville sites.”

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# San Marco East FROM PAGE 1

Considered by many to be the “Gateway to San Marco,” the boundaries of San Marco East begin at Atlantic Boulevard and run south to Emerson Street, with I-95 on the east and the railroad tracks on the west. Aware that the area has been long regarded as the “wrong side of the tracks” from San Marco, with its quaint village-like atmosphere, members of the San Marco East Business Association believe upscale change is rapidly coming to their commercial corridor and that within five to 10 years the boundary of San Marco will extend to their province.

“Our goal is to form an association to work better with the San Marco merchants because the fact is the two areas are merging together, whether everybody likes it or not,” said Hugo. “We’re all for it, and we’re trying to put the negative connotation of North Philips Highway behind us and move forward.”

Meek agreed. “We are in the process of creating something that will become more of a formal entity to create a new identity for the area,” said Meek. “I see the association eventually being a voice for the corridor, but right now the group is in its formation stage. As it gets a bit more formalized and gets a better vision and mission statement developed, I think you will see a more formidable group.”

### 30-year business history

Having a business association in the Philips Highway corridor is actually not new. San Marco East is a continuation of the former San Marco Community Development Association, which was started by five of Philips Highway’s largest land-owning companies in the 1990s, said Hugo. Hugo’s Interiors, Craig Meek of the Meek

Companies, the Hamm family of Jerry Hamm Chevrolet, the O’Steens, and the McGehees of Mac Papers were founding members, he said.

“Back in the 90s there was a very large public works project that did water and sewer infrastructure along Philips,” explained Hugo. “My father and Craig Meek formed this association and raised funds within that group to form a public/partnership with the City of Jacksonville. It ended up involving the state of Florida because Philips is a state roadway. We paid for the plantings and the irrigation for all the islands. From then on through ourselves (Hugo’s) and giving amongst that group, we continued to maintain that from then until now,” he said. “Some members have come, and some have gone, but quite honestly during the recession my family bared the exclusive cost in that because it was important to my dad to continue it,” he said.

Interest in building up the San Marco East Business Association was reignited because the corridor stands on the cusp of great change due to the present construction of two major residential developments – San Marco Promenade and San Marco Crossing. Developed by Chance Partners’ Jeff Rosen of San Jose and Judd Bobilin of Orlando, the two developments represent a \$180 million investment in the area, said Rosen.

In early June, construction began on the first phase of San Marco Promenade, a residential complex consisting of 284 units on a large tract of empty land that had been the former location of Jerry Hamm Chevrolet and was more recently known as Jackson Square. Initial tenants are scheduled to move in in fall 2018, said Rosen.



Aerial view of the Philips Highway corridor stretching from Emerson Street to the Atlantic Boulevard interchange with I-95 which comprises the area covered by the San Marco East Business Association.

Meanwhile, San Marco Crossing will be comprised of 300 units located on land where Southside Assembly of God is located on Kings Avenue, and its first phase of construction will begin in 2019, he said.

When all the phases of the two developments are complete, Chance Partners will have brought 850 new apartments and more than 1,200 new residents to the area, which will require a variety of commercial services such as restaurants and shops close by, said Croft.

Chance Partner’s developments are the “800-pound gorilla,” the catalyst for change in the corridor, said Meek, but it is not the only transforming element within San Marco East. Croft’s company just cleared a 3.3-acre parcel adjacent to his business and is considering what might be the best use of the land, and the Wells Fargo building, which sits on a four-acre tract on the corner of Emerson and Philips has just gone up for sale indicating transformative change for the better is coming to the “bookends” of the corridor, he said.

“There are about to be some major changes taking place here,” said Meek, crediting Rosen and Croft for getting things started. “Within the next couple of years, you will see the intersection of Emerson and I-95 is going to be a huge interchange difference. The Wells Fargo branch is a huge piece of property at a hard corner with a light. Who knows how that will end up, but most likely it will be retail. We are collectively working to help springboard that into further development opportunities and change,” he continued. “We will pick up the banner and carry this flag. It’s exciting to see there is new interest in the area and there are people who want to be proactive.”

Hugo agreed. “Bryan has taken an interest along with many other business owners in the corridor based on the economic impact that’s going to happen through the development up north along with some land sales, natural improvement and value of

property,” he explained. “The I-95 interchange has been redone and overall economics are better now. Jeff Rosen, who is the driving force behind San Marco Promenade, and is putting somewhere close to \$180 million of capital improvement in this area and it will automatically increase property values across the board,” he said.

### From Miracle Mile to Hooker Highway

At one time, in the late 1950s and 1960s, US-1 was “The Road,” said Meek, whose family has lived in Jacksonville for three generations. The northernmost stretch of Philips Highway between Emerson Road and Atlantic Boulevard was called Jacksonville’s “Miracle Mile,” – a vibrant community of top-notch restaurants, family-oriented motels, all anchored by the Philips Highway Plaza, one of the first enclosed shopping malls, along with Roosevelt Mall near Avondale and Gateway Plaza in north Jacksonville, to be built in the River City.

But by the 1990s, after the construction of I-95 and the mega mall Regency Square had been built, and Philips Highway North fell into hard times. The interstate had revised the traffic pattern, and many of the businesses relocated because they were on secondary roads. Several of the motels that were left became “no-tells,” giving the area its reputation as “Hooker Highway,” a place full of “thieves, drug pushers, and prostitutes.”

Meek and his partner, Charles Price, purchased the Philips Highway Plaza and eventually converted it into Metro Square Office Park, a 400,000 square-foot office space with a 100,000 square-foot ice rink and sports complex that sits on 40 acres of land at the corner of US-1, Philips Highway and I-95. And regardless of the corridor’s somewhat seedy reputation, several other companies have held their own over the

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 7**



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years, continually working to elevate the area, including Hugo's Interiors, Coastal Construction Products, Mac Papers corporate headquarters and Ferguson Enterprises, a branch of the largest distributor of plumbing supplies in the United States.

"You have some mass users, but you also have small parcels with small operating businesses," said Meek, adding that it is San Marco East Business Association's hope that property values will significantly increase so that owners of some of the less desirable motels will sell and take their businesses elsewhere. "I think you'll see a transformation over the next five to 10 years. I think this will be a totally different corridor," he said.

**It's all in a name**

Coming up with an appropriate name for the revitalized business association was at first controversial, said Fisher, who has joined the group even though her company, Mary Fisher Design and Advertising, does not officially reside in the corridor.

"There was some controversy as to whether we could use the term San Marco East, but it's good because it gives us an identity," Fisher said. "We didn't want to use 'Philips Highway and Emerson Street,' and 'Midtown' was awful. It's nice to have a name on this

part of town. Whenever I try to explain to people where I am, it was very hard to say that we were on the perimeter of San Marco. We are close to San Marco, but they really don't have a name for us over here. It's a pretty good name – San Marco East. It identifies where you are and puts the neighborhood into a better light.

"Now, we have a community voice, and we can get together and make things happen. It's nice to have some camaraderie with your business neighbors," she continued, noting she enjoys being the only female within the group of businessmen. "We will all be a bunch of flag-waving business owners and will have our San Marco East flags out."

Thanks to Croft, a website has been set up for the group, which plans to meet every other month. Because he is in the sign business, Croft said he hopes to print San Marco East signs and install them throughout the area if business owners will grant their permission to have them on their property.

Hugo said it will take time for San Marco East merchants to decide what will work best for the area. Although the group has no desire to merge with the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA), it does hope to eventually maintain a "brother-sister" relationship with the older group, said Meek.

"I think we will be complementary to SMMA," said Rosen. "It is helpful to have a collective voice of neighbors that impact each other. We will complement what they are doing."

Hugo said San Marco East wants to "get along with everybody that we can."

"We have a long way to go before we are the caliber that San Marco Merchants Association obviously is, and I think it will take some time for us to get there, probably between 2020 and 2021," he said.

"Whatever we can do to help, we want to help, and when we need help, we want to be able to ask for help," Hugo said. "The truth is, if you look at that corridor, which is from San Marco on the river to where the merchants of San Marco are to us, there is a huge tax base there – millions and millions of dollars in annual taxes. The association hopes receive its fair share of city services such as fire, police and general maintenance, he said.

Robert Harris, president of the San Marco Merchants Association, said SMMA is willing to assist the new group. "We are all friends and all working to make San Marco a more exciting place to live, eat, and shop," he said. "We are happy to help them, and we are sure they will help us."

"I think moving forward we have a great name, and we've got great people involved."



San Marco East organizer Bryan Croft, owner of Holmes Custom

It's important that we keep track of how we got to this point. This is a resurgence of what we've been doing. It's a resurgence of what a few guys did almost 30 years ago at this point," said Hugo, noting his company is still proud to be a part of it.

"We think there's a very large upside and uptick in North Philips Highway. Our business has changed dramatically in 30 years and will continue to evolve. We just want North Philips Highway to be a safe place for our customers to come, and others to come, and we want to continue to remain here just like the others. That's why we are spending money, continuing to capitalize improvements so we can grow our businesses."

# Entrepreneur purchases property to fight blight on Philips Highway

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Ever since Bryan Croft moved his business, Holmes Custom, from 1640 San Marco Blvd. to its present location at 2021 St. Augustine Road in 2010, he has dreamed of buying Florida House, an abandoned juvenile residential facility owned by the state, just so he could tear it down and clean up the neighborhood.

"From my office here, I could look out the window and see it," said Croft. "I've looked at it since 2010 when we moved in here, and I've always had this dream to build up my business, so I could buy that rundown hotel and bulldoze it.

"I live at the beach, and when I would tell people I work on Philips Highway their immediate reaction is 'crime, drugs, prostitution,' and unfortunately they are right," Croft continued, noting the derelict former youth detention center had attracted many shady characters.

With his company covering 30,000 square feet in two buildings on four acres across the street, Croft said he was concerned some of the activities that went on at the abandoned property might eventually affect his employees and business.

Croft purchased the 3.3-acre property from the state for \$450,000, to increase the

safety of the 85 employees working at his company and to help clean up the neighborhood. "I didn't like seeing a 20-year-old building just sitting there and watching the riff raff come in and out," he said.

Formerly the Holmes Stamp Company, Holmes Custom has been a fixture in San Marco since Owen Holmes first opened its doors on San Marco Boulevard in 1954. Croft's father, Bob, started a delivery boy in the 1960s and worked his way up so that he owned 100 percent of the company in 1998.

"My dad started out as a delivery driver and 30 years later owned the company," said Croft.

A graduate of Bishop Kenny and the University of North Florida, where he majored in marketing, Croft began working for his father at the Mom-and-Pop firm in June 1998, eventually transforming it into a \$13 million national e-commerce company with 100 employees and offices in three locations – Jacksonville, Boston, Mass., and Austin, Texas. Having purchased the firm from his father in 2009, Croft, who is CEO, co-owns the company with his partner, Steve Fernandez.

After doing some environmental clean-up on the property, which was originally built as a motel in the late 1980s, Croft had two of the three existing buildings demolished during the first week of May but plans to



One of the two buildings that was recently bulldozed by Bryan Croft after he purchased the land adjacent to his business, Holmes Custom, on Philips Highway.

renovate the third building at the rear of the property to use as his e-commerce business continues to grow.

As a close friend of Jeff Rosen, a co-owner of Chance Partners, Croft said he realized Rosen's residential development, San Marco Promenade, at the north end of Philips Highway would be a game-changer for the community. "I wanted to figure out a way I could support Jeff and help end that old Emerson-Philips perception," he said. "Soon we will have approximately 2,000 new people living two blocks from here,

and that is going to change the whole neighborhood."

Croft said he would like to insert a "retail presence" on the property and is open to ideas from developers who might want to lease the land. "I'm in no rush," he said. "I want to see what happens to the neighborhood and how it evolves. I'm open to any kind of improvement to enhance our neighborhood. There is no master plan here, and I'm not a real estate developer. I'm an e-commerce entrepreneur who enjoys investing in his hometown."

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# Dredging plans for Lakewood area creek lack cohesive desire by residents

## Some prefer nature over recreation

By Karen J. Rieley  
Resident Community News

The lack of flow in once-navigable Christopher Creek begs for dredging, but while there are several options available which could make that happen, there is no cohesive wish among property owners on the Lakewood area creek's banks.

Some residents enjoy the wildlife which has settled in the area and are afraid dredging will destroy their habitat. Other property owners are fearful of an increase in property taxes or a special assessment for a dredging project.

Christopher Creek's navigable access to the St. Johns River was part of what drew developers to the area after World War II veterans began looking for homes in the suburbs.

In 1953, Crabtree Construction Company bought and began developing the Lakewood subdivision that is bounded on the north by Miramar and the south by Christopher Creek, and lies between San Jose Boulevard and St. Augustine Road.

To create as much waterfront property as possible, the company dredged and re-located part of Christopher Creek to give it more branches for creekfront lots and the potential for docks, bulkheads and boats.

Barlow Curran can point out which part of the creek is natural and which was manmade, because his father was vice president of Crabtree Construction Company and oversaw the Lakewood development.



Barlow Curran in his backyard pointing out berm created when creek was originally dredged and moved in 1953. Area beyond berm is marshland where the creek originally ran.

"The creek is straight as an arrow in front of my property because it is manmade there," Curran said. He can point out the berm that was created from dirt dredged to create the creek. On the other side of the berm is marshland from what used to be the creek. "We moved into the home that my father built in 1954 when I was two," Curran said. He and his wife now live in the same house. "I used to take a 14-foot boat with a 35-horsepower outboard motor out into Christopher Creek, go under the bridge on what is now

called San Jose Boulevard and into the St. Johns River," Curran remembered. That's no longer the case. The creek that once was as much as 6-feet deep in the center is now silted up to the point that it has a sandbar at high tide. Curran has taken down his dock, but kept the pilings in the hope that he can put up a dock and take out a boat again someday. Curran also remembers alligators, large-mouth bass, brim and bull frogs. "Residents today are just as glad that the alligators

are gone," Curran said. The water life found in deeper freshwater is largely gone. In its place are resident and wading birds such as wood ducks, great blue and white herons, snowy egrets, wood storks and roseate spoonbills. "I watch the ibises feed on fiddler crabs and minnows when the water is at low tide." While the birdlife may be interesting, many waterfront residents want to take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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advantage of the creek today by boating on it and fishing in it as did those who first bought the 1950s Lakewood houses. People visiting Nathan Krestul Park want to launch boats, too, as the signage for the park indicates they should be able to do.

Toni Woods, who lives on Christopher Creek Road, shared her thoughts with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer in an email last July. "I put my kayak into the creek at the park last weekend and even the channel to the river was so shallow I got stuck," she said. "I would be happy to help any way I can to make it so it can be paddled again as it once was."

**Silt issue goes back decades**

Varying suppositions exist as to why the creek has become silted. One theory is that when the retention pond at the head of Christopher Creek was created for Walgreens at University and St. Augustine it sent lots of sediment down the creek. The City filed an environmental resource permit (ERP) application in December 2014 for a temporary sedimentation basin at Nathan Krestul Park to address the problem caused by the retention pond.

However, in July 2015, the City withdrew the ERP application and there were no other



During Hurricane Irma, the creek rose over the bulkhead of Tom Henley's San Marie Drive South property, and up into the lower level of the house.

application submittals for a project related to Christopher Creek sedimentation, according to Teresa Holifield Monson, public communications coordinator for St. Johns River Water Management District.

"I think the retention pond is just a one part of the problem," Curran said. "The creek was filling up with silt before that pond was built. My father always believed that the silting started when the San Jose Forest homes on the south bank of Christopher Creek were built." Those homes built in the 1960s sit on high lots and have steep runoffs into the creek.

But even the Lakewood subdivision itself is subject to runoffs. All of the homes north of Christopher Creek sit at higher elevations designed to have water run down into the creek. And more and more development has happened in the area.

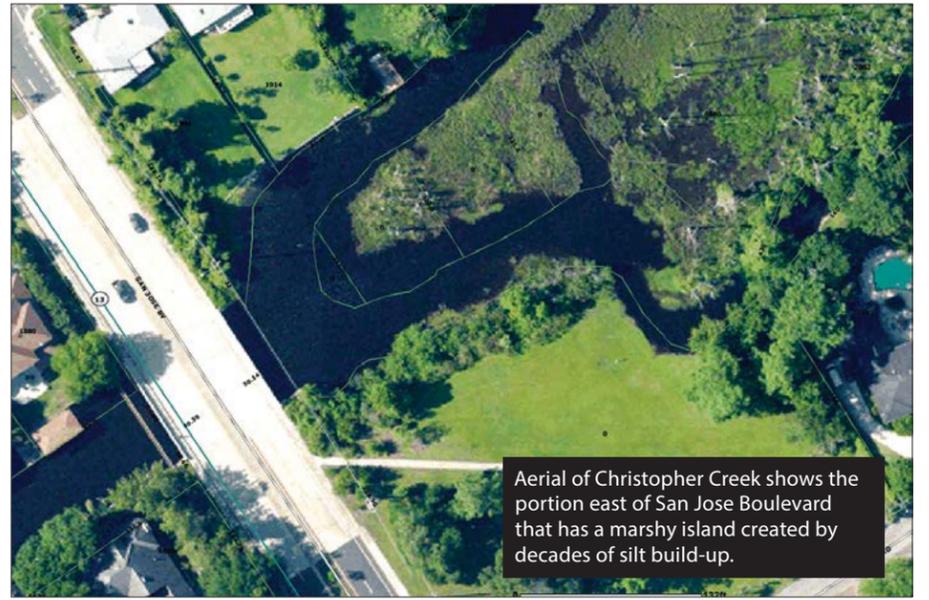
"The creek has not been maintained for its full drainage capacity," Curran said. "Plus, more development equals more concrete and less natural land to absorb the water."

With storms seemingly occurring more often and with greater intensity, at least two residents have more reasons than recreational enjoyment to push for having the creek dredged. Tom Henley's waterfront property is on San Marie Drive South across from Nathan Krestul Park.

"During Hurricane Irma, my entire backyard flooded all the way up into the first level of my house, even though I have a bulkhead," Henley said. And yet, at normal levels the water is so low that he finally sold his boat.

"I tried talking to St. Johns River Management District, but no one seems interested," he said. "Councilmember Lori Boyer is the only one who has expressed any interest."

Three trees fell into the creek near Curran's house also during the hurricane. "I called the City's Public Works Department



Aerial of Christopher Creek shows the portion east of San Jose Boulevard that has a marshy island created by decades of silt build-up.

and told them that the trees were blocking the creek which would be a drainage problem for the whole neighborhood," he said. "They came out right away to cut the trees up and haul them off. That would seem to indicate that the City thinks it is responsible for the creek."

"To my understanding, the fact that the creek was dredged and relocated would make a good case for a maintenance dredge today," said Alaina Johanson, who lives on Segovia Avenue.

**Funding a dredging project**

How to get the dredging approved and funded is the question and concern. There are four ways this could potentially happen, according to Boyer.

The easiest route would be for the City to modify the current proposal to dredge Nathan Krestul Park so that it includes maintenance dredging of the entire creek.

Residents could pursue an ecosystem restoration project with the Corps of Engineers in which the Corps pays 75 percent of the cost and the City or others – such as the property owners – pay 25 percent. This option would take longer. One dredging project recently approved for Fishweir Creek took about 10 years to get accomplished.

Another option is to create a special assessment district as was done for Millers Creek in St. Nicholas. Residents funded the dredging through assessments on their properties. In this option, the City contributes 12.5 percent to the effort. This could be accomplished within a few years.

The City could include the dredge in the Capital Improvement Program of the City and bear the full cost. To be included in the CIP, however, the project has to score competitively against other demands for roads, parks, etc. To be successful, a concerted lobbying effort by the neighborhood would be needed.



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San Marco/Southbank road resurfacing project area

## Resurfacing improvements to begin on Kings Avenue/Prudential Drive

Construction began June 18 on Kings Avenue/Prudential Drive (State Road 5) from Atlantic Boulevard to the Main Street Bridge and on San Marco Boulevard/Prudential Drive (State Road 13) from the Main Street Bridge to the Acosta Bridge.

The construction project includes removing and replacing the top layers of asphalt, shoulder treatment, base work, curb and gutter improvements, traffic signal and lighting upgrades, utility construction, highway signing, sidewalk and bicycle path repairs, pier protection and other incidental construction. Impacted roadways and bridge ramps are highlighted in the included map.

