



**Run for the Roses**  
Paul and Catherine Schaefer enjoy Derby Day in Avondale with Ye Mystic Revellers  
**READ MORE, PAGE 22**

# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

**Happy Father's Day!**

Readers share life lessons, traditions from 'dear old Dad.'

**READ MORE, PAGE 6**

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## GALA RECALLS GLORY DAYS OF SEVENTIES DISCO FEVER

Seen at Jacksonville's own Studio 54 at the Florida Theatre benefit were Cory and Catherine Baum and Downtown Vision Inc. Executive Director Jake Gordon and his wife, Dana.

**READ MORE, PAGE 24**



### Tacos and tack combine for best-ever Cinco de Derby

Competing in the "Best Sombrero" contest at a Cinco de Derby fundraiser for the Ellen Newton Memorial Scholarship were Ethel Lee, Larry Newton and Debbie Keller.

**READ MORE, PAGE 44**



### River breezes add to island ambience at annual Finfest

Sporting purple leis, Immediate Past Board President Amy Ruth with Harry Koslowski, Nancy Ruth Barber and Michele Sahdala came out to support Jacksonville Speech and Hearing at its annual fundraiser, Finfest.

**READ MORE, PAGE 24**



### STUDENTS 'INVADE' COMMUNITY WITH GOOD DEEDS, KIND WORDS

Episcopal School of Jacksonville middle school students Lucy Williams, Anne Case, Mackenzie Glenn, Jane Gray Hager and Leila Warner put meals together for Hunger Fight during a community day of service April 19.

**READ MORE, PAGE 40**

## Residents offended by compensation offered by developer for damages

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

As far as Lynne Robison and her Madrid Avenue neighbors were concerned, the offer was "outrageous" and "insulting."

After suffering soggy grass and standing water in their backyards for more than a year, Robison and her neighbors received an email May 7, offering \$250 cash as part of a \$1,500 "Neighborhood Fund" for each "to use to fill and sod a portion of each backyard" as compensation for damage done to their property due to the development of San Jose Estates.

The email was sent by Jim Onan, "coordinator of the entitlements of the project," and signed by San Jose Estates Owner/Developer Feras Mouded. The offer was sent to the homeowners as a form of restitution for property damage incurred when San Jose Estates LLC, filled in the wetlands adjacent to their properties so that it can build a small subdivision, comprised of six parcels, bordering San Jose Boulevard.

To receive the money, all six homeowners would need to sign a receipt stating: "The undersigned homeowner, in the consideration of the sum of \$250 in hand this date, hereby waives and releases any and all current issues regarding the San

Jose Estates development, as well as any future issues of the same. The undersigned homeowner also agrees to cease and desist all future communication and objections regarding the San Jose Estates development from this date forward."

"The offer was insulting and outrageous. It makes me really angry," said Robison, noting she and her neighbors have cattails growing in their backyards because the ground is so wet.

*"They are offering only 1 percent of what it will cost to fix our property."*

— Lynne Robison

Robison's neighbor, James Black, agreed. "As far as the \$250 goes, I'm not going to accept it. I'm not going to give up my rights to go against anybody for \$250," he said. "If this was a goodwill gesture it certainly failed because nobody is going to do it. They would have been better off not offering anything at all."

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

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# Letter TO THE Editor

## RIVERKEEPER shares concerns about harbor dredging project

For over a century, Jacksonville has been continuously deepening and reshaping the St. Johns River to allow ships to better access our port. However, decades of dredging have significantly affected the health and hydrology of our river, while resulting in irreversible consequences for our community. A deeper and more efficient channel, along with an increasing rate of sea-level rise, has allowed saltwater to move farther up the St. Johns, bringing the ocean to our doorstep. This has resulted in higher water levels and storm surge in our river and greater risk from flooding to our homes, businesses, and public infrastructure.

The current plan to dredge the St. Johns an additional 7 feet deeper will only make this problem worse.

Hurricane Irma revealed how vulnerable we now are to major storms, especially the neighborhoods of Riverside, Avondale, San Marco and Ortega. But, it is not just those rare weather events in the future that should have us worried. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, even smaller, "high frequency" storms could increase

storm surge and the maximum water levels in the St. Johns River by an additional 12 percent due to the current dredging project.

As we pointed out to the Army Corps in 2013, "even slight increases in storm water elevation beyond ambient conditions will increase flooding and damage along the low elevation lands that bound much of the river and its tributaries."

Unfortunately, too many elected officials, JaxPort authorities, and the Army Corps of Engineers continue to downplay the elevated risk and impact from increased salinity, water levels and storm surge that will result from the Deep Dredge. Consequently, the Army Corps has dismissed the need for a flood analysis and the dredging continues to move forward with virtually no mitigation plan to offset the impacts, minimize risk, and protect our river and our neighborhoods from harm. To make matters worse, very little is being done by City leaders to prepare and fortify our community for a future of rising seas – a reality that we must face, with or without dredging.

As a result, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER is launching a series of community town hall meetings to raise awareness about the impacts of dredging and rising waters, provide a platform for citizens to share their concerns, and to discuss the steps that are necessary to create a more resilient community. The first will be held June 21, 6:30 p.m. at Sun-Ray Cinema, 1028 Park St.

We must call on our City leaders to protect the St. Johns River, our homes and businesses, and our health. If we don't take action now, our community will only become more vulnerable as waters rise, flooding becomes more frequent and widespread, public infrastructure fails, and our river is further degraded by more sewage spills and pollution.

We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to what history has taught us and to the damage that will likely occur. There is no time to waste. For more information about this critical issue and upcoming town hall meetings, visit [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org).

**Jimmy Orth**

Executive Director, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER

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





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# Kompan playground equipment coming to Landon Park this summer

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

One of San Marco's favorite places to play is getting a facelift.

To become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Jacksonville plans to refurbish Landon Park this summer. Included in the plans are new state-of-the-art playground equipment, said LeAnna Cumber, former president of the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS).

With the help of the San Marco Garden Circle and the City Parks and Recreation Department, the neighborhood park will sport a refreshed formal rose garden, picnic tables, and new Kompan play equipment, resembling what is found in Boone Park in Avondale, Cumber said.

The playground equipment will be installed by the fall of 2018, said Tia Ford, a City spokesperson. The rose garden will be replanted in its entirety when it is cooler in the fall, once the City has installed the new



The old steel slide will disappear once Landon Park is refurbished.

equipment, said San Marco Garden Circle President Lynda Erwin.

The cost of the playground upgrade is \$85,000, and will be fully funded by the City, said Ford. Included in the new playground design will be two ADA-compliant paths, a picnic area, new swings, and new Kompan play equipment – a cube, “spinner bowls” and a “super nova” – as well as a refurbished drinking fountain. Some of the existing playground equipment will remain, but the tall, steel slide and old swing set, which have graced the playground for many years, will be replaced, Cumber said.

The new equipment was selected to serve various age levels and abilities, said District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, noting that SMPS reviewed the selections to make sure the new equipment would be visually appropriate with San Marco's landscape.

“Some of us will be sad to see some of the old historic pieces go,” Boyer said. “But on the other hand, there's a need to be compliant with today's standards. The goal is to have something community children enjoy. This area was designed to be a neighborhood park that residents could walk to from various parts of the community. We want to have a variety of things that appeal to different ages.”

The Kompan playground equipment is “carefully designed to stimulate both certain types of physical play, social interaction, and learning capabilities,” Boyer continued. “As the children figure things out, they can come back multiple times and do different things. It's very intentional how the structures are designed,” she said.

*“Landon Park is a very important part of the neighborhood, and we have wanted to add something special to help beautify the area.”*

— **Lynda Erwin,**  
San Marco Garden  
Circle President



Rendering of Landon Park's refurbishment, which is expected to be completed by fall 2018.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 5**



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The existing swings are some of the playground equipment that will be replaced when Landon Park in San Marco is refurbished this summer.



The San Marco Garden Circle plans to spruce up the plantings in Landon Park during its refurbishment.

The Parks Department was sparked into action when the Garden Circle approached it with the idea of installing a new picnic table near its formal rose garden in honor of its 85th anniversary last year, said Erwin.

Because new equipment was being added to the park, the City was required by federal law to refurbish greenspace and bring everything up to ADA codes, said Boyer. Prior to the Garden Circle's request, Landon was an older "grandfathered" park, which was not ADA-compliant.

Having lost most of the bushes to salt water intrusion from flooding during Hurricane Irma, the Garden Circle plans to replace all the plantings – approximately 100 boxwoods and 24 rose bushes. "We need to start from the ground up," said Erwin, noting the circle is reluctant to plant anything

during hurricane season and plans to hold a fundraiser this fall to help pay for the costs of the new foliage.

"We're very excited at the prospect of working with the City to beautify the park," Erwin said. "Landon Park is a very important part of the neighborhood, and we have wanted to add something special to help beautify the area."

Soon the Garden Circle will add another bronze plaque in the Landon Park garden to honor longtime member Jean Farrens, a River Road resident who passed away March 15, 2018. Before she died, Farrens, who was 91 years old, was the club's oldest active member, having joined 41 years ago in 1977, said Cathy Watkiss, historian for the circle. Farrens' plaque will join the half dozen bronze plaques already installed

in the garden, which memorialize deceased club members.

### Southside Park

The San Marco Preservation Society eventually plans to improve the playground facilities at Southside Park near Julia Landon College Preparatory School, said Cumber. New equipment will cost a considerable amount of money, so ideas for the park are still in the "formative" stage," she said.

Boyer said the city has worked to clean up Southside Park, by cutting back the overgrowth near the retention pond. Although the park's facilities and playground equipment are somewhat outdated, they are ADA-compliant and do not require the immediate attention of the City, she said.

"I hope we do a major redo in Southside Park, but it doesn't demand the immediate attention like Landon did. The City has done some work cleaning everything up over there, especially the area near the retention pond, which is supposed to be a feature with a walking trail around it. It was almost scary, because it was so overgrown," Boyer said.

"The difference between Landon Park and Southside Park is that Southside is ADA-compliant. So, if you are switching out equipment that is fine but maybe not as fun, that constitutes different perspective (as far as the City is concerned)," she continued.

Boyer said the City might be able to help to upgrade Southside Park in the future but would probably not fully fund any new play equipment because it needs to "prioritize" its funding to park projects that are ADA deficient.



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# What tradition or special lesson did you learn from your father that you have or are passing along to your children?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



**Jamie Kozlowski** (San Marco)

My dad makes the best Christmas-time desserts, such as pecan cups. He has given me all the recipes he got from his mom. She was a great baker, too. It's something that is going to stay in our family. His pecan-cup recipe will never leave our household.



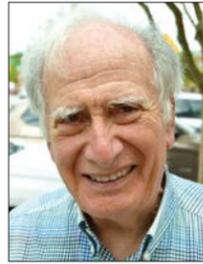
**Larry Hatten** (San Marco)

My mother and father divorced when I was very young. My mother raised me by herself. The tradition she passed along to me is the celebration of Christmas and the days leading up to it and the importance of giving thanks at Thanksgiving. It's not that you are having a meal, but knowing truly what the meaning is behind the holidays.



**Ashley Kozlowski** (San Marco)

The biggest thing my dad passed along was how to treat people. He always has treated people really well, especially strangers, and goes out of his way to help them and that is what I try to do as well. His dad showed him how to be that way. Anybody can come in to his home and be treated like family, and we are trying to do that in our home, too.



**Dr. Earl Horowitz** (San Jose)

The concept of working hard and not being lazy. Also, the importance of doing things for yourself. My father always said, 'Whatever you strive to do, you are capable of doing.' I went from the fish business to the foot business – from one smelly business to another – but the concepts are the same. Whatever you are doing, you should do the best you can and be proud of the work you do.



**Laura Barnickel** (San Marco)

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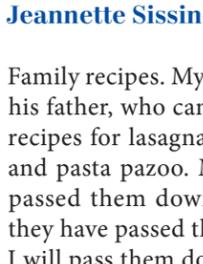
**Pat Moman Bell** (San Marco)

The main thing I remember about my father is that he spoke to everyone and made sure we knew no one was better than anyone else. Quite often, my dad would stop and have a five-minute conversation with someone. I would ask afterwards, 'Daddy, who was that?' He would say, 'Honey, I don't have the slightest idea.' I want my kids to know that you speak to everyone and respect everyone and that no one is better than anyone else.



**Beth Leavitt** (San Marco)

One of the most memorable things my dad taught me was how to look at life with a glass half empty or half full. He literally filled a glass halfway and said, 'Tell me what you see.' He said we all have the opportunity to decide how we will look at things in life. I try to see that the glass is half full, not half empty. Whatever life springs at you, you have a choice. Sometimes it is hard, but I choose the positive.



**Jeannette Sissine** (San Marco)

Family recipes. My father got them from his father, who came from Italy. He had recipes for lasagna, Italian string beans, and pasta pazoo. My grandparents had passed them down to my parents and they have passed them down to me, and I will pass them down to my children.



**Patricia Philips** (St. Nicholas)

My dad was a big one for education. He said, whatever you want to do, make sure you have an education, and it will take you where you want to go. Education is a great foundation. My dad came to this country from Mexico and was very successful. He attributed all his success to education.



**Kathleen Pajcic** (San Marco)

I'm a Pajcic by marriage, but the Madden tradition is cooking together. My dad was an excellent cook. He made homemade pizza. Mom would cook, but it was always a special occasion when Dad would cook because he would get us involved. I married a man who likes to cook, so we all get involved the same way.



**Domingo Castillo** (San Marco)

Our family tradition is to get together a lot. Once a month the whole family gets together. We have barbeques and parties, and my dad started it. We've done it all my life and continue to do it, and I will keep that going. It keeps the whole family together.

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# San Jose Estates FROM PAGE 1

In an email written May 15 to Allen Baggett, compliance director for the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka, Robison's husband, David, asked for answers concerning the drainage problems that he said still exist in his backyard.

In the email, Robison said San Jose Estates had not done the erosion control that had been requested by SJRWMD and that dirt was "migrating" to his property. "I still have elevated water table water perpetually invading my property no matter the rain conditions," he wrote. "There has been a tacit acknowledgement of liability by San Jose Estates with an offer of \$250 to each abutter to release liability (an insult to the true costs we have suffered due to this development)."

Robison, who has threatened to sue San Jose Estates LLC if it does not fix the drainage issue, also said he was obtaining quotes on the cost of putting up a fence, building a retaining wall, and building up his backyard by nearly four feet with fill to alleviate the wet conditions.

"I have been waiting for quotes to come in so that I could advance a realistic settlement value, but if I see heavy equipment performing any actions that are not erosion control or water abatement related, we as a neighborhood will be forced to challenge both the developer's actions along with SJRWMD oversight," he wrote. "I believe there is an answer to be had without being litigious, but we cannot allow this development to proceed without resolution and compensation to the damage this project has done (and will continue to do) to me and my neighbors."

Lynne Robison said she and her husband had already received a verbal quote for \$22,000 and a written quote for \$17,000 to do the required work in their backyard and are waiting to receive two more.

"They are offering only 1 percent of what it will cost to fix our property," she said, noting her husband has already alerted the city about their opposition to having building permits issued to San Jose Estates. "Believe me I am going to sue this guy because I didn't plan for this in my budget," she said.

Lynne Robison said her husband had suggested San Jose Estates use some of its leftover dirt, which is currently piled high on the property, to fill in their yard, but the developer declined.

"We thought he could fill our property with all the dirt he had there, but he refused. Then he came back with the idea of giving us \$250. That's like giving you a gas card," she said.

Black, who lives three houses down from the Robisons, said he has a mass of cattails growing in his back yard, but believes San Jose Estates' drainage solution for his property (but not his neighbors) may work if the developer would spread some sod to "stabilize" and prevent erosion from constantly filling up the drains. He said over the past few months San Jose Estates LLC has had to dig out mud from the drains and the ditch behind his home at least three times.

"Behind my house there are cattails because of the damp soil, but it is draining," Black said, noting the developer also promised to eventually replace his new back fence which was damaged with the watery



The San Jose Estates development, which is adjacent to the San Jose Forest neighborhood, has been plagued with drainage issues.

***"We thought he could fill our property with all the dirt he had there, but he refused. Then he came back with the idea of giving us \$250. That's like giving you a gas card."***

— Lynne Robison

conditions. "Right now, they are supposed to come out and regrade the slope because it has filled in. They have filter paper on it, but when that gets covered up with mud then they have to go back and clear it again. They've had to redo it so many times, it's ridiculous. If they would just get it done so we can move on, they wouldn't have to redo the work that they have already done."

Over the past few months, the developer has worked with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to alleviate standing water at the rear property line, said Baggett, noting that as far as SJRWMD is concerned, the permit, which allows "filling and constructing," is currently in compliance.

"While most of the drainage system has been constructed, additional efforts include the installation of perforated pipe, lowering the grate elevations of the five inlets, and lowering the slot elevations on each of the inlets. Furthermore, the City of Jacksonville is requiring the developer to construct a swale system along the rear property line to help facilitate the flow into the inlets and slots," he said. "The applicant is required to install and maintain erosion/sediment controls before and during construction. During district inspections, staff have

observed these controls in place. If staff observe that these controls are not in place, they will direct the applicant to reinstall or maintain them," he said.

"The district was also instrumental in fostering communication between the owner/developer and the adjacent landowners," Baggett continued. "We have shared with the adjacent landowners that a portion of the rear of their property is considered floodplain and from time to time would have experienced some amount of water. District staff addressed this issue of off-site runoff with the consultant, which resulted in the permitted design. Because of our ongoing communication with both parties, further attempts to alleviate the concerns associated with wet yards at the rear of the property line has continued. It is the district's understanding that the owner/developer has reached out with an offer to each of the adjacent landowners to improve the rear of the backyards, if desired."

Baggett would not comment on whether \$250 was fair compensation for the damage incurred to the abutters' property by San Jose Estates LLC. "This is not within the district's purview," he said. "It is a matter between the developer and the property owners."



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# Boaters urged to keep eyes out for manatees

By Lilla Ross  
Resident Community News

As the weather warms up and the days lengthen, manatees return to the St. Johns River and boaters should be alert. What looks like debris could be a manatee.

Dr. Quinton White, executive director of the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University, said Florida's iconic marine mammal is doing well.

"We've seen manatees return to the area despite the cooler water. As the days get longer, the manatees tend to come in. As it gets cooler and days are shorter, they will leave the area," White said.

But White cautions everyone on the water, especially the increasing number of kayakers, that manatees are to be seen, not touched. Manatees are protected as a threatened species by state and federal law.

"Stay away from them. Don't chase them or touch them or feed them. Keep your distance and watch them," he said.

Be on the lookout for the telltale swirl of water, especially along the shore where manatees like to feed and travel. White recommends wearing polarized sunglasses, which dramatically reduces the glare off the water.

Boaters should be alert to the manatee protection zones where speed limits are lower from April 1 to Nov. 15. Maps of the zones are available at MyFWC.com/Manatee. Law enforcement officers with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be patrolling the zones.

Last year, 538 manatees died in Florida, more than a 100 as a result of encounters with watercraft. But now, injured or sick manatees are brought to the Manatee Critical Care Center at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

White said people are much more aware of manatees.

"If you look back to the early days when we started counting them, we thought we had about 1,200. We were killing them faster than they were being born," White said. "Today we have more than 6,000 and maybe more. We've turned the corner."

Report an injured, distressed, sick or dead manatee to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at (888) 404-3922, or dialing #FWC or \*FWC on a cell phone.

# San Marco Promenade apartments under development



By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Nearly a year after receiving approval from the City of Jacksonville's Planning Commission to swap locations of two phases of a \$33.35 million project for a residential community east of San Marco's Alexandria Oaks Park, Chance Partners LLC is starting to move dirt.

The new apartment complex at 2600 Philips Highway, a property originally rezoned in 2008 by developer Steven Cissel, is called San Marco Promenade. Phase 1 will include 284 apartments in three four-story buildings.

The complex will include 187 one-bedroom units at 770 square feet, 77 two-bedroom units at 1,200 square feet and 20 three-bedroom units at 1,400 square feet, with rents ranging from \$1,150 to \$2,100 per month, as well as 421 parking spaces. Entrances to the property will be on Philips Highway, Service Street and Mitchell Place.

Construction began in May on the northern end of the 17.3-acre property, which for years was a Jerry Hamm Chevrolet dealership, and is expected to be completed in fall 2019. A second residential phase is planned to the south, along with retail/office space.

In 2008 the former dealership's property was rezoned as a planned unit development for 900 apartments and 350,000 square feet of commercial space to be called Jackson Square, then the financing for the project fell through during the recession.

