

# Riverside · Avondale · Ortega · Murray Hill

*Murray Hill poised to make its mark, defined by the arts*

READ MORE, PAGE 6

# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

*CenterState Bank demolition approved*

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## Stockton students rewarded for servant leadership with trip to Washington, D.C.

Members of the John N.C. Stockton Elementary School Safety Patrol pose in front of the White House during a four-day trip to our nation's capital, a decades-old tradition.

READ MORE, PAGE 45



### Temple members raise glasses for Israel

Mike Elkin and Goldie Lansky with Master of Ceremonies/Auctioneer Dan Kossoff at a celebration of the founding of the State of Israel 70 years ago.

READ MORE, PAGE 26



### Creek design contest raises awareness

Seasoned architects and emerging design professionals gathered for a summer social and a sneak peek at McCoys Creek plans.

READ MORE, PAGE 31



### A tree grows in Ortega

A summer tradition continues for the Holland family, as their annual 'family tree' tower continues to sprout upward with each passing year. The Florida Yacht Club's riverfront pool is a primetime location for capturing the family photo taken during the annual summer swelter.

## Restored century-old Harley-Davidson makes goodwill tour

### From the United States to France twice, motorcycle connects continents

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

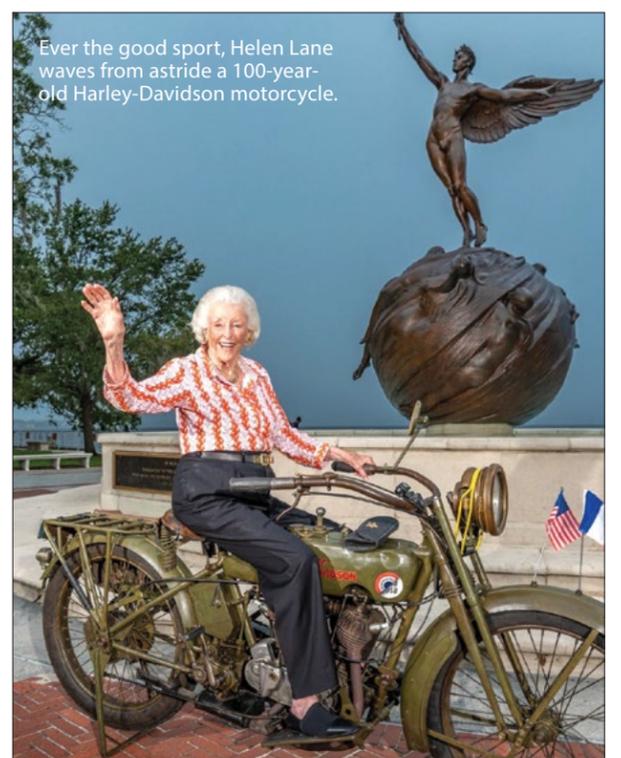
On June 30, 1564, French Huguenot Captain Rene Goulaine de Laudonniere founded Fort Caroline on the banks of the St. Johns River. He probably didn't imagine that four and a half centuries later his direct descendent, Christophe de Goulaine, would tour the fort at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

The visit was just one item on a jam-packed agenda in late June as Goulaine and three Frenchmen swept through Jacksonville with a restored vintage 1918 Harley-Davidson 1000

18J motorcycle on a U.S. tour to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

After World War I, approximately 20,000 motorcycles were left behind by American troops and sold as army surplus. Nearly 10 years ago, Goulaine came across a U.S. Army "hog" in a barn in France. Enlisting the help of vintage motorcycle museum owner and mechanic Pierre Lauvergeat, Goulaine brought the bike back to life and then decided to bring it back to its American roots.

Operation Twin Links, named to honor the tie between American and French soldiers during World War I, was launched from Nantes, France to include a 5,600-mile journey from Mobile, Alabama to San Diego, with stops in Jacksonville and the Harley-Davidson headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Ever the good sport, Helen Lane waves from astride a 100-year-old Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 35

## See what's new at area schools



As students head back to school, area principals have big plans for the coming school year. Meet the top educators for public and private schools in the Riverside/Avondale area and learn what they have up their sleeves as the school year begins.

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# Publishers' Note

There's not much time left before school starts, so make those few days a priority and create lasting memories before the school year routine packs the schedule.