Traffic will be maintained in accordance with Florida Department of Transportation design standards throughout the project.

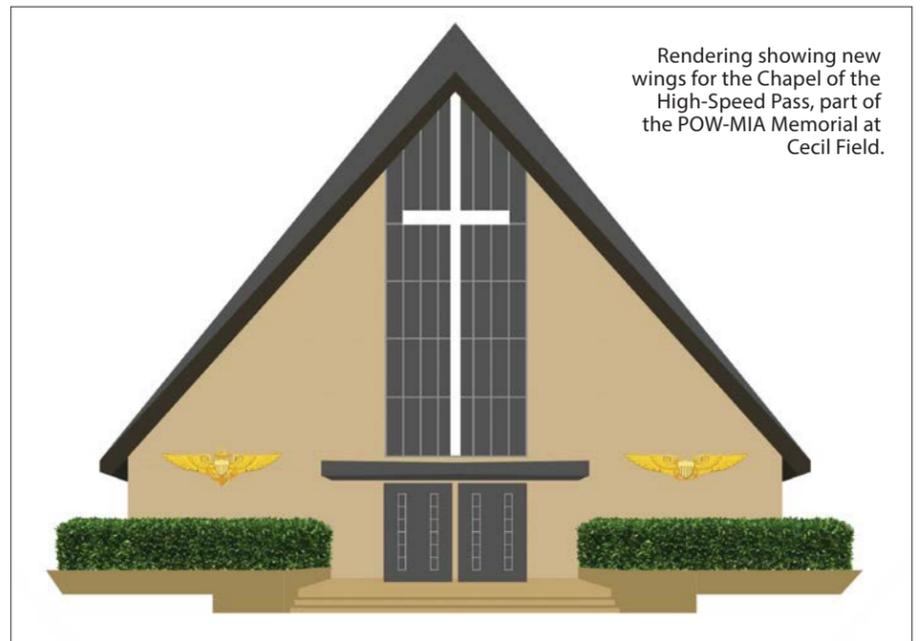
Drivers can expect periodic single lane closures on roadways and bridge ramps during off-peak driving hours.

Lane closures are allowed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 7:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday. One lane in each direction will remain open when closures occur. Ramp lane closures are allowed from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Monday through Sunday. Sidewalk closures may occur during the project; however, pedestrian detours will be provided.

Preferred Materials, Inc. of Jacksonville will complete this \$3.8 million improvement project in spring 2019, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

For up-to-date information regarding construction projects and lane closures, please visit [www.nflroads.com](http://www.nflroads.com) or contact FDOT personnel at (904) 831-FDOT (3368).

## Cecil Field road renamed for prisoners of war, missing in action



Rendering showing new wings for the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, part of the POW-MIA Memorial at Cecil Field.

### Ceremony planned for early July

By **Kate A. Hallock**  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville City Council took unanimous action May 22 to rename a local road the POW-MIA Memorial Parkway in honor of former prisoners of war and the more than 82,000 servicemen and women still considered missing in action.

New World Avenue, which runs from Cecil Field north to Normandy Boulevard, will soon see new signage, which will include something typically prohibited by the government – a hyphen. City Council waived a 15-year-old ordinance which requires street name changes not include hyphenation. Ordinance Code, Section 745.105 (g) states “A proposed street name shall not exceed 30 characters in length, including directional and street type information, and shall not include special characters, hyphenation or abbreviations.”

The request for the name change was initiated earlier in the year by the Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit which has recently taken on the task of renovating and expanding the memorial. The site is a national park located on 26 acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field Master Jet Base and now known as Cecil Commerce Center. The shrine was dedicated in 1973 by the families of POW-MIA pilots and servicemembers lost in the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts.

Renovations include restoration of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, a mid-century

modern building. A new roof was put on, interior electrical work completed, and painting is underway. Angel Corrales, manager of American Window Preservation LLC, was selected to refinish four doors on the chapel and reseal two of the 26 windows on the sides of the chapel. Corrales, who grew up in Riverside, has been active in window preservation projects for many historic properties in the Riverside Avondale area.

“We saw Angel’s passion right away and knew he was the right guy for the project,” said Michael Cassata, executive director. The nonprofit thought it would have to replace the windows and had received a bid of \$50,000 just for the 40-plus windows in the gable. “Angel recommended we keep the original windows, so we’re excited about that,” said Cassata.

Additionally, two sets of wings are being constructed by 3D Forge and will be affixed to the chapel’s exterior. The A-7 Corsair Association funded the Aviator Wings and the Viking Association funded the Naval Flight Officer Wings.

Dedication of the wings and a road renaming ceremony will be held on the steps of the chapel Tuesday, July 10, at 9 a.m.

The chapel at Cecil Commerce Center was originally dedicated in 1963, serving NAS Cecil Field, and serves as a focal point of the nonprofit’s plans to create a place of education, respite and reflection on the sacrifices of POWs and MIAs.

In addition to donations, Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc. is offering opportunities to purchase pews for the chapel, as well as brick pavers for the Memorial Benefactor Plaza. Details can be found at [www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org).

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Joseph Poletto  
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# San Marco flooding

FROM PAGE 1

factor that might have been introduced by drainage improvements elsewhere in the area.

According to Marlowe, the St. Johns River was at low tide when the rain occurred May 31. "Hours later the water levels had still not measurably fallen, and the storm drain inlets were still overflowed at 10 a.m. the next day," Marlowe complained in an email sent to Pappas.

Alicia MacLean, who only recently was able to get back into her newly-restored home on Moro Avenue after Hurricane Irma, is also upset. "The [May 31] rains again flooded the streets terribly, and the water was coming up out of the drains," she informed Boyer in an email.

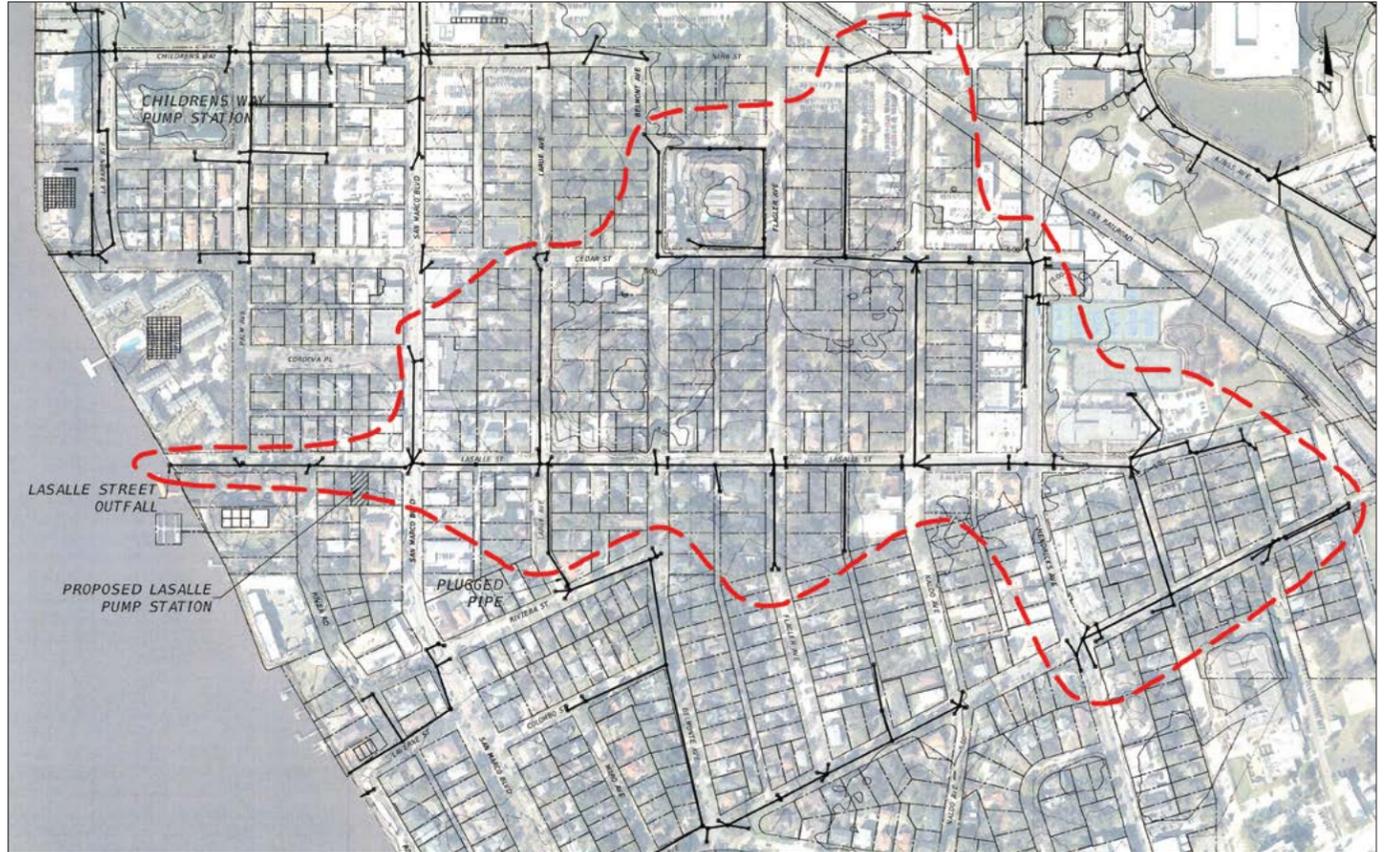
"We all need a clear explanation of how every recent rain event, heavy or minor, has resulted in flooding," Marlowe said during the meeting.

MacLean agreed. "There is an issue which needs to be explored before we get any significant rainfall," she said.

Pappas acknowledged that a solution to flooding has been more difficult and will take longer than anticipated. "I wish the problem were just a broken pipe," Pappas said. "The problem is more difficult than that because the streets reporting the worst problem with flooding are located at the lowest point in the area."

"My backyard today has water sitting in it," said Steve Costas, who lives on Colombo Street. "I'm getting ready to replace my duct for the third time."

Pappas' enlarged maps of the neighborhood illustrated why water pools at Riviera and Colombo streets, the area east of



The dashed line shows the drainage divide in the San Marco neighborhood. Moro, Colombo, LaRue and Belmont streets should drain to Landon Park Pump Station after it is completed, while the areas to the north of those streets will drain to the LaSalle Pump Station instead of the Landon Park Pump Station.

European Street Cafe across San Marco Boulevard. Currently, the Children's Way and Landon Park storm-water pump stations serve the San Marco neighborhood.

"Originally, we thought the Moro and Colombo drainage systems only flowed to Landon Street and out to the St. Johns River," Pappas said. "Consequently, we put in a Tide-Flex valve in the Landon Park system to eliminate high tide flooding of the area."

When the neighborhood continued to experience flooding, Public Works did a more extensive investigation and discovered the tides were making their way up through

a second connection to the area, from the LaSalle system, making the Tide-Flex valve of no use. The LaSalle system is currently an outfall, meaning there is no pump station to push high water out to the river.

According to an article in City Council District 5 News (Jan. 22, 2018), an online newsletter distributed by Boyer to her constituents, last year the City acquired a vacant lot on LaSalle Street in preparation for the construction of a long-contemplated pump station. The project was first planned and partially funded seven years ago, but during the recession funding was reallocated to allow completion of an overbudget project in progress.

The proposed LaSalle Street pump station is now back in line and a portion of the required funding was allocated this year with the remainder programmed over the next two years to support the construction phase.

"Public Works is developing plans for the planned LaSalle Street pump station to collect storm water from Moro, Colombo, LaRue and Belmont Streets," Pappas said. "Our goal is to go to design-build when design gets to 30 percent, which will take until the end of 2018. This will be an \$8 million project. Completion of the pump station is probably two to three years away." Design-build is a construction project delivery system where the same contractor handles both the design and the construction services of the project.

In the meantime, Pappas told the group that the City would make it a top priority to send a truck out to unclog drains whenever flooding occurs.



Lori Boyer, Jerry and Elizabeth Harty, Alicia MacLean and Jose Vasquez, at a June 14 meeting where MacLean told the group she had installed a sump pump that was supposed to come on just during heavy rains, "but now any time it rains at all the sump pump runs every 90 seconds."

"The reality we all have to deal with is that the river is rising and that makes a difference at high tide in the neighborhoods along the river," Pappas warned. "The City's bulkhead is at three and a half feet, but most of the property on the river is private, and we can't make those homeowners build higher bulkheads."

"The rising water levels are why new construction must be built eight feet off the ground," Boyer added.

That doesn't help homeowners living in historic home along the river, however. "I really hate moving inland, but water seems to be the evil element now," said one neighborhood homeowner, who wished to remain anonymous because she fears flooding issues will negatively affect home values. "We've decided to move, but with the discussion by Public Works at the June neighborhood meeting, we are undecided about where to buy."



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# Public school budget cuts present opportunities, challenges for downtown museum

By Karen J. Rieley  
Resident Community News

Due to proposed budget cuts in arts education, including field trips, the Museum of Contemporary Art – Jacksonville, or MOCA, will continue to get creative in order to reach beyond its doors and engage young minds.

Dedicated arts magnet schools, such as Central Riverside and Fishweir Elementary Schools, and LaVilla and Douglas Anderson Schools of the Arts, could see their arts programs cut to one day a week or lose arts resource teachers, thus limiting opportunities for exposure to the arts.

While MOCA provides arts education for Duval County Public School children as well, government cuts in arts budgets will present challenges for the museum, too. “Currently, we no longer have government funding to bring children in Title I schools to our museum,” said Nan Kavanaugh, director of communications and marketing. “Sponsorships and private funding have become critical.”

It was private funding in 2016 through a gift from J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver that allows the museum to employ an educator for family and children’s programs, and offer two flagship education programs. As the Weaver Educator, Anthony Aiuppy oversees “Voice of the People,” which brings fourth-graders from underserved schools to the museum twice a year to write an essay about an art piece and record an interpretive art essay for museum visitors to hear, and “Art Aviators,” an educational initiative designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other exceptionalities.

In the meantime, MOCA is creatively working to attract visitors of all ages. For example, it hosts hands-on family days to get children into the museum, where they can engage with the permanent art.

The museum recently collaborated with Friends of Hemming Park on a Family Day, and is working with the other local museums and the main Jacksonville Public Library next door.

“We are also looking for outreach opportunities outside of downtown, such as satellite or pop-up art events like the one we hosted in Space 42 art gallery in Riverside,” said Kavanaugh.

In January, the museum teamed up with Space 42 to host New York City artist Rosemarie Fiore as she did a live “smoke painting” performance. “We want people to have the opportunity to experience contemporary art outside of our downtown walls,” Kavanaugh said.

Exposing youth to contemporary art in an educational format isn’t brand-new to the 94-year-old museum. Since 2009, MOCA has had a flourishing relationship between its artists and scholars and the University of North Florida students, faculty and staff.

“MOCA provides UNF with a learning laboratory in which ideas important to our time and place can be explored,” said MOCA’s new director, Caitlín Doherty. “That vitality, sense of exploration and curiosity drive artists and scholars alike and serve as a bridge back to our Jacksonville community as a whole.”

Doherty sees the challenge of deepening the relationship between UNF and downtown Jacksonville as an opportunity for growth that will attract new audiences to the museum.



The Museum of Contemporary Art at Hemming Park

The museum is making strides in increasing UNF student and faculty involvement beyond merely taking field trips to the museum. As one example, more UNF art classes are actually based at the museum.

UNF’s gallery space in the museum is coordinated by regionally-known artist and art teacher Jim Draper. He works with UNF faculty who guide students in creating their own art shows in the museum.

“Our goal is to have students understand all aspects of creating art,” Kavanaugh said. “While not every student will become a well-known artist, with exposure to all aspects of the arts, a student may end up curating art, funding the arts, loaning art from a personal collection and appreciating art, in general.”

In 2014, MOCA added a student-in-residence program with separate studio space. The student works with a curator, directs the installation team in hanging the student’s art and has the opportunity to interact with the public who comes to view the student art.

UNF students can also work in a paid position as MOCA ambassadors. They are the first point of contact for visitors at the guest relations desk and throughout the museum. The program is open to all UNF graduate and undergraduate students who have a passion for museums, art history, and contemporary art.

Gabbi Bautista is a public relations major at UNF. Bautista, who graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, appreciates the opportunity to interconnect arts and media and hopes to put her high school art skills to use in working with the media as a public relations professional someday.

“It is a very fun job,” Bautista said. “People often tell me how nice it is to have someone in the museum to talk to them about our works of art.”

The museum also offers internships to UNF students. Interns are exposed to art and art history, art education, the museum profession, and public programming.

MOCA is the perfect setting for art students as it is “self-curating,” according

to Kavanaugh, explaining that it researches, collects, documents and creates its own exhibitions, rather than renting art shows like many museums choose to do.

Conversely, the museum’s first sculpture-only exhibition, “A Dark Place of Dreams,” will travel to Charleston, S. Carolina, after it closes here Sept. 9. The monochromatic assemblages of Louise Nevelson (1899-1988), one of the pioneering American sculptors of the 20th century, will stand alongside three contemporary artists: Chakaia Booker, Lauren Fensterstock and Kate Gilmore.

“For those living in or nearby downtown, a visit to MOCA can provide a transformational experience through the arts but, short of that, you can just enjoy a great meal, send your kids to a fun art camp or be entertained by a special film in the auditorium,” said Charles Gilman, outgoing board president. He will pass the torch to Rick Hawthorne, attorney at Driver, McAfee, Peek & Hawthorne, as the incoming board president.

## Museum shop closing for new retail venture

Taking a step toward downtown revitalization, the museum is partnering with Troy Spurlin, owner of the 5 Points retail store Generation Us, to transition the museum shop to create a contemporary retail destination retail.

A larger initiative includes redevelopment of the lobby to make the museum’s first floor an open community space and to bring more people downtown, according to Doherty.

Spurlin, who also owns Troy Spurlin Interiors in Riverside, served as MOCA’s director of marketing and special events from 2004 to 2007. He decided to open a second retail store to be part of the focus on stimulating downtown commerce.

After the closing sale, which runs through July 14, the MOCA Shop will close for renovations, with an anticipated opening to kick off the fall exhibition season.



UNF student Gabbi Bautista with Nan Kavanaugh, director of communications and marketing

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**505 LANCASTER ST # 10D**  
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SOLD by Dylan Rigdon! A rare opportunity to own a recently renovated high-floor condo in Park Plaza with incredible East, South and Westerly views down the widest part of the St. Johns River. High-end renovations completed in February/March 2018.



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SOLD

**2930 ST. JOHNS AVE**  
5 / 4 / 1 / 3,831 sqft.

SOLD by Joy Walker! Enjoy rare water views & canal frontage! Beautifully renovated 1927 brick home with 2 story renovated detached Guest House---or can be used as Home Office, or Duplex. Each unit of the Guest House is separately metered & each has a living area, full bath, and full kitchen, plus newer roof!



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**1334 MORVENWOOD RD**  
4 / 2 / 1 / 2,093 sqft.

SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen, CeCe Cummings, and Billie Bernhardt! This San Marco jewel lives LARGE. The entire home is filled with natural light and offers the historic feel with the functional features of a new home. Kitchen completely remodeled with quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances. Charming 1/2 bath downstairs off mudroom.



SOLD

**1478 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 1507**  
2 / 2 / 1,329 sqft.

SOLD by Allison Steilberg! This is the ONE! A TRUE 2BR/2BA (not a 1BR with a den) in San Marco Place. FULLY renovated with all NEW hardwood look tile floors, kitchen, master bathroom and guest bath. This place looks better than when it was built!



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SOLD

**4028 SAN SERVERA DR N**  
4 / 3 / 2,192 sqft.

Tired of the same cookie cutter home that lacks character? Then look no further! Experience the Charm and Character of Villa San Jose in this Midcentury Brick Estate. You'll enjoy the bright & spacious split floor plan with 2 master suites and 3 full baths.



SOLD

**4248 FAIRWAY DR**  
4/3-2,642 sqft.

SOLD by Jane Slater! WOW! What a find in the heart of Ortega. Open concept living, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, light filled rooms, loads of storage, the list just goes on.. The beautifully landscaped and fenced backyard is perfect for entertaining, BBQs and holiday parties, this home is meant for family and friends to Enjoy!