Chance Partners LLC bought the property in spring 2017 for \$4.75 million, then submitted a minor modification to the Planning Commission to swap the construction phases and to remove proposed ground floor commercial use from Phase 1 so that it might be strictly residential. The commission approved the modification in June 2017. After Hurricane Irma swept through in September 2017, the property was used as a temporary dump site for tree debris.

The complex will offer residents a clubhouse, fitness and business centers, a pool, outdoor kitchen, with firepit and seating, three courtyards, and gated entrances from Philips Highway and Mitchell Place.

The construction is being managed by Jacksonville-based Live Oak Contracting, and the design was done by Humphreys & Partners Architects, a Dallas-based company. Pegasus Residential will handle leasing as the property manager.

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# There's no waiting among fishermen for Riverfront Park to open

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

The new bulkhead has been built, the sod has been installed, and replacement palm trees have been planted at Riverfront Park, yet the six-foot fence meant to keep the public out still lines the perimeter along River Road.

Although the opening date for the park has yet to be announced by the City of Jacksonville, fishermen have found their way around the fence and have been spotted taking advantage of the rich fishing grounds which lie in the river adjacent to the park.

"Parks told me it's 'nearly finished,'" said District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer. But still in the plan is for the City Parks and Recreation Department to add a series of "evenly-spaced" planters along the bulkhead as a deterrent to bicyclists and skateboarders, she said. "The bulkhead cap is much wider than it was before, and they [city officials] are concerned that it might be posing some danger. They want to make it clear that it is not a sidewalk," she said.

During the first week of May, city workmen on the site informed *The Resident* that the park might open within "two weeks." The



Fishermen take advantage of the new bulkhead even though Riverfront Park is officially closed.

final cost of the park restoration was \$2,535,783, according to the City's Public Works Department.

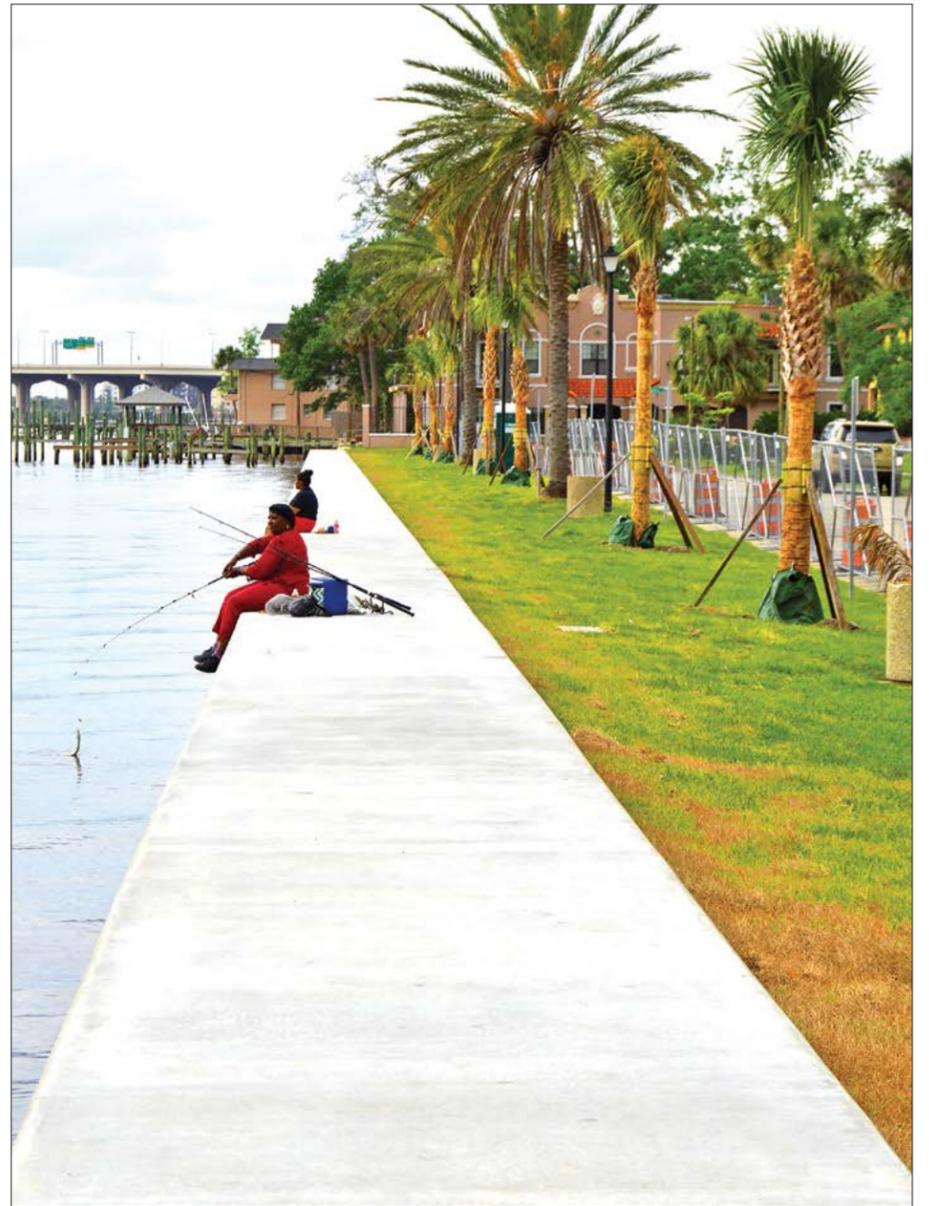
Although excessive fishing was a contributing factor to the damage incurred on the old bulkhead, it will still be permitted in the park. "There will not be any special rules, however, the park improvements will minimize the impact of damage to the current park amenities," said City Spokesperson Tia Ford in an email.

In the past, residents living adjacent to the park have complained about park visitors and fishermen urinating and defecating in their yards and on public property. There are currently no plans to install a portable toilet on the park premises, Ford said. "The City will work with JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) to ensure the rules of the park are enforced," she said.

One solution to curb the damage incurred by large numbers of people fishing in the park is to have the City build wooden fishing platforms and/or decks off the bulkhead in the park. "The planned dock project is a FIND grant project, and we are currently proceeding with the design," said Ford.

Boyer said the fishing dock was "up for design" next year. Whether the City submits the project for a Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) grant may be up to whomever replaces her on the Jacksonville City Council, Boyer said.

"The vote on what we submit for FIND grants usually occurs in March, but the vote to approve the funds doesn't happen until August or September," she said, noting her term ends June 30, 2019. "Most likely it will be the next councilperson who will decide whether they want to move forward on this," she said.



A wide swath of concrete marks the new, improved bulkhead at Riverfront Park.

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## Cathedral Arts Project to receive \$100,000 grant for study

The Cathedral Arts Project has been named to receive a \$100,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which recently approved more than \$80 million in grants as part of the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Cathedral Arts Project will use the grant to administer and publish a survey, analysis and report about arts education in the region, executing this project through Any Given Child Jacksonville, the advocacy arm of the organization.

Without accessible, reliable data published on arts education in schools – especially in large districts – it is difficult for communities to understand arts learning opportunities, the equity of their distribution across schools and what standards should be used to help every child have a quality education in the arts.

“Our community has made incredible strides toward access, equity and quality arts education,” said CAP Chief Program Officer and AGC Jacksonville Executive Director Allison Galloway-Gonzalez. “As participation in the arts has exponentially increased, Duval County students are subsequently doing better in school, ranking top in the nation for math and reading, competing and winning nationally in the arts, and graduating at record-high rates. Despite this overwhelming evidence of success, the next budget cycle likely means detrimental cuts to the arts, and it is our hope that we can help prevent some of that loss by publicly prioritizing support for the arts. We need to continue to show that the arts add up for our community.”

## Citizen input needed for Transportation Improvement Program

The independent regional transportation planning agency, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), has updated its annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and is seeking citizen input in its four-county region, which includes Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties.

The TIP is a staged multi-year program of transportation project improvements to be implemented during the next five-year period (2018-2023) in the North Florida TPO area for roadways, transit, air and seaports, bicyclists, pedestrians and the transportation disadvantaged.

In addition, the TIP identifies all regionally significant transportation projects

requiring Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and/or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval.

The program also includes a listing of projects that are financed with non-federal dollars which assists local governments within the TPO area with their transportation planning efforts. Projects listed in the TIP include recommended improvements consistent with the approved Long Range Transportation Plan, and the adopted comprehensive plans of member local governments within the TPO area.

The TIP is adopted following input from the TPO committees, presentations to every City and County Commission, at a formal

public meeting, and is then an interactive tool on [www.northfloridatpo.com](http://www.northfloridatpo.com).

Those interested in offering comments may do so on the TPO web site at [www.northfloridatpo.com](http://www.northfloridatpo.com). A 326-page draft of the program is online as well. The deadline to respond online is June 8.

In addition to the five-year TIP, other TPO plans and programs include the regional Long Range Transportation Plan; annual traffic count and mobility reports; coalitions for the Smart Region Master Plan and Clean Fuels; freight mobility; Cool to Pool rideshare commuter services; and public private partnerships. The TPO is governed by a 15-member board of elected officials and transportation agency representatives.

## Delores Barr Weaver Fund approves matching grant for Pine Castle

Pine Castle, Inc., a nonprofit serving adults with intellectual and developmental differences, has been given a 1:1 matching grant by the Delores Barr Weaver Fund for up to \$100,000 for renovations to the Pine Castle Cafeteria and Courtyard Complex.

The cafeteria and courtyard spaces are gathering and socializing points for those who attend Pine Castle, and are in immediate need of renovations and upgrades.

The central courtyard serves as a crossroads on the Pine Castle campus at 4911 Spring Park Rd. The courtyard is mostly concrete – with cracking sidewalks and walkways and sloping benches that have become a barrier to accessibility over time due to deterioration. The space – popular

for lunch and socializing – cannot be used during inclement weather and extreme heat due to lack of cover and shade.

The cafeteria has been a gathering place for many of its participants since March 1, 1980 – 37 years ago – when the current equipment and fixtures were installed. The space includes a commercial kitchen that can serve up to 100 meals each day. The need is for a kitchen that can produce up to 300 nutritious meals per day for breakfast and lunch.

Planned upgrades include architecture, design and all equipment for a new commercial kitchen; flooring; paint; cafeteria furniture and fixture replacement; renovations of the interior cafeteria restrooms, and roof replacement.

The Delores Barr Weaver Fund will match up to \$100,000 in donations from new donors to Pine Castle through December 31, 2018. Returning donors can also contribute to the project to enhance its success. Donations to the renovations can be made at [www.pinecastle.org/donation-weaverchallenge/](http://www.pinecastle.org/donation-weaverchallenge/).

“Thanks to the incredible generosity of Mrs. Weaver and the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, as well as the generosity of new donors that we will meet on this matching grant journey, these much-needed renovations will finally take place. This grant will make such a difference in upgrading the experience that our participants have at Pine Castle,” said Lori Ann Whittington, Pine Castle CEO.

## Crosswalks to be installed at Empire Point

The Florida Department of Transportation began traffic and pedestrian signal upgrades on Atlantic Boulevard (State Road 10) at Empire Point May 18.

The safety improvements will include upgrading the traffic and pedestrian signals on the northwest corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Empire Point, widening westbound Atlantic Boulevard, curb and sidewalk work and the installation of two new crosswalks at the intersection.

James D. Hinson Electrical Contracting Inc., was selected to complete the \$567,000 safety improvements by late fall 2018, depending on weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

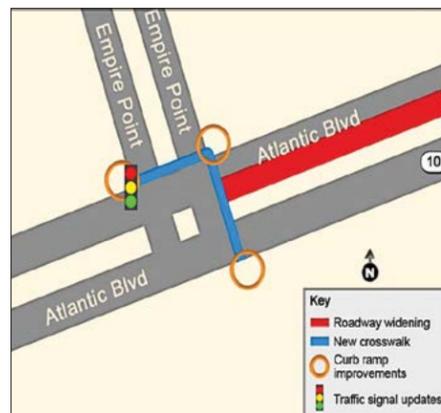


Illustration indicates placement of new crosswalks at Atlantic Boulevard and Empire Point.

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# River Oaks residents rally to petition for lower speed limits

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

Concerned that new developments near their neighborhood will increase its overall density, especially on River Oaks Road, some San Marco residents hope lowering the speed limit and installing speed humps will work as a way to curb speeding and traffic volume.

Following a traffic calming community meeting May 2, Southwood Lane resident Brit Bradley took the lead in gathering the necessary signatures needed for two petitions. The first petition requests a speed limit reduction from 30 to 20 mph and the second for installation of a third speed hump on River Oaks Road, to be positioned between the two speed humps which already exist.

“The two current speed humps were installed with an inappropriate amount of space between the two, and this spacing allows drivers to have ‘jack rabbit’ starts,” said Bradley. “By installing a third speed hump we not only create an additional physical reminder for drivers to slow down, but we ultimately decrease the spacing between the two current speed humps helping to dissuade jack rabbit starts and speeding. Coupled with the speed reduction and support from JSO during implementation, this may be enough of an inconvenience to deter transient drivers from general usage of this neighborhood road.”

The speed limit reduction will be applied to the east portion of River Oaks Road (which in turn will mirror the 20 mph as

seen on the west portion), Southwood Lane, Thornwood Lane, and Fieldston Lane, according to Bradley.

Each petition requires that 75 percent of the property owners on the affected streets must be in agreement. There are about 75 properties involved, according to Bradley, who said she got involved to ensure walkability in the neighborhood.

“I think it’s important to fight for and preserve your neighborhood’s walkability, and a part of that is ensuring that our neighbors are safe to walk, ride, run, play and enjoy our neighborhood outside,” she said. “Walkability and safety go hand-in-hand. When transient drivers treat River Oaks Road like a cut through – driving recklessly and speeding – our safety is at risk and walkability is threatened. River Oaks Road is a local, neighborhood road which was never, from an infrastructure standpoint, intended to support the high volume usage that is seen with ‘cut throughs’ nor is it conducive for speeding; I believe this to be true for a majority of streets which make up San Marco.”

Bradley, who moved to the neighborhood in 2015, said the volume of traffic and speeding problems on River Oaks Road has been consistent, although the peak in volume and speeding aligns with the school year.

The town hall meeting, hosted by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, included Chris Leduc, the city’s traffic engineer, and a representative from the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Bradley said the meeting to discuss the petitions was well attended and well received.



Jacksonville Equestrian Center Ground Breaking officiants: Council members Greg Anderson, Joyce Morgan and Doyle Carter, Equestrian Center Board members Peggy Fuller, Carolyn LaRose, Joanne Connell and Betty Griner, and City of Jacksonville Director of Parks and Recreation Daryl Joseph. (Photo courtesy of JRPR)

# Equestrian Center breaks ground for new arena

## Expansion improves center’s versatility

The Jacksonville Equestrian Center (JEC) held an official groundbreaking ceremony on May 3 for its new covered arena, part of its long-term plan for progress and expansion.

“The new arena will be the largest clear-span covered arena in the southeast providing the necessary space to support a wider variety of activities and multiple events at the same time,” said Peggy Fuller, DVM, and Jacksonville Equestrian Center Board of Directors Chair.

Known for its varied amenities and ideal location on the Westside not far from Cecil Field, the Jacksonville Equestrian Center is now expanding to offer more to both the equestrian community as well as the Jacksonville community, alike.

The new covered arena will be 300 feet by 300 feet and will attach to the existing 150-foot by 300-foot coliseum via a covered 130-foot by 80-foot livestock pavilion.

“Essentially we are doubling the number of covered rings we currently have available. We’re thrilled that this new building will increase our capacity to offer diverse events to all members of the community,” said Fuller.

Jacksonville City Council members Doyle Carter, Joyce Morgan, Al Ferraro, Greg Anderson, of Ortega, and Parks and Recreation Director Daryl Joseph joined

the Jacksonville Equestrian Center executive board members in commemorating the groundbreaking event.

The evening’s events – which included an introduction to therapeutic riding by H.O.P.E. Therapy Director Becky Davenport, local celebrity barrel racing, roping demonstrations, and presentation of the third annual “Take it to the Jax” Agricultural Art Contest awards – highlighted the venue’s versatility and capacity to host a wide variety of equestrian and community events throughout the year, such as car shows, family fun days, dog agility trials,

*“This new building will increase our capacity to offer diverse events to all members of the community.”*

— Peggy Fuller

bicycling events, and equestrian competitions for every breed and riding discipline. For nature lovers, the property also features miles of hiking and riding trails as well as a picnic pavilion.

The new covered arena will also enable The Jacksonville Equestrian Center to host more events like the Special Olympics Area Qualifiers and Championships, which were held at the facility in 2017 and 2018, and provide an all-weather training and teaching location. The center has a specially equipped carriage with a wheelchair lift and special needs mounting ramp that accommodates wheelchairs and walkers.

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# New townhomes proposed to replace multi-family units on Lasalle Street



Fourteen townhomes are proposed for a site on Lasalle Street in San Marco. Four of the townhomes will have a waterfront view of the St. Johns River.

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

The Jacksonville City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee will soon hear an application to re-zone a small parcel in San Marco from residential multi-unit dwelling to planned unit development (PUD). The bill was introduced May 8 and a public hearing is scheduled for June 19.

The developer, Corner Lot Development, is proposing to build 14 three-story townhomes on a .78-acre lot on Lasalle Street, where eight detached multi-family buildings (containing 19 units) built in the late 1930s currently exist. The current buildings were significantly damaged by Hurricane Irma and to make full repair of the property, estimates of \$1 million were indicated.

The proposed development is similar in scale and intensity to the existing development on the property and the neighboring condominiums and duplexes, and, as proposed, the height of the proposed townhomes are lower than adjacent structures.

The property, which is part of the Riviera Place subdivision, was purchased in 2003 for \$1.5 million by RNMB Investments LLC. The current land value is just over \$1 million, according to the property appraiser's website.

The proposed development contemplates a decrease in lot coverage (from

65 percent to 50 percent), an increase in the front yards along Lasalle, an equivalent setback on River Road and an increased setback from the southern property line. The PUD application requests waivers of road frontage for some of the properties, as well as an administrative deviation to allow for the setbacks and lot coverage in keeping with the current buildings on the property.

The developer is seeking a waiver of road frontage for the four townhomes closest to the St. Johns River. To maintain an "urban aesthetic" on Lasalle Street, the orientation of those four units avoids putting garages and parking facing Lasalle Street, thus requiring a private drive. Each townhome will include a two-car garage with access to private drives at the rear of the townhome from Lasalle Street or River Road.

Among Corner Lot Development's projects is Green Hills, a Riverside-based subdivision a block and a half west of King Street. The 17 two-story homes are being constructed by John Merrill Homes.

The application is tentatively scheduled for a hearing before City Council Tuesday, June 12, at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, and then before the Land Use and Zoning Committee, Tuesday, June 19, at 5 p.m., also in Council Chambers.

# New partnership to make \$100 million available for businesses

Future Jacksonville Brands brings Chamber and NOW Corp. together

The JAX Chamber and JAX Bridges launched a new business development program, Future Jacksonville Brands, May 15 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center. The program is part of Grow JAX, which delivers programs and services for established, profitable and growing businesses to promote economic growth in Northeast Florida.

Future Jacksonville Brands has three focus areas, including funding (expanding access to capital through NOWaccount), branding (brand value assessment) and connecting (crafting a business pitch) and networking opportunities.

Carlton Robinson, vice president of the Chamber's entrepreneurial growth division, gave a presentation on the history of Grow JAX and introduced the Future Jacksonville Brands program. JAXUSA is a private, nonprofit division of the Chamber with a mission to be a catalyst for economic growth in the area.

During the meeting, Robinson announced a \$100 million dollar fund made available through a partnership with NOW Corp. The funds can be accessed through a B2B payment solution to business owners who are a part of the Future Jacksonville Brands program. The fund will help businesses grow faster and create jobs by leveraging their revenue to fund new and larger sales. "This is a tremendous opening that will offer a world of opportunity for small businesses across Northeast Florida. The



Carlton Robinson, JAX Chamber, and Kim Humphreys, NOW Corp.

Chamber leverages relationships to create opportunities for the small business community and this partnership with NOWaccount creates direct access to capital for business owners," said Robinson.

With NOWaccount, businesses can get paid immediately in a way that is similar to and costs the same or less than taking a credit card, even when their business and government customers require an invoice.

Because it is not debt and strengthens the balance sheet, NOWaccount helps businesses become better candidates for traditional bank lines for strategic purchases such as inventory, equipment, and real estate to further accelerate growth. NOWaccount clients typically double or triple revenue in the first year on the system.