For many in the historic districts, it's an exciting time to prepare for new grade levels and welcome a new school year. In some cases, the movement to upper schools is coming. For others, it may be the first day you send your child for any formal schooling or the first day away from home at college. All these occasions are monumental, so take some great photos and remember these times – each year is fleeting.

With the school year in focus, our story on school principals, both public and private, should help to acquaint you with the latest moves in leadership. The story provides a glimpse into the new faces and goals of the educators taking care of our children. We hope it's helpful and serves a great purpose for your family.

Despite the heat, there are other topics heating up as readers take to the polls and decide upon local representatives from our next County Judge, to local representation on the school board and a representative filling a seat for Florida House District 15. Get out and vote; take your right to vote seriously so you can be proud of your choice, win or lose.

It's also interesting to see the movement in the economy and see consumer confidence growing. This means more money to allocate for growth, while undertaking many projects that have been neglected for years. We run through some of the budget numbers, as we also highlight a hotel planned in Brooklyn, amenities proposed around our urban core as the famed 'Emerald Necklace' begins to steam ahead, and much more.

Such a diverse set of neighborhoods calls for diverse news and information and we're proud to pack a great deal of it into this August issue. We also distribute this year's local neighbors and newcomers guide, *Historic Life*, this month. Please share a copy with a new neighbor and be sure to grab one for your coffee table – it's a great way to show your neighborhood pride, displayed proudly in your favorite space. We'll be happy to oblige the request for magazines – give us a shout!

Pamela and Seth Williams

# Letter TO THE Editor

I love *The Resident* and read it cover to cover every time it comes out. It always has fun articles and it is great to keep up with the neighborhood.

I just finished reading *The Way We Were* about Hannah Gavronsky by Peggy Harrell Jennings. I read it aloud to my husband. I just wanted you to know we really enjoyed the story and we think Peggy's writing is first rate. I cried at the end it was so moving.

I have met the family through Furniture Mart and they have always been professional and kind. It is a good legacy for Hannah and Ben to leave.

Please let Ms. Jennings know how much we enjoyed her article and we will look for her work in the future.

Mary Hartigan & Alan Fetner

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# Herschel Street creek culvert replacement underway

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

For residents living on or traveling Herschel Street where it bisects Boone Park, a few months of construction noise and traffic detours will, hopefully, be worth the inconvenience when the creek bridge replacement is complete.

Fishweir Creek meanders under the bridge at the intersection with Pine Grove Avenue. The metal pipe-arch culvert built over the creek in 1931 began to fail more than three decades ago and was placed, for the first time, in 1991 on the City of Jacksonville's public works project list for replacement with a precast concrete box culvert. Seven years later, the project was still on the list at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

After 10 years, nothing had been done and the economy hit a rough patch, so the project was put on the back-burner until 2013, at which time the new cost estimate had risen to \$450,000. In late 2015, the City finally covered the crumbling balustrades with orange safety netting to alert pedestrians of gaps in the railings – gaps large enough for a small child or dog to slip through.



Railings on the Herschel Street bridge will be replaced to closely match the original concrete balustrades, shown here on the west side of the bridge.



A crew from J.B. Coxwell Contracting works on installing a box culvert under Herschel Street, a project nearly three decades in the planning.

After funding was earmarked during the City's 2016-2017 fiscal year, the project was open for bid in late November 2017, and a contract was issued on Feb. 7 to J.B. Coxwell Contracting in the amount of \$738,853.

As part of the project, the roadway will be reconstructed, drainage improved, and the decorative parapet railings replaced with a design similar to the original 87-year-old railings.

Coxwell crews began the project in mid-May and were approximately 40 percent complete at the end of July, according to Tia Ford, spokesperson for the City of Jacksonville.

In the meantime, concurrent with the culvert replacement project, the Jacksonville

Energy Authority (JEA) took advantage of the temporary road closure between Pinegrove Avenue and Van Wert Avenue to replace an aging sanitary sewer.

According to the JEA, the sanitary sewer pipes reached the end of their service lives and needed to be proactively replaced to increase the reliability of the sewer system and to prevent any future sewer main breaks.

The JEA project involves installing 3,200 linear feet of 16-inch PVC pipe and 415 linear feet of 18-inch HDPE (high-density polyethylene