SOLD

**4050 FERRARRA ST**  
3 / 2 / 1,819 sqft.

Sturdy concrete block updated home in desirable area. Home was renovated in 2013 to include a new roof, kitchen, bathrooms, windows and carpet. Open living spaces. Home has all appliances including refrigerator, washer and dryer. Granite counters.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**4094 TIMUQUANA RD**  
4 / 3 / 1 / 2,729 sqft.

SOLD by Marcia Simmons, Melissa Lewis, and Elizabeth O'Steen! Look no farther. This home has it all. Built by CF Knight only 20 years ago in a convenient and established neighborhood it has a large open floor plan that boasts gorgeous hardwood floors and a cook's kitchen with granite counters, Stainless steel appliances, wine bar, and room to dine.



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SOLD

**1644 CHALLEN AVE**  
3 / 2 / 1,564 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck and Josh Nugent! Bungalow Beautiful in Avondale! Surrounded by equally adorable and well kept homes and within easy walking to The Shoppes of Avondale. Great floor plan with wonderful flow. Large well proportioned and purposeful rooms with lots of windows gives a real open, bright feeling.



SOLD

**4672 NOTTINGHAM RD**  
4 / 2 / 2,453 sqft.

SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen and Cece Cummings! Ready for a home that you can move right in to and not have to update? From the moment you drive up, you will be drawn in by the attractive curb appeal of this Ortega Forest home. Everything has been done! New kitchen, new bathrooms, and HVAC 2016.



SOLD

**4556 FRENCH ST**  
3/2-1,531 sqft.

SOLD by Natalie Reese! Amazing home - original 1920s construction and design with all modern updates. New kitchen with granite, updated bathrooms with all new fixtures. Beautiful hardwood floors shine throughout. Brand new garage and deck add to the outside appeal.



SOLD

**2788 LYDIA ST**  
3 / 2 / 1,762 sqft.

SOLD by Zack Williams and Liz Bobeck! Adorable Avondale bungalow with a pool! This beautifully maintained home has been entirely updated. The large open kitchen is perfect for entertaining and hosting dinner parties. All of your friends will want to spend summer days hanging out your place with this paradise of a backyard!



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SOLD

**1261 RENSSELAER AVE**  
3 / 2 / 1 / 1,924 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Coffee or wine on the front porch? Kids can hang out in the fenced backyard while the grownups are cooking in the gourmet kitchen. Ride your bikes to the eateries of Avondale or Murray Hill, you are right in the middle of both.



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SOLD

**3888 RICHMOND ST**  
4 / 4 / 1 / 4,485 sqft.

SOLD by Anita Vining! Move right in to this charming Avondale treasure. Totally and beautifully renovated with all NEW appliances, cabinetry and new appointments. NO trace of storm damage as owners completely remediated to perfection.



SOLD

**3883 ARDEN ST**  
4 / 3 / 2,605 sqft.

SOLD by Margee Michaelis! Nestled among beautiful trees and along the shoreline of Fishweir Creek, sits this gorgeous 2 story Spanish Style home, waiting for you to make it HOME! From the moment you walk into the inviting courtyard, winding your way through the house, out to the backyard and down to the water's edge.



SOLD

**2263 ST JOHNS AVE**  
4 / 2 / 1 / 4,053 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck and Zack Williams! Secluded enclave in the heart of 5-Points, relax on the front porch as you enjoy the view of the river and feel the breezes. Imagine the parties that will take place in this Riverside gem. Leon Cheek, the Maxwell Coffee magnate, built this home after the great fire of 1901 to live in while he built the Cheek mansion.



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David McIntyre and Michael Johnson (and their teammates) shared first place in the Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament.

## Bass anglers help raise fish, funds for children

Competitive bass fishermen and casual anglers alike competed at the 29th Annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament at the Palatka City Docks. The nation's second-largest bass fishing tournament benefits patients of the San Marco-based hospital, which received \$300,000 from the popular fundraiser May 17-19.

During the three-day tournament chaired by Brian Seay of Miller Electric, 1,130 fishermen in 565 boats competed to reel in the largest bass. First place went to David McIntyre of High Springs, Florida, and Michael Johnson of Lake City, Florida. They posted a five-fish aggregate weight of 27.45 pounds, more

than a pound ahead of the nearest competition, earning them the top cash prize of \$10,000.

Lewis Clark of Middleburg, Florida, was the winner in the drawing for the 21-foot, fully rigged 2018 Bullet 21XRD with Boatmate trailer and Mercury 225 Pro XS motor, valued at more than \$56,000. A total of \$55,000 was awarded to participating anglers this year.

To date, the tournament has raised more than \$4 million to help provide for the educational needs of patients and staff, and to purchase life-saving technology for the infants, children and young adults in the hospital's care.

## San Marco company acquires Nashville agency

Burdette Ketchum, an integrated marketing agency on Kings Avenue in San Marco, has recently acquired North Star Destination Strategies, a leading national place-branding agency based in Nashville, Tenn.

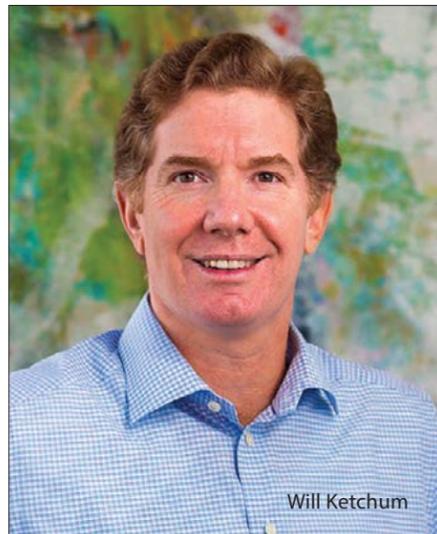
North Star helps counties, cities, downtown districts and states achieve competitive identities to serve their economic development, tourism and community vitality goals. North Star uses a highly proprietary approach to research, strategy formation, branding, and bold creative thinking and has worked with more than 200 communities across 42 states.

"This acquisition solidifies Burdette Ketchum's capabilities in city, county and real estate branding and marketing, and allows us to expand this work nationally,"

said Avondale resident Will Ketchum, president and CEO of Burdette Ketchum.

North Star will remain a distinct division of Burdette Ketchum, maintaining offices in Jacksonville and Nashville. Burdette Ketchum will continue to service its core clients in a variety of industries, many of which are leading Jacksonville brands, as it has since its founding in 1996.

"Through our work with JAXUSA Partnership in marketing the Northeast Florida region and on the truJAX initiative mapping a vision for Jacksonville's global identity, we understand how place and community branding are becoming more essential and play a critical role in a community's strength and competitiveness," said Ketchum.



Will Ketchum

## Moss to succeed Bailey as Nemours president, CEO



Dr. Larry Moss

The Board of Directors of the Nemours Foundation selected Dr. R. Lawrence Moss to succeed Dr. David Bailey as president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System, based in San Marco. Bailey announced his retirement earlier this year.

Moss, who will begin his tenure October 1, 2018, is a renowned pediatric surgeon, biomedical researcher, educator, and health system executive. He is internationally recognized for leadership in healthcare quality and safety, including service as a founding director for developing quality standards for pediatric surgery nationally. He is also known for tremendous achievements in academic health centers, national hospital associations, and government organizations accountable to the public. Moss joins Nemours after serving seven years as Surgeon-in-Chief at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and as the E. Thomas Boles Jr., Professor of Surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

During more than 21 years of leadership and service, 12 as Nemours' president and CEO, Bailey led the building of the first greenfield freestanding children's hospital in the U.S. in decades and increased the number of local hospital affiliations to leverage the Nemours care model in adjacent communities. Nemours, under Bailey's stewardship, increased care locations from approximately 15 to more than 90 over six states and grew Nemours' revenues from \$533 million to \$1.4 billion.

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## The strong first impression, your front door



### A stunning wood door sets the tone for your home

When guests arrive at your front door, the first impression that's made by a beautiful entry is lasting. In a historic neighborhood, oftentimes it's the front door that welcomes your guests and tells more of the story of your home and its history.

Make no mistake, the beautifully crafted wood door of your home makes a statement, one that can be made stronger by restoring the beauty and original splendor of its unique characteristics. Often the showpiece of a home's exterior, a wood door that's been worn by the harsh Florida weather shows its age, changing its beautiful look and qualities.

Before you jump to the conclusion you must replace the old door, first consider getting a quote from R.J. Katsma, owner of Doors And More Refinishing. Refinishing is much more affordable

than you think. Your door will be restored to its natural beauty – and you'll get a one-year warranty.

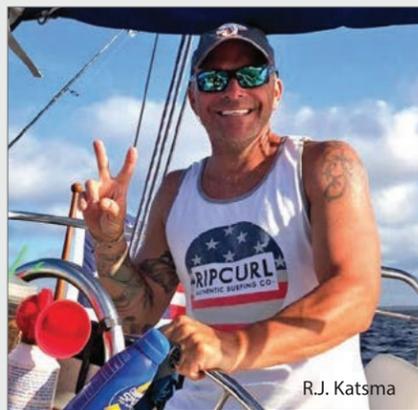
Below the surface of a tired and weathered wood door, Katsma finds the qualities that will bring your door back to stunning splendor.

"The door is typically the focal point of your home's exterior, the first thing someone will notice," said Katsma, a master refinisher. "Doors are expensive, so you need to take care of them."

San Marco businessman Will Ketchum is glad he contracted with Katsma for work on the original door of his 1929 Avondale home. "R.J. combines craftsman and professional like few other home contractors. He has a real eye for detail, precision and quality and takes great pride in his work," said Ketchum. "Our front door may not have been refinished since the 1950s. His process of stripping, sanding and refinishing left it beautifully restored. We wish we had done it sooner!"

"Best of all, RJ works in a professional manner. He was exactly on time on the exact day we scheduled, did exactly what he proposed and even helped us noodle on the color until we got it just right," said Ketchum. "We had a great experience and would recommend him to anyone, especially owners of older homes who want their refinishing handled with care."

Katsma also refinishes shutters, pergolas, outdoor teak furniture, and teak sailboats. For a quick quote, simply text a photo of your door to (904) 334-5177 or email doorsandmorerefiniting@gmail.com.



R.J. Katsma

PD. ADV.

# SNAP appoints officers, committee chairs



Neighbors attending the first official meeting of the St. Nicholas Area Preservation Society were Amy Larkin, vice president; Renee O'Donnell; Trish Philips; Darren Moses, beautification chairman; Michel Moses, events chairman; Erik Kaldor, president; Valerie Harden, communications chairman; Bill Byers, historian/preservation chairman; Tamara Grooms Baker; Clay Howerton; Roy Miller, secretary; and Conner Larkin.

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

The newly-resurrected St. Nicholas Area Preservation Society (SNAP) got off to a running start June 11 when it appointed new officers and committee chairmen during a meeting at the Mudville Grille.

Erik Kaldor agreed to take on the top position of president while Jep and Amy Larkin assented to share the role of vice president. Jan and Roy Miller were named co-secretaries, while Ali McGowan will take over as treasurer from Tamara Grooms Baker, who has handled the group's money for years, even while the group was on hiatus.

Baker said the group has more than \$5,000 in its treasury, and she will accompany McGowan, who was unable to attend the meeting, to the bank to sign the account over to her.

Kaldor, who has lived in the neighborhood 30 years, brings some experience to the board having served as SNAP treasurer in the early 2000s. The Larkins lived in St. Nicholas for 15 years in the 1990s before moving to St. Johns County in 2005. They recently have moved back to the neighborhood. During his former tenure as a resident, Jep served as president of the group "off and on," said Amy.

The Millers – Jan and Roy – are also longtime St. Nicholas residents. They have lived in the neighborhood since 1981, and Roy's grandfather owned a home on Nicholson Road long before that, he said.

The board, which will also double as the SNAP's Administration Committee, were appointed from St. Nicholas residents who expressed a willingness to serve. Bylaws from the group have been lost over the years, so the first order of business for the Administration Committee will be to write new ones, said Kaldor. The group plans to obtain a copy of bylaws from the San Marco Preservation Society and tailor them to meet its needs, he said.

SNAP has been on hiatus since 2005, when the group essentially disbanded due to a lack of interest by the neighborhood. In the interim, the group continued to collect some dues, paying for its annual neighborhood Christmas party and lawn care for a small historic neighborhood cemetery within its boundaries.

The group serves the area bordering Atlantic Boulevard from Mayfair Road to Holmesdale but has had requests from some of the residents in the Harbor Oaks and South Shores neighborhoods to join forces, said Alex Varkonda, who initiated the group's reorganization.

Twelve residents attended the June 11 meeting, with Varkonda, who was away on a business trip, calling in by phone.

During the meeting the group appointed Darren Moses and Scott Glass as co-chairmen of the Beautification Committee. Glass was not in attendance at the meeting. Valerie Harden enthusiastically volunteered to be Communications Committee chairman, while Michel Moses eagerly agreed to head the Events Committee.

Bill Byers offered to chair the Historian/Preservation Committee and was happy to hear that Kay Ellen Gilmour, author of a genealogy book on the historic St. Nicholas Cemetery, and Lois O. Gray are willing to assist with his committee.

Varkonda volunteered to chair the Membership Committee with help from Amy Larkin, who said she hoped to set up "care teams" to help her neighbors.

"One of our fondest memories here was when our babies were born and Jan came over," said Amy Larkin, referring to Jan Miller. "Everybody took care of everyone else. That's why we came back. You don't always find that in other communities. That's why I'm sitting here. I really think we need to come together as a community and help those who may not know where to start. I'm happy to work with you as part of the membership committee doing that sort of stuff because I think there is a strong need."

No one agreed to chair the Traffic/Safety Committee although, according to resident feedback, speeding through the St. Nicholas neighborhood, particularly on the roads leading to Bishop Kenny High School, is considered a hot issue. Although he did not commit to chairing the committee, Byers said he would "take on the investigation phase" of looking into traffic calming devices that might work in the neighborhood and report back to the board.

All SNAP committee chairs will be given volunteer forms submitted by residents interested in serving on their committees. During upcoming meetings each chairperson will be asked to report on their activities, said Kaldor. The next SNAP meeting was set for Monday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at the Mudville Grille.

At its next meeting, Byers suggested the group add a representative to the city's Citizen Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC). He also proposed the group appoint block captains, a form of neighborhood ambassadors, and that it discuss ways to help reignite the St. Nicholas Business Association at its next meeting.



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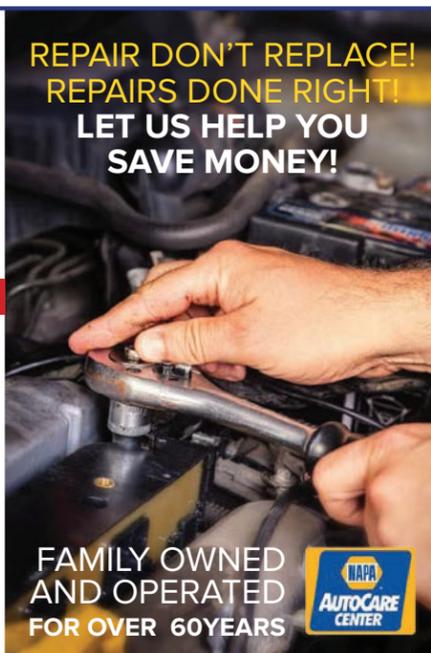
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Front: Suzanne Hinckley with Michael Aubin, hospital president, Elizabeth Langley, Women's Board president, and Christine Hieb, and members of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital

## Florida Forum chairpersons introduced at luncheon

Members of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital convened at the Ortega home of Robert and Poppy Clements May 25 to kick off the 2018-2019 Florida Forum Speaker Series with a luncheon introducing the Forum's chairs, Christine Hieb of Ortega and Suzanne Hinckley of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Hieb joined the Women's Board in 2012. She twice chaired Garden Week at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens as well as the Cummer Ball, and was a longtime volunteer at The Bolles School where her children attended.

Hinkley is a longtime supporter of Wolfson Children's Hospital, where she's been a volunteer since 1989. She is past president of the WCH Auxiliary, served on the Baptist Health Foundation Board

for nine years and joined the Women's Board in 2011. Hinckley is also past president of the Cummer Council. "I have been a passionate supporter of WCH since I moved to Jacksonville in the late '80s. Children are our future, and without the help of WCH and the Women's Board, some would not reach their full potential. Jacksonville is lucky to have such a great organization helping the children in our community and beyond," she said.

Together with the annual Arts & Antique Show, the 27th annual Florida Forum will contribute vital funds for a five-year, \$4 million pledge supporting the creation of a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The 2018-2019 series will open on Oct. 17 with veteran journalist Lara Logan,

presented by Landstar. The series continues on Jan. 28, 2019 when Florida Blue presents Bryan Cranston, an acclaimed actor, writer, producer, director, and author. The season concludes March 27, 2019, with Pro Football Hall of Fame member Tony Dungy, presented by Wells Fargo.

About this year's lineup, Hieb noted, "We are over the moon excited about this year's series. It's a diverse group of speakers that should appeal to many people. We also believe that our speakers are committed to the mission of Wolfson Children's Hospital and are enthusiastic about the funding target, the new NICU."

The speaker series is presented by long-time partners Wells Fargo, Florida Blue and Landstar, and will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

## International luxury auto brand to open location in Jacksonville



Bentley of Jacksonville owner Mario Murgado, CEO of Brickell Motors, with Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and Mark Del Rosso, president and CEO of Bentley Motors, Inc., stand in front of a Bentley Bentayga SUV.

How fitting that just two days before World Refugee Day, the British automobile brand Bentley Motors announced it would bring its handcrafted luxury vehicles to Northeast Florida through Bentley Jacksonville, a dealership formed by a Cuban refugee.

Mario Murgado, president and CEO of Miami-based Brickell Motors, was just four years old when he came to America as a Cuban exile in 1966. Fifty-two years later, Murgado was part of a group gathering at the Prime Osborn III Convention Center June 18 to announce he would bring the Bentley franchise to Jacksonville.

"This should be an honor for Jacksonville. I've looked at this market for a long time. It's Florida's First Coast and it's had the chance to really grow - sometimes it has and sometimes it hasn't - but it has an opportunity right now," said Murgado.

Murgado and Bentley Motors President/CEO Mark Del Rosso were joined at an unveiling event by Jacksonville city officials, including Mayor Lenny Curry and District 11 Councilman Danny Becton, alongside business and community leaders who gathered to welcome Bentley Jacksonville.

"I am delighted to join fellow community and business leaders in welcoming Bentley Motors to Jacksonville," said Curry. "As mayor, I am committed to supporting the vitality of our city, and am very pleased to position Jacksonville alongside Bentley's prestigious car brand. Bentley's presence certainly adds momentum to our growing economy."

The full-service dealership will be located on Bonneval Road, which is accessible from Philips Highway and J. Turner Butler Boulevard, and is expected to open showroom doors in 2019.

"The location provides the opportunity to grab the attention of thousands of visitors and travelers, and to serve its current and future customers," said Becton.

## San Jose Country Club assistant golf pro awarded scholarship

Hayes Farley, the PGA assistant professional at the San Jose Country Club, was awarded one of 10 scholarships from the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA).

Farley, who joined the club's golf staff in 2011, is working toward his PGA Class A certificate and was selected for his commitment to growing the game of golf through junior golf programs at the San Jose Country Club.

In addition, JAGA recognized nine high school recipients of its college scholarships for 2018 at a banquet held June 14 at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club. Kierstyn Casper, Charles Collings, Dalton Hamm, Trey Hester, Catharine Gray, April Kirk, Sam Ohno, Charles Raulerson and Amelia Root were awarded a \$1,000

scholarship for each semester of the 2018-2019 school year.

Currently there are 25 scholars who are receiving \$1,000 per semester, for a total of eight semesters from JAGA. Since the JAGA Scholarship Trust was formed in 1974, JAGA has awarded approximately \$1.75 million to more than 350 deserving young students. The Trust is a 501 (c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization.

Established in 1954, JAGA celebrates its 65th year in 2018 and is comprised of approximately 40 member golf clubs located in the Northeast Florida area. JAGA's mission is to promote golf and goodwill through tournaments and related events and activities. It conducts 10 tournaments, including six championship events and five others that feature team formats.



Hayes Farley

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## Kirk Johanson joins parents' real estate team

Kirk Johanson has joined the Watson Realty Corp. Johanson real estate team, and will work as a team with his mother, Barbara, and father, Bob, although from three different offices. Johanson will join Watson's San Marco office. His mother works out of Watson's Hammock office and his father operates out of Watson's Palm Coast office.