JAX Bridges is a program of the JAX Chamber Entrepreneurial Growth Division, designed to connect small and medium-sized companies with opportunities to do business with larger corporations, as well as providing targeted entrepreneurial education support.



**"The JAX Chamber connects you to networking, community involvement, educational and business development opportunities. From a one-person business to companies of all sizes — joining the Chamber and actively participating is the best way I can think of to expand your network personally and professionally. It's a whole world of opportunity just waiting to be tapped into."**

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# New life comes to St. Nicholas Area Preservation

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

After 10 years of being nearly comatose, St. Nicholas Area Preservation (SNAP) is coming back to life.

Thanks to the efforts of Alex Varkonda, a St. Nicholas resident who moved to the neighborhood four years ago with his wife, Jennifer, SNAP, a neighborhood organization that serves approximately 300 households, is on the verge of a revival.

Eighteen residents responded to Varkonda's emailed notice of an organizational meeting, and 11 homeowners, including Varkonda, attended the gathering May 7 at the Mudville Grille. Since the meeting, the number of willing SNAP volunteers has doubled with 23 now committed to give their time.

Before the organization is fully set in stone, Varkonda plans to call a second organizational meeting for neighborhood volunteers in mid-June to name members of the group's board of directors, to discuss new bylaws, and to establish various committees aimed at bettering the neighborhood.



Mary Howerton, Michel Moses, Lisa Collins, Scott Glass, Theresa O'Donnell Price, Renee O'Donnell, Ali McGowen, Patricia Phillips, Selecia Young-Jones, and Erik Kaldor attended the first meeting of St. Nicholas Area Preservation May 7 at the Mudville Grille.

"It's great. We now have a really strong base of people who are willing to work," Varkonda said.

Serving the area bordering Atlantic Boulevard from Mayfair Road to Holmesdale Road, SNAP went on hiatus in 2005 due to a lack of neighborhood interest. The group officially fell apart when President Dan Fassbinder was unable to find a replacement to lead the organization, said Varkonda. At that time, Beth Pavlicberry assisted Fassbinder with communications, keeping in touch with residents through email, while Tamara Grooms Baker handled the money, he said.

"Beth has really been the only presence over the past 10 years," Varkonda said, noting as treasurer, Baker kept the preservation organization officially active by keeping track of money raised through Christmas luminaria and dues, which a few residents voluntarily continued to pay. "She kept our

status going with our account," Varkonda said. "Because some people paid their dues during the past 10 years, we have a healthy bank account to put toward our initiatives."

Although the organization was officially "on pause," during the past decade, Pavlicberry continued to connect with neighbors through email, sending neighborhood alerts and other information pertaining to St. Nicholas residents until Varkonda volunteered to take the job over four months ago. "She would send out emails a couple of times a week, and there are 400-plus people on the mailing list," he said, noting messages were also sent to many South Shores residents as well.

Varkonda said his motive in reigniting SNAP comes from his desire to spark more social interaction between neighbors.

"About a year and a half ago, I noticed there was a lack of connected community in St. Nicholas," he said. "I knew the neighbors who live alongside of me to the left and right, but not as a whole. There wasn't anything happening for the whole neighborhood except for the annual Christmas party, where 150-200 people would show up, and we would have a blast. At the party we would meet and get to know each other, but other than that we hadn't seen each other since the year before at the last Christmas party.

"I thought Facebook would be a great way to get people connected," he continued, adding that in November 2016, he set up a closed Facebook group called St. Nicholas Neighbors.

"Within a couple of weeks, we had 150 people in the group," he said, noting membership has risen to 242. "Over the past year, through the group, I could see a lot of people had a lot of things they wanted to see get done in and around the neighborhood, but with no organization, there was no effective way to make these things happen. I got tired of all the complaining without action," Varkonda said. "I thought this would be a good opportunity to get people organized so we could have formal representation of our neighborhood and get some work done. We need to establish a strong structure so that SNAP doesn't fall apart in the next five years. We want it to be around for the long term."

Once board members have signed on, SNAP will most likely include several committees – membership, beautification, events, traffic and safety, and preservation, which will keep the history of the neighborhood.

At this time SNAP has no interest in installing a historic overlay like Riverside/Avondale Preservation or becoming an "HOA"-type organization with a lot of strict rules homeowners must abide by, Varkonda said. "We do like the idea of preserving the integrity of the neighborhood," he said. "We don't want to be in the business of highly regulating what you can and can't do on



SNAP Organizer Alex Varkonda

your property." Dues-paying membership will be voluntary, and new St. Nicholas Area Preservation house signs, which currently adorn several residences, will be given to those who join the organization, he said.

Although some South Shores residents and homeowners who live east and west of Holmesdale and Mayfair Roads have expressed interest in joining SNAP, the organization's final membership boundaries will be determined once a board of directors is in place, he said. "Many South Shores residents are in our Facebook group. They have a yearning to have a stronger voice," he said.

A former member of the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) who helped establish SMPS's Wine Down in the Park and San Marco Nights events, Varkonda said he reached out to SMPS President Bryan Mickler for advice and has received full "mentoring" support of the San Marco organization.

SMPS has offered to let SNAP use Preservation Hall for its meetings until a local, quiet meeting place can be found. "They (SMPS) will hold our hands through this process and give us some of the structure to keep going," he said, noting eventually he would like to have SNAP sponsor "cool" social events like Wine Down in the Park, which may draw San Marco people to St. Nicholas.

As SMPS actively supports the San Marco Merchants Association, SNAP will want to interact and help the St. Nicholas

Merchants Association, said Varkonda. "Our goal is to get to know the merchants and to encourage them to be more formal. We want to work closely with them to see what we can do to help them develop their businesses. SNAP can be a great marketing tool. If they want to do certain things, we can push it to our residents, and if they want to give discounts to our members, we can do that, too. Part of SNAP might be helping to recruit small businesses to come to our commercial corridor."

Even though he is spearheading SNAP's rebirth, Varkonda said he has no intention of becoming president or being on the board. Instead he prefers to chair either the membership or events committees. "I'm organizing it, but it will be run by people much more intelligent and talented than I," he said. "I'm a project development guy. I build relationships with my (day) job. Membership and how to get people involved is my skill."

"The biggest thing the people at the meeting were looking for is to build a better sense of community," Varkonda said. "They said safety and neighborhood improvement all begins with getting to know your neighbors better and getting a sense of community built."

All St. Nicholas Area residents are welcome to join or volunteer with SNAP. To participate, contact Varkonda at [snapneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:snapneighbors@gmail.com).

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Matt Morris

## Bolles coach named for FHSAA Hall of Fame

Bolles Athletic Director and Wrestling Coach Matt Morris was selected for the FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) Hall of Fame Class of 2018, and will be officially inducted with seven others in a ceremony at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville September 23.

Morris, a resident of the San Jose area, has led his athletic programs to five national championships, 78 state championships, 30-plus state runner ups and almost 200 district titles during his career. In 2000, he was named athletic director at Bolles, where he has overseen more than \$8 million in facility upgrades and guided Bolles to national and state recognition as a top athletic program. During his 30-plus years in high school athletics, Morris has also coached football and golf, and served on several FHSAA committees.

As a wrestling coach, Morris coached 13 individuals to state championships, nine to state runner-up finishes and 21 state placers for a total of 43 medal winners. He has earned 300-plus career dual-meet victories and was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2010.

# Local Rotarians honored for part in worldwide polio eradication



Bob Freeland, District Governor Nominee Mike Darragh, John Pope, Barry Covington, Juliet and Ian Riseley, President-elect Bill Langley, Beth Briand and David Armentrout from the South Jacksonville Rotary Club (Photo by Dan Bagan)

Rotary International President Ian Riseley, from Victoria, Australia, recently visited Rotarians in District 6970 to thank them for their generosity and commitment to eradicating polio. District 6970 led the world in District Designated Funds for PolioPlus and had total contributions of \$416,359 in 2016-17.

Riseley spoke at a brunch May 6 at River City Brewing Company to about 130 Rotarians from 15 to 20 clubs from across the district.

Rotarians in District 6970 have contributed more than \$4 million in this effort to date, and have led multiple teams to as far away as India to immunized children against polio. "From 385,000 cases a year in 1985 to only 8 so far this year, we are on the verge of making history and eradicating

only the second disease in history of the world," Riseley said.

"The Rotarians of District 6970 are committed to a polio-free world," said Marshall Butler, past district governor and member of the West Jacksonville Rotary Club. "Since Rotary began this campaign in 1985, our district has contributed \$5,254,221 to the End Polio Now campaign. There has been a 99.9 percent reduction in cases and we won't stop until we drop to zero."

In addition to cash contributions from members, Rotary 6970 committed an additional \$150,000 to the program in 2016-17, which will be matched 2-for-1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, according to Butler.

Riseley is a chartered accountant and principal of Ian Riseley and Co., a firm he

established in 1976. His honors include the AusAID Peacebuilder Award from the Australian government in recognition of his work in East Timor; the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the Australian community; and the Distinguished Service Award and the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World from The Rotary Foundation.

A Rotarian since 1978, Riseley has served as treasurer, director, Foundation trustee, and member and chair of numerous RI and Foundation committees. He was selected to head the entire Rotary organization as International President in July of 2017.

Rotary 6970 has over 3,300 members, 63 clubs and covers 12 counties (Duval, Nassau, Baker, Clay, Bradford, Alachua, St. Johns, Volusia, Flagler, Marion, Putnam, and Union).

## NEFAR nets \$30,221 for Haven Hospice in annual fishing tournament

For the 15th consecutive year, the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) held its catch-and-release Charity Bass Fishing Tournament and Family Fun Day April 28 in Palatka to benefit Haven Hospice. The charity event raised \$30,221. Since tournament inception, NEFAR has raised and donated \$354,767 to Haven Hospice.

The event included 168 two-person fishing teams which competed for prizes, including a \$7,500 guaranteed payback for first place (won by Corey Waters and Jimmy Drury), \$3,000 guaranteed payback for second place

(awarded to Frank Streeter and Donnie Hewett), \$1,500 guaranteed payback for third place (earned by C.K. Ryan and John Reis), \$1,000 guaranteed payback for the Tournament big bass (caught by Robert Stumpe) and \$500 guaranteed payback for second big bass (reeled in by Frank Streeter).

While teams fished, members of the public enjoyed the Family Fun Day activities, including a giant inflatable slide for children, children's fish tank fishing experience, Reel Kids Casting Contest, face painting, Mason's Kids ID Program, and more.



Staff and volunteers from Haven Hospice accept a big check from NEFAR staff and volunteers.

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# Put your feet first and good health follows

Everyone chuckles – albeit nervously – when they recall the “Help! I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!” commercial, but for Dr. Earl Horowitz falling is not a laughing matter.

The Riverside-based doctor is a specialist in geriatric podiatry and, having treated feet in Northeast Florida for nearly six decades, Horowitz can be rightly called a preeminent expert in the field. Even at age 85, he has become one of the first board-certified podiatrists in lower extremity geriatric medicine in the United States.

For seniors in Jacksonville, that should be a comforting thought.

“The largest population to be subject to health changes is the senior population,” said Horowitz. “And, as life expectancy increases, so do the numbers of senior patients.”

While there is much medical knowledge for and about infants, children, adolescents and young to middle-age adults, there is not as much for those age 55 or older and, even then, seniors cannot be lumped into one group by age. “A person who is 65 will have different and unique problems than one who is 75 or 85 or more,” said Horowitz, adding that no matter the age, the one “body part” that keeps everyone going is the foot.

“The ability to be mobile and to walk pain-free is one of the most significant aspects of the senior lifestyle, yet it is the least thought about part of the human body that is considered important to the clinical health of the senior,” he said.

“Given that the foot is the only source of contact with the ground, foot pain and dysfunction play an important role in increasing the risk of falling,” Horowitz said.

Ninety percent of people age 65 or older have some form of foot problem and, just as annual wellness visits for blood pressure, heart, eyes and other



*“Being mobile, safe and foot comfortable can help make a senior’s lifestyle more active.”*

— Dr. Earl Horowitz

organs are prescribed, Horowitz emphasizes a foot examination is just as important.

Foot problems can be prevented or adjusted but not all foot problems can be cured, he said. “Taking care of the foot is an integral part of the health approaches that seniors need to take,” said Horowitz. “Being mobile, safe and foot comfortable can help make a senior’s lifestyle more active.”

Visit Dr. Horowitz at the Center for Foot Health, Diabetic Foot, Wound and Geriatric Podiatry Center, 2550 Park Street, or call (904) 387-0433 for an appointment. Dr. Horowitz’s practice is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Fridays.

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## Women’s Garden Club installs new officers



Debbie Byrd, Bobi McGinnis, Ann Sauer, Debbie Keller, Betsy Powers, Ellen Owens, Nancy Mahon, Connie Long, Irene Woodworth and Margaret Schumacher; seated: Nan Chopskie

The 2018-2019 Executive Committee of the Women’s Garden Club of Jacksonville was installed May 8. Officers include Betsy Powers, president; Bobi McGinnis, 1st vice president; Margaret Schumacher, 2nd vice president; Connie Long, recording secretary; Debbie Keller, corresponding secretary; Ann Sauer, treasurer; Nan Chopskie, assistant treasurer; and Trustees Debbie Byrd, Nancy Mahon, Brook Owens, and Irene Woodworth

Fundraising events, such as the annual flea market and Blooms Galore and More Plant Sale, help the Garden Club maintain its facility at 1005 Riverside Avenue, and to benefit other nonprofit organizations, such as the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, which received a donation in the amount of \$1,500 at the meeting.

## Men’s Garden Club holds annual meeting, installs officers



Men’s Garden Club Officers and Board Members: Donn Elliott, Allen Skinner, Jim Love, Tim Burleigh, Jim Lewis, Paul Seymore, Bob Lowery, Jeffrey Wardlow

The Men’s Garden Club of Jacksonville, which formed in 1945, has regained its nonprofit status, allowing donations to be tax-deductible, said Bob Lowery, club president at the annual meeting May 7.

The club also changed its fiscal year, aligning it to the calendar year in order to report more accurately on monies raised during the annual Jacksonville Agricultural Fair, traditionally held in November.

Lowery also noted the irrigation zones in the Camellia Garden in Riverside Park have been extended and redirected, foregoing the need to water the memorial bushes by bucket.

New officers were installed at the meeting and include Lowery, who will serve a second term as club president; Jeffrey Wardlow as vice president; Paul Seymore, secretary; Jim Lewis, treasurer; and five directors:

Tim Burleigh and Jim Love, serving for a second term, Allen Skinner, Donn Elliott and Bob Weiss.

Awards were given to Jim Fortenberry, who received the Arthur Simpson Award for being the most productive member in 2017, and Sam Eisenberg, who was made an honorary lifetime member.

The Men’s Garden Club, which meets the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave., will celebrate its 75th anniversary in October 2020.

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## Oral conversation project earns Corley another award

St. Nicholas resident Lyn Corley was awarded the Samuel Proctor Award for Oral History by the Florida Historical Society on May 17 in Sarasota, but this isn't the first such award for Corley.

The project, "Conversations from Cecil Field" was inspired by the City of Jacksonville's Historic Preservation Commission's desire to designate the Cecil Chapel as a historic site in order to preserve its location at the Cecil Center, said Corley. "That effort has led to the effort to establish the national Missing in Action Memorial at Cecil. The men and women who are working toward this goal have quite a story. I was fortunate to be able to record the stories of 19 men and women who served or whose family members were MIAs," she said.

Corley, along with her husband, Ted, won the Samuel Proctor Award in 2015 for oral history "Conversations from the Village of



Emily Lisska, incoming president of the Florida Historical Society, with Lyn Corley, award recipient

Mayport," and in 2016 for oral histories on the Cosmo community, Old Arlington and Cleve Powell. The Corleys' oral history, "Conversations from Cosmo," was comprised of interviews with more than 23 residents whose families lived in Cosmo, a black community established in the Fort Caroline area, dating back to 1878.

Those earlier oral histories also garnered the Corleys local recognition, winning awards in 2015 and 2016 from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

## Career teachers honored with excellence award

Four Jacksonville teachers, including a teacher at San Jose Catholic School, received the 2018 Gladys Prior Awards for Career Teaching Excellence May 22 at an awards dinner at the River Club. The awards were established by Gilchrist Berg, founder and president of Water Street Capital, to honor teachers who have had lifelong careers in teaching and inspiring students.

As of this year, 84 teachers will have been recognized with a Gladys Prior Award, an award given for excellence in teaching for the last 21 years. To date, Berg has given more than \$1 million to honor Jacksonville teachers with an award named after his fourth-grade teacher, Gladys Prior, at Ortega Elementary School.

The 2018 winners include MaryBeth Jones, third grade teacher at San Jose Catholic School; Joan Bacon, LaVilla Middle School of the Arts; Virginia Dickert, Jacksonville Country Day School, and Darellee Naccarato, Seabreeze Elementary School. Together, these teachers have a combination of 119 years of teaching experience.

The University of North Florida College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) manages this gift and coordinates the annual



Back row: Dr. Diane Yendol-Hoppey, UNF College of Education and Human Services dean, and Gilchrist Berg, who established the Gladys Prior Award; middle row: MaryBeth Jones and Darellee Naccarato; front: Joan Bacon and Virginia Dickert. (Photo credit: Michael Heath)

award competition. Each of these career teachers will receive \$15,000. "The success of our community directly correlates to the excellence of our teachers," said Dr. Diane Yendol-Hoppey, COEHS dean. "Great teachers change students' lives."

## Women's Board announces new funding target



Past chairs of the Women's Board: Katherine Forrester, Jane Pomar, Frances Hutto, Kelley Kunz and Jan Kirby (Photo credit: Tanner Deprin, Figure 8 Studio)

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital celebrated its 2017-2018 accomplishments at a Spring Luncheon held at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. Over 150 members and guests attended the event in support of the Women's Board initiatives.

Beth Langley, the 2017-2018 president, announced the Women's Board had exceeded its \$800,000 pledge to Wolfson Children's Hospital by donating over \$825,000 during the fundraising period. The donations were raised from the Board's two signature events: the Florida Forum Speaker Series and the Arts & Antiques Show presented in December 2017. Langley recognized event chairs Katherine Forrester, Jane Pomar, Frances Hutto, Kelley Kunz and Jan Kirby, thanking them for their leadership, passion and dedication to the Women's Board.

The 2017-2018 fundraising season marked the last year of a five-year \$4-million pledge for the Pediatric Surgery Center of Distinction at Wolfson Children's Hospital. A new funding target was announced at the Luncheon: a new state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

"We know that all of our efforts are extremely important and we are honored to be in a position to make an impact for the Children's Hospital," said Langley. "Supporting this new and improved NICU funding target is especially meaningful since the special needs of premature babies is why the Women's Board formed

over 40 years ago. We are thrilled to be able to support this cause!"

The Women's Board named Katherine Forrester the 2019-2020 president at the Luncheon. Forrester is the immediate past co-chair of the Florida Forum and co-chaired the Arts & Antiques Show in 2013. She is a devoted member of the Board for over 20 years.

The Board also awarded Susie Arbizzani Miller with the Abbie Award, named for founder Ellen Cavert's twin granddaughter, Abbie Ray Martin, whose early passing inspired the organization of the Women's Board. "I've been a member for over 30 years," Miller stated in her acceptance speech. "I hope each of you find the same pleasure and meaning that I have over the years volunteering for this very special organization."



Susie Arbizzani Miller earns the Abbie Award for her dedication of over 30 years volunteering as a Women's Board member (Photo credit: Tanner Deprin, Figure 8 Studio)

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## A growing family lays down roots, loves living in San Marco

For Scott and Katherine Wohlers, San Marco is their favorite place to be. The young couple is sharing their love for the parks, restaurants, family friendships and sunset views of the St. Johns River with their children. The neighborhoods are where their story begins, a story of a growing family with big dreams and many more friends to make.

For Scott, it means a career guided by principle – he’s a man that believes his word is his bond – he’s trusted among his peers as a solid leader. He’s never had difficulty expanding his network and helping others achieve their personal best, especially in the world of finances and financial stability. The career path has delivered great results for his tenure in Jacksonville, one that has led him to become a vice president at Riverplace Capital on the Southbank.

Early on, a few years after the arrival of the Regions Bank location on the corner of Lasalle and Hendricks, Scott led the charge at the branch and quickly got engaged in the business community. As a familiar face as the bank branch manager, he became active in the San Marco Merchants Association back in 2014 and established himself as a leader who enjoys taking charge and helping to energize community initiatives. “I’ve been engaged in San Marco for many years; it’s been exciting to grow as a professional and build lasting relationships in the area,” said Scott. “For my wife, Katherine, it’s been exciting for her to get out and grow her career as a local realtor as well,” he shared. “We’re both in careers that allow us to assist others to realize their dreams of home ownership in addition to financial independence.”