"After working as a real estate agent for nearly three years, I decided it was the time to take the next step in my career and join Watson Realty Corp. as the newest member of the Johanson Team," Johanson said. "As a devoted husband and father of three small children, family is extremely important to me, so I'm very excited to be joining both the family business and the Watson family."



Kirk, Barbara and Bob Johanson

Johanson brings more than 15 years of real estate experience into the role with him, including a decade as a mortgage loan officer. The Johanson team has been with Watson for 11 years and has earned dozens of awards during that time. The Johansons have consistently been multimillion-dollar producers for the last 10 years.

## Episcopal teachers recognized by faculty, students



Tara Kneale



David Wandel



Rebecca Hoadley

San Marco resident Tara Kneale, an English teacher at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, received the faculty-nominated Davis Award for Excellence in Teaching at the upper school level. Science teacher David Wandel also received the award at the middle school level.

Kneale has taught Upper School English at Episcopal for more than 15 years. Her nominations for the award praised her interactions with her students and her willingness to go beyond what is expected of her. Wandel has been a member of the Episcopal community for more than five years. His nominations noted his ability to engage his students.

At the Episcopal Senior Honors Convocation May 18, Fine Arts instructor Rebecca Hoadley was named the 2018 Guardian Award winner. Hoadley, a Lakeview resident, was nominated by senior Sophie Grimsley, of Avondale.

The Guardian Gift was created by Bill and Theresa Dahl to honor an Episcopal teacher or staff member whose mentoring and positive influence has made a lasting impact on a student. Graduating seniors are invited to write an essay about their "Guardian" teacher and why he or she deserves to be honored.

## Baptist Health leader recognized among Top 25 chief operating officers

For the second year in a row, longtime Baptist Health Chief Operating Officer John Wilbanks has been named one of the Top 25 COOs in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare.

Wilbanks, a Miramar resident, has been executive vice president and COO of Baptist Health in Northeast Florida since 2004. He joined Baptist as vice president of professional services in 1986 and was promoted to senior vice President in 1990.

Wilbanks, a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, has operational and strategic responsibility for five hospitals and Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, along with capital and construction planning, business development and innovation strategies, and physician integration. He leads the health system's Senior Leadership Team and hospital Administrators Council as well as its Patient Experience Steering Committee, a forum for integrating best practices across the enterprise.

Wilbanks is former chair of the Board of Directors of The Sulzbacher Center, which provides services to homeless individuals and families, and was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for his record-setting efforts with the organization's annual Transformations event. Wilbanks is a member and past chair of the University of North Florida's Brooks College of



John Wilbanks

Health, serves on the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville University, the Board of Governors of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trustees of United Way of Northeast Florida. He also is a highly respected elder of Mission Way, a thriving faith community.

Wilbanks holds a bachelor's degree from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, where he received the Wall Street Journal Award and the Lou Hassell Award as outstanding scholar athlete. He earned his master of business administration degree from the University of Georgia in Athens before beginning his healthcare career at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta.

## Arts high school receives national designation

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County's high school for students with a passion for the performance and visual arts, has been designated as an Exemplary School for its commitment to excellence by the national Arts Schools Network.

DA was recognized for its superior arts studies, rigorous college-preparatory academic curriculum, dedicated faculty, mentoring program for challenged students, and strong parental and community involvement.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Arts School Network, as it affirms our practices and achievements at DA," said Douglas Anderson principal Melanie Hammer. "Our mission is to be the Number One arts school in the country."

The Exemplary School designation is awarded for five years, 2018-2023.

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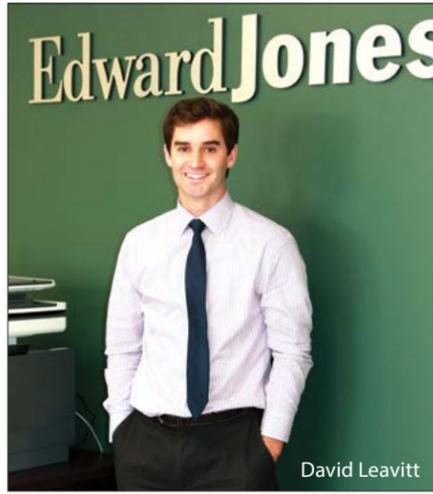
## Financial advisor opens doors in Avondale Shoppes

David Leavitt, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, recently opened his own office in the Shoppes of Avondale, at 3578 St. Johns Ave., after three years working at the company's Ortega/Venetia office.

Although he was raised in Mandarin, Leavitt's mother grew up in Avondale and he calls the area home. His new office was a former Fro-Yo (frozen yogurt shop) and he said the construction took five months to turn it into an Edward Jones location.

"I love this area, it's beautiful and historic," said Leavitt. "There's fantastic foot traffic, and it's a high-quality, clean area. It consistently has a fresh feeling outside that people want to be around."

Leavitt offers advice for retirement savings and income strategies, intergenerational planning, estate and legacy strategies, and more. He said he never dreamed of being a financial advisor, but growing up he enjoyed community service with Lakewood United Methodist Church, and said this job combines finance and service.



David Leavitt

"This job is really a service job. I'm out meeting people and ultimately help them reach their finance goals. I really do enjoy the relationships I've built with my clients," he said. Leavitt is a member of the St. Vincent's Shircliff Society's Council.

A graduate of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville and Auburn University, Leavitt holds a degree in finance and has been with Edwards Jones since 2014. The outdoor enthusiast enjoys surfing, rock climbing and soccer. Leavitt will be married July 28 to Betsy Baggett, a geometry teacher at Mandarin High School, and the couple will make their home in Miramar.

## Kelley named Rotary Club of Jacksonville president-elect designee

Members of The Rotary Club of Jacksonville elected Gerald Patrick (Gerry) Kelley, of San Jose, as president-elect designee for the 2020-2021 Rotary year, according to David Boree, president of W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors.

Kelley's term will follow those of Traci Jenks, president-elect, who will serve as president in 2018-2019 and Thomas A. Bryan, president-nominee, who will serve as president in 2019-2020.

Kelley is a 10-year member of The Rotary Club of Jacksonville, Florida's First Club. He has served as chair of the Club's Project and Screening Committee for three years and on the Club's Board of Directors for two years.



Gerald Kelley

Kelley is the full-time president of Container Design Inc., a family-owned business of national and international scope. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, has served in the U.S. Army in Berlin, Panama, Korea, and other duty stations. Kelley is also a graduate of the University of South Carolina Law School and a member of The Florida Bar. He is married to Nancy Vickers and has four adult sons. He is a member of the St. Johns Cathedral where he sings in the choir.

## Women's Center of Jacksonville opens new assault exam center



Front: Teresa Miles, Lisé Everly, Trisha Meili, Delores Barr Weaver, Sheriff Mike Williams, Adair Newman for Melissa Nelson, State Attorney; back: Darnell Smith, J. Wayne Weaver

The J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver S.A.F.E. Center, 5300 Emerson St., was officially opened April 24 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which included special remarks from Sheriff Mike Williams; Adair Newman, Special Assault Division Director from the State Attorney's Office; Trisha Meili, a member of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center's Leadership Council, and Lisé Everly, Women's Center of Jacksonville board president.

The opening of the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam center comes just six months after the Weavers participated in a symbolic demolition of what was previously an attorney's office on the Southside. The \$1 million cost to purchase and renovate the building came from a \$500,000 donation from the Weavers, along with a challenge to match another half million for an endowment. In total, the fundraising goal is \$3 million and the Women's Center is about halfway there.

"The new Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Center has truly been a 'community initiative.' From the first \$1 million pledged by Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, to the anonymous \$5 contribution that was sent in and simply signed 'someone who survived,' every dollar has counted and every dollar has made a difference," said Teresa Miles, executive director for the Women's Center.

"When we talk about it being a community initiative, we want to recognize the amazing gifts of money, as well as time and

donations. Community artists are coming together to decorate our walls, contractors have discounted their services and a local furniture store has even donated all of the furniture for our waiting rooms," Miles continued. "Recognizing that this building may likely be the first place a survivor goes following the most horrific event of their life, we have worked very hard to create a healing environment that allows each survivor to know they are 'safe here.'"

The S.A.F.E. Center is prepared to conduct more than 300 sexual assault forensic exams each year, while ensuring survivors are treated with respect and dignity in a place filled with advocates, counselors and nurses who care. Both of the exam rooms have showers, multiple waiting rooms have comfortable furniture, and there are plans for a healing garden.

The number for the 24-hour rape crisis hotline is (904) 721-7273.

*"We have worked very hard to create a healing environment that allows each survivor to know they are 'safe here'."*

— Teresa Miles, executive director, Women's Center of Jacksonville



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A native of Jacksonville, Dr. Nguyen (pronounced “Win”) has recently joined the practice of longtime San Marco dentist, Dr. Richard Mullens. Dr. Mullens explains, “It has been a three year process to decide to add a dentist to our practice, and then find just the right doctor who would share our zeal for perfection in our work and quality of our patients’ experiences in our office. I hand-picked Dr. Nguyen to join our practice. He was regarded as the most exceptional student in the Dental College by both his professors and his peers. I could not be more pleased with our mutual decision to practice together.”

Dr. Nguyen, a Paxon High School of Advanced Studies graduate, grew up in a family of physicians and dentists. His mother, Dr. Minh-Trang Dang, a retired Jacksonville dentist, taught him much about her profession from an early age. “I knew in the fifth grade that I wanted to be a dentist,” Dr. Nguyen said. Interestingly enough, he chose sculpture for his major at the University of Florida, while simultaneously completing all of his science requirements for his application to dental school. “I started out studying biology but I had a passion for art. As a sculpture major, I learned to work with my hands, and it really changed the way I think about

and perceive my work,” he explained. “I discovered how valuable those hand skills are as a dentist. The ability to care for patients with these skills has really fueled my passion for dentistry. My study of art provided me with the perfect groundwork to be able to provide not only highly functional, but also highly esthetic dental care.”

Dr. Nguyen is a Gator through and through, having completed his undergraduate degree, dental school, and a two-year Advanced General Dentistry residency all under the University of Florida umbrella. Somehow, he and Dr. Mullens, a Seminole and a Tarheel, have managed to set aside their differences and work as a cohesive dental team! Since Dr. Nguyen joined the practice last July, he and Dr. Mullens have strengthened their synergistic relationship. Each doctor brings a unique but also distinctive skill set that improves their office’s level of care. They can often be found after hours in the office collaborating on a patient’s care plan in order to solve challenging dental dilemmas.

Dr. Nguyen’s philosophy is to care for his patients as if he were caring for his own family. “As a dentist, I’m relatively conservative. I abide by the old adage, ‘if it’s not broken, don’t fix it;’ however, at the same time, we do not sit back and allow small dental problems to escalate into big problems that are more exhaustive to correct. I am so pleased to have joined this practice because there are no limitations here that prevent me from completing my best quality work. We are not a production facility. I can take as long as I need to make sure each procedure is perfect. We relentlessly focus



Dr. James Nguyen

on quality here. That’s our only bar. We don’t do anything else,” he said.

Using state-of-the-art technology, Mullens & Nguyen Distinctive Dentistry of Jacksonville provides exquisite dental care for all ages. Their services include routine family care needs such as esthetic fillings and same-day crowns, as well as bridges, dentures and periodontal care. Drs. Mullens and Nguyen also provide life-changing cosmetic dental procedures with whitening, Botox, tooth-alignment using SmartMoves™ appliances, and porcelain veneers. Taking advantage of their advanced training the doctors are able to provide full mouth rehabilitation, treatment of bite disorders and replacement of missing teeth with dental implants in-house.

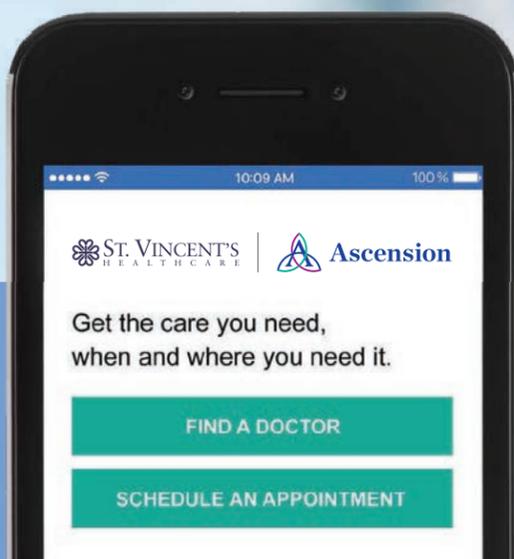
To accommodate their growing practice, Drs. Mullens and Nguyen have recently moved into a new office in the same location (The Riverpoint Building) that Dr. Mullens has practiced in for 27 years. Dr. Nguyen explained that the new facility has greatly improved their ability to accommodate their growing dental family. They now have immediate availability for new patients and urgent care needs.

“One of the best aspects of being a general dentist is getting to know your patients and treat them as family,” said Dr. Nguyen. “Dentistry offers me the privilege and chance to change someone’s life. I am excited that I have the opportunity to help improve the dental health of our San Marco community.”

Mullens & Nguyen Distinctive Dentistry of Jacksonville, 3215 Hendricks Avenue, Suite 1, Jacksonville, Florida 32207; (904) 399-3163; www.rcmdds.com

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### JaxSports CEO leaves to form own company

Alan Verlander, a Monclair resident, has left his role as chief executive officer for the Jacksonville Sports Council and chief operating officer for the TaxSlayer Bowl to pursue a new sports and entertainment marketing business.

Verlander, an alumni of The Bolles School, has created Airstream Ventures, focusing on the sports and entertainment industry across the country. He and a group of close friends have spent the past six years taking a 1970 remodeled Airstream mobile home to a variety of music and sports events, which ultimately led to the formation of the new company.

"I'm so excited to be launching Airstream Ventures," said Verlander. "It's really a childhood dream come true to own my own company. I genuinely appreciate the staff, board and members of the JaxSports Council for being so supportive as I venture out. We've accomplished great things in a short amount of time at the council and I look to use the skills developed there to further help our city and region accomplish even more."

Airstream Ventures' services include sales, sponsorships and marketing; television and video production; event management, client hospitality, and consulting.

## Northeast Florida's largest credit union on the move

VyStar Credit Union, whose headquarters are located at 4949 Blanding Blvd., is in acquisition mode.

Shortly after purchasing the former Regions Bank branch in San Marco for \$2.87 million, the 66-year-old financial institution may soon cut a check for many millions more to buy the SunTrust Tower in downtown Jacksonville. The contract price has not been disclosed.

Less than two weeks after buying the 3,272-square-foot bank building at 1600 Hendricks Ave., VyStar announced it intends to make its presence known downtown, renaming the building the VyStar Tower after the deal closes later this month, according to Brian E. Wolfburg, VyStar president/CEO, and a Lakewood resident.

In the meantime, the 17th-largest credit union in the nation plans to begin moving employees in by the end of this year. The purchase of the 29-year-old, 23-story building at 76 S. Laura St. includes a

600-space parking garage. Building improvements within the past two years include the lobby and common areas, fitness center, conference center, and tenant lounge.

In a press release describing Wolfburg's meeting with employees June 7 to announce the plan, he said, due to a variety of factors, the purchase of the SunTrust building was the most economical choice, saves the distraction that new building construction can bring, and will allow the company to scale up or down depending on staffing needs.

With 1,400 employees and still growing, VyStar will continue to occupy its Westside campus and a call center on Fleming Island. Since the credit union will not need all 380,000 square feet of space in the downtown building, it will evaluate all current tenant leases as they come up for renewal. Current tenants include Jacksonville University, the law firm of Morgan & Morgan, Tossgreen restaurant, and SunTrust.



VyStar, formerly Jax Navy Federal, was founded in 1952 to serve civil service members, military employees and their families. According to the press release, the credit union has 610,000 members and over \$7.6 billion in assets.

## Wolfson High celebrates 50 years continuous accreditation

It was "past meets the present" when Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies joined three other Jacksonville high schools in celebrating 50 years of continuous accreditation during a special ceremony at a Duval County School Board meeting June 5.

Former Wolfson Principals J. Fred Christman and Terrence Connor joined current Principal Christopher Begley at the ceremony, which also recognized principals from Duncan U. Fletcher High School, William M. Raines High School and Westside, formerly Nathan Bedford Forrest, High School. Each institution was presented with a banner and a 50th



Former Wolfson Principal J. Fred Christman, Wolfson Principal Christopher Begley, District 7 School Board Member Lori Hershey, AdvancED Performance Accreditation Associate State Director Ken Manuel, Former Wolfson Principal Terrence Connor, and Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Pat Willis

anniversary certificate from AdvancED Performance Accreditation.

The accreditation is "pivotal in leveraging education quality," and the designations prove each school has continuously attained to AdvancED's rigorous standards, said former DCPS administrator and AdvancED Associate State Director Ken Manual.

"These schools join a very select group of AdvancED schools in celebrating the

exemplary commitment to continuous improvement," he said. "Being an AdvancED accredited school demonstrates their dedication to prepare students for what lies beyond the classroom."

The recognition comes as the district prepares for another milestone in accreditation – a visit from an AdvancED Peer Review team this fall.

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# Stein Mart customers, associates raise funds for local dream-granting organization

Stein Mart, Inc., headquartered on the Southbank, raised nearly \$14,000 during the month of May through an in-store and corporate office fundraising campaign that benefitted Dreams Come True (DCT) of Jacksonville. As a new DCT fundraising initiative, the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida will be matching the entire amount raised by Stein Mart.

Hunt Hawkins, Stein Mart's Chief Executive Officer, presented DCT Executive Director Sheri Criswell and Special

Projects Manager Jud Seymour with a check for \$13,649.04.

"We'd like to thank our Jacksonville area customers and associates from our stores and corporate office for their support and making this a successful event," said Hawkins. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with DCT to benefit local children."

Criswell said the nonprofit plans to direct 100 percent of the gift to programs and services in conjunction with the Dreams Come True 5K on Sept. 29 at the Jacksonville Baseball Grounds.



Chris Himebauch and Hunt Hawkins, Stein Mart; Sheri Criswell and Jud Seymour, Dreams Come True; Colleen Berry-Becker, Stein Mart

## New blood center at Baptist Health provides convenient location to donate

Representatives from LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and JAX Chamber celebrated World Blood Donor Day June 14 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for LifeSouth's new donor center at Baptist Health's Southbank campus.

Following the ceremony, one of Baptist's own medical faculty gave the gift of life.

San Marco resident Dr. Mark Hanly began giving blood 40 years ago as a medical school student in Rhodesia. "It saves lives

and costs you nothing. What a tremendous combination," he said as LifeSouth Phlebotomist Letha Sweat prepared his arm for his donation. "You also get a mini-health check when you give blood, and you get great T-shirts," said Hanley.

The donor center, located at 800 Prudential Drive inside Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, opened on April 30 after about two years in the making. "Having the donation center within Baptist Jacksonville will ensure patients have

rapid access to blood products, while allowing the community to donate the gift of life," said Kyle Dorsey, vice president of operations for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

The center collects donations Monday through Friday. Its location provides Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital employees, family members of patients and visitors to the hospital with a convenient place to donate whole blood and platelets.



Dr. Mark Hanly, Rebecca Gibbons, J.B. Bowles, Kyle Dorsey, J.D. Pettyjohn, Rachel Rodriguez



Dr. Mark Hanly relaxes in a chair at LifeSouth Community Blood Center as Letha Sweat, a phlebotomist, prepares him for a donation.

## Local attorneys celebrated for five decades of service

Twenty-five attorneys from the 4th Judicial Circuit were honored at The Florida Bar's annual convention, June 13-15 in Orlando, for reaching the milestone of 50 years of service in the profession.

This year, a total of 314 Florida lawyers admitted to the Bar in 1968 were honored, including 25 who practice in the 4th Judicial Circuit. Eleven are residents within *The Resident's* readership, including Timothy Austin Burleigh, A. Hamilton Cooke, Stephen Ellsworth Day, Lawrence Howard Lankford, Douglas John Milne, Earl Smith Poitevent III, Simon Donald Rothstein, Arnold Herbert Slott, Richard C. Stoddard, Rolf Harvy Towe, and Edward Jacob Witten

The other honorees who practice in the 4th Judicial Circuit include Leonard Mayer Alterman, Charles Warner Arnold, Jr., Earl Middleton Barker, Jr., Donald L. Braddock, John Ferrell Fannin, Hugh McKay Flether, William A. Hamilton, III, Arthur Ivan Jacobs, Michael Alan Jennings, Daniel Irvine McCranie, Charles Thomas Shad, William J. Sheppard, Frederick R. Short, Jr., and Eric Brian Smith.