After leaving the bank on the corner – Scott branched out – and followed his path of a higher purpose of helping people achieve their financial goals and dreams. In his position with Riverplace Capital, he’s quickly become a contact for those seeking financial advice and sound investment strategies. His theory is simple – make good choices, know your tolerance for risk and let a trusted advisor help you reach your goals as a partner in investing, not a broker selling products and services that deliver results for the broker.

In the world of money management, Scott believes strongly in the local approach to investing and his reputation rides on it. He believes that building a foundation on trust and knowledge is key – as anyone can



buy stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other products – right over the phone with a nameless, faceless broker. That is not the way Scott operates and it’s certainly not the way his wife believes things should be handled either. She is a strong contributor to their family’s growth and success, growing her business as a realtor.

“We’re in the business of helping others achieve, our goals begin and end with trust,” said Katherine. “Growing up in Jacksonville, my family’s deep faith and approach to lasting relationships is something we are proud of as well,” she shared. “I grew up the daughter of the youth pastor at First Baptist Church and we were always gathering in fellowship and building bonds.”

In fact, as a teenager, Katherine’s favorite hangout was The Loop Pizza Grille in San Marco Square. She fondly remembers running about the Square and enjoying the good times in her younger years and knew that one day she would love to raise her family in this same, beautiful community. She now calls Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty home as a realtor, returning to her stomping grounds as a professional agent in real estate.

“It’s been really fun to come full circle, to raise my children with Scott in this community,” she said. “We’re enjoying our friends, family and look forward to building more bonds as we grow professionally.”

Scott and Katherine are raising 9-year-old Kyleigh, who attends Hendricks and achieves straight A’s and 3-year-old Charlie, who’s favorite thrill ride is the slide in Landon Park. If you see Scott or Katherine, introduce yourself, they want to know more about your local story as well.

Scott Wohlers can be reached at [swohlers@riverplacecapital.com](mailto:swohlers@riverplacecapital.com) or call him at (904) 346-3460 or 614-8000. Katherine Wohlers, at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty, can be reached by sending an email to [katherine.wohlers@floridanetworkrealty.com](mailto:katherine.wohlers@floridanetworkrealty.com), calling (904) 314-7524, or by visiting her office at 1983 San Marco Blvd. PD. ADV.

## Prisoners of Christ Ministry holds annual prayer breakfast



Mr. AJ Johns, Dr. J. Stephen McCoy, Frank Pearce, Ken Durkee, Ken Jefferson

The 28th Annual Crime Prevention Prayer Breakfast, hosted by Prisoners of Christ, brought together a diverse group of community members from law enforcement, justice, and business to faith leaders and ex-offenders to celebrate the work done by the Jacksonville chapter of Prisoners of Christ. At the event, held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, Chuck Shelton was presented with the Faithful Servant Award for developing and leading the mentorship program.

The chapter was founded by W.W. Gay, Wesley Paxson, Charles Towers Jr. in 1990 and is led by Rev. Dr. J. Stephen McCoy. For years, offices were located in the Spring Glen area, but thanks to a generous gift from a local couple, the nonprofit just purchased and renovated a former funeral home at 6940 Atlantic Blvd. in the Glynlea/Grove Park community.

For nearly 30 years, Prisoners of Christ has devoted its energy to providing services for ex-offenders to enable them to leave their past behind. Among other things, its services include housing, clothing, life skills training, substance abuse counseling, job searches and most recently, a comfortable, judgment-free place to worship. The group believes true freedom is found in becoming a Prisoner of Christ, and provides a Christian fellowship meeting for anyone who wishes to attend, but especially for ex-offenders who may not feel comfortable in a traditional church setting.

## San Marco resident joins local realty firm



Angela Wilson

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently welcomed Angela Wilson to its San Marco office.

Wilson joins the company with 15 years’ experience working closely with Northeast Florida’s Realtors. As a representative with Old Republic Home Protection, Wilson helped service customer claims, conducted training seminars with real estate companies, and educated agents about home warranties and their importance to their clients.

Wilson lives in San Marco with her husband, Roger, and four daughters, ages 8 to 14. At Christmas, Wilson and her husband perform with their daughters in the annual production of the Community Nutcracker.



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Jeri Millard

### Cancer care boutique opens new location in San Marco

In the Pink, a nonprofit boutique for women living with cancer, opened a new location in February 2018 at 3547 Hendricks Ave. in San Marco.

Founded by Jeri Millard, a two-time cancer survivor and the 2011 EVE Award winner for Volunteer Service, the company opened its first location in 2009 in Jacksonville Beach to provide everything a cancer patient needs. Services include wigs, post-surgical garments, mastectomy bras/prosthesis, hats, scarves, radiation skincare, lymphedema/compression garments, free yoga, emotional support, and many additional resources.

In the Pink is in-network with most insurance companies and files insurance for each patient. In the Pink cares for over 2,000 cancer patients annually and, thanks to donors and fundraising, often provides products and services free to those without insurance or those eligible for Medicaid.

This unique nonprofit is also well-known for its breast cancer survivor dragon boat team, the Mammoglam, which acts as a support group for its members and hosts the annual Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival at Metropolitan Park Marina each September. This team lives by the motto, "We won the battle...now let's paddle!"

The new San Marco location was formerly on the fourth floor of the Hill Breast Center for six years. In the Pink is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit [jaxinthepink.com](http://jaxinthepink.com) for more information.

## Wine Cellar popularity continues after four decades



Gary Gebert 1980; Greg Martin 1984; Debra Hines 1986; Bob Furman 1997; Mark Peters 2007; Vicki Dugan 1974; Nick Dufour 1997; Karen Daoust 1993, and Wayne Shipley 1980

Wine connoisseurs and gourmands must daily give thanks for the longevity of the Wine Cellar. Serving fine wines and a continental menu since 1974, the Southbank restaurant is a frequent favorite of local, regional and state awards while the wine list perennially wins the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence.

Independently owned and operated for 44 years by Vicki Dugan, the Wine Cellar has played host to many significant milestones and events for generations of patrons.

Dugan originally started the Wine Cellar in 1974 as a retail wine shop with a small bistro for dining, but soon expanded to become a full-fledged restaurant, and by 1997 had doubled in size.

"It truly is an up and down business. The last eight years have been a real challenge as a result of the economic downslide beginning 2009 and then later - Town Center," said Dugan. "This business requires a lot of focus on customer satisfaction, consistency and money management. I work very hard

on that, however, I can say that without question, the main reason Wine Cellar has survived all these years is because of the loyalty and hard work of its staff. It is very unusual in this business to have employees with that type of dedication."

Many of the staff have been with Dugan for several decades, including Wayne Shipley, Manager, and Gary Gebert, Assistant Manager, who both started at the restaurant in 1980, and Debra Hines, Head Day Chef, who joined in 1986.

## Community Nutcracker makes annual disbursement to eight charities

Community Nutcracker, Inc. presented \$45,000 in donations April 25 to eight local charities, including Dreams Come True of Jacksonville; Community Hospice & Palliative Care's PedsCare program; Designs from the heart; Healing Every Autistic Life (HEAL); Jacksonville Speech & Hearing; Learn to Read Jacksonville; Sanctuary on 8th Street; and We Care Jacksonville.

Proceeds were raised from the 26th annual production of The Nutcracker Ballet, sponsored by Community First Credit Union, which was presented in December 2017 at the Florida Theatre. With these donations, Community Nutcracker, Inc. has donated over \$650,000 to locally-based non-profit organizations since 1993.



Representatives from nonprofits which received grants pose in the Florida Theatre with Dr. George Trotter (center) of Community Nutcracker.



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# Retiring from Baptist Health, Allaire ends career on high note

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Pierre Allaire, Ph. D. often joked he had one fundraising campaign left in him, and boy, was it a doozy.

When Allaire retired from his role as Chief Development Officer of the Baptist Health Foundation at the end of March, he left big shoes to fill, having raised \$138 million in five years by spearheading the healthcare system's "Securing Tomorrow Together, the Campaign for Baptist Health." It was the first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign for the five-hospital health system, which is based in San Marco.

"Pierre has an undeniable gift, having led the most successful comprehensive campaign in the history of Baptist Health and to our knowledge, Jacksonville's history," said Hugh Greene, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health. "While we celebrated his retirement in March, we will be forever grateful for his impact on the lives of our patients, now and for decades to come."

*"Pierre has an undeniable gift, having led the most successful comprehensive campaign in the history of Baptist Health and to our knowledge, Jacksonville's history."*

— Hugh Greene, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health

The secret to raising so much money for Baptist was a combination of things and hard work, Allaire said. "The health system had well-defined, strategic goals and a strong following in a community that wants to support it," he said. "We made a compelling case and asked for that support. Also, we were able to increase our staff. You can't raise that kind of money with a small group of fundraisers, so we doubled the staff."

Allaire was well qualified to head Baptist's first-ever comprehensive campaign. After earning his bachelor's degree in science from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, he picked up a master's degree and a doctorate in biology from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and the University of Louisville in Kentucky, respectively.

From 1985 to 2013, he worked in development at Clemson University, the University of Florida, and the University of North Florida. During his tenure at UNF as vice president for Institutional Advancement and executive director of the UNF Foundation, he oversaw two campaigns raising \$130 million and \$103 million.

Working for the Baptist Health Foundation was the perfect way to cap his career, he said. "I'd been at UNF for 17 years, and I had done those two big campaigns. When this position came about and taking into consideration that my academic background is biology, I thought working for a health system – getting back to the life sciences – would be interesting," said Allaire. "Then having the opportunity to work with Hugh Greene and Audrey Moran (Senior Vice President for Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy), and other Baptist professionals was enticing. The fact that



Pierre Allaire, Ph. D.

Baptist is a faith-based organization also appealed to me since I had been at three public universities. Putting all that together, it was a great opportunity for me to be at Baptist, run the foundation, build the program, and do a campaign."

Although he officially retired two months ago, Allaire has barely had time to relax. He still plans to remain active in his profession by working as a consultant. He also will spend time on his hobbies – bicycling, bird watching, and traveling. A trip to Europe is planned with his wife, Lorraine, for later this year, and then there is time to be spent with the grandchildren.

"We have five grandchildren in town, and I'm on three boards, so I won't be lacking in anything to do," he said. "This is week seven. I've been busy for seven weeks, and I don't see that changing," he added. "But it's a nice pace, and in retirement, you get to control things a little bit more."

## Jacksonville hospitals receive "A" grades for patient safety

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville received an A for patient safety in the spring 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, as did all three of St. Vincent's Healthcare hospitals (Riverside, Southside and Clay County). Baptist Medical Center Nassau also received an A grade, while Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Baptist Medical Center South received Bs.

The Leapfrog Group, a Washington, D.C.-based organization aiming to improve health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers, released the new Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades in late April. St. Vincent's hospitals and two Baptist Medical Centers were five of 750 – out of 2,500 hospitals in the nation – awarded an 'A' for their efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards.

Using 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data, the Safety Grade assigns a grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms among patients in their care. It is calculated twice per year by top safety experts, peer reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

In addition to its Leapfrog grade, the National Research Corporation has named Baptist Health the "Most Preferred Healthcare Provider" every year since 1990. All five hospitals have also earned the Magnet™ Designation, the highest honor for excellence in patient care, while the four adult hospitals also have 4 Stars from the CMS Overall Star Ratings, which uses 57 quality measures to rank hospitals from one to five stars.

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## Revellers raise funds for K9s For Warriors

The Avondale home of Carol and Peter Blumeyer was again the setting for Ye Mystic Revellers' Kentucky Derby party May 5. The madcap "Derby de Mayo" was more than fun, food and frolic. The 12th annual Derby Party also raised over \$700 for K9s For Warriors.

Ye Mystic Revellers is North Florida's oldest Mardi Gras organization. Revellers has been responsible for bringing these special traditions to the greater Jacksonville area since 1923. The membership of this unique social organization is a varied cross-section of Jacksonville's business and social communities whose primary focus is to continue the city's rich Mardi Gras tradition.



Jason and Lorine Wilson



Kevin and Anna Valent with Meg and Jon Sacks



David Wise with Shelley and Jeremy Spillers and Damon Katsikas

# Sulzbacher honors Mitrick with Healthy Hero Award

Sulzbacher Center's Beaches Clinic bestowed its annual Healthy Hero Award on a familiar face from Jacksonville's healthcare community during its Fiesta Sulzbacher celebration at Casa Marina in Jacksonville Beach May 10.

Joseph Mitrick, president of Baptist Beaches Hospital, received the award for his work with Sulzbacher's Respite Program by the nonprofit's President and CEO Cindy Funkhouser during a special presentation at the fundraiser.

"Joe is a strong supporter of Sulzbacher, and we have been partners with Baptist for many years," said Eileen Verney Briggs, chief development officer. "He helped develop our Respite Program, to provide a place for homeless people to recuperate so they don't have to be discharged to the street after being in the hospital."

Mitrick, who serves on the nonprofit's Respite Committee and Host Committee for Transformations, said he was honored to be recognized. "There's many people in Baptist Health more deserving than I," he said. "Baptist is committed to working with Sulzbacher and supporting the work they do."



Joseph Mitrick, president of Baptist Beaches Hospital, accepts the Sulzbacher Center's Beaches Healthy Hero award.



Kathryn Hill and Dr. Colleen Bell



Cheryl and Scott Siegfried with Cindy Funkhouser, president and CEO of Sulzbacher Center, and Carla and Roy Forest



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**The 2018 Pajcic Yard Golf event exceeded all expectations by raising close to \$150,000 for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. JALA provides civil legal services to those in need, giving an opportunity for justice to everyone in our community.**

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Kyle and Carrie Harper



Ed and Marlene White with Fitzhugh Powell



Fran and Russell Selevan

Florida Theatre gala evokes nightclubs, disco mania

Studio 54 – a major fundraiser for the Florida Theatre – lived up to its reputation as “the event of the year,” celebrating the glamour of New York City’s Studio 54 with musical tributes to Seventies artists Donna Summer, Barry Manilow and Elton John. The event chairs who pulled off the amazing night – complete with red carpet and disco ball – were Troy Spurlin, of Troy Spurlin Interiors and Generation Us, and Missy Peters, of Community First Credit Union, also a sponsor.

The Florida Theatre, built in 1927, is recognized as one of the finest concert venues in the Southeast and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Except

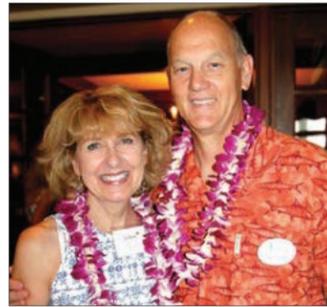
for a three-year period in the early 1980s, the 91-year-old Florida Theatre has continuously provided cultural and entertainment events for over four generations of Jacksonville residents and visitors.



Susan and Eric Weinroth



Kathy and Tom VanOsdol with Randy and Jane Lanier



Liz Dunn with Rick Patsy



Jim and Sandy O'Leary with Darlene Sider

Nonprofit helps thousands each year thanks to generous supporters

Clad in “island” attire and leis, nearly 300 guests came together May 19 at the Timuquana Country Club to support Jacksonville Speech and Hearing. All proceeds from FinFest 2018 directly fund the 69-year-old nonprofit’s mission to provide the highest quality professional and compassionate care to all individuals in the community with speech, language or hearing disorders, regardless of ability to pay.

Event chairs for the second year were Tom and Kathy VanOsdol, who both began their careers as speech-language pathologists, and honorary chairs were Matt and Seana McAfee. President/CEO Michael Howland invited guests to participate in Fund A Child, an opportunity which provides an evaluation and therapy sessions. Over 13,000 adults and children with speech and hearing issues have been helped in the past three years.

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OYSTER PERPETUAL  
EXPLORER II





Jackie Cornelius with Andrew and Sonja France



Michael Skipper with Sean Hall



Sally Hall and Chris Barnes



Dita Domonkos and Carey Cornelius with Betsy Lovett

Cultural Council's Arts Awards honor best, brightest

The 42nd Annual Arts Awards, Jacksonville's equivalent to the Oscars, Tonys, Emmys and the Grammys all in one, honored many deserving artists at the May 5 event at the U.S. Assure Club.

Emily Lisska, former Executive Director of the Jacksonville Historical Society for 21 years, was presented with the Helen Lane Founders Award and the Robert Arleigh White Award for Advocacy was given to

Shawana Brooks, Arts and Culture Developer for the Jacksonville Public Library. Others honored included Malcolm Jackson, Visual Artist of the Year; Tim Gilmore, Literary Artist of the Year; Philip Pan, former concertmaster of the Jacksonville Symphony, Performing Artist of the Year; Tony Rodrigues, Arts Educator of the Year; Heather Moore, the Art of Giving Award, and Color Me Kona, Production of the Year Award.



The staff of Ronald McDonald House includes: Executive Director Diane Boyle, Sara Barker, Carol Harrison, Vernetta Borden, Faye James, Many Stone, Ashley Strickland, Shelli Martin, Tina Thompson, Sharon Green, Alli Runnestan, Sandra Jones, Amy Christus, Rebecca Briones and Lisa Brock

Celebrating 30 years with a Caribbean spirit

Thatched huts, tiki bars, and a St. Lucia Steel Drum Performance marked Caribbean Nights McGala 2018, a celebration of Ronald McDonald House's 30th anniversary serving families with sick children wishing to take advantage of Jacksonville's medical community.

More than 500 guests gathered in the ballroom at Sawgrass Marriott Resort May 19, raising \$300,000 to support the San Marco residence that has catered to more than 35,000 families so far.

"It's quite a milestone for us. It's so great that everyone has come with their Caribbean spirit," said Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle. "We recently renovated so our facility went from 30 to 53 bedrooms and has a rooftop garden and a fitness center. But most important is our mission - the compassionate care we provide for our families. We help them through very challenging times."



Susie and Mark Slappey with Kyle and Erin Mullaney



Joel and Whitney Barrington with Mary Lauren Upchurch and Sean Furlong



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# Pajcic's hole-in-one adds dollars to JALA coffers

To ensure all residents have access to justice, the law office of Pajcic & Pajcic holds a fundraiser every year supporting Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA), which offers civil legal support to those who cannot afford an attorney for matters ranging from fair housing issues to employment and much more.

The 6th Annual Yard Course & Back 9 fundraiser held May 19 was again a dual location event, with the famous "island green" at the home of Steve and Anne Pajcic, where both Curry Pajcic and then his brother, Curt, hit a hole-in-one for \$6,000 each, matched by the firm for JALA. "My first hole in one ever!" said Curry. "Since the Pajcic Firm matches all the donations and prizes, this is great for JALA!"

"On behalf of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, we would like to thank Steve and Anne Pajcic and Michael Pajcic and Katy DeBriere for creating an event with an unsurpassed track record in making a difference!" said Jim Kowalski, JALA president/CEO. "We truly appreciate the support of more than fifty sponsors and we want everyone to know how important their commitment is to the overall success of this event."

Celebrity golfers included Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore; Frank Frangie, the voice of the Jaguars, as well as many players, including Keelan Cole, Rashad Greene, Josh Lambo and Tommy Bohanon. All donations and prizes were matched by the Pajcics dollar for dollar, raising close to \$150,000.



Jacksonville Jaguars Keelan Cole and Jaguar Tommy Bohanon with Steve and Curry Pajcic, Jaguar Rashad Green and Jaguar Josh Lambo



Garry Crews and Kim Sadler with Suzette Kowalski and JALA Executive Director Jim Kowalski



Josh and Luke Taylor with Eric Ragatz



Thomas, Michael and Jackson Milton



Luis Aleman with Michael McCaffrey, Damon Otto, Brad Hunter and Tara McCaffrey

# Showing kindness pays off, reduces violence in schools

The annual Journey2Kindness Suitcase Party and Awards, held May 10 at the San Jose Country Club, brought supporters and sponsors together for an evening of fun while benefiting the area's most vulnerable children and youth and their schools.

Hosted by the American Civility Association, the event helps the nonprofit achieve its goals of ending school violence through kindness, supporting literacy education and restoring safety and respect to school cultures. Shawna White, principal at West Riverside Elementary School, shared the successes of the program in its second year at the school.

Mary Baer, WJXT news anchor, was honored as the 2018 Kindness Hero of the Year, Kingsley Killis was Student Kindness Hero, and two Hendricks Avenue Elementary School students Leilani Simpkins and Gabby Shoraka won first and second prizes for showing kindness to others.