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There's nothing better than dogs, babies and a Jaguar football player. They were all on hand as the Pajcics made donations for important causes in our community. Jags kicker Josh Lambo won a closest to the pin contest at the Pajcic yard golf event last month, so the Pajcics offered \$6,000 to Josh's charity of choice. He selected the Fur Sisters - Furever Urs Rescue, Inc, a no-kill dog shelter in Jacksonville Beach. That's where Josh and his wife got their rescue named Lana a few months ago. Josh said he was grateful for the opportunity Pajcic & Pajcic gave him, and since the FUR sisters meant so much to his family, choosing the local rescue was the perfect



fit. Also, The Pajcic Firm pledged to match every donation and all prizes won at the golf event for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, so JALA got a \$6,000 check as well. Helen Nicholson and her baby were representing The Pajcic Family Foundation and Michael Pajcic was representing the law firm. JALA's Jim Kowalski was there, as well. In all, the Pajcic golf event raised more than \$150,000 for legal aid.

Michael Pajcic thoroughly enjoyed reading to pre-kindergarten students at North Shore Elementary School. He read them a book about what to expect next year when they are in kindergarten. It is all part of Jax Kids Book Club supported by the Pajcic Firm. The organization encourages kids to read and supplies them with books and other materials with the hopes that they develop a life-long love of reading.



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North Florida School of Special Education combines dinner and craft cocktails with a local twist

Capitalizing on the popularity of its urban farm, Berry Good Farms, the North Florida School of Special Education launched a new "farm to cocktail" dinner series June 15 at Manifest Distilling.

The benefit celebrated the farm, the students of the school's micro-enterprises, and community partnerships with the release of 128 bottles of a bespoke Ginger Citrus Vodka made using Kaffir lime leaves, ginger root, and a small portion of Florida citrus to create a unique, distilled vodka found only at the downtown distillery. For



Tom Janning and Suzanne Hendrix-Janning with Leslie Kolleda

the hip Asian-inspired dinner, Berry Good Farm's Chef Brett Swearingen teamed up with Chef Dennis Chan of Blue Bamboo to serve the 75 guests a unique repast in an intimate setting.



Fred Funk and Judi Zitiello



Michelle and Marion Scott with Ed and Malon Wisdom



Joe and Caryn Carreiro with Eric and Chavet Mason



Valerie de la Torre with Bonnie Solloway and Pam Joiner

Funk and Zitiello champion hope for two great causes

Two great causes – pancreatic cancer research at the Mayo Clinic and the JT Townsend Foundation – benefited from one spectacular gala and golf tournament when the Funk-Zitiello Foundation held its 2nd Annual Champions of Hope Gala and Golf Classic June 15 at TPC Sawgrass.

"JT was the most impactful person I have ever met in my life," said PGA golfer Fred Funk, referring to JT Townsend, an Episcopal High football player who suffered a spinal cord injury on the field in 2004 and passed away in 2013. "Then when Judi [Zitiello, a four-year survivor] came down with pancreatic cancer, we realized we really needed to get this thing going."

The two-day event raised more than \$618,000, topping last year's amount by \$18,000.

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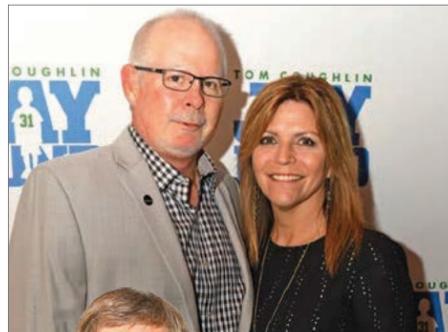
Art, music create beautiful memories for 25 years

In celebration of the Riverside Fine Arts Association's 25th Anniversary, a black tie-optional gala was held June 9 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, where 60 guests from all over Jacksonville enjoyed a cocktail reception and dinner, musical performances, and a silent auction featuring the artwork of Jacksonville artists.

The nonprofit was founded in 1993 by Dr. Ross Krueger, Lorraine Roettges, Ted Pappas, Dr. David Moomaw and John F. Gaillard to offer local, national and international performers and small musical ensembles the opportunity to perform in the unique setting of the Riverside-based church where the recent benefit was held. The associations offers six concerts a year and funds Project Listen, a free music outreach program in the public schools.



Scott Wooten with Dr. Renee Gallo



Marty and Debby Cothorn



Steve and Gerri Spurrier



Jay Fund Founder Tom Coughlin with sportscaster Dan Hicken of WJAX-TV, Action News Jax

Jay Fund draws support from celebrities at signature fundraiser

The 23rd Annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic and Dinner raised well over half a million dollars to help local families tackling childhood cancer. The two-day event, held May 20-21 at TPC Sawgrass, drew dozens of sports and entertainment celebrities such as Supermodel Kim Alexis, ESPN sportscasters Chris Berman, Chris Mortensen and Sean McDonough, former Jacksonville Jaguars mascot Curtis Dvorak, and local sports anchor Dan Hicken, and many others.

The signature event became the foundation on which the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund was built. When this annual tradition began in 1996 it raised \$51,600. This year the event brought in \$588,000 from the tournament of 160 golfers and from the more than 450 guests who attended the one-of-a-kind dinner and auction the evening before, where they honored local families tackling cancer.





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# Lisska honored at Ortega gathering

Friends, city leaders and supporters gathered at the Ortega home of Betsy Lovett June 8 to honor Emily R. Lisska, who retired earlier this year as Executive Director of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

Although leaving a paid position after 22 years, Lisska will remain heavily entrenched in history as the president-elect of the Florida Historical Society Board of Directors and as a volunteer with JHS. Lisska was recognized by the Jacksonville City Council in February with a framed resolution detailing her accomplishments since 1996, but the intimate gathering at Lovett's waterfront home meant just as much.

Lisska received the Florida Historical Society's Caroline P. Rossetter Award as the Outstanding Woman in Florida History in 2010 for her efforts to expand the society's downtown footprint through restoration of the 1888 Old St. Andrew's Church (JHS headquarters), the 1879 Merrill Museum House (for which she is the curator), the 1878 Old St. Luke's Hospital and the 1924 Florida Casket Co. building, both of which serve as archival repositories containing tens of thousands of documents and photographs.

A lifelong Mandarin resident, Lisska is a journalism graduate of the University of Florida and attended Florida State University for graduate studies in speech communications. She's married to Lawrence Lisska, M.D., with whom she has two sons - William, a Vanderbilt University sophomore, and Joe, a University of Florida law graduate.



Tyrie and Lori Boyer with Mike Hightower



Peggy Allcorn with Patsy Moore



Ward Lariscy with Caroline Burroughs



Jane and Bob Still with Barbara Harrell



Ron DeSantis supporters Dave Kulik, Bob Shircliff, Mary Pat Kulik and Joe Helow

# Candidates for Florida governor visit local constituents, raise funds

Two candidates for the office of governor for the State of Florida dropped in on two occasions to visit supporters and potential constituents.

Ron DeSantis, an Iraq war veteran and U.S. Representative for Florida's Sixth District, was honored at a fundraising reception at the San Jose Country Club June 14, where 80 guests came together in support of DeSantis' bid for Florida governor. DeSantis, who couldn't make the event due to a crucial vote in the House, was represented by his wife Kasey Black DeSantis, who introduced her husband via a video feed.

DeSantis made remarks about his goals, his drive to succeed and remembered the shooting at a congressional baseball game a year earlier. The events that injured his fellow Congressmen shook the young representative, who parted the game five minutes prior to the shooting, perhaps sparing his life.

The host committee included Alexandra and Dr. Scot Ackerman, Gayle and Michael Balanky, Sharon and Richard Browdy, Maggie and Larry Gaskins, Julie and Joe Helow, Mary Pat and Dave Kulik, Marcia and Dick Morales, Nancy and Ted McGowan, Patricia and Fitzhugh Powell, Jr., David Robbins, Carol and Robert Shircliff, Christie and Kent Stermon, Connie Turner, Janet and Dale Westling, and Debra and Steve Vining. Bob Shircliff and Ted McGowan led the charge, sponsoring the evening's event at the club.

A few months earlier, philanthropist Lawrence DuBow was one of the hosts and avid supporters of a Gwen Graham for



Lawrence DuBow with gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham

Governor fundraiser held at 6000 on the River in Lakewood March 30.

"I support Gwen Graham for the position of governor of the state of Florida...and my reasons are many, but most importantly, she communicates well, understands ALL the people of Florida and listens to every citizen of the state," said DuBow, who was joined at the Graham fundraiser by several other well-known Jacksonville figures, including Ellen Wiss, Scott and Nancy McLucas, Alton and Gwen Yates, Preston Haskell, Senator Bruce Smathers, Paula Liange, Pam Paul, Caroline Burroughs, Robert Scott, Marjorie Broward, and others.

DuBow emphasized that Graham has mastered the art of leadership and well as listening.

"You gotta know how to listen," said DuBow, of Epping Forest. "Gwen listens well, understands and appreciates what people are telling her...and has the intelligence and capability to develop the necessary action required."



Ross Carrier with Dan Jackson, Doug Kirchhoff, Joe Sissine, Charlie Arnold, Eddie Essa and Bert Costa rally for Ron DeSantis

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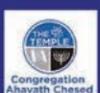
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## Floral art exhibit benefits Cummer garden restoration

An opening night reception was held June 6 at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens for a new display, "Azaleas to Zinnias: A Floral Exhibition," which supports restoration of the Riverside museum's gardens damaged by Hurricane Irma.

It was the largest Jacksonville Artists Guild participation ever, according to Tim Baker, JAG president. Sixty-four artists presented work for consideration in the exhibit; eight pieces were selected to hang at the Cummer and 34 pieces are on display at Berdy Dental Group.

The artists' works displayed at the Cummer include Susan Astleford of Epping Forest, awarded Best in Show; Lynn Matyi of Avondale, who received the Judges Recognition Award; Ron Episcopo of Riverside, Helen Ashmead of St. Nicholas, Julie Giuliani of Ortega Farms, Mary Sumner of Ortega, Pamela Walker Hart of Ponte Vedra Beach, and Reggie Przybysz of Riverside.



Best in Show winner Susan Astleford with her husband, Paul

"Gardens really have become enduring symbols of hope and beauty, which seem to be in such perpetual need in this world. We are very thankful for what the Cummer does here, it's greatly appreciated," said Baker as he presented a check to Dr. Nelda Damiano, Cummer Curator, for the Garden Restoration Fund.

Visitors to the dessert reception at Berdy Dental, 1511 Stockton St., cast ballots for "Fan Favorite," which was awarded to Doug Johnson, a Deerwood resident and retired radiation oncologist.



Pat Setser and Kathleen McCann with Kimberly Malajati



Lynette Matyi, winner of Judges Recognition Award, with Jane Condon and Carol Grimes

## Jacksonville residents compete in lip sync battle to support lung health



Mike and Pam Korn, Kelley and Tim Strong, Marc Mayo, Eric Holshouser, Anne Mayo, Lori Holshouser, Mike and Erin Lufkin

Four local celebrity teams competed against each other to win the Lip Sync for Lungs Live Battle and raise more than \$57,000 for the American Lung Association May 18 at Friday Musicale.

More than 150 supporters in attendance cheered on winner Gonzalo Mejia, sales manager at Watson Realty Corp.'s San Jose office.

When asked about his experience, Mejia said, "I decided to participate in the Lip Sync for Lungs as an opportunity to help other who suffer from lung diseases. Through my efforts to raise awareness and educate others about these health issues, a friend of mine felt touched by them and decided to quit smoking. For me that is the best reward I could have gotten from participating. That is the real win."

Other contestants included Orangetheory Fitness Head Trainer and Studio Manager

Bryant Bass and Matthew Malone; Jessica Morgan, Communications Director of Jacksonville Moms Blog with special guests Vicky Lane and Megan Kilis, as well as Kendall Fordham, Financial Advisor at Raymond James, accompanied by special guest AJ Cann of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Event sponsors included Nemours Children's Specialty Care, The PQH Group, Crowley Maritime Corporation, The Main Street America Group, Duval Motor Company, Watson Realty San Marco, Eric and Lori Holshouser of Buchanan Ingersoll, & Rooney PC, Selphi Eco Salon, The CSI Companies, Cunningham Jewelers, Inc, Legacy Ale Works, Carve Vodka, Sight and Sound Productions, and PRP Wines.

All proceeds from the event will go to The American Lung Association mission of saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy.

## Jacksonville gains new citizens, refugees celebrate freedom in America

The United States gained 10 new citizens June 15 when they took the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony at Balis Community Center in San Marco. Coming from nine countries – Brazil, Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, Haiti, Russia, Sierra Leone and Venezuela – the newest members of



Catholic Charities Executive Director Lauren Weedon Hopkins with representatives from Vision is Priceless, which received the Community Impact Award.

the Jacksonville community were sworn in by Kristine Null, supervisory immigration services officer with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Following the standing-room-only event, more than 120 family members, friends, guests and refugees paraded down Hendricks Avenue to Southside Baptist Church, where a World Refugee Day celebration was held. Following remarks by Travis Trice of World Relief and Cristina Parcell of Lutheran Social Services, a Burmese dance troupe performed.

Two of the keynote addresses were provided by refugees, who shared their joy at being productive citizens of Jacksonville. Malath Albakri, a mother of three, emigrated from Iraq in 2014; a talented artist, she also operates a daycare center. Har Shaing, a refugee from Burma in 2007, is a realtor and operates an

Asian market on University Avenue. A third keynote speaker was Venico Baker, a general manager for a McDonald's restaurant, who helps refugees.

The program wrapped up with an awards presentation. Two families (the Ghaos family from Afghanistan and the Ta Nu family from Burma) and one individual (Burmese refugee Moon Ja, 19) received the Resilience Award from Mary Strickland, president/CEO of Lutheran Social Services. Catholic Charities Executive Director Lauren Weedon Hopkins presented Vision is Priceless with the Community Impact Award. Undersheriff Patrick Ivey presented the Hero in Action award in absentia to Possey Aboukassim, a 10-year-old refugee from Sudan who rescued a 3-year-old girl from drowning in March and tried to save another child, who did not survive.



Children from a refugee family from Congo came to witness a naturalization ceremony and to celebrate World Refugee Day June 15.



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## 'Celebrities' don aprons to serve homeless, help stomp out hunger

The 24th annual Miracle on Ashley Street Celebrity Servers luncheon held May 18 at the Clara White Mission commandeered an army of 160 celebrity servers and 50 volunteers to make and serve food at 46 stations to more than 1,300 homeless and food-insecure people.

"When we say 'celebrity,' that can be anyone with a willingness to help. We usually have congressional members, senators, City Councilmembers, someone from the Mayor's office, if not the Mayor, and community leaders," said Rosa Nichols, Clara White Mission's marketing director. "Many companies will send their CEO, their directors, managers within their organizations to donate 30 minutes of their time to serve food. Any time you stand behind our lines and assist with stomping out hunger, you are a celebrity."



State Representative Tracy Davis with Seth Williams, publisher of *The Resident*

Hosted by Richard Nunn, WJXT Channel 4 Meteorologist, the event featured Chartwells Chef William Ratley and Training Chef Keith Smith, who were responsible for providing three of the dishes from a menu which included seven types of entrees, a dozen sides, desserts and lemonade.

The three-hour benefit raised \$67,000, and title sponsors were Citi and the Delores Barr Weaver Fund.



Andrew Steiner, Teresa Scoggins, Shay Hill



Valerie Hammonds and Eileen Blocker serve food at the 24th annual Miracle on Ashley Street.

## Charity Burn raises nearly \$10,000 for Volunteers in Medicine



George and Leslie Baccash, Leslie Gordon, Mary Pat Corrigan, Donna and Rick Fenchel

Nearly 200 Orangetheory Fitness members, and Volunteers in Medicine volunteers and donors participated in a series of "Charity Burns" April 24-May 2 at locations throughout Northeast Florida. The collaborative fundraising initiative was spearheaded by Leslie Gordon, Volunteers in Medicine's April Woman With Heart.

Held in seven locations for a week, participants walked, ran and rowed, burning more than 70,000 calories and nearly 3,000 "splat" points. A "splat" point is earned every minute a participant keeps their heart rate at 84 percent or higher – the theory behind the "splat" point was scientifically proven to keep fat burning over a longer period of time post-workout.

Orangetheory Fitness owners Leslie and George Baccash and Rick and Donna Fenchel believe in the importance of giving back to the communities where their members live, work and play. Acknowledging that "community" is one of the company's core values, they have embedded it in their business model by donating dollars for splat points earned to several community nonprofit partners.

The Fenchels and the Baccashes joined Volunteers in Medicine CEO Mary Pat Corrigan and 2018 April Woman With Heart Leslie Gordon to celebrate the amazing partnership with the presentation of a check totaling more than \$5,000 from the seven "Charity Burn" events. Orangetheory Fitness members stepped up to the match challenge, donating



Aimee Boggs, Shelley Morgan, Leslie Gordon, Dany Atkinson and Mary Pat Corrigan

additional dollars for "splat" points earned for a grand total of nearly \$10,000.

Women With Heart are an exclusive and select group of Northeast Florida women recognized annually by Volunteers in Medicine for their leadership, philanthropy and service to the community at the organization's signature fundraising luncheon.

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## Annual memorial fishing tournament a success; scholarship awarded

The 11th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Tournament sponsored by American Electrical Contracting and the Key Auto Company Junior Angler Tournament welcomed 93 registered fishermen to Beach Marine June 16.

Forty-five teams, including junior anglers, weighed in fish. Fifteen slams (one flounder, red and trout each) weighed in, with the top prize of \$1,500 going to Eddie Cabler and Brian Dutcher, whose catch weighed in at a near-record 15.11 pounds. First place category winners were Leroy Holloway (7.01 lb. red), Larry Finch (5.05 lb. trout) and Ryan Hall (5.35 lb. flounder), who each received \$1,000.

The junior angler winner was Elijah Cabler with a red weighing 5.96 pounds.

In River Or Ocean, the foundation started by Gary, Terry and Casey Roberts in 2008 in memory of son and brother, Clay, announced that the 11th Clay Roberts



Elijah Cabler (center) won first place in the Key Auto Company Junior Anglers competition and the Inshore Slam winners were Eddie Cabler (left) and Brian Dutcher (right).

Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Connor Sidman, a graduating senior at Bishop Kenny. Sidman was selected by the Scholarship Committee as the student who best emulated Clay's spirit and values. Sidman fished in the tournament along with three other past scholarship winners, Hunter Parry, Will Parry and Natalie Hart.



Gary and Terry Roberts with Connor Sidman and his mother, Peggy, and Casey Roberts

## Small charity with mighty swing serves up 'cure to ace cancer'

Eight years ago, three members of the Deerwood community came together with the desire to help "serve up a cure" for cancer and started a charity tennis tournament in 2011, raising \$15,000 in that inaugural year.

This year's event, held June 8-10 at Deerwood Country Club, included two night of socializing and two days of tennis competition.

The annual event supports the Ellie Kavalieros DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Research Fund, Community Hospice & Palliative Care and The Gabriel House of Care. Last year each received \$10,000 from the tennis tournament.

Serving Up A Cure founders Brian Monroe, Bill Sharp and Tom Gable have raised and given away over \$210,000 in total to local cancer treatment and research organizations.



Charity co-founder Brian and Alison Monroe



Terrye Mosley and Kortney Wesley

## Fifth Annual Dream Day gives joy to children with life-threatening illnesses

The Fifth Annual "Dream Day" event – a partnership between Dreams Come True of Jacksonville and San Marco-based PRI Productions transformed the lives of 40 children with life-threatening illnesses even as the local studio was transformed into the ultimate entertainment venue for children.

Following a 150-foot red-carpet entrance with blue and white confetti and a cheering crowd, the boys and girls were escorted by their favorite storybook, movie and television characters into a wonderland of music, games, magic and food.

Each child participating in the event has been served throughout his/her medical journey by Dreams Come True. Dream Day, hosted and made possible each year through the generosity of PRI Productions, a number of local businesses and nearly 200 volunteers, is part of a program which provides unique experiences for children before and after their dream is granted.



Jaxson De Ville with Calvin Cox



Catherine, Gabriella and Michael Gaul



Trinity Phippen poses with a Disney princess



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# Delicious Destinations

Culinary superstars gather for the annual 'must-attend' fundraiser

The most anticipated weekend in the year is just around the corner, and that's why connoisseurs of gourmet food and fine wine have already made reservations for the 17th Annual Delicious Destinations.

The five-star culinary experience and fundraiser for St. Vincent's Foundation will take place Friday, September 7th and Saturday, September 8th at The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Delicious Destinations has become Northeast Florida's premiere destination for scrumptious cuisine, with two days of fine wine and delectable dining flavored by philanthropy that lasts all year long. Top chefs from around the country, as well as local culinary superstars, show off their skills while contributing their time and talent to support St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs.

"The 17th Annual Delicious Destinations affords food and wine connoisseurs an extraordinary opportunity. They can visit the top 14 chefs at internationally known resorts in one event. Support from our community for St. Vincent's Outreach Programs is more important than ever. This is a great example of celebrating with our community for our community," said Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, President and System Chief Development Officer of St. Vincent's Foundation.

Led by event partners The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Delicious Destinations benefits St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, which includes Rural Outreach, Urban Outreach and Pediatric Outreach.

The annual combination of cuisine and charitable giving has inspired some of the nation's finest chefs to create an unforgettable dining experience, and this year is no exception. More than a dozen executive, banquet, sous and pastry chefs from Denver to Savannah, from Greenbrier, W. Virginia to Sea Island and more will prepare culinary delights.

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Executive Chef Hermann Muller has said there is a soft spot in every chef's heart for the opportunity to give back to the community while showcasing what they do best. With Jane Lanier, as one of the founders of the fundraiser, Host Chef Muller annually coordinates the visiting chefs and the menus.

No feast is complete without fine wine, supplied by Southern Glazer's and explained by wine educator, Julie Pepi, a second-level sommelier and director of the Heritage Collection for Trincherro Family Estates.



2017 Delicious Destinations Co-Chairs Amy Wacaster, Sala Pradhan and Mollie Sumner



Rick and Lynn Mullaney and Drs. Nina and Samer Garas

## The weekend's events

On September 7th, the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Executive Chef Hermann Muller of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club will be the guest of honor at the VIP Preview Reception Saturday, September 8th, 6 p.m., where guests can sample culinary masterpieces.

The main event, Delicious Destinations – A Gourmet Food and Wine Tasting, will follow at 7 p.m. featuring creations by Chef Muller as well as Chef Nathan Beriau (Palmetto Bluff), Chef Bogdan Boorean (Mar-a-Lago), Chef Olivier de Busschere (Gate Gourmet), Chef Garrett Gooch (Ritz Carlton, Denver), Chef Dusty Grove (The DeSoto), Chef Daniel McCathern (Hilton Atlanta), Chef Steve Mengel (The Greenbrier),

Chef Mitchell Pagan (Mariner Sands), Chef Chris Pickren (The Lodge & Club), Chef Darin Sehnert (Chef Darin's Kitchen Table), Chef Darek Stennes (The River Club), Chef Tim Turner (Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club) and Chef Daniel Zeal (The Lodge, Sea Island).

In addition, the silent and live auctions at Delicious Destinations offers friendly competition for those hoping to place the winning bids for enticing packages such as the "Dinner of a Lifetime," a gourmet feast for ten prepared by Chef Hermann Muller in your home.

To become a sponsor of Delicious Destinations or to make reservations for any of the events, contact Lauren Corley in the St. Vincent's Foundation Office at (904) 308-7306 or [Lauren.Corley@Ascension.org](mailto:Lauren.Corley@Ascension.org), or visit [deliciousdestinationsjax.com](http://deliciousdestinationsjax.com)

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# Preservation society celebrates beautification awards

## New logo unveiled, old board retained at annual meeting

The San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) bestowed Beautification Awards to the owners of five area single-family homes and two businesses during its annual meeting June 14 at Preservation Hall.

Also, during the meeting, SMPS unveiled a new logo based on the three lions in San Marco Square and asked that a vote be taken to retain the present Board for another year of service.

The proposal that no changes be made to the board came at the request of SMPS President Bryan Mickler and the vote was unanimous. Mickler asked that the board be retained another year because SMPS Treasurer Rick Kohn, who was set to take over as president, moved out of the area due to a transfer in employment, and Vice President Debra Pataky is willing to continue to serve on the board, although not as president.

Pataky's home at 2209 River Road was among the residential beautification winners who were recognized by Beautification Committee Chairman Chris Woolston during the meeting. Also receiving residential awards were Linda George of 2241 River Road, Suzanne Perritt of 1999 Largo Road, Lois Rush of 2502 River Road, and Joseph Pecora of 1521 Palm Road. All the homeowners have done substantial renovations to their property in such a way to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood, said Woolston.

Receiving commercial awards for the exterior transformation on the buildings that house their businesses were Rue St. Marc, a restaurant located at the fork of San Marco Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue, which is owned by San Marco Chefs David and Matthew Medure, and Creative Grain Studio, a crafting workshop owned by Racheal Melo and her mother, Kim.

In addition to Mickler, Woolston, and Pataky, who is also land use and zoning



Barbara Hall, Mimi Pearce, SMPS President Bryan Mickler and Maureen Mickler

committee chair, other SMPS Board members include LeAnna Cumber, immediate past president; Karen Carlucci and Tiffany Heavener, co-membership chairs; Linzee Ott, social media and safety; Gordon Mott, traffic/pedestrian and bicycle; Barbara Hall, Preservation Hall; Robin Robinson, historian; William Michaelis, legal; Kristin Nimnicht; Debbie Hanania, and Erin Weinberg, website.

SMPS has also hired two new employees, Ellen Wilson, administrative assistant, and Laura Witten, Preservation Hall Coordinator.

At 250 members, membership in the society was slightly lower than desired, said Mickler, but fundraising continues to be successful through the sale of memorial bricks, house plaques, Christmas luminaria, and events, such as Wine Down in the Parks.

SMPS helped raise thousands of dollars to spearhead #SanMarcoStrong, an initiative to spark the recovery of San Marco businesses and residents in the wake of Hurricane Irma, he said.

Money has also been spent to improve the organization's website and preserve its buildings – South Jacksonville City Hall, where a new sign will be installed, and Preservation Hall, where at least \$60,000 was spent to put on a new roof and give the building a facelift.

The group's new logo will replace its old compass rose brand and will appear on new house plaques and sweatshirts, Mickler said.

San Marco Preservation Society continues to play a vital role by influencing the aesthetics of new development within its community, he said, noting new developments such as The District, San Marco Promenade, Broadstone River House, and Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center will impact the community in ways not yet realized. "We have challenges ahead of us with development on a level we've never seen before. I ask all of you to reach out and help this board," he said.

# The Salvation Army to hold school supplies drive for local kids in need

The Salvation Army in Jacksonville will help local families send their kids back to school prepared for a new school year. The nonprofit will hold a back-to-school supplies drive now through July 20 and is asking for help.

The cost of school supplies can put a strain on families with limited resources, so local businesses, churches, groups, and individuals can help by hosting a collection. The Salvation Army will distribute the supplies on August 3 to families who applied and demonstrated financial need.

Anyone interested in hosting a school supplies collection should call (904) 301-4846 or email [meghan.keith@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:meghan.keith@uss.salvationarmy.org) to sign up. Individuals wishing to drop off supplies may do so during business hours through July 20 at The Salvation Army's downtown locations at 900 W. Adams St. or 328 N. Ocean St. (Monday through Friday only at Ocean St location).

Requested supplies include backpacks for K-12 boys and girls, folders, scissors, rulers, crayons, pencils, markers, pens, colored pencils, loose-leaf paper, glue sticks, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, hand sanitizer, and baggies.



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Executive Chef Scott Alters accepts the award for Gabrielle Saul of Rue St. Marc Restaurant.



Joseph Pecora of 1521 Palm Road with Chris Woolston



Rachel Melo from Creative Grain



Jon Singleton, Karen Carlucci, Joseph Carlucci, Little Joe Carlucci and Victoria Carlucci



Tomas A. Jimenez, Jr. with Missie Sarra LePrel and Matt Carlucci

## Mentoring artists display works at church gallery

An artists' reception was held June 6 at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church for its newest exhibit, this one honoring the mentor/mentee relationship among artists.

The show features the art of seven well-known Jacksonville artists, all of whom have contributed to the growth of the art community. Each work is paired with that of a mentee who the artists feel embodies the concept of absorbing the learning experiences and then synthesizes a new direction in their own art.

The paired artists include University of North Florida professor Louise Freshman Brown with Anna Reynolds-Patterson, adjunct instructor Jim Draper with Laura Schwenn, and associate professor Nofa Dixon with Cole Collier; Paul Ladnier, retired from UNF, with Tonya Lee; Brian



Andrew and Michael Yates, with their mother, Jeanette

Frus, associate professor at Jacksonville University, with Maria Beaty; Dustin Harewood, professor at FSCJ, Kent Campus, and Joanne Cellar, and Jim Smith, visual arts instructor at The Bolles School, with Sarah Peyton.

The exhibit, at 4001 Hendricks Ave., runs through the end of August, and includes paintings, sculptures, collages, ceramics and glass. For more information, call (904) 396-7745.



Louise Freshman Brown with her mentee, Anna Reynolds-Patterson



Sarah Peyton with mentor Jim Smith

## Jacksonville chapter of national sorority association awards scholarships



Front: Martha VanDerMallie, Mary Cumella, Emily McCarthy, Ariane Canlas, Wendy Mueller; back: Rebecca Russo, Karen McCarthy, Donna Libal, Shaine Canlas, Joanne Caraway

The Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association (JAPA) held its annual Spring Luncheon at Marsh Landing Country Club May 19, celebrating 104 years of providing assistance to local graduating high school seniors who will continue their education.

Four students were selected on the basis of recommendations, grade point averages, high school activities, community involvement, and need. Each recipient was sponsored by a current JAPA member.

Ariane Canlas, a senior at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, was sponsored by JAPA member Rebecca Russo. Canlas, the daughter of Shaine and Armando Canlas, plans to attend the University of North Florida.

Emily McCarthy, a senior at Fleming Island High School, was sponsored by JAPA members Hope Diamantis and Kari Hooks. McCarthy, the daughter of Karen and Peter McCarthy, has chosen to enroll in Florida State University.

Katherine Begley, sponsored by JAPA member Joanne Caraway, is the daughter of Ellen and Steve Bagley of Ortega Forest. She will be attending the University of Tennessee.

Sara Himebauch, who plans to attend the University of South Carolina, is the daughter



Sara Himebauch



Katherine Begley

of Catherine Kirkpatrick and Chris Himebauch. She was sponsored by Martha VanDerMallie of San Marco.

Neither Begley nor Himebauch were able to attend the luncheon as their graduation from The Episcopal School of Jacksonville was held at the same time.

Mary Cumella of Riverside and Wendy Mueller of Murray Hill were the co-chairs of JAPA's Scholarship Committee this year.

Following the presentation of scholarships, installation of newly-elected JAPA officers included Brandy Hibbard, president; Patricia Lawrence, vice president, and Holli Hiltbrand, recording secretary. Riverside resident Jayne Jett, treasurer, and Kayla Gothier, corresponding secretary, will be installed at a later date.



Holli Hiltbrand, recording secretary, Brandy Hibbard, president, Patricia Lawrence, vice president; not present: Jayne Jett, treasurer, and Kayla Gothier, corresponding secretary

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# Manatee improving at zoo critical care center

Stranded gentle giant rescued by St. Nicholas neighbors

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Thanks to the quick thinking of several St. Nicholas neighbors, who helped save him from a chilly death in the mud of Millers Creek in March, Miller the manatee, is slowly gaining weight at the new Manatee Critical Care Center at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

Named for the creek where he nearly met his Maker, Miller has gained 48 pounds in the first two weeks of June, said J.J. Vitale, a St. Nicholas resident and spokesman for the Jacksonville Zoo. When the geriatric manatee, who zoo officials estimate may be at least 40 years old, arrived at the zoo's new critical care center, Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Yousuf Jafarey immediately began treatment because it was apparent to everyone that Miller was not in good shape, she said.

"While the bloodwork was looking stable, the manatee was listless and suffering from cold stress. His respiration was rapid and not even. Zoo animal health staff, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) professionals with two decades of manatee experience and Sea to Shore Alliance staff were concerned," she said.

Dr. Jafarey's physical exam indicated Miller had been losing weight and had suffered severe damage to his tail in the past. For nearly three months he did not show improvement, requiring zoo staff, Dr. Jafarey and his colleague Dr. Meredith Persky, as well as Dr. Ray Ball, a consulting veterinarian from Lowry Park Zoo, to continue aggressive treatment and care, Vitale said, noting zoo staff have no plans to release him back into the St. Johns River near the Main Street Bridge any time soon.



Leo Davis mans the canoe while his stepson, T.J. Tobin, assists Miller the manatee in the mud of Millers Creek. (Photo by Kay Ellen Gilmour)

Miller's recent 48-pound weight gain is good news, and he remains in "stable" condition, showing "no signs of illness," said Kay Ellen Gilmour, a retired cardiologist who lives in St. Nicholas.

"He eats well now and has no obvious gastrointestinal problems. The only thing that continues to argue against his release is

his persistent sluggishness, perhaps a sign of old ages and maybe even some arthritis," she said in a Facebook post, quoting information she received from Craig Miller, curator of mammals at the zoo.

On June 26, the University of Florida sent its expert manatee veterinarian and some vet students to do an in-depth evaluation on Miller, said Gilmour, noting Ball will also return to collaborate with the consultation.

The hefty 1,100-pound gentle giant was rescued during a chilly evening in March by officials from the FWC, Sea to Shore Alliance, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department after he was observed by Millers Creek resident Kathy Davis to be stranded in the mud at low tide in Millers Creek. "I was lucky enough to look out my second-floor bedroom window and see him, because if I hadn't, he'd be dead," Davis said.

Unsure of what to do, Davis quickly ran to next door to consult with her neighbors, Lois Gray and Gilmour, who also have a ring-side home on the creek. While Gray alerted FWC officials about the situation, Davis's husband Leo and son, T.J. Tobin, made their way out to the stranded mammal, which was having a tough time lifting its head to breathe.

"Our neighbor, Kathy Davis, looked out her second-story bedroom window and saw him. He was half still submerged, but he couldn't get off the mud in the creek without more water, and there wasn't any because the tide had gone out," Gray recalled. "He was so weak. He could not get his head out of the water. T.J. saved his life by lifting his head, so he could breathe."

FWC reached out to the veterinarians at the Zoo's new Manatee Critical Care Center, a \$2.1 million facility that was funded by private individuals and a \$500,000 grant from the State of Florida, according to the center's website. The center provides temporary housing and care for sick or injured manatees until they are healthy enough to be returned to the area where they were found.

By the time help arrived it was dark, and Leo Davis and Tobin had returned to shore. As many as 30 St. Nicholas residents, including Vitale's husband and children, came out to watch and support the rescuers, said Vitale.

Spotlights were set up and two members from the FWC, Sea to Shore Alliance, and the zoo, including Vitale, who also serves on the zoo's Marine Mammal Response Team, waded waist-deep in mud to reach the stranded manatee. Meanwhile, members of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue assisted from shore, sending out ropes, while the muddy six planted a stretcher under the landlocked animal.

"He was in rough shape and lethargic," said Vitale. "We got the stretcher underneath



Miller the manatee gets a check-up at the Jacksonville Zoo's Manatee Critical Care Center. (Photo by Kay Ellen Gilmour)

him, with ropes underneath it, and that's when Jax Fire and Rescue pulled him out of the mud.

It took eight members of the fire and rescue team to transport Miller up the bank to an FWC truck, which was waiting on Mayfair Road, said Vitale. "The St. Nicholas neighbors were wonderful. They offered us water and the ability to use their electrical outlets to plug in our lights," she said.

Soon after Miller arrived at the center, Craig Miller invited Gray, Gilmour, and the Davises to visit while Dr. Ball conducted an examination.

"He wasn't progressing," said Gray. "Kathy, Leo, Kay, and I were able to watch. They did an ultrasound, an EKG, blood tests, and X-rays on his teeth, jaw and lungs. He was to the point where one of the keepers had to go into the pool and almost hand feed him," she continued. "The vets were very nice to us and let us watch all the proceedings. Kay was disappointed they didn't show her the EKG strip. She wanted to see it."

"We are moved by the wonderful care and the kind way the people at the center treat the animals," Gray continued. "Even if Miller doesn't make it, we know we got him to the right place where he has the best possible

chance to survive. To be able to participate in saving a huge creature like that, it was almost spiritual," she said.

Kathy Davis agreed. "The zoo treated us like we were VIPs. They let us go through the back entrance to get to where the manatees were."

Davis said being able to see manatees like Miller near her home is one of the reasons she loves living in St. Nicholas. "For living in the city, we have so many animals in our neighborhood that are amazing. There has been an otter on our dock, and we have a pair of foxes. Although we live in the city it's like we're out in the woods, too," she said.

Vitale also adores her neighborhood. "I love our neighborhood, and the people in it are a big reason," she said. "Seeing the sense of the community and the people offering everything from towels to water to help Miller was really terrific. While I want every animal that comes in to the center to thrive, but I feel a closer tie to Miller because he was from my backyard, and I participated in his rescue. He's had a tougher recovery process, so you just have to route for him."

If you spot an injured or sick manatee don't take matters into your own hands, said Vitale. Call the FWC hotline at 1(888) 404-3922.

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# River Garden couple's love story began on a train

Submitted by **Kari Bell**



Helene and Jack Coleman

River Garden residents Jack and Helene Coleman shared their love story at a reception celebrating their 72nd wedding anniversary at the River Garden Price Welcome Center May 26.

Jack Coleman had grown up in Georgia, but relocated with his parents to Philadelphia directly after high school, where he worked in his uncle's utility pole cross-arm business, manufacturing wood pieces used by utilities to carry their lines.

After traveling to Savannah for a family event, Jack met Helene Stern who was also visiting some of her family there. Enroute traveling between Savannah and Philadelphia, he met Helene again on the train, sharing drinks and conversation. They exchanged addresses and agreed to stay in touch. Soon after, he left for Europe for a stint in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Their courtship carried them through wartime and upon Jack's return, he declined an opportunity to attend West Point because he was ready to marry Helene. They wed on May 25, 1946. She was 21; he was 24. They relocated to Philadelphia and again he went to work in his uncle's business. They had two children, Philip and Nancy, and later moved to Jacksonville, where he would lead the family cross-arm manufacturing operation. The electric power, telecommunication, and railroad businesses were booming. They raised their two children and became very active in the community.

For more than 50 years, River Garden has been a grateful recipient of the Colemans' time and treasure. Before the end of 1965, the Coleman family dedicated \$100,000 to River Garden for a new 60-bed addition at

its original Riverside location. The new addition was dedicated to Eugenia Coleman, Jack's grandmother, and Jack served on the planning committee for this expansion.

In 1978, the same year Elliott Palevsky and Martin Goetz joined River Garden's administrative staff, Jack assumed the role of president of the agency. Helene, too, served on many boards within the community, including a time as president of The Coves, but admits to never having served on the same boards as her husband because she didn't want to be in a position to publicly disagree with him over any issue.

In May 1980, Jack and Helene were both honored as community leaders by the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now OneJax) for their extensive accomplishments and efforts for humanitarian causes.

The Colemans remained active as River Garden supporters, and in December 1989, were part of the team that helped relocate River Garden from its original Stockton Street location to the new campus in Mandarin.

In 2012, the Colemans moved to an independent living apartment at The Coves. They continued to enjoy their friends, Jewish life, and the activities offered. As their care needs increased, River Garden added additional support services.

"The Colemans are wonderful examples of how River Garden has evolved and grown to meet the changing needs of our families. At one time, the Colemans helped lead, guide and grow our organization. At this time, we are proud to serve them with our care. They are a wonderful part of our River Garden story," said Goetz, chief executive officer.

# Retirement Housing Foundation celebrates 55 years, welcomes Towers of Jacksonville into its community



Rev. Dr. Laverne Joseph, Danny and Brenda Edwards, Jim Gandy, and Margaret Fitzsimmons, a resident at The Towers of Jacksonville

Although two years off the mark, executives from the California-based Retirement Housing Foundation (RHF) gathered with more than 100 residents and guests of the Towers of Jacksonville for a two-fold celebration.