Killis donated nine inches of her blonde hair to Pantene's Beautiful Lengths to make wigs for cancer patients. Simpkins donated nearly all of her toys and stuffed animals to Robin's Nest Family Childcare, and Shoraka went on a mission trip to Guatemala with her church, Southside United Methodist.



Jennifer Rosenblum, Kimberly Gill and Camille Ott with Robin Giddens Shepperd, Amanda Lacy and Tom Harris



Amy Barnett, American Civility Association president, with 2018 Kindness Hero Mary Baer



Leilani Simpkins and Gabby Shoraka

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## 22nd Annual River Garden Golf Classic a success

It was a great day at Deerwood Country Club April 25 for the 22nd River Garden Classic, sponsored once again by Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes & Cemeteries/Dignity Memorial.

"We appreciate the leadership and dedication of long-time chairs Mark Lodinger and Michael Price," said Kathy Osterer, chief development officer. "River Garden extends a heartfelt thank you to all of our generous sponsors, committee members, volunteers, players and staff who worked together to make this event successful, and extends special recognition to our long-time reception sponsor, HUB International Florida, and new Hole-in-One Car Sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Jacksonville."

Since the tournament's inception in 1997, more than \$1.4 million has been raised, to benefit The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center at River Garden, which provides training and continuing education for River Garden staff. This year, 120 players participated in this year's tournament, raising nearly \$70,000.

"We are dedicated to excellence in care and training, and our staff is the reason River Garden is northeast Florida's leader in Long Term Care and the recipient of an unprecedented eight Governor's Gold Seal Awards for Excellence in Long Term Care spanning 17 years and was recently named the #1 Nursing Home in the state by US News & World Report," said Osterer.



Carrie Bielski, Beth Wolpoff and Laura Bowmaster



Matt Tucci, Hardage-Giddens market director, Jeanine Rogozinski, River Garden Foundation president and Jody Brandenburg, event sponsor and Hardage-Giddens president



Joe Kochersperger with Seth Baer and Bob Clark



Susie Goetz and Marsha Pollock



David McEwen and Jim Richardson

## New young athletes program spurs fundraising extravaganza

It was the equivalent of nailing a complicated back flip on the balance beam.

A record \$65,000 was collected during "A Night at Roy's," the Monique Burr Foundation's (MBF) 16th annual fundraiser May 2. As Founder Ed Burr introduced Olympic Gold Medalist Shannon Miller as the newest member of the MBF Board of Directors and celebrated the new safety program for young athletes she will champion, guests during the Hawaiian-themed event generously emptied their wallets in support of the nonprofit and its programs that educate against bullying and child abuse.

Miller will join Donna Orender of Ponte Vedra Beach, former president of WNBA in spearheading a task force to develop the new educational program, "MBF Athlete Safety Matters," a researched-based, comprehensive abuse prevention education program for youth sports. A Jacksonville resident, Miller is the most decorated of all United States Olympic gymnasts, either male or female, and holds seven medals.

"I am honored and excited to be a part of the MBF team," said Miller told the crowd of 500. "As adults we are responsible for protecting our children. We are also responsible for empowering children with the tools they need to protect themselves. It's not just about protecting athletes at the highest levels of sport. Athletes, children must be protected at all levels."



Monique Burr Foundation Founder Ed Burr accepts a large donation from the women of Kappa Delta Sorority at the University of North Florida.



Joe Arnall with Taylor and Kala Wyatt



Billie Jo and Ed Burr with Lynn Layton and Stacy Pendarvis

More than 500 guests enjoyed tropical refreshments, wine, and gourmet cuisine provided by James Beard Award winner Roy Yamaguchi, a major sponsor of "A Night at Roy's," a luau-themed event, which took place at his Jacksonville Beach restaurant. Entertainment was provided by Nashville musician Colleen Orender and local musician Will Harden, who helped craft and record MBF's music video.

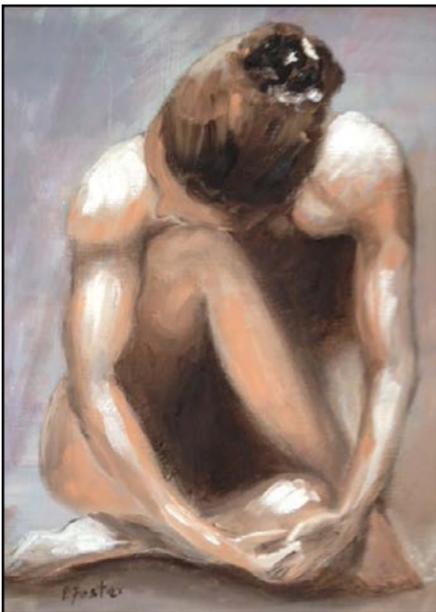
Also contributing to the record amount raised were the members of Kappa Delta Sorority at the University of North Florida, who presented Burr with a ceremonial check for \$11,400. The funds will help MBF continue to expand the breadth and reach of its prevention education programs, which include

"MBF Child Safety Matters" and "MBF Teen Safety Matters," both programs that focus on the prevention of bullying, cyberbullying, digital abuse, and other types of abuse and exploitation. MBF programs have reached over 2 million students during the past six years and are delivered year-around to schools throughout Florida and the country.

"We are so grateful for the turnout we saw at 'A Night at Roy's,'" said Lynn Layton, executive director for MBF. "Because of this support, we can keep moving toward our goal of expanding our reach and keeping more children safe from bullying and abuse. The funds raised also will allow us to build on the exponential growth we have seen over the past two decades."



Monique Burr Foundation Board Member Shannon Miller discusses the foundation's newest program, "Athletes Safety Matters," during a fundraiser at Roy's Restaurant in Jacksonville



### LEARN TO PAINT

with San Marco's resident artist Paula Foster

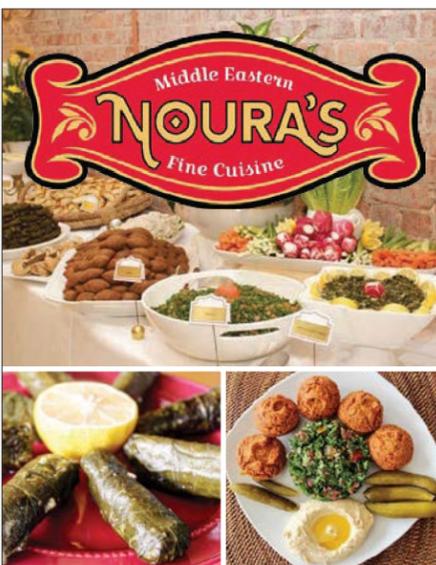
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Paula has exhibited in numerous galleries and her paintings and mixed media work has been collected by local families and businesses. She currently exhibits at the Wardroom in San Marco Square and most recently taught art classes at Redi-Arts for five years.



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# Council celebrates planned giving, love for mankind

By Karen J. Rieley  
Resident Community News

The Planned Giving Council of Northeast Florida is celebrating 25 years of working together to help nonprofits enrich the community. And here's the little known secret they want to make public – everyone can be a philanthropist.

The word “philanthropist” often conjures up images of the wealthy, like Warren Buffet and Melinda and Bill Gates, making million-dollar gifts that change the world. But, historically the word has a humbler and more personal meaning. The origin of the word “philanthropy” is Greek and means “love for mankind.”

“Any one of us can be a philanthropist by being a strategic giver,” said Cliff Evans, outgoing president. “Philanthropic giving addresses our highest concerns – our mortality, our families and our legacy after we're gone. It helps us answer the ultimate question of why each of us is here – what difference do we want to make?”

So, what are planned gifts among other forms of giving? That's the question the local Planned Giving Council demystifies for its members, the organizations they serve, and those in the community who may consider helping nonprofit organizations.

Twenty-five years ago a group of people all working in some area of planned giving – estate and tax planning, financial planning and charitable giving – came together to discuss how they could support each other in their efforts to guide donors in making decisions that meet the donors' personal and charitable interests. The group was led by Denis Plumb, who was responsible at the time for planned giving efforts to support the Diocese of St. Augustine for

The Catholic Church of North Florida. Members represented the insurance, legal, banking and nonprofit sectors.

Those involved in planned giving efforts for their nonprofits saw their role as working as advocates or stewards for individuals as they worked with their accountants, financial planners and attorneys to plan what would happen to funds they may accumulate throughout their lives. Planned gifts, more than any other type of giving, are based on trust in the people advising the donor on how to make the gift and in the organization to which they are making the gift, because they are gifts based on money the donor has or will accumulate throughout life and beyond the donor's life.

“We wanted to learn the technical side of planned giving,” Plumb said. “You can't be sitting in front of a donor and say ‘I'll get back to you' because you don't understand how planned gifts work and then expect the donor to trust you.”

A group of planned giving officers, lawyers, estate planning professionals, financial advisers, trust officers and consultants all working together might seem unlikely. After all, they are all looking for someone to “buy” their product over the competition's.

“The donor pool in Jacksonville at the high income level is small, and we're all working with pretty much the same donors,” Plumb acknowledged. “But that's the very reason we're not in competition. We understand that donors are individuals and have their own interests and passions, so it only makes sense to work together for the good of each individual donor.”

The council is also a good way for planned giving people to educate attorneys and insurance people. “A bequest in a will is the easiest planned gift,” Plumb said. “Our hope



Lori Anderson, Mission House; Beverly Flanagan, BBVA Compass and president-elect; Jill Workman, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

is that an attorney will understand planned gifts enough to at least ask clients if they would like to leave something in their will for their church or other organizations that they care about.”

Such was the case when attorneys from Fisher, Tousey, Leas and Ball helped Grady and Becky Parker set up a \$2 million bequest to The Community Foundation as an unrestricted gift, with the proviso that 20 percent be used to improve the quality of life for senior citizens, especially those facing financial hardships. When Becky passed away, Grady accelerated the plan by funding half the gift they had intended to leave in their will.

A quarter of a century later, the local Planned Giving Council has enjoyed a year of celebration for what it has achieved for its membership and for local donors and nonprofits. During its end-of-year meeting on May 10, at San Jose Country Club, members reflected on what the organization means to them.

“It is a good professional education experience and a great networking opportunity,” said Jill Workman with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

“We don't have a formal planned giving program yet, so this helps me figure out how I can begin to add this to my list of ways to engage donors in our work,” said Lori Anderson, executive director, Mission House at the Beaches.

The council came full circle in its 25th year under the leadership of Evans, who is the planned giving officer for the Diocese of St. Augustine, just as Plumb was when she formed the local Planned Giving Council. Evans was recognized for his efforts by Christine Bell, CTFA, AEP, trust officer, Cypress Trust Company, during the May 10 luncheon. Bell

was one of the original founding members of the council 25 years ago.

Sharon Clark, director, individual engagement, United Way of Northeast Florida, is the incoming president. “I hope we can be even more proactive in offering planned giving information and support to our community in the future,” she said.

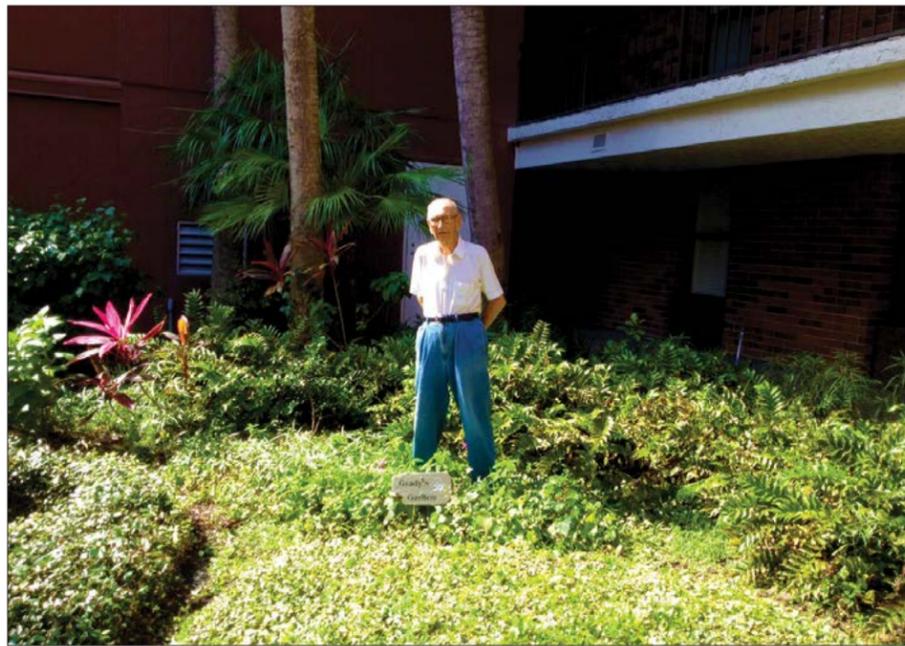
“Without a planned giving initiative, organizations miss the opportunity to create a sustainable revenue stream for the future,” Clark said. “Both organizations' and donors' lives are changed by giving dollars that last in perpetuity.”

Ideas being considered are a speaker's bureau that community organizations can tap for information, increased efforts with the Estate Planning Council, Association of Fundraising Professionals and Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida and presenting the 9th Annual Planned Giving Symposium for the professional development of their members.

“This is a very philanthropic, caring community and very faith-based,” Evans said. “We hope that readers of *The Resident* will be willing to ask themselves how they'd like to be remembered, not only by their families, but also by their community and the causes they care the most about so that they can make provisions to take care of them.”

Planned Giving Council 2018-19 officers are Sharon Clark, president; Beverly Flanagan, president elect; Cliff Evans, past president; Ken Thompson, treasurer; and John Zell, secretary.

Any organizations or individuals wishing to learn more about the Planned Giving Council of Northeast Florida are encouraged to visit their website, [www.pgcnefl.org](http://www.pgcnefl.org), or call Belinda Robinson, council administrator, (904) 887-3843, [administrator@pgcnefl.org](mailto:administrator@pgcnefl.org).



Grady Parker in his garden at his condominium complex

## ARTISTS WHO MENTOR: THE PASSING OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

*Beginning June 6th, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church will offer an art exhibit honoring the mentor/mentee relationship—when one gives the gift of their time to pass on knowledge and skills.*

We are honored to have **Louise Freshman Brown**, **Jim Draper** and **Nofa Dixon** from the University of North Florida, **Paul Ladnier**, retired from UNF, **Brian Frus** of Jacksonville University, **Dustin Harewell** of FSCJ, Kent Campus, **Glendia Cooper**, retired from the Duval County School System, and **Jim Smith** of the Bolles School joining us.

*Each of these accomplished artists will choose one person they have mentored to exhibit with them.*

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Jeff and Katie Hutchinson with Mary and Bill Beck

## Morning Star's own star shines brightly, thanks to generous donors

Morning Star School's seventh annual gala and auction – A Night on the St. Johns, Cinco de Mayo Fiesta – was a well-attended event, with more than 200 supporters enjoying the Mexican cuisine, dancing and more than 100 packages available at the online silent auction.

The event celebrated Morning Star's new high school building and honored its Circle of Friends, a group of generous givers brought together by Robert Shircliff, Jay Demetree and Lou Walsh to raise funds for the "Building a Brighter Future" capital campaign.

The \$43,000-plus raised from the gala will help fund classroom enhancements, technology and educational programs. Partial proceeds will be used to establish a scholarship fund ensuring special education is affordable and available to every child who needs it.

Naming opportunities are still available for the media and technology center, the life skills center and an outdoor fitness



Susan, Matthew and John Caven



Larry and Lamee Chase

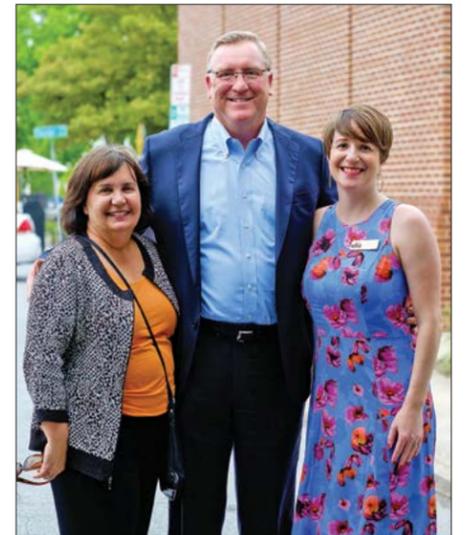
area on the Arlington campus. Morning Star has been serving children from kindergarten through 12th grade with learning differences, attention deficit disorders, autism spectrum disorders, and mild intellectual disabilities since 1956.

## Chef Matthew Medure opens doors again for Children's Home Society benefit

San Marco residents Husein and LeAnna Cumber and Gary McCalla were among the host committee with Senator Aaron and Abby Bean and others for the 15th Annual Evening of Taste to benefit the Children's Home Society of Florida.

The April 22 event, held at Matthew's Restaurant in San Marco, provided an intimate atmosphere where guests savored bites from a handcrafted menu, sipped and socialized to live music, while helping build a stronger First Coast community. Sponsored by Eisman & Russo, APR Energy and Mass Mutual, the benefit raised \$50,000 from about 150 generous supporters.

Each year, as it has for the past 115, Children's Home Society of Florida helps children and family members in the Northeast Florida Region turn odds into opportunities through innovative community solutions.



Courtney Weatherby-Hunter with Kathy and Roger Dominey



Nancy Edwards and Mike Weatherby



Karen McCombs with LeAnna and Husein Cumber

## Local nonprofit teams up with celebrity chef to support kids

New York City-based celebrity chef and author Alexander Smalls was the headliner April 28 at "Harlem Down South," a brunch and book signing event to benefit Don't Miss a Beat (DMAB).

The local nonprofit began 10 years ago with a mission to blend music, art, academic achievement and civic engagement to inspire and enlighten children and teens in the Riverside, Brooklyn and Woodstock communities.

At the event held at South Kitchen & Spirits in Avondale, Smalls signed autographs his newly released book, "Between Harlem and Heaven," an homage to the food and cultural significance of Harlem and the Afro-Asian diaspora. He also met with South Kitchen's chefs to prepare some of his recipes for the brunch event.

Smalls was invited to Jacksonville by DMAB's artistic director, Ulysses Owens, Jr. Owens is a graduate of the Douglas Anderson School for the Performing Arts and a multi-Grammy award-winning jazz percussionist. Both Smalls and Owens have a passion for uplifting and educating kids through the arts – especially in underserved neighborhoods.



Ulysses Owens, Jr. Alexander Smalls, and Jason Motley, owner, South Kitchen & Spirits



Dr. Shirley Jones, P. Renee Rolfs, Alexander Smalls, and Chiquita Rivers

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## Local business leaders see great value in Communities in Schools

By Karen J. Rieley  
Resident Community News

In a successful three-year run, this year's Rising Stars show on May 3 attracted the most patrons and raised the most funds for Communities In Schools of Jacksonville (CIS) since its inception. "Our Rising Stars event allows students to not only show their talents on stage, but to also demonstrate their strength and dedication," said Steve Gilbert, CIS CEO.

CIS operates case management, after-school and literacy programs that have helped thousands of students stay on track to graduate from high school. "We provide students a caring relationship with an adult who is in tune to their specific needs," Gilbert said.

"Our Student Leader Program has partnered with CIS since 2005," said Martha Barrett, vice president of market development for Bank of America. "I think this is one of the finest nonprofits in the community."

Ed Pratt-Dannals also serves on the board of CIS. "While I was in school, my first job was working with what is now called Communities In Schools in Atlanta as a 'street worker' to identify the kids who could use our help."

After moving to Jacksonville, Pratt-Dannals became a teacher, principal, regional



Martha Barrett and Frank Houston

superintendent, and chief academic officer before becoming superintendent. "I've seen firsthand what CIS does to help children succeed instead of dropping out. After I retired, I knew this is the organization I wanted to help."

Event sponsors help raise funds for CIS as well. "Black Knight understands the importance of leadership development and is proud to sponsor the Rising Stars event, which helps to support the talent of tomorrow's leaders," said Abena Horton, Black Knight vice president and CIS board member.

"CIS mentors build relationships with students so they can succeed both inside and outside the classroom," said Kristi Aiello, Florida Blue regional market development director and CIS board member.

Kristy Russell, wife of CIS board member Rusty Russell, said it's all about the kids.

"I love seeing how excited the kids are," she said. "You realize how important just a tiny bit of encouragement is to these kids, that someone believes in them and will invest time in them. You can turn a life around in this program."



Students at SA Hull Elementary School took first place with a dance of the panthers.