RHF's 55th anniversary (2016) is being celebrated at 194 properties in 29 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. At the June 13 event in the San Marco-based senior housing facility, the Rev. Dr. Laverne Joseph, RHF president and CEO, also officially welcomed the residents into its fold of more than 22,000 older adults, low-income families and persons with disabilities.

Built in 1972, the San Marco-based residential tower was bought in April 2015 by RHF, which specializes in

providing affordable housing for seniors. A two-year-long infrastructure renovation project was completed in November 2016, then in September 2017, storm surge from Hurricane Irma damaged the ground floor of the building, including several apartments.

At the celebration, several groups and individuals were recognized for their contributions and assistance during the hurricane and the aftermath. Receiving plaques were the Towers' community manager, Pamela Morris, and resident Rhonda Riggins, as well as the Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Zone 3, 10th & Main Laundry, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, Southside Baptist Church and the Ronald McDonald House.

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# THE WAY WE WERE: HANNAH HIMMELFARB GAVRONSKY | BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In January Hannah Gavronsky celebrated her 98th birthday surrounded by her children, and several of her 13 grand- and 12 great-grandchildren.

Turning 98 may not seem particularly remarkable at a time when the fastest-growing segment of the population are those 80 and older, however, Hannah's life might well have ended in 1939 when her family was herded onto a train bound for a Nazi extermination camp from their home in Lask, Poland. Of the 3,800 Jews living in Lask, all but 750 were killed on the spot or sent to the death camps.

Hannah's daughter, Miriam Alexander, remarked that her mother is probably the only living survivor from the city of Lask during the Holocaust. Helen Mock, Hannah's younger daughter, explained that when her

family was forced onto the train, Channa (as she was called) was pulled aside by a German soldier and directed to the Lodz Ghetto work camp. She was found wandering, lost and disoriented, by Szaja ber Gawronski who took care of her and later became her husband and the father of Jake, Michael, Miriam, Helen and Aaron.

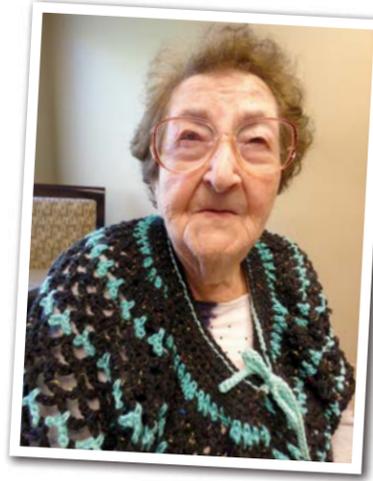
"My father's family were expert horsemen. His job in the ghetto was to drive a horse and wagon. He worked at the sugar mill hauling 200-pound bags onto the wagon," said Helen. "My parents were slaves for the Germans. My mother had to sort through the clothes of people killed by the Germans. Her father had been a Kohen, the holiest man in the Jewish religion, and her brothers were tanners and shoe makers."

When the ghetto was officially established in 1940, a fence went up around the city and the 230,000 Jews were packed into the confines on the average of three or more people to a room. The Jews had to pay for their own food, security, sewage removal and anything else involved with their incarceration.

Cut off from the outside world, life was brutal. There was forced labor, random beatings and killings on the streets. One of Channa's brothers, his wife and children were shot and killed.

While working in the camp Szaja ber Gawronski had to wear wooden shoes while working 12-15 hours a day, seven days a week, and Channa had to sew on buttons and cuffs for soldiers' pants as well as make straw shoes for the Germans.

Overcrowding, hunger, illness and isolation left the residents completely at the mercy of the Nazis. Deportations of the old, sick and children continued as the



Hannah Gavronsky

Island around 1950 with their two sons, Jake and Mike. It was at Ellis Island that Szaja ber Gawronski became Ben Gavronsky, or Shorty as he was later nicknamed since he was only 4'11" tall, and five-foot-tall Channa became Hannah.

Neither spoke nor wrote English. Neither had any family or close friends in their new country. Aided by Congregation Ahavath Chesed "The Temple," which was in in Riverside at the time, the Gavronskys managed to assimilate into their new home in Jacksonville.

Jake had a bar mitzvah, but Helen explained, "My father didn't want us raised Jewish nor Christian. He just wanted us to be Americans, to speak English." Miriam related that even in school at Central Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Jr. High and Robert E. Lee High, they did not refer to themselves as Jewish.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 35**

*"My father didn't want us raised Jewish nor Christian. He just wanted us to be Americans, to speak English."*

— Helen Gavronsky Mock



Gavronsky family around 1960; front: Aaron, Helen, Miriam; back: Hannah, Mike, Ben

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Hannah and Ben arrived in their new country with unfamiliar customs, no language or job skills. (There wasn't much demand for a wagon driver in Riverside in 1950). It was only natural for the family to be hesitant and fearful about revealing their heritage. Most refugees of the Holocaust were traumatized, depressed, distrustful and apprehensive of authorities.

Part of that distrust had to do with money. Ben and Hannah's children tell amusing stories of their parents hiding money in their shoes.

"My Mom couldn't do bank accounts or anything like that," said Helen, who noted that when she was a teenager she took her mother to the bank and they deposited \$16,000, which had been hidden all over the house - mainly in shoes. "We found \$800 way back in the closet in a pair of my dad's shoes. My dad lived out of his wallet."

Ben never learned to read or write English and Hannah's education was limited, but that didn't stop Ben from becoming a successful businessman. "He worked construction. He saved up some money, borrowed some, then bought two houses which he converted into apartments," recounted Helen. "Then he opened Wesconnett New and Used Furniture Company in 1960. He just did everything. He bought and traded land or a diamond; it was like a pawn shop."

An acquaintance recalls how fun it was to see the diminutive "Mr. G" driving around in his big white Cadillac. With five children to care for at their Dellwood Avenue home in Riverside, Hannah stayed busy. Her children were everything to her. She sang to them, "My Yiddish Mama," and told Holocaust stories like other mothers read nursery rhymes. Her favorite movies? "Dr. Zhivago" and "Fiddler on the Roof."

Hannah and Helen have traveled to Israel and to the Scandinavian countries, and

Miriam said her mother's favorite pastime before becoming infirm was shopping at the mall.

"I think she has lived so long to tell her story," said Helen. Now she has glaucoma, diabetes and dementia but copes with her situation in her sweet, gentle manner. Her room at the River Garden Hebrew Home is decorated with beautiful crewel work that she did in past years.

Unfortunately, there are no photographs from their wedding on June 6, 1947 and certainly none from their childhoods in Poland. There are very few of her children. Channa Himmelfarb Gavronsky had no way of knowing that generations of Gavronskys would be dependent on her surviving the horrors of the Nazi camp. She and Ben are examples of the benefits of hard work and dedication to living the American Dream. They did not spend their lives in bitterness nor recrimination but focused on caring for their family and moving forward.

Ben Gavronsky passed on in 1972 but his legacy is the development of Wesconnett Furniture into Furniture Mart by his son, Michael, who passed away in 2003. Almost all of Ben's children and some of the grandchildren have worked in the store at one time or another and it continues to be run by his son Aaron, and Mike's widow, Chris Gavronsky Green, who said she is trying "to get the next generation to step up."

Ben and Hannah's daughter Miriam, married to Terry Alexander, is founder and owner of the Miriam's Jewelers in San Marco. Jake is a pharmacist and Helen, married to Powell Mock, is recently retired from Furniture Mart. "Mema," as Hannah is called by her grandchildren, is remembered by her grandson Joseph as always wanting to take care of everyone and cooking wonderful chicken soup with homemade potato dumplings.



Hannah Gavronsky with her son, Jake

After 70-plus years of appeals and denials by The Republic of Bavaria, which stated that the "plaintiff did not prove convincingly" that they were at the Work Detachment-Lodz, that they had no witnesses to their habitation, (even while stating that there almost no survivors from the ArbeitsKommando), Hannah Gavronsky, with assistance from Jewish friends and the intervention of lawyers in Israel, was finally issued reparations in 2017 for "deprivation of liberty and wearing the Jewish star."

Hannah's maiden name, Himmelfarb, translates as "color of heaven." At age 98, after all that she has survived, Hannah Himmelfarb Gavronsky gets closer to seeing the color of heaven each day and she will approach it with the same sense of serenity, sweet smile and gentle spirit that has carried her through more trials and tribulations than most people can ever imagine. She has told her story and the generations of her descendants will continue to tell it.

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## Bringing gravity to outer space

Lakewood student aims to dress astronauts with electromagnets

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

Although she is yet an underclassman at Bishop Kenny High School, Mary Alice Young is working on a scientific experiment that may end up being advantageous to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

In late May, the Lakewood resident traveled to Pittsburgh, Penn., where she displayed her science fair project, "Using a computer program to compensate for the force differentiation between two electromagnets simulating earth's gravity in space." Young was one of 1,800 young scientists and engineers invited to attend ISEF, the world's largest international pre-college science competition.

Young's project, which illustrated the use of electromagnetism to simulate gravity, was the third in a series of science fair projects the rising junior has designed over the past three years dealing with electromagnetism. She intends to continue her study over the next two years, capping her high school science fair experience in her senior year with the construction of a special spacesuit, which she will sew herself and adorn with electromagnets. The suit is an idea she hopes astronauts can use to help them retain muscle and skeletal strength while spending extended periods in outer space.

"When astronauts go into space, they experience muscle and skeletal atrophy," she explained, adding she has discussed the matter at length with Richard Linnehan, a NASA astronaut, during a phone interview. "He told me he was on a shuttle flight for just over two weeks and lost 13 pounds due to muscle and skeletal degeneration when he was in space," she said. "If we want to go farther and stay in space longer, there has to be a way for astronauts to experience gravity."

Through her last three science fair projects, Young has learned how to build electromagnets from scratch using copper wire spooled around an iron core, and designed a small electromagnetic force-meter positioning apparatus to simulate the gravitational pull experienced on earth. Eventually she hopes by attaching electromagnets to a spacesuit and building an electromagnetic corridor, she can provide a way for future astronauts living on space stations or traveling on spaceships to walk or exercise in earth-like gravitational conditions.

"On earth, even when we sleep, we experience gravity. But astronauts don't experience gravity in the same way. Gravity is not always acting on them and the only form of exercise they get is during a few hours a day when they do resistance exercises," Young explained. "If they were wearing my suit, they could just experience gravity. The spaceship could have a room with a floor and they could walk around like they do here on earth. My idea won't work on the organs inside of them, but it would help with muscle and skeletal atrophy."

Young has applied for a patent on her idea of an electromagnetic spacesuit and corridor. She needs to raise \$3,000 by March 2019 or her idea will go into the public domain and anyone with \$3,000 can buy the patent, said Michael Young, her father.

"I have a patent pending for the suit I want to create for astronauts to wear in space with electromagnets within it and an electromagnetic corridor for them to walk through," Young said, noting she has done copious amounts of research and has not seen anything online or in scientific journals that indicates someone else has come up with the same idea.

Although her project did not win any laurels this year at ISEF, her cutting-edge concept has achieved recognition during last three years, both locally and state-wide.

This year, Young placed first at the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEFRSEF) and second at the State Science and Engineering Fair, where she was selected to represent Florida at ISEF, a rare privilege for a high schooler who is not an upperclassman. After judging her project at NEFRSEF, Greg Sauve, president of the Northeast Florida Astronomical Society, extended her a personal invitation to join the society. She presented her project before its members March 2, 2018, she said.

Last year, as a freshman at Bishop Kenny, her project, "Using electromagnetic interactions to simulate gravity," also placed first at NEFRSEF and second at state.

While she was a student at San Jose Catholic School, her eighth-grade project, "Using ferrous material and electromagnetic interactions to simulate the effects of earth's gravity," placed first among science projects during competitions at the school, NEFRSEF, and at the state fair, where she also won the Best-in-Fair Award.

Next year, as a junior, she plans to build a "spider robot" with electromagnets attached and have it walk across an electromagnetic corridor.

Senior year she will finish her research by constructing a rendering of the spacesuit.



Mary Alice Young stands with her award-winning science fair project and a pennant she received at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Penn. Bordering the pennant are pins she exchanged with International Science Fair participants from other countries.

"It may not be an actual human-size suit, but one of smaller scale," she said. "I don't have the resources right now to make electromagnets that large."

Young became interested in science at age 3 when her parents read aloud "The Book of Everything" to her at bedtime. By age 4, she had memorized the Periodic Table of Elements, according to Pamela Young, her mother.

But it was from watching an episode of Star Trek that she became interested in creating an electromagnetic space suit. "I've always been a big fan of sci-fi," she said, noting she began researching electromagnetism in earnest at 13, during the summer between her seventh- and eighth-grade year. "I was watching Star Trek, and they (one of the characters) said, 'Oh no!

The electromagnetic plating is down!' That made me wonder if I could use electromagnetism to simulate gravity. Ever since I was little I have wanted to be an astronaut, but now that has changed. Now I want to be a base (aerospace) engineer."

It is Young's ambition to study astrophysics and aeronautical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At Bishop Kenny she holds a 4.3 grade point average and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She is a pitcher for Bishop Kenny's junior varsity softball team and runs varsity cross country and track. She is also a member of many clubs, including the Joe Berg Society, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Athletes for Christ, Science Club, and serves as co-captain of the Crusader's junior varsity Brain Brawl team.

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# Miramar teens raise money to kick Batten disease

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Even before his death from Batten disease in April 2014, Jake Medley's sisters, Caroline and Anna, raised money to make sure their once feisty little brother would not be forgotten and the disease from which he died would be better understood.

Organized with help of their parents, Dean and Jennifer Medley, and a committee of friends, the sisters' latest fundraising effort – Kick Batten for Jake 2018 – a kickball tournament held at the Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church baseball fields May 26, raised more than \$5,500 for the Batten Disease Support and Research Association (BDSRA) based in Columbus, Ohio. This was the third consecutive year the Medleys have organized the kickball tournament, collectively raising approximately \$11,000 over three years for Batten disease research.

"The 'Kick Batten for Jake' tournament is a great way to keep Jake's memory alive, participating in an activity that he would have loved," said Jennifer Medley. "Jake was never developmentally capable of playing organized sports like kickball, but he had a passion for balls of any kind and loved to kick a soccer ball into a goal, shoot a basketball into his toddler-sized hoop, or hit a plastic tee with his bat. He adored his two older sisters and loved watching their soccer games. Though his speech was limited, one word he

would say over and over was 'ball!' It was amazing to see all the people whose lives Jake touched come out and support the event."

Technically known as Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis, Batten disease is incurable, extremely rare, and has 14 variants. Jake had the classic late infantile type known as CLN2 disease, said Jennifer, adding there are approximately 400 children in the United States living with CLN2 and 1,500 worldwide. At the time of his passing, Jake was the only child in Jacksonville suffering from Batten disease.

Jennifer said her family feels it is important to give back to BDSRA. "The people of BDSRA were a huge support to us throughout our journey of caring for a terminally-ill child with such a rare disease," she said.

Eight years ago, to bring awareness to their brother's affliction, Caroline, Anna and their cousin, Henry Jacqmein, hosted a series of lemonade stands in front of their Miramar home after school to raise money for Batten disease research. With a framed photo of their brother on the table alongside some brochures, the first day they earned \$19, but they kept at it, and over the next four years they raised a total of \$3,500, Jennifer said.

"The idea of doing a kickball tournament came from my daughter, Caroline, and her friend, Nancy Hudmon, when they were in the 10th grade. Caroline and her sister, Anna, who was in eighth grade at the time, had been holding lemonade stands for years to raise money for Batten disease. They felt they had



Caroline Medley's kickball team consisted of (back): Josh Brown, Reid Grubba, Luke Morgan and Topher McChesney; (front): Dajhia Preston, Nia Phelps, Mackenzie Kincade, Caroline Medley, Caitlyn Claverie and Clara Trednick.

outgrown this type of fundraiser, so the kickball tournament replaced the lemonade stands."

Assisting the Medley family in organizing the kickball tournament this year were Lisa Weber, Marti McKee, Paige Dilts, Molly Rhoden, Angela Atkins, Erika Tucker, Paige Prince-Holmes, and Bethany Coleman, said Jennifer.

Approximately 105 children, teens and adults, at least half from San Marco, competed in the tournament, with nearly 40 spectators cheering in the stands, said Jennifer. "We had a raffle and silent auction in which those who were not playing were able to participate," she said.

Fundraising for Batten disease research is meaningful to the sisters because they continue to cherish their little brother in their hearts. "It's important because even though Jake has passed, his legacy still carries on, and our hope is that other kids like him won't have to go through the same thing he went through," said Anna, a junior at Paxon High School.

Caroline, who will attend the University of Florida this fall, agreed. "It's important to continue raising money for Batten disease because the disease is so rare, and the BDSRA needs funds to research for a cure," she said.



## Students showcase their educational growth

Noor-Myriam Abi-Khalil was one of many students at San Jose Episcopal Day School who participated in San Jose Shines, an event that showcases students' reflections on what they have learned that school year, how they have grown and their major accomplishments. Each portfolio complements the story the students share of their evolving problem-solving skills and creativity, and demonstrates students' passion for life-long learning.

## Bishop Kenny valedictorian receives science and technology scholarship

Eliana Namen, a San Jose area resident, was named valedictorian of the 66th graduating class of Bishop Kenny High School and was the recipient of the John J. Will Memorial Science & Technology Scholarship.

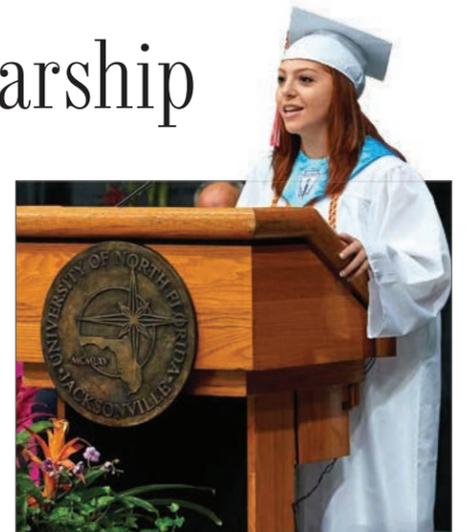
Namen, who earned a 4.52 grade point average over four years, achieved Honor Roll every quarter, took 10 Advanced Placement courses, and was named an AP Scholar in 2017 as a result of scores earned on her AP Exams.

The \$3,000 scholarship, named in memory of John J. Will, is presented annually to a graduating female who plans to pursue a degree in a STEM field of study: Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math. Will, an engineer, encouraged his daughters to pursue the study of math and science even at a time when it was uncommon for young women to enter

these fields of study. After applying to and being accepted by Florida State University, the University of Florida, Wake Forest University, and Emory University, Namen will major in biology at Emory University.

A member of the National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society, Namen was the recipient of the St. Michaels Book Award, and the Perry Initiative Award for young women preparing for careers in science. She participated on the soccer and track teams, and was a member of the Anchor Club, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Medical Club, and the Spanish Club, where she served as president.

Namen is an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and a lector at her parish, San Jose Catholic Church. She earned 1,080 hours of community service during her high school years, involved with the



Eliana Namen, Valedictorian of Bishop Kenny High School's Class of 2018

Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program and the Saint Francis Soup Kitchen, where she prepares meals and packages groceries weekly for the underserved in the community. She has also served as a soccer coach for special needs children.



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# Landon faculty, staff battle for best 'lip sync' title



The auditorium at Julia Landon College Preparatory School was packed to the rafters with students in Grades 6-8 waiting for the Lip Sync Battle to begin.



Julia Landon College Preparatory School faculty Dan Geary (guitar), Kristopher Beckstrom (vocals), Daniel Loughran (drums) and Stephen Nye (keyboards) kick off the Lip Sync Battle June 1.

Julia Landon College Preparatory School's principal, Timothy Feagins, loves a challenge.

For the second year in a row, Feagins offered a fun reward to students who met a fundraising goal for the second phase of the San Marco middle school's Learning Commons renovations.



Principal Timothy Feagins with the Lip Sync Battle trophy, awarded by the audience applause-o-meter for his lip sync rendition of the Michael Jackson song "Billie Jean."

In February 2017, the Friends of Landon launched the Phase I fundraiser with a \$12,000 goal to fund media-sharing tables, so groups of students could work on digital products together.