Jeremy Seldomridge, Steve Gilbert, and John Brent



Kristy and Rusty Russell

## Disco fever strikes San Jose Catholic fundraiser



Richard Barnett, Rachel Shrader, Michelle Barnett with Renee and Jay Farhat

A little Saturday Night Fever swept through the San Jose Catholic gymnasium May 5 as more than 120 supporters of school donned psychedelic gear, platform shoes, and glittery bell-bottom pants to groove to tunes under flashing lights by the Bee Gees, the Rolling Stones, Kiss, and Donna Summer.

The retro occasion was San Jose Fest – The 70s, a fundraiser organized by members of the San Jose Home & School Association. Veronica Bolado chaired the dinner dance with the help of her committee – Diana Cratem, Michelle Bedoya Barnett, Tina Wright, Michelle Chaffin, Sherri Worman, Joseph Peters and Brian Wheeler.

Also joining in the fun was Father Rudy Godinez of San Jose Catholic Church.

With a goal to raise \$36,000, the annual event tallied \$21,000, through proceeds from a live and silent auction, a raffle, and a "Wine & Gourmet Experiences" game.



San Jose Catholic School Principal Brian Wheeler and Carolina Wheeler

Funds from the event will be used to cover wish list items for San Jose Catholic teachers as well as other school expenses. "Our school is looking to invest in new technology," said Principal Brian Wheeler.



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## Women's Center celebrates 'unsung' sheroes, heroes at annual event

The Women's Center of Jacksonville's 8th Annual Speaker Event: Women, Words, & Wisdom welcomed as keynote speaker Dr. Alesia Ford Burse, Jacksonville Field Office Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The May 15 event at the Schultz Center also recognized emerging leaders, "Unsung Sheroes and Heroes," who are making a positive difference in the lives of women in the community. The honorees, who demonstrate professional influence through a combination of career growth, innovation, initiative, and accomplishments, included Melvin and Emelda Kennerly, founders of the Share and Seed Academy; Allishia Bauman, Chief of Staff with City Year; Brittany Harmon, a music therapist at Lakeview Health; Jennifer Wieda-Perry, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council staff member; Dr. Tiffanie Williams, founder of Liam Lives Foundation; Marcus Pollard, director of player operations, Jacksonville Jaguars;



Teresa Miles, Alma Ballard and Lisé Everly



Susan Wallace, Sandra Hansford and Carolyn Gentry

Erin Wolfson, prosecutor with the State's Attorney Office; Patricia Hill, Women's Center volunteer; the Honorable Judge Gary Flower, 4th Judicial Circuit, and Coral Silvey, manager at Wells Fargo. Also honored posthumously was Dr. Mellana Bridges, of the Mayo Clinic.



Seated: Lisa Mayes and Brandy Boone; standing: Katie Pearsall, Kellie Ann Kelleher and Laura Vanzee

## Community turns out for annual Jewish food fest, bake-off



This year's winners of Bubbe's Bake Off were Talia Algee, Danielle Ruckh, Ellie Pinnar, Hanna Brown, Bonnie Ruckh, Dan Weinstock and Sarah Fraden

By Karen J. Rieley  
Resident Community News

Congregation Ahavath Chesed's annual Jacksonville Jewish Food Festival, held May 6, is well on its way to becoming a tradition. What started out seven years ago as a good way to raise funds for "The Temple" has become more than just that. Like any great tradition, the event has grown beyond its creators' original idea and even beyond The Temple's purpose into an event the community looks forward to attending annually.

Laura Miller and Bob Armel are annual attendees. "We've been here before, and we wouldn't miss it," Miller said.

"This year's event tastings focused on traditional, Israeli, Jewish holidays and desserts," said Sarah Fraden, event chair. Jewish cooking combines the styles of the many places that Jews have lived throughout the ages, especially eastern Europe, Germany, Spain and the Mediterranean. The constellation of these varied cuisines into one is uniquely Jewish.

Brisket, bagels, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, falafel, kugel and assorted desserts were available at vendors' tables for sampling by all. The event included the seventh annual baking contest, Bubbe's Bake Off. "Bubbe" is Yiddish for "grandmother."

Tasting and judging the contest were Judy Wells, Belinda Hulin, Leigh Cort,



Temple Sisterhood vendors Joyce Elkin and Sheila Horowitz serve Nina Waters, president, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

Laura Gefen, Jay Magee and Jennifer DeCamp. Ed Gefen organized the judging and Mica Brown was contest chair. This year's winners of Bubbe's Bake Off were Talia Algee, Lemon Bundt Cake with Cream Cheese Icing; Danielle Ruckh, No-Bake and S'mores Cake; Ellie Pinnar, Peanut Butter Cheesecake Chocolate Cake; Hanna Brown, Lemon Blueberry Layer Cake; Bonnie Ruckh, Brown Butter Cream Cheese Applie Cake; Dan Weinstock, Chocolate Fudge Cake with Vanilla Butterscotch Frosting & Chocolate Ganache; and Sarah Fraden, Too Good to Be Called Passover Cake.

The event also featured the "L'Chaim Wine Wall," where attendees could purchase a ticket and pick a mystery bottle of wine from the wall.

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## Bishop Felipe Estévez ordains two men to the priesthood

Two men joined the ranks of the clergy of the Diocese of St. Augustine when they were ordained May 12 by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez at a 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.

The journeys that led them to the priesthood are very different, but the result is the same. They both answered God's call to the priesthood.

John Sollee grew up in San Jose, attended San Jose Catholic School and, after graduating from The Bolles School, enrolled at the University of Florida, majoring in finance and English. Sollee's great-grandfather was one of the members of Immaculate Conception parish who petitioned the bishop to establish a parish in what was then South Jacksonville. His great-grandfather was an altar server at the first Mass at Assumption parish in 1913. Sollee was the emcee at the centennial celebration in 2013.

After losing trust in the church during his high school and college years, Sollee endured a personally wrenching summer in New York City, before he underwent a "reversion experience" and returned to the Catholic faith. When he got back to UF, Sollee joined the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and started a Bible study, eventually becoming a FOCUS missionary.



Martin Ibeh

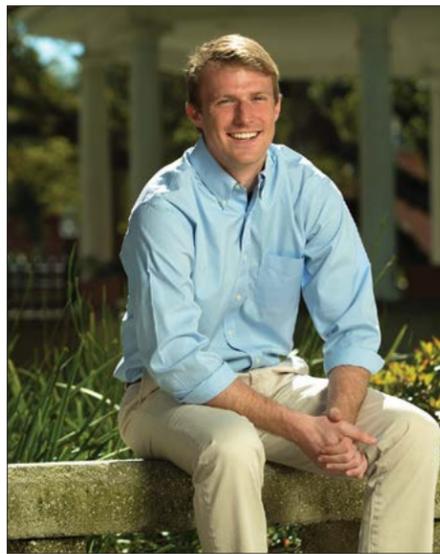
Martin Ibeh grew up one of eight children in Amiri, an impoverished Nigerian town, where going to school sometimes meant working in the teacher's fields. The family walked to 8 a.m. Mass on Sundays five miles away. The trek could take two hours if they had young children in tow.

Ibeh knew as a young boy that he wanted to be a priest like the ones who would visit his family. But they were poor and couldn't afford to send him to seminary. He wanted to go to college, so his older brothers went to work in the city and sent money home for his education. Ibeh majored in English and Christian religious studies at a college of education, then he earned a bachelor's degree in information science at a university and worked as a librarian.

Still too poor to afford a seminary education, a requirement to be accepted for ordination by the diocese, Ibeh entered the Society of Our Mother of Peace in 2007. After four years of formation, they sent him to their monastery in St. Louis, Missouri, then he graduated with a bachelor's in philosophy from Kenrick Glennon Seminary. Though they have taken very different paths, Sollee and Ibeh both studied at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida. They have one more thing in common.

Ibeh will be the first priest from his village; Sollee will be the first priest from Bolles.

After their ordination, Father John Sollee will serve as a parochial vicar at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jacksonville and Father Martin Ibeh will serve as a parochial vicar at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.



John Sollee

## Florida's First Lady reads new book to patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital

Ann Scott, wife of Florida Governor Rick Scott, visited patients of all ages who are hospitalized at Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville May 8, and read her new book, "Ally & Jordi's Adventures through Florida." She arrived at the hospital with an entourage of security detail, personal assistant, photographer and publicity aide, and was escorted through the hospital by C.C. Brooks, vice president for Patient Care Operations at the hospital.

Scott's book takes children on a journey across the state to explore Florida's history, culture and environment through colorful illustrations, engaging activities and creative content. The book, a collaboration between First Lady Scott and the Florida Department of State, has been distributed to Florida schools and libraries at no cost.



Angie Villeda, 12, enjoys a visit with Florida's First Lady Ann Scott at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

## Former San Marco resident, author returns for book signing

More than 50 fans of Charles Martin's works queued to meet the author at San Marco Books and More May 7. According to owner Desiree Bailey, people began arriving an hour prior to the book signing, coming from St. Augustine, Orlando and southern Georgia.

"This is Charles' 13th book," said Bailey. "We keep all of his titles in stock and they're all signed. I read the book, Send Down the Rain, in two sittings...only because I tried to stay up to finish it and couldn't!"

The novel is set on Florida's Gulf Coast, but takes the reader on a journey through south Florida, North Carolina, and Vietnam.



Desiree Bailey, owner of San Marco Books and More with author Charles Martin and his wife Christy



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# Hall of Famer recalls salad days of collegiate coaching career

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

A little bit of March Madness came to San Marco May 3 when Hugh Durham, one of the winningest coaches in collegiate basketball, shared entertaining anecdotes about his glory days before an enthusiastic crowd in Preservation Hall.

A guest lecturer in the San Marco Preservation Society's (SMPS) speaker series, Durham, a Colonial Manor resident, wowed the crowd with tales of winning and losing games and recruiting future NBA stars, such as Dave Cowens and Dominique Wilkins.

A graduate of Florida State University, Durham served as head coach at three universities – Florida State University (1967-1978), University of Georgia (1979-1995) and Jacksonville University (1998-2005), during his 35-year career. He is the only coach in Division I history to lead two schools – Florida State and Georgia – to their only Final Four appearance. “Other coaches have done it, but not with two teams that had never been there before,” he said.

Inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016, Durham is also the only basketball coach to be admitted into the Sports Hall of Fame in three different states – Florida, Georgia and his native Kentucky.

A 1959 graduate of Florida State University, as a student Durham was one of the most prolific scorers in Seminole history with a career average of 18.9 points per game. Playing prior to college basketball's adoption of the 3-point shot, he racked up 1,381 points during his three years playing varsity, and in 1999, his alma mater recognized his contribution to the school and the sport by renaming its Most Valuable Player award as the “Hugh Durham Most Valuable Player Award” in his honor.

Coaching freshman basketball at FSU before serving as an assistant coach under Coach Bud Kennedy, Durham later took over as head coach after Kennedy's death from cancer. “I went in for an interview with the selection committee, and they asked me what my goals were,” he recalled. “I told them it was to have a series of winning seasons and be ranked in the top 10 in the NIT and NCAA. They were kind enough not to laugh,” he joked.

But prior to being offered the FSU job, Durham applied for a coaching position at the University of Florida. “I made an effort to get the job, and I got an interview,” he said. “They told me I had strong recommendations, and I was naïve enough to think I had a chance. But as we sit here today, you and I know that no way they were going to hire an assistant coach at



Gordon Mott, Debra Pataky with Coach Hugh Durham

*“I told them it was to have a series of winning seasons and be ranked in the top 10 in the NIT and NCAA. They were kind enough not to laugh.”*

— Hugh Durham

Florida State that's 28 years old to coach the great Gator basketball team.”

In Durham's case, UF's loss was FSU's gain. He went on to become the school's all-time most successful coach in 12 seasons, leading the Seminoles to three NCAA tournaments and the 1972 NCAA Championship game, where they fell to UCLA, 81-76. His overall record at FSU was 230-95, and 30 years later, his winning percentage of .708 was still the highest in FSU history.

During the 1966-67 season when he was assistant coach, Durham joined Kennedy in recruiting and signing Lenny Hall, the first African-American player in Florida State sports history. He also helped recruit the school's first black cheerleader a few years later, when 60 percent of his team was African-American.

“I was over here in Jacksonville watching the state tournament, and I see a little cheerleader, and she was flat-out good and good looking, too,” he recalled. “I said, we need to get someone like this over at Florida State, because we were getting close to the time where there was a little unrest, you know, in the late '60s,” he said.

In the late 1970s, the University of Georgia enticed Durham to move to Athens and take over as head coach of the Bulldogs, a team which had never won an SEC regular season title or SEC Tournament championship. Under his tutelage, UGA made it to five NCAA Tournaments, four NIT Tournaments, won the SEC Tournament Championship in 1983 and 1990 and made it to the Final Four in 1983. The winningest

head basketball coach in Bulldog history, Durham was also named SEC Coach of the Year four times and finished 17 seasons at UGA with a record of 297-215.

Durham said early in his tenure at Georgia, Red Auerbach offered him a coaching job with the Boston Celtics. “We had good players coming in, and I didn't think it was the time,” he recalled, noting he felt an obligation to stay at Georgia because Dominick Wilkins and other strong players had signed with his team.

“The Celtics weren't paying those guys a whole lot of money in those days – \$42,000. I was making \$35,000, and that's not a whole lot of difference,” he said. The offer from Auerbach came before the Celtics acquired the dream team of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, and Robert Parish. “Maybe I should have taken the job after all,” he laughed after the meeting.

Melinda, his wife, is the best team player he ever recruited, said Durham. It was love at first sight when he met his future spouse, a Landon High School senior, in 1956 during a mixer at the Pi Phi House while she visited FSU.

“We talked for a long time and I said, ‘What are you doing tomorrow night?’ She said, ‘I've got a date.’ I said, ‘I do, too, but I'm willing to break mine.’ She said, ‘I can't do that.’ I said, ‘What time is your date?’ She said, ‘7.’ I said, ‘Do you want to go out at 5?’ And she did, and that's how it all got started,” he remembered.

“She's a blue chipper and a 5-star, and we've been married for 59 years,” he said. “I guess you could say, we're hanging in there.”

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Tim Collins' 1971 Buick Riviera received Best of Show.

## Car enthusiasts compete, raise funds for San Jose community center

The third annual San Jose Car & Truck Show, held May 5 at Dupont Station shopping center, raised \$4,180 for the Bishop John J. Snyder Community Center at San Jose Apartments on Galicia Road.

The weather and quality of cars and trucks were both outstanding as 38 vehicles from various eras competed for awards in six classes.

WJXT Channel 4 meteorologist Richard Nunn, a car enthusiast, joined Larry Weisman and Mike Ferran as show judges. Weisman is head judge for the Ponte Vedra Auto Show; Ferran also serves as a judge for the annual fall show at Nocatee.

First-place winners for the six classes included Best Classic American (pre-1970): Fred Phelps' 1963 Corvette convertible; Best Classic Foreign (pre-1970): Bill Byrd's 1966 Sunbeam Tiger MK-IA; Best Modern Era Car: Michael Fargnoli Jr.'s 2017 Corvette Grand Sport convertible; Best Truck: Chris Ditrich's 1946 Chevy COE (cab over engine) tow truck; Krispy Kreme People's Choice Award: Chris and Jane Lang's 1968 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, and Best of Show: Tim Collins' 1971 Buick Riviera.

The show was sponsored for the third straight year by Key Buick GMC Hyundai Genesis and joined this year by North Florida Lincoln. The five lines are part of the Lynch Automotive Group on Southside Boulevard and Gate Parkway. Visitors were able to check out and test drive new models from all five lines brought to the show, including the all-new Hyundai Kona compact crossover and redesigned 2018 Lincoln Navigator luxury SUV.

The money generated by entry fees, sponsorships and generous donations will help fund activities at the community center. Those events are coordinated by the San Jose



Alma Ballard, executive director/management agent of Family Housing Management Company, presents the Best of Show award to Tim Collins for his 1971 Buick Riviera.

Apartments board of directors and Family Housing Management Company, Inc.

The Diocese of St. Augustine formed the company to manage low-income, HUD-subsidized facilities for seniors.

"This fundraiser gives the residents and staff hope. It tells them that when the most vulnerable — our seniors — are without or in need, the community will rally and support them," said Alma Ballard, executive director/management agent of Family Housing Management Company.

The San Jose Car & Truck Show has raised \$9,500 in the three years it has taken place.

In addition to Key, other returning sponsors were Dick Erickson and Sun Tire; Krispy Kreme Doughnuts in Mandarin; and Pepe's Hacienda and Restaurant at Dupont Station.

## Southern History Museum welcomes community, diversifies collection

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

History has no end. For Evelyn Wright, a volunteer at the Museum of Southern History, that truth was her motivation to expand the focus and the displays to attract a new generation of interest.

"There's more to Southern history than a four-year period in the 1800s," said Wright, who is working on a master's degree in career and technical education. Part of her studies include a project focused on raising funds for an organization that isn't well received, so Wright set about revamping the museum and got an assist from Hurricane Irma.

"The roof was peeled off like a tin can; we had to remove carpeting and padding, grind down the concrete flooring, redo all the walls and display cases," she said. "We lost a couple thousand books and some other memorabilia."

The damage resulted in an opportunity to expand and reconfigure the museum, adding historical displays from the time when the Timucuan and other Indian tribes lived in the area, the American Revolution, the Civil War (or, The War Between the States), both World Wars and up through to Operation Enduring Freedom. Wright is also in discussion with Naval Air Station Jacksonville to get items from more recent conflicts for display.

"The museum is an asset often overlooked in Jacksonville," said Ben Willingham, a board member and tour guide.

To help fund the expansion, the Museum of Southern History will hold an exhibit of a replica of the CSS Hunley



A quarter-scale replica of a 19th century submarine will be on display at the Museum of Southern History June 16.

submarine Saturday, June 16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 4304 Herschel St.

Five years ago, the Sons of Confederate Veterans Kirby-Smith Camp restored the Hunley replica originally built in 2010 by Middleburg resident Ron Parks, who passed away May 5, 2018. The quarter-scale model depicts the first submarine to sink a ship in battle during the Civil War.

The original Hunley was built by Horace Hunley to fight the Union blockade of Charleston's harbor in 1863. The crew hand-cranked a propeller to power the 40-foot-long craft, which had only a candle and a compass to guide them. After the Feb. 17, 1864 attack on the USS Housatonic, the Hunley also sank, along with eight crewmen.

In addition to the Hunley exhibit on display June 16, the museum will raise funds through a book sale, bake sale and barbecue to finance an exhibit expansion and renovation due to hurricane damage. Donations are eligible for tax write-offs.

The museum is typically open Tuesdays through Saturdays, beginning at 10 a.m. with closing times varying.

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# THE WAY WE WERE: JANE CONDON | BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jane Condon's maiden name, Sharp, is an excellent fit for the woman who successfully led three Jacksonville schools for the arts. The English idiom "sharp cookie" describes one who is intelligent, bright, and sharp enough to identify attempts to deceive or mislead. Jane's strong, innovative, astute and insightful leadership as principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, La Villa School of the Arts, and First Coast Community Music School provide ample evidence that she is, indeed, one sharp cookie.

"A great deal of leadership consists of common sense," insists Jane, who credits her late mother, Sadie Miller Sharp, for

instilling that quality in her. "Sadie was pragmatic and down to earth. She had so much common sense. She was also charming and somewhat quirky," Jane said, grinning. "She loved having a daughter. She fed me breakfast in bed and while I was at school, she'd go out shopping at the department stores downtown and have new clothes laid out on the bed with the sleeves spread out, just so, by the time I got home." Jane jokes that her main claim to fame at Robert E. Lee High School was that she was the best-dressed kid in class.

Although she was a good student throughout her schooling, Jane doesn't feel that she was a standout, however, it is obvious that Callie Coodie, her fifth-grade teacher at Fishweir Elementary, remembered her quite well. "I had just graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Education and was applying for a job when I heard a loud, familiar voice," recalled Jane. "I'm coming to offer Jane Sharp a job!" shouted Callie Coodie."

Soon, Jane was teaching fifth grade at Hyde Grove Elementary. Callie Coodie "was loud and funny, and she made her students feel good about themselves," said Jane. "She had a rocking chair in her classroom and she used to rock the boys." As to Jane's expertise in elementary school, she was the "star jacks player" every morning on the steps at Fishweir.

Jane's memories of that first teaching job are somewhat bittersweet because 1960 was also the year her father passed away. Robert Sharp, the 11th in a family of 12 children raised in Conyers, Georgia, had only an eighth-grade education but, like Jane's mother, had the intelligence and common sense necessary to make a good



Jane Condon, front, and friend Carol Grimes on camels in Erfoud, Morocco



Jane Condon on her retirement from LaVilla School of the Arts

living. He ran City Ice & Fuel Company, and her mother taught school until Jane and her younger brother, Robert, came along. "Dad gave us a good life growing up - a nice home and everything we needed to succeed," said Jane. "My brother and I had good parents."

After four years at Hyde Grove Elementary, Jane applied to the Department of Defense for an overseas teaching assignment and taught, from 1964 through 1967, in Nurnberg and Wiesbaden, Germany and then in Yokuska, Japan. "It was a plum job and I loved it," she declared, noting that her travel and lodging were reimbursed and, for \$2 a week, she could hire a maid who insisted on ironing her silk underwear. While teaching overseas, Jane acquired a love for travel that has remained with her always.

In 1973, Jane met and married Bill Condon, "the smartest man I've ever known." Bill, who was the Corporate Research Librarian for Blue Cross Blue Shield (now Florida Blue), was a scholar with a "high fun IQ. He knew everything and never forgot anything. He often read two novels a day."

When they married, Bill brought three children into her life, ranging in age from three to nine years old. The kids spent summers and holidays with Jane and Bill in Jacksonville and as they became teenagers, Jane's career skyrocketed. She went from being principal at Stonewall Jackson and Timucuan Elementary Schools to becoming principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (grades 8-12). Balancing home and career as she helped raise Bill's children, attended parent/teacher conferences and dealt with teen angst, she jokes that she



Jane Condon as a child with her parents

sometimes found herself on the other side of the principal's desk, but it was well worth it. Today, she enjoys the role of mother and grandmother.

Being principal at Douglas Anderson (D.A.) was both challenging and thrilling for Jane. In a 1989 "Folio Weekly" article by Sheena Goldblatt titled "The Queen of the Arts," Jane was profiled brilliantly. Jackie Cornelius (then Arts Director/Assistant Principal of Curriculum, later to become

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



## Aging True Home Health Agency

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principal) was quoted, "I think the overall atmosphere of the school reflects her personality which is a sense of concern, a sense of tolerance and acceptance. [The artists] feel she helps create a real comfortable environment in which they feel at ease about doing creative things. Her presence is very much a part of this sense of professionalism, a sense that you can strive and do whatever you want to do, be whatever you want to be."

In 1990, the Arts Assembly of Jacksonville (now the Jacksonville Cultural Council) presented Jane Condon with a Special Recognition Award for her outstanding work in establishing Douglas Anderson. In 1991 she received the prestigious EVE Award for Education, and in 1995, she was elected by the Florida State Thespian Society as the State Administrator of the Year for "her outstanding leadership, promotion and motivation of excellence in arts education."

Sadly, Jane's triumphant reign as principal of D.A. was cut short when she retired in 1996 due to the death of her beloved husband, Bill, following a lengthy illness. Her "retirement" was short-lived, however, as she was appointed in 1997 to design the campus and concept of the new LaVilla School of the



Jane Condon and second husband, Dan Selhorst

Arts, which she opened in 2000, serving as principal until her second retirement in 2003.

Jane's friend, Barbara Moulding, invited her to a Christmas party in 1999 and, again, her life took an unexpected turn. There, she met a tall, handsome man named Dan Selhorst. A former Catholic priest, handsome Dan loved sailing, lived in San Marco, and worked in public relations. They had quite a wedding, which included Dan's sons, Geoff and Mark and their children, Jane's stepchildren and grandchildren, her brother, Bob and his son, Michael. With her brother, Bob, a retired attorney living in San Marco, Jane's family was complete, or so she thought. In 2011, Dan passed away. Widowed again, it was then she decided that losing two husbands was enough. A widow she would remain for life.

When her friend, racecar enthusiast Jerry Walsh, reconnected her with another recent widow, Carol Grimes, the two women hit it off royally. Carol, a writer, consultant, and a professor at FSCJ for more than 24 years, shared with Jane a love of art and travel, as well as several cultural and social concerns. It was a natural for the two vivacious widows to join forces, and they did.

Today, they live as the most amicable of condo-mates in Jane's spacious condominium at San Marco Place and spend their days traveling the world. Since May 2012, they have been to France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Morocco, South Africa, Croatia, Turkey, Great Britain, Slovenia, Poland, Vancouver, Alaska, Russia and Norway, as well as several places across the United States. Their favorite trip so far was Morocco because, Jane says, "it is like going through the lands of the Bible. It's not difficult to picture Joseph leading a donkey alongside the road."

When they are in town, Jane and Carol stay busy attending fundraisers for the arts and education and working with TEDxJacksonville. Jane has served on the leadership team for TEDxJacksonville since its inception in 2012. She met organizer Doug Coleman through Leadership Jacksonville and was involved in recruiting team members such as Carol Grimes for the TEDxJacksonville annual conferences and salons.



Jane Condon (right) with Douglas Anderson alumnus Kue King

One of the true joys of having served as principal of D.A. is when Jane has the opportunity to support former students who have achieved success in their various fields. One such student is Kue King, now a world-renown sculptor. "I bought a beautiful piece from Kue as a gift to Jackie Cornelius when she retired from D.A.," said Jane. "I know how much it means, from personal experience, to receive a gift created by a former D.A. student."

Strolling across the living room from the condo's panoramic view of the city they call home, the widows pose for a photo in front of a gorgeous oriental panel in their foyer. Carol cradles their tiny male companion, Giovanni, a 6-year-old teacup Yorkshire Terrier, in her arms and, for a brief moment, the two glance at one another, growing solemn as they pay silent tribute to their recently departed four-legged companion, Haiku, the white Maltese. "She nearly made it to 16," murmured Jane, sadly, and then...squares her shoulders. It's a sparkling day in San Marco and there is a trip to Ireland already in the works! The sun shines in and laughter, once again, is the order of the day. Life is beautiful.

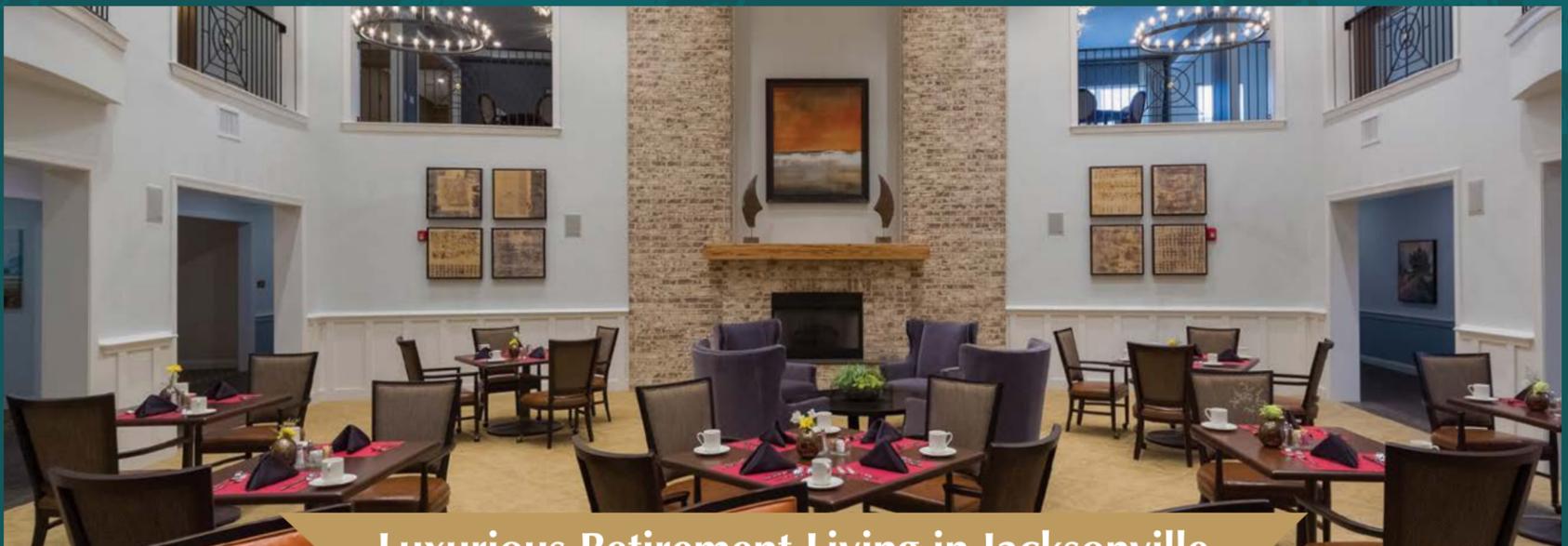


Bill and Jane Condon with her mother, Sadie Sharp, at their wedding



Jane Condon with her brother, Bob Sharp

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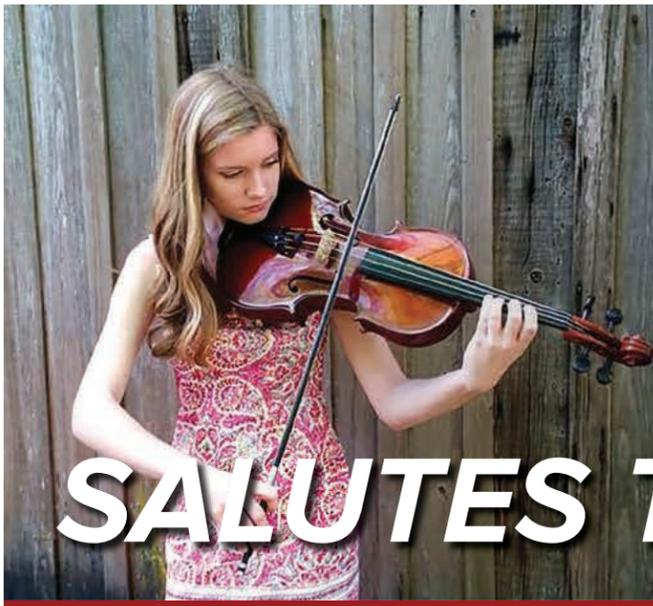
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 Adjevi-Neglokpe, Akovi Cyriac Ezechiel ■  
 Adkins, Antoinette Chloia Christine  
 Allen, Amber Renee  
 Allen, Ramses Spyder Santana  
 Anderson, Knowlton Cain Christian ●●◆  
 Aponte, Alexander ●  
 Atanda, Armando Aderemi Adeniji  
 Austin, Kathryn Diane ●  
 Bacon, Olivia Rose  
 Baker, Jason Sedrick  
 Berry, Jaclyn Deanna Maureen  
 Bilbrew, Caden Malik ●  
 Billings, Janae Lee ●●  
 Black, Nadia Michaela ●  
 Bowman, Aidan Gregory  
 Bowyer, Kathryn Madeleine

Figueroa, Jacqueline Mari  
 Filaroski, Natalie Faith  
 Fine, Tyler Marcus  
 Flanagan, Alexander Francis ■  
 Flood, Shanika Nicole ■  
 Forbes, Chloe Nichole  
 Forcine, Alicia Gertrude ●  
 Foster, Kylie Paige ●■  
 Francisco, Geon Leo Loria  
 Frankowska, Tara Halina  
 Frey, Kevin Patrick  
 Fullford, Sara Ashton  
 Galimidi, Joseph ●◆  
 Geers, Samuel Keoni ■  
 Giangrosso, Sophie Marguerite ●■  
 Gibson, Benjamin Forbes ●  
 Gibson, Cassandra DaCota ●■  
 Gibson, Megan Elizabeth  
 Glennon, Bryn Martin  
 Goble, Jordan Alyssa  
 Gonzalez, Michaela Catherine  
 Grable, Summer Grace S.  
 Graves, Hannah Beth ●◆  
 Gray, Kara Lindsey  
 Grubbs, Christopher Allen  
 Gunter, Shawn Asia  
 Guttormson, Evan Neal ■  
 Gwaltney, Camryn Louise  
 Habyarimana, Bismarck Herbert  
 Haddock, Chloe Arabella  
 Hadzic, Hanna  
 Hagans, Jazzlin Elizabeth Trinity  
 Haggerty, Alexis Kiara  
 Hagy, Taylor Leanne ■  
 Halligan, Greyson Lane  
 Hammock, Paige Alyssa  
 Hardesty, Davie Lynn ■  
 Harrold, Imoni Nazarene  
 Haselwood, Kendall Erinn ■  
 Haworth, Sarah Kathleen  
 Hayes, Julia Catherine ●  
 Hemphill, Stewart Whitlock ◆  
 Hendrix, Hadley Nikole  
 Herndon, David Drew ●■  
 Herrera, Michelle Stephanie  
 Hervey, Emmanuel James

Kiernan, Madison Walker  
 Kleffman, Julia Lorraine  
 Koger, Khalil Deshaun Franklin  
 Kreisel, Corey Jacob ●●◆  
 Lane, Juliana Lucia ■  
 Lantinberg, Molly Seena ●●◆  
 Lawing, Zoey Grey  
 Le, Nhat Dinh ■  
 Leiser, Sydney Anne ●■  
 Lewis, Dara Jane' ■  
 Liddicoat, Kelly DeAnn ●■  
 Lockley, Fiona Faith  
 Long, Alex Matthew  
 Lopez, Christina Marie ●■  
 Lopez, Sarah Olivia  
 Lundberg, Annika Noelle ●●◆  
 Malave, Destiny Sarai ●  
 Martel, Emma Sophia

Raker, Mary Elizabeth ●■  
 Retz, William Thomas  
 Richards, Evan Michael  
 Richart, Shelby Pierce ●  
 Rios Piraquive, Valeria ■  
 Rivers, Destinee Peggy-Joyce  
 Roberts, Bethany Nicole  
 Roberts, Oona Camille  
 Robinson, Kassidy Autumn  
 Rollet, Tristan James  
 Rosacia, Kyle Edward  
 Rothberg, Tye Joseph ●  
 Rumney, Oliver Laurence Colin ●■  
 Sempel, Josh  
 Santiago Bryant, Angellina Xenima  
 Savage, Caitlyn Elizabeth ●■  
 Scales, Hannah Leigh ●■  
 Schoen, Michelle Leigh ●●◆  
 Scott, Jesseca Taylor Marie ●●◆  
 Sellers, Emy Madison  
 Serrao, Ignacio David ■  
 Shafer, Benjamin James  
 Shaw, Ana Elizabeth ■◆  
 Shelton, Sophia Grace  
 Sherwood, Victoria Lynn ■  
 Shoemaker III, James Trost  
 Smith, Alyssa Leanne ●■  
 Smith, Launna Maynice ■  
 Solomon, Jada Ann  
 Sommers, Matthew Dean  
 Spears, Kaylee Michelle  
 Stevens, Darian Gaige ●■  
 Thomas, Nia Salim  
 Thomas, Simon James  
 Thornton, Kaitlynn Elizabeth ●  
 Todd, Joshua Ryan  
 Vannousone, Jennifer Lynn  
 Vega, Annette Margarita ●  
 Villacampa, Nathan Jan  
 Wall, Jason Trent  
 Wallace, Keiona Tonay'e  
 Walsh, Annemarie Sorcha  
 Walters, Hanna Grace ■  
 Weed, Maya Topping ●◆  
 Weinand, Elise Carmen ●

**98%**  
 OF THE GRADUATES  
 WILL ATTEND COLLEGES,  
 UNIVERSITIES, AND  
 CONSERVATORIES

Brock, Jessica Waringa  
 Brogan, Kali Grace  
 Brown, Carly Rose ●■  
 Bryant, Chandler Vaness  
 Buffington, Krista Lee  
 Camanga, Neo Aurelio ●●◆  
 Campbell, Patrick Albert  
 Carter, Nicholas Sean ■  
 Chestang, Madison Josephine ●  
 Chmielewski, Christian Anthony  
 Churchwell, Mackenzie Rae  
 Clayton, Caleb Dale  
 Cliff, Liana Victoria ●■  
 Collins, Christian Alexander  
 Colon, Antonio Samuel ■  
 Colon, Paola  
 Connor, Sydney Ann ●●◆  
 Conran, Lauran Bailey Laubach ●■  
 Crum, Chloe Elizabeth  
 Curtis, Delaney Marie ●●◆  
 De Chavez, Nino Andrei Arasa  
 Deditch, Erica Lynn  
 Dewey, John Connor ◆  
 Dirkhising, Cristian William  
 Dowdell, Imani Hadiya  
 Dodge, Mary Jean  
 Dozier, Makinlea Christine  
 Dumas, Shanoirea Bernequa  
 Duncan, Avio'n Elisse  
 Durrence, Kiley Alexis Alohilani ●■  
 Edwards, Dasia Remae  
 Edwards, Kyrstin Rae  
 Edwards, Reilly Kate ■  
 Eisman, Brianna Elizabeth ●●◆  
 Ekern, Sara Anne ●■  
 Elia, Erin Kate  
 Elkins, Erin Lindsey ●■  
 Ellenburg, Alyse Victoria ●  
 Elmore, Luke Russell ■  
 Faherty, Colleen Marie ●●◆  
 Feliciano, Rosa Lily

**65%**  
 OF GRADUATES AWARDED  
 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Hicks, Maya Jada La'Trice ■  
 Higgins, Elijah Joseph  
 Hillman, Kaylin Leigh ●■  
 Hudmon, Stanton Charles  
 Hull, Brandy Nichole  
 Ilagan, Sofia Adrean Alvaran ●●◆  
 Ivantsov, Matthew V.  
 Jackson, Cara Rose ●■  
 Jacob, Brianna Tamika  
 Jakar, Cacique Hatuey-EI  
 Jamba, Simbovala Ruth Etosi Kanga  
 Jennings, Michael Stephen  
 Johnson, Payton Tyler  
 Keith, Hampton Phillips ●■  
 Kent, Paige Delahney

**50%**  
 OF GRADUATES WILL  
 PURSUE COLLEGE  
 DEGREES IN THE ARTS

McClure, Blake William ●  
 McCray, Sharya Lanese  
 McGahagin, Noah Litener  
 McGowan, Jaianni Arianna  
 McGrath, Gabrielle Renee ●■  
 McGuire, Alexandra Marie ●●◆  
 McLaughlin, Emma Elizabeth  
 McMullen, Anne Elizabeth ●■  
 Mercado, Ethan Michael ●■  
 Messersmith, Erin Mackenzie  
 Mills, Mason Allen  
 Mitchell, Emma Jane  
 Moorthy, Sneha  
 Morgan, James Vincent  
 Morgan, Nathan Ryland  
 Morrow, Halle Sophia ■  
 Mwangi, Andrew Samson Munoru  
 Navaille, Wesley Rigel  
 Nelson, Samantha Richie Lynn  
 Neoh, Mbekie Muna  
 Nguyen, Anthony Le ●◆  
 Noto, Mario  
 Ochoa, Alejandro Orlando  
 Oken, Riley Alexis  
 Oliver, Langston Adrian King  
 O'Toole, Anna Marie  
 Outley, Maaseal Hatcher  
 Overfield, Hannah Elizabeth ■  
 Paige, Myah Alliyah ■  
 Parker, Tekell Marquise  
 Pascal, Lauren Nelda  
 Pelham, Olivia Kelly ●■  
 Pepperd, Courtney Jane  
 Peralta, Benjamin Eric ●  
 Pineda, Isabella Marie ■  
 Pinfield, Maya Penelope  
 Potter, Preston  
 Pulliam Jr, Adrian Boyd  
 Pursley, Rachel Elise  
 Quisenberry, Gloree Gabrielle  
 Rafada, Magdalena Noel  
 Rahn, Savannah Mackenzie ●■

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TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP  
 OFFERINGS TO GRADUATES

Wenk, Morgan Bailee ●  
 West, Amber Nicole  
 White, Hagan Ashley  
 Whitlow, Jordan De'Vonna  
 Williams Jr, Noah Marlon Reginald  
 Wilson, Nathaniel Paul  
 Wolfson, Allison Rose ●  
 Xayarath, Aejah Marquelle Aviles ■  
 Yarn, Lindsay Taylor

◆ Top Twenty Scholars  
 ● National Honor Society (gold)  
 ■ Volunteer/Service Hours (silver)

# Children of all ages enjoy PTA carnival

Bounce houses, a climbing tower and bungee bounce swing, carnival games, face and hair painting, and food trucks turned the Hendricks Avenue Elementary School campus into the perfect setting for a spring carnival May 4. The warm late afternoon, early evening event was sponsored by the Hendricks Avenue Elementary PTA, which strives to break even while providing a safe, fun-filled event for students and their families.