JLCP students and parents gave \$14,484. In honor of his challenge to the students, Feagins spent all lunch periods on March 14, 2017 (Pi Day) taped to the cafeteria wall and a few students were selected to throw pies at him.

This year, the Friends of Landon fundraiser for Phase II kicked off on March 5 when Feagins challenged the students to raise \$15,000, offering to put on a faculty lip sync battle if the students raised the goal amount. Friends of Landon volunteers collected cash and checks in the morning carpool line and accepted donations online at [www.friendsoflandon.org](http://www.friendsoflandon.org). Students brought in change during the lunch period to help

their classes win "Clash of Coins," a grade level competition.

After a week of donations and two donor challenges, Friends of Landon announced the students had met the \$15,000 goal, which will purchase new seating for the Learning Commons and allow for more collaborative learning opportunities. Friends of Landon will also offer grants to teachers to help fund classroom supplies that aren't provided in the Duval County Public School budget.

Making good on his promise, Feagins and nine other faculty and staff rocked the walls of the Landon auditorium the last day of school, June 1, in the JLCP/FOL Lip Sync Battle. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students clapped their votes, earning Feagins first place and a standing ovation for his performance of Michael Jackson's song, "Billie Jean."

## Bishop Kenny basketball recognized for good sportsmanship

The Southern Association of Basketball Officials (SABO) bestowed its coveted 2017-2018 J.C. Green Sportsmanship Award to the Bishop Kenny basketball program during a special presentation in late April.

Receiving the award were the school's Head Basketball Coach Charlesea Clark and Head Boys' Basketball Coach Jerry Buckley. The award is presented to the school that best exemplifies the true meaning of sportsmanship towards its fellow student athletes, coaches, and officials.

"This type of award is every bit as important as a trophy won in competition," said Bishop Kenny Athletic Director Mark Thorson. "I am honored that our students and coaches have been recognized in this way."



Bishop Kenny Head Girls' Basketball Coach Charlesea Clark, Check Probes of the Southern Association of Basketball Officials (SABO), and Bishop Kenny Head Boys' Basketball Coach Jerry Buckley

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# HAE student gains national recognition in PTA Reflections contest

Grabbing one of the top prizes in her division in the 2018 National PTA Reflections Competition was “within reach” for 9-year-old Ava MacDowell of San Marco.

MacDowell’s photo, “Dream Big by Reaching High in the Sky,” earned the rising fourth-grader at Hendricks Avenue Elementary Awards of Excellence in both the PTA’s Duval County and State of Florida competitions, and a merit award nationally in the intermediate division, where she placed among the top five Award of Merit winners.

With the national recognition came an invitation to attend the 2018 National PTA Celebration in New Orleans June 23. MacDowell’s photo also will be showcased along with others national winners at the United States Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

She also attended a reception for the Duval County winners April 13 at Atlantic Coast High School. In May, MacDowell



Hendricks Avenue Elementary Principal Mindy McClendon with Reflections award winners Sophia Michelle MacDowell and her sister, Ava MacDowell



Ava MacDowell, a rising fourth grader at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, placed among the top 10 in the national PTA Reflections contest with this photo of her two sisters, Leanna and Sophia, reaching for balloons in Memorial Park in Riverside.

traveled to Orlando to be recognized at a special reception for winners in the Florida PTA Reflections state competition.

Seeking to describe the theme “Within Reach,” MacDowell used a Canon EOS camera to take a photo of her two sisters, Leanna and Sophia, stretching to grasp a cluster of pink balloons during an outing at Riverside’s Memorial Park. “Everyone should reach for their dreams and try to

accomplish them,” she said. “I feel honored and grateful that I could be in the Reflections contest doing something I love.”

MacDowell was not the only member of her family recognized in the PTA Reflections contest. Her sister, Sophia, who is also a student at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, won an Award of Excellence in music composition among Duval County students in the primary division.



Theo Kelly

## Cancer patient siblings get own support group

Recognizing that childhood cancer affects the whole family, the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation recently took a step toward ensuring that siblings going through the experience are provided with peer support and education.

The foundation launched the new sibling support program, Just Among You Siblings (J.A.Y.S. Team), June 7 at TIAA Bank Field with the help of the Jacksonville Jaguars, who gave behind-the-scenes tours to more than 150 childhood cancer families.

“The goal of the Jay Fund is to be there for the whole family,” said Keli Coughlin, executive director, who introduced Kimberly Todd, sibling support program specialist.

“The goal of the program is to hold quarterly events for siblings age 6-18 to meet in a relaxed, recreational setting, share common struggles and feelings, an opportunity to learn more about their sibling’s diagnosis and treatments,” said Todd, who previously worked as a child life specialist at the Proton Therapy Institute. “J.A.Y.S. Team will provide siblings with opportunities to express their thoughts, fears, and feelings openly and to promote positive coping.”

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## Boston author visits school to see her work in action

The fifth annual Lemonade Wars kicked off at Hendricks Avenue Elementary on May 21 with a twist – and it wasn't lemon. Author Jaqueline Davies, who wrote the book "Lemonade Wars," was onsite to meet students and experience the San Marco-based school's interpretation of the popular story.

Third-grade teacher Tracy Langley brought "Lemonade Wars" to life for her students five years ago. After reading the novel, the students formed teams, developed marketing strategies, tested products and picked a charity. They set up stands and competed for customers following the grade-level awards ceremonies in late May.

Davies heard about the Hendricks project and contacted Langley to learn more. The author traveled from the Boston area to see the project and to meet with the teams. She also interviewed some Lemonade War "veterans" (aka fourth-grade students) to learn how reading the book and selling lemonade in third grade has inspired them to perform other acts of community service.

"Lemonade Wars provides a perfect opportunity for students to learn about economics in a fun and memorable way. It has become a highlight of the year for all of our students. The kids are so excited to be able to help their chosen charity. It is a sweet, but sticky, way to take learning up to the final days of the school year," said Langley.

This year's Lemonade Wars raised \$2,525.86. Students presented a check to the Jacksonville Humane Society at a flag



Sam Fluharty and Kyler Brainard



Hendricks Avenue Elementary third-grade students with a lemonade stand.



Author Jaqueline Davies interviews fourth-graders Sarah Maloney, Piper Halil, Lyla Poole and Lucy Pearson about their Lemonade Wars experience last year.

raising ceremony on June 1, the last day of school. In all, Hendricks students have raised approximately \$9,000 for charities such as Jacksonville Humane Society and clean water for villages in Guatemala.

## Neighborhood students receive recognition in state, national PTA Reflections competition

Eleven students from schools in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods received state and national recognition in the 2018 PTA Reflections Competition.

PTA Reflections is a nationwide arts appreciation and recognition program for students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. In the competition, all the students were asked to express themselves on a common theme, "Within Reach," and could submit entries in one or more of six categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and the visual arts.

Benjamin Peralta of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts won a national Award of Excellence, the highest award given by the PTA, for his work in dance choreography. To advance to the national competition, Peralta also won Awards of Excellence in the state and Duval County PTA Reflections competitions.

Ava MacDowell, a student at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, received national recognition with an Award of Merit in photography. She received Awards of Excellence both in the state and county competitions.

Receiving Awards of Excellence in the Florida PTA State Competition in their divisions were Nicolle Alexandra Bahamon of Julia Landon Middle School (literature); and Elsa Kang (photography) and Corey Kreisel (visual Arts) of Douglas Anderson.

Students from Douglas Anderson who won Awards of Merit in the State competition included Mathew Sommers (dance choreography); Sydney Connor (dance choreography); Ashley Kramer (film production); Hannah Overfield (literature); Darvin Nelson (photography).

Two students from Hendricks Avenue Elementary took home Awards of Merit from Hendricks Avenue Elementary. In the intermediate division was Emma Lee in literature and Kelsie Kiernan in visual arts.

### Duval County Competition

In the Duval County Competition, students from Douglas Anderson, Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Julia Landon Middle School, and Stanton College Preparatory School also performed well.

Eleven DA students received Awards of Excellence including Benjamin Peralta (dance choreography), Mathew Sommers (dance choreography), Sydney Connor (dance choreography), Ashley Kramer (film production), Travis Davis (film production), Hannah Overfield (literature), Darvin Nelson (photography), Elsa Kang (photography), Haley Andrews (photography), Antonio Colon (visual arts), and Corey Keisel (visual arts). Receiving Awards of Merit were Haley Pafford (dance choreography), Jordan Warner (photography), Kyiara Brown (photography), Brianna Eisman (photography), Jessica Oleynik (visual arts) and Kaylin Hillman (visual arts).

Six students from Hendricks Avenue Elementary received Awards of Excellence in the Duval County competition: Emma Lee (literature), Magnolia Betancourt (literature), Sophia MacDowell (music composition), Ava MacDowell (photography), Bella Bond (photography), Kelsie Kiernan (visual arts). Being recognized with Awards of Merit from HAE were Catherine Shore (photography) and Burke Scharer (visual arts).

At Julia Landon College Preparatory School, two students, Nicolle Alexandra Bahamon (literature) and Charlotte Caccam (music composition) received Awards of Excellence. Five students received Awards of Merit: Bonny Bruzos (literature), Campbell Scharer (photography), Michael Weidle (photography), Samira Isack (photography) and Richard Matthew Chavez (visual arts).

At Stanton College Preparatory School, Alexandru Bordanca of Ortega and Gannon Nolan of Avondale received Awards of Merit in literature.



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## Second-graders share lessons about influential people

San Jose Episcopal Day School second-grade students created an Influential People Museum where they taught fellow students and family members about historical figures who've made a difference. Students wrote essays, dressed in character, and created visual displays for the May 4 event. San Jose resident Chloe Lamm dressed up as American aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart.



Chloe Lamm as Amelia Earhart

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## San Marco fencer places second in SIFA tourney



Regan Foote, Itzel Guzman and Emily Casper

For the second year in a row, the University of Florida Senior Women's Foil Team, which includes Regan Foote of San Marco, placed second in the Southern Intercollegiate Fencing Association tournament (SIFA). The tournament was held March 24 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Eight colleges competed in the senior women's foil division with the University of Virginia winning the tournament.

Competing alongside Foote were her teammates, Emily Casper and Itzel Guzman. Foote has been selected to be Women's Foil Team Captain for the 2018-2019 season.

# Magnolia Ball kicks off debutante season

The 2018 Jacksonville Debutante Coterie was presented June 15 during the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club. The coterie will make its final, formal bow on Saturday, Dec. 22 during the annual Christmas Ball at the Florida Yacht Club.

The 16 young women are Christina Michael Alexander, a student at Valdosta State University; Claudette Priestman Bryan, a student at the University of Florida; Elizabeth Farley Callaghan, a student at Florida Gulf Coast University; Phoebe McDonald Clements, a student at Vanderbilt University; Sarah Patricia Duggan, a student at the University of Florida; Virginia-Anne Knight Feeley, a student at Texas Christian University; Ashton Kay Hanigan, a student at Virginia Tech; Chase Pierpont Nicholson, a student at Southern Methodist University; Anne Elizabeth Pentaleri, a student at the United States Naval Academy; Anne Bayley Shoemaker, a student at Tulane University; Dawson Elizabeth Simpson, a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Charlotte Isabella Steilberg, a student at the University of Georgia; Caroline



Front: Chase Pierpont Nicholson, Phoebe McDonald Clements, Ashton Kay Hanigan, Caroline Jordan Still, Emma Reade Whitner, Christina Michael Alexander, Sarah Patricia Duggan; back: Claudette Priestman Bryan, Anne Elizabeth Pentaleri, Anne Bayley Shoemaker, Charlotte Isabella Steilberg, Dawson Elizabeth Simpson, Francesca Schofield Walton, and Virginia-Anne Knight Feeley. Not pictured: Elizabeth Farley Callaghan and Kathryn Compton Williams. (Photo courtesy Janet Masterson Photography)

Jordan Still, a student at the University of Virginia; Francesca Schofield Walton, a student at Princeton University; Emma

Reade Whitner, a student at the University of Florida, and Kathryn Compton Williams, a student at Washington and Lee University.



Front: Rachel Johns, Serena Scalcione, Marlo Morales, Lanie Kirchhoff; back: Chance Thomson, Tyler Wang, Jake Goldman, Spenser Smith, River Reynolds, Marla Saikali, Madison Clubb, Olivia Harris, Lily Guo and Honorary Faculty inductee Daphne Vagenas; not pictured: Alexis Andrews, Brooke Bowmaster, Brooke Kent, Gabriela Landolfo, Allyssa McAdoo, Pam Sun, Angela Sun

## Phoenix Society inducts 20 young men, women

Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Director Laura Rippel, and Kelly Cullen, sponsor of the Phoenix Society, led the induction of 20 new student members to the Phoenix Society May 10 in Lynch Theater on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus. Many friends, family, faculty and society members were present.

New members include Alexis Andrews, Brooke Bowmaster, Madison Clubb, Jake Goldman, Lily Guo, Olivia Harris, Rachel Johns, Brooke Kent, Lanie Kirchhoff, Gabriela Landolfo, Allyssa McAdoo, Marlo Morales, River Reynolds,

Marla Saikali, Serena Scalcione, Spenser Smith, Pam Sun, Angela Sun, Chance Thomson and Tyler Wang.

Founded in 1967 by noted Bolles arts educator Arthur Carnes, the Phoenix Society is an honor society within the Bolles fine and performing arts department that recognizes juniors and seniors who excel in two or more areas of the arts. Phoenix Society candidates demonstrate a commitment to the demands of artistic vision, delight in the process of creative discovery and show gratefulness and humility in the face of achievement.

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# Wolfson Class of 2022 select electives

The Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies hosted a freshman elective selection night May 24. The rising freshman class has filled 245 out of 250 spots in the third year of the transition from neighborhood to IB/AP magnet school. The Class of 2019 is the last class to include neighborhood students, having been given the option to stay or transfer to another school when the transition began to be implemented in 2016.

Of the 250 spots available in the freshman class next fall, 100 are allocated for the International Baccalaureate program and 150 are allocated for the AP program.

“Wolfson is a new program compared to the more established IB/AP magnet programs at Stanton [College Preparatory School] and Paxon [School for Advanced Studies],” said Cindy Pearson, a member of the Friends of Wolfson. “The fact that Wolfson, in its third year, has almost filled the freshman class is pretty exciting. Of this freshman class, 59 students are coming from Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Develop School in San Marco (also a magnet school). The rest are

coming from public, private and charter middle schools all over Jacksonville.”

For Elective Selection Night, Friends of Wolfson put together a program for the parents and a “Then and Now” icebreaker for the students. Teams of students recreated iconic photos from past Wolfson yearbooks, demonstrating to the incoming freshmen they are part of something new (Wolfson SAS) but also joining the Wolfpack family that dates back to 1965, Pearson said.

“Elective Selection Night for ninth-graders is becoming an annual event that is very popular. On this night students not only get to select their electives but they get to do social activities with other students for the first time,” said Christopher Begley, principal.

“The event is more about finding new friends and having fun than anything else. Parents and students alike enjoy the night together. This year the ninth-grade class at Wolfson is going to be amazing,” he said. “They are very diverse and interested in a variety of clubs, sports and activities. 2018-19 is going to be a great year to be in the Wolfpack.”



More than three decades later, Wolfson freshman emulate a 1984 yearbook photo.



Students surge out of school in 1984, perhaps ready to begin spring break fun.



Rising freshman re-create a pose from a 1976 cheerleading photo.



Wolfson High School cheerleading squad in 1976

# Passing the torch to new upperclassmen

Sixth-grader Maddie Young “passes the torch” to fifth-grader Barron Pettway May 16 at San Jose Episcopal Day School. During the ceremony, sixth-graders welcome the fifth-grade class to the Senior Preparation Year by passing down the red tie, which symbolizes the leadership that comes with being the oldest students on campus. The



Senior Prep Year helps sixth-graders prepare for middle school by fostering growth in knowledge, leadership, character and service.

# DAR presents citizenship medal to San Marco fifth-grader



Molly Knight presented Hendricks Avenue Elementary School fifth-grade student Gabby Shoraka (left) with a Youth Citizenship Medal at an awards ceremony held at Southside United Methodist Church in May. The Fort San Nicholas Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution presents the medal annually to a student who exemplifies the qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism.



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# Bishop Kenny students bring home science awards

Seven of nine Bishop Kenny students received special recognition for their science projects during the 63rd Annual State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida in Lakeland, March 23-29.

Mary Alice Young of Lakewood placed second in the Physics and Astronomy category with her project, "Using a computer program to compensate for the force differentiation between two electromagnets simulating Earth's gravity in space." She received a certificate and two passes to NASA's Visitor's Center and was also selected to attend the International Science Fair in Pittsburgh, Penn., in May.

Kathleen McClellan placed second in the Microbiology category and won nominations for \$20,000 in college scholarships, including a \$2,500 one-year scholarship from Florida Gulf Coast University, the Pegasus Gold Scholarship - \$14,000 over eight semesters - from the University of Central Florida, and the Wilkes Honors College Science Merit Scholarship, a renewable \$3,500 stipend per year from Florida Atlantic University.



John Sellock, Syrus Bakkar, Matthew Blaquiere, Kathleen McClellan, Mary Alice Young, Nicolina Graves, Gabriella Irizarry, Hannah Miller and Laina Parry

Laina Parry and Hannah Miller received an honorable mention for their project in the Biomedical and Health Science division.

In the Engineering Division, Matthew Blaquiere and Syrus Bakkar won the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Innovation Award, a \$500 cash award.

In the Physics and Astronomy category, John Sellock took home an Office of Naval Research medallion, a certificate, and a \$75 award from the United State's Navy's Office of Naval Research.

Also attending the fair from Bishop Kenny were Nicolina Graves and Gabriella Irizarry.

## Goats, gastronomy, and good times at school farmers market



Tommy Murphy, Carson Sacco, Nathan Skinner

The 11th Annual Farmers Market for the Bolles Upper School, held March 15, provided a perfect day of shopping and relaxation under the San Jose Campus oaks. Students visited a variety of vendors offering unique wares and fabulous fare including fresh flowers, toffee, crepes, wildflower honey, ice pops, smoothies, jewelry, and much more.

It was a treat to shop with local nonprofit organizations representing the McKenzie Club, the North Florida School of Special Education's Berry Good Farm's Barkin' Biscuits, Angels for Allison, and Rethreaded. The petting zoo was aflutter with activity as students bonded with baby goats, guinea pigs, bunnies, ponies, pigs, ducklings, and sheep.



## Duval County students compete in international fair

Five students from Duval County competed in the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Penn., in May. Standing outside the exhibit hall in Pittsburgh are Devanik Biswas of Stanton College Preparatory School; Katelyn Nicholson, The Episcopal School of Jacksonville; Mary Alice Young, Bishop Kenny High School; Julia Downes and Isaac Zhang, both of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

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# Flashbacks



In the early 20th century, Jacksonville residents often picnicked among the tabby ruins on Fort George Island. The ruins are from an unfinished house built for Charles Thomson, owner of Fort George Island in the mid-1850s. Tabby is a concrete-like substance made from sand, oyster shells and lime and was used for building in the 1700s/early 1800s in Florida. (From the Leah Mary Cox photo collection)



Two women wearing bathing costumes on the beach in the early 1900s hold a parasol to keep the sun off their faces.



Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, Florida's 19th governor 1905-1909, and his brother, Montcalm Broward (far left), with enormous jewfish, circa 1910. Gov. Broward (right, wearing white shirt and suspenders) died at age 53 prior to gallstone surgery on Oct. 1, 1910. He and his wife, Annie, had eight daughters and one son.



The Springfield Park swimming pool was a popular place during the heat of summer in Jacksonville. The city's first municipal pool opened in 1922, then a new one was built in 1939. A polio scare in the 1950s temporarily closed the pool, which eventually closed for good in 1961 following a racial integration effort, and demolished in 1970.

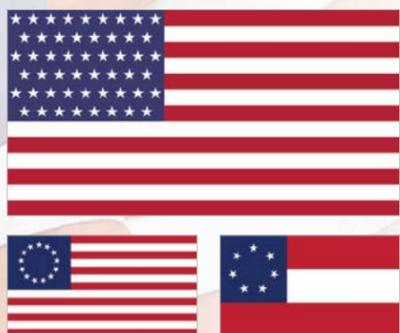
Courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society Archives. To see more of the amazing historical photos from the Jacksonville Historical Archives, visit [www.jaxhistory.org/research/](http://www.jaxhistory.org/research/)

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