Tony Draper with Josh and Teddy, Brad and Melanie Wilson, Ashley Draper with Molly



Front: Greysen Tiedeberg, Haleigh Hewett, Wyatt Tiedeberg; back: Catherine Tiedeberg, Wren Tiedeberg, Brooke Curry, Molly Curry, Bridget Curry



Logan, Chloe and Mason Boone



Luke Spillers, RJ Sullivan, Brody Frye, Aiden Acampora, William Kayser



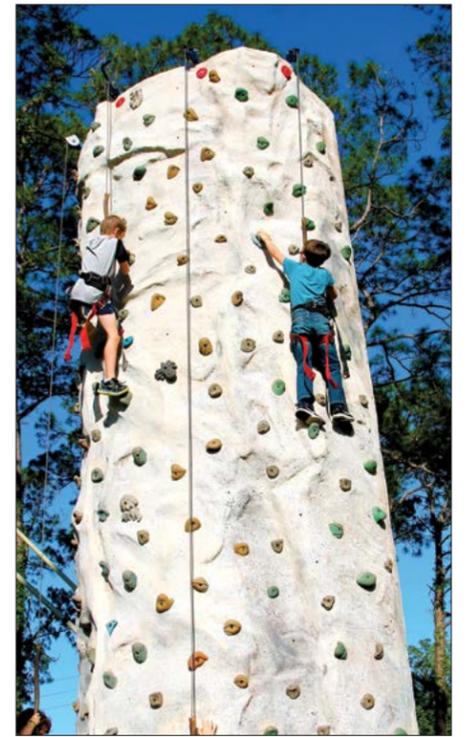
Ellis Rafferty takes a turn on a bungee bounce swing.



Ava and Leila Brown with Katherine Libby



Josh and Ben Boston



Reid Rafferty (left) and Austin Clark head for the top of a climbing tower.

# San Jose Catholic finishes strong at Florida State Science Fair



San Jose Catholic State Science Fair winners Juliana Namen, Izabelle Young, Lois Dooley, and Grace Frazier

Juliana Namen, a seventh-grader at San Jose Catholic School, took home top honors in her division at the 63rd Annual State Science Fair of Florida in Lakeland, March 27-29. The competition showcased more than 900 projects between the junior and senior divisions.

Namen, who was one of four San Jose Catholic School students in the 12-member Junior Division team for the Northeast Florida region, won the Junior Earth & Environmental Science Category with her project, "The Usage of an Agricultural Waste Filter to Remove Lead and Fecal Coliform Bacteria from River Water Compared to Activated Carbon." She also won special awards from The Florida Association of Food Protection, The Florida Association of Water Quality Control, as well as the Sierra Club Cantrell

Award, a certificate and nomination packet for Broadcom Masters, and \$550 in cash.

Namen's teammate, Izabelle Young, an eighth-grader, was runner up in the Junior Biomedical & Health Sciences Division with a project entitled "Streptococcus Mutan Exposure to Nicotine and Heavy Metals in a simulated Oral Biome." She received a certificate and nomination packet for Broadcom Masters.

Eighth-grader Lois Dooley's project, "Combining Phytopharmaceuticals and Antibiotics in Fighting Gram-negative Drug-resistant Infections," placed third in the Junior Microbiology Division.

Grace Frazier, also an eighth-grader, placed fourth in Junior Cellular/Molecular Biology & Biochemistry for her project, "The Effect of Polypeptides on Protein Concentration in Eggs."



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# Students give of self on annual Celebrating Service Day

Students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville spread out among the community April 19, providing more than 4,500 hours of service on its annual Celebrating Service Day.

Middle School students packed more than 30,000 meals for Hunger Fight in the Buck Student Center. Also on campus, ESJ students spent their time learning about the Wounded Warrior Project, working with students at the North Florida School

of Special Education, senior residents from Brookdale Southside and students from Arlington Elementary. Campus beautification took place on the Munneryn and Knight campuses. Students also filled bags for the homeless with toiletries, made toys for homeless pets, wrote more than 150 letters to the troops and more than 100 letters to area hospital patients, painted hundreds of kindness rocks to place around campus and the Jacksonville community, and made inspirational posters for the campus and Arlington Community Academy.

Students in grades 11 and 12 provided service at the St Augustine Road Fish Management Area at Earl Johnson Park, the Old Kings Road YMCA, the Salvation Army on West Adams, Hope Haven, American Cancer Society, MaliVai Washington, Arlington Community Academy, and Sanctuary on 8th Street. Fine Arts choral students brought Songbird – a music therapy program for memory loss patients – to the Starling residence home in San Jose.



Students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville spent a day cleaning up the campus.



A dozen juniors and seniors volunteered to clean and organize at Sanctuary on 8th Street in Springfield.

## Students show faith through music and song

Salem Farmand of San Jose was among a group of Bishop Kenny High School seniors who gathered at the Carla Harris Performing Arts Center for an evening of Praise and Worship May 11.

During the event, students and faculty played live music and sang worship songs. Several students shared personal testimonies of how they have experienced Christ in their lives and how they aim to be the light for others.



Lindsey Abney, Sara Preddy, Maria Cruz, Salem Farmand with Ashley Bradley of the Bishop Kenny faculty

## Middle School Class of 24 has kindergarten 'bridging' ceremony

Flanked by their teachers, Hannah Bardin (left) and Kathy Balek (right), 17 kindergarten students at San Jose Episcopal Day School participated in the Kindergarten Bridging Ceremony May 15. This special event symbolizes the graduation from Early Explorers Chapel to Chapel with the Upper School students. San Jose Episcopal Day School is a private Christian elementary school offering Pre-K3 through sixth grade, and has been committed to educating mind, body and spirit since 1950.



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 Berklee College of Music  
 Berry College  
 Boise State University  
 Boston College  
 Boston Conservatory at Berklee  
 Boston University  
 Bucknell University  
 California College of the Arts,  
 San Francisco  
 Carroll College  
 Catawba College  
 Centre College  
 City College of New York CUNY  
 Clark Atlanta University  
 Clark University  
 Clemson University  
 Colby College  
 College of Charleston  
 College of William & Mary  
 Colorado State University  
 Columbia College Chicago  
 Cornell University  
 Davidson College  
 Denison University  
 Dickinson College  
 Drew University  
 Duke University  
 East Carolina University  
 Elon University  
 Emory University  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Flagler College  
 Florida A&M University  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Florida International University  
 Florida Southern College  
 Florida State College at Jacksonville  
 Florida State University  
 Fordham University  
 Franklin & Marshall College  
 Franklin College of Indiana  
 Furman University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Georgia Southern University  
 Guilford College  
 Hampton University  
 Harding University  
 Haverford College  
 High Point University  
 Howard University  
 Illinois State University  
 Indiana University at Bloomington  
 Jacksonville University

James Madison University  
 Juniata College  
 Kansas City Art Institute  
 Lewis & Clark College  
 Liberty University  
 LIM College  
 Lipscomb University  
 Long Island University, Post  
 Louisiana State University  
 Loyola University Chicago  
 Marist College  
 Marquette University  
 Marymount Manhattan College  
 McDaniel College  
 Mercer University  
 Meredith College  
 Miami University, Oxford  
 Michigan State University  
 Middlebury College  
 Moravian College  
 Mount Allison University  
 Mount St. Mary's University  
 Muhlenberg College  
 New York University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University  
 Pace University, New York City  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Pepperdine University  
 Point Park University  
 Pomona College  
 Pratt Institute  
 Presbyterian College  
 Purdue University  
 Queens University of Charlotte  
 Rhode Island School of Design  
 Rhodes College  
 Rice University  
 Rider University  
 Ringling College of Art and Design  
 Ripon College  
 Rollins College  
 Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
 Saint Leo University  
 Saint Mary's College  
 Salve Regina University  
 Samford University  
 Santa Fe College  
 Savannah College of Art and Design  
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
 Seattle Pacific University

Seton Hall University  
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Westmount, Canada  
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Jimmy Burke  
Winston-Salem, NC  
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Carolina



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Charlotte, NC  
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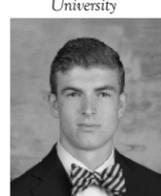
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Emma Jane Warren, Kylee Meehan and Madeline Ward

## Three from Bishop Kenny are Mary Award finalists

Three Bishop Kenny High School seniors were among 12 students from throughout the greater Jacksonville area named as finalists in the annual Mary Awards Program sponsored by St. Vincent's HealthCare. Each finalist is selected for her work in one of four categories: academics, volunteerism, leadership and athletics.

The Bishop Kenny finalists were Emma Jane Warren, Kylee Meehan and Madeline Ward. The Mary Awards honor the courage and willingness of young women, all seniors in high school, who are serving their faith communities and their neighbors. All the finalists were recognized and honored by the Jacksonville community and St. Vincent's HealthCare in Riverside during an evening program and dinner held at San Jose Country Club in April.

## San Jose students celebrate 20 years of amazing musical theater productions

For the past 20 years, San Jose Catholic Elementary School has produced Broadway-style musicals which have included "Peter Pan," "The Wizard of Oz," "Aladdin," "Beauty and the Beast," just to name a few.



A scene from the San Jose Catholic School play "Madagascar—A Musical Adventure, Jr." (Photo by Dr. Michael Fox)

This year, 51 talented and energetic fourth-through eighth-graders had a chance to "Move It, Move It" in their production of "Madagascar—A Musical Adventure, Jr."

Cast members rehearsed tirelessly for 11 weeks to perfect their roles for this musical production. And they had a truly "crack-a-lackin'" good time as they set off on their journey to King Julien's Madagascar. The ensemble made new friends, learned teamwork, responsibility, and perseverance which was acknowledged by the standing ovations and accolades from the sold-out performances.

For 20 years these creative musical performances have also served as a community outreach program with proceeds benefiting The Guardian Catholic Schools. This local foundation provides a spiritual



San Jose Catholic and Guardian Catholic Schools students make up the cast of "Madagascar—A Musical Adventure, Jr." (Photo by Dr. Michael Fox)

education to children and families regardless of their financial situation or religious preference. Beginning in 2013, a new tradition began with the addition of Guardian Catholic Schools students auditioning and performing in the musicals.

The San Jose Catholic School community is grateful to the directors, producers, volunteers, sponsors, cast members, and families for their support, hard work and dedication for two decades and in helping keep this tradition alive.

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## Weinbecker signs to sail at USF

Allison Weinbecker of St. Nicholas was among three Bishop Kenny High School seniors to sign letters of intent to participate in collegiate-level athletes, during the third and final signing event of the school year May 9.

Weinbecker signed on to compete with the sailing team at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg.

Joining her at the signing ceremony was John Bogush, who will sail with the University of New Hampshire and Nick Trent, who will play basketball at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Bishop Kenny Athletic Director Mark Thorson served as emcee of the program, which was held in the Carla Harris Performing Arts Center.

## Pre-law student makes mark with local sculptures

Granada resident Morgan Ashurian is leaving a colorful mark on Jacksonville. A student at Boston University's College of Arts and Science, Ashurian turned an interest in small-scale sculptures into artwork on a massive scale.

Ashurian first created a bicycle "tree" for the property marketed as the San Marco Train Station, 1440 Hendricks Ave., where she installed a 600-pound "blossom" of red bicycles on a 16-foot steel pole. Passers-by on Hendricks Avenue and visitors to the businesses at the station can't miss the sculpture, which withstood Hurricanes Matthew and Irma.

After installing that piece in 2015, Ashurian was contacted by Dustin Harewood, a professor of art at Florida State College at Jacksonville, to re-create the piece on the school's Kent campus (Avondale) – in lime green. She added nine more bikes and an additional 135 pounds to her second installation, completing it in 2017 during college breaks.

Ashurian is planning to go to law school after she graduates from Boston University next year and after taking time off for an internship or volunteer project.



Morgan Ashurian gets help from a welder as she assembles a sculpture.



Morgan Ashurian poses next to a small-scale replica of a sculpture by artist César Baldaccini.

## Jimmy Citrano awarded Ellen Newton Scholarship

When San Marco area residents and members of All Saints Episcopal Church chose to remember the late Ellen Newton during "Cinco de Derby," the 5th Annual Ellen Newton Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser, it was the perfect mix of two festive events – Cinco de Mayo and the Kentucky Derby.

Jimmy Phillip Citrano III of San Jose was the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship, which is given annually to the student who embodies volunteerism at All Saints Episcopal Church and Community and demonstrates a passion for education for the less fortunate and themselves.

Citrano, a student at Bishop Kenny, plans to attend Valdosta State University in the fall. His was the fourth scholarship to be awarded by the nonprofit, as no scholarship was awarded in 2017.

As guests enjoyed a Mexican supper by the pool at San Jose Country Club May 5, they placed their bets on the race while sporting a mix of Derby Day bonnets and Mexican sombreros.

While sipping margaritas, participants watched the Kentucky Derby live on a big screen TV, and competed in a "Best Sombrero" contest. Additional bets were



Judy Beaver presents the 2018 Ellen Newton Scholarship to Jimmy Citrano III

made as children competed in their own Derby race across the pool on horse-like noodle floatation devices.

Attending the event were Ellen Newton's mother, Ethel Lee, her husband, Larry Newton, and her son Christopher. Kameron Branon and her husband, Dan, helped to organize the event. Also, among the guests were former scholarship winners Steven Cabot and Hailey Rosenfeld.



Hillary Citrano with Cindy Smith and Natasha Eliz



Christopher Newton with Patrick and Elizabeth Dussinger

## Jazz ensemble to perform at Chicago conference



DA Jazz Department Chair Don Zentz conducts the school jazz ensemble.

The Jazz Band at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts has been selected as one of only two high school jazz ensembles in the country to perform at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago next December.

The Midwest, which began 72 years ago, attracts more than 17,000 attendees, and features more than 90 different clinics and 40 special performances. Based on blind audition tapes, only the best professional and academic ensembles are selected to perform during the week-long conference.

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# Do Something

The memory of a young man lives on with his best wishes in mind

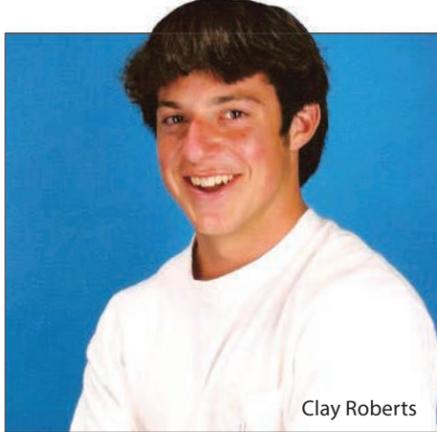
BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

## Annual fishing tournament honors memory of ardent water-lover

A Father's Day weekend tradition, the annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam and Junior Angler Tournament, now in its 11th year, honors the memory of Gary and Terry Roberts' son Clay, who was a senior at Bishop Kenny High School when he passed away in 2007.

To honor the young man, Clay's family and friends established In River or Ocean (IROO), a charity whose name was inspired by Clay's email address "in river or ocean."

IROO provides scholarships and hosts events to promote the protection of our rivers and oceans while celebrating the love of fishing and of our waterways... something Clay was passionate about, according to his father.



Clay Roberts

This year's Inshore Slam and Junior Angler tournament will be held June 16 at the Beach Marine complex on Beach Boulevard.

IROO also holds an annual "Pier Pressure," an event tentatively slated for October 13 this year. During Pier Pressure, IROO volunteers host up to 50 Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Northeast Florida participants for a day of fishing and fun at the Jacksonville Beach Pier. Due to the pier's damage from Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the event was actually turned into an "eco-tour" river cruise in 2017, thanks to help from the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

For more information about the tournament or to become involved with IROO and their work in the community, visit [inriverorocean.com](http://inriverorocean.com) or [fishingwithclay.com](http://fishingwithclay.com).



Michael Atlee

## The Roberts Family Did Something

After their teenage son, Clay, passed away over 10 years ago, the Roberts family knew they wanted to honor their son by doing something good. With Clay's love of all things related to the water and fishing, it was not hard to see what passion the Roberts needed to carry on in Clay's honor.

Gary, who owns Roberts Southbank Pharmacy in San Marco, and Terry, who owns Terry's Kitchen in Avondale, along with their daughter, Casey, are doing something through Clay's charity, IROO.

"My mentor, Dick Saunders, taught me the concept of 'paying it forward,'" said Gary. "The funds generated by the tournament and our many supporters allow us to pay forward our blessings while keeping the memory of Clay alive in our community," he said.

Through funds raised by the tournament, Gary said 10 four-year renewable scholarships have been awarded to deserving seniors at Bishop Kenny, where Clay was a student.

He said last year's recipient, Jack Waitrovich, is now attending Florida State University.

"Jack is a friend to everyone, has a great sense of humor and performed over 700 community service hours while at Bishop Kenny," Gary explained.



Gary Roberts, Natalie Hart (2016 scholarship recipient), Casey Roberts, Terry Roberts

Gary said the IROO's very first scholarship recipient, Sean Brown, graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy and now has a career on the water with a goal of becoming a Bar Pilot.

"Clay's scholarship is an award of the human spirit, being awarded to a graduating senior each year who emulates Clay's spirit and values, who through their demonstrated involvement, makes a difference in the lives of others," said Gary.

Clay's long-time friend Michael Atlee, who also shares the love of fishing and being on the water, is now an IROO board member and says he has a favorite quote which relates to Clay. "When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure."

"What motivates me to bring sponsors and donors from around the community, is to help keep Clay's memory alive and well, and hope that someone who has helped support it, is touched in some way or another," said Atlee.

"Loren Eisely said 'If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in the water,' and Clay discovered that magic in his lifetime," Gary said.

"I hope that everyone can find that same 'magic' in our rivers, oceans and streams and share it as a family," he said. "Let's responsibly enjoy all the natural resources God has given us."



Terry and Clay Roberts

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# Flashbacks



Many decades ago, summertime in Jacksonville meant taking a ride out to Ocean View Pavilion and Amusement Park in Jacksonville Beach. The park was a major seaside attraction for 80 years, offering fishing, sideshow acts and rides like a Ferris wheel and a 50 mph roller coaster known as “The Beach Coaster,” which operated from 1928 to 1949. This photo was taken sometime in the 1930s or 1940s.

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/)



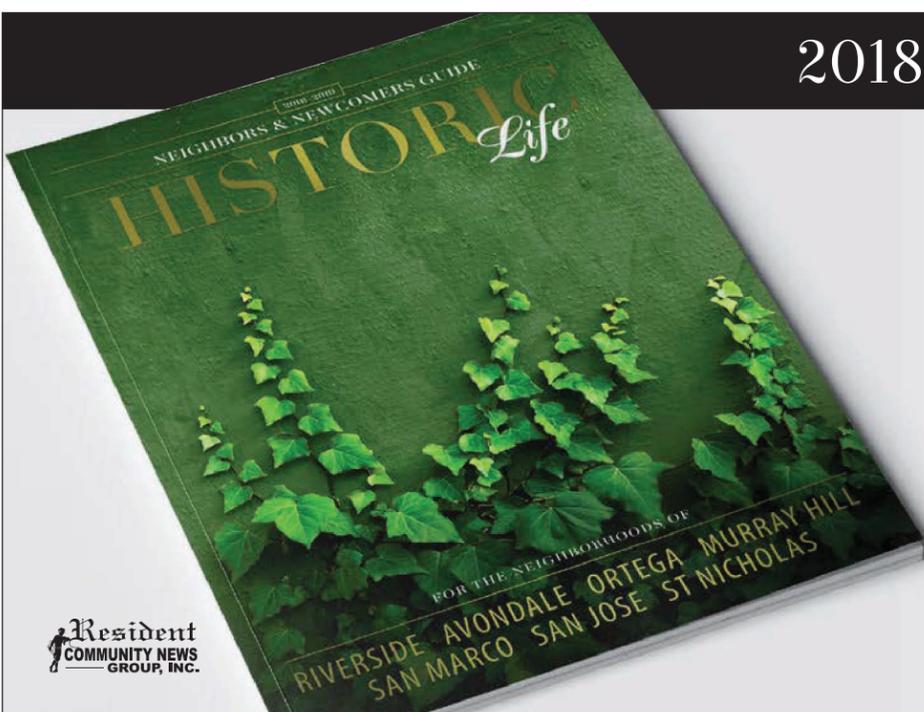
Jacksonville in the early 1900s didn't have airconditioned homes, so these four children enjoy cooling off in a backyard pond as their mother keeps a watchful eye on them.



Just as children today can't wait for school to end so they can spend the summer at play, in the early 1900s these three children, most likely siblings, enjoy playtime on the lawn.

Courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society Archives, Leah Mary Cox collection. 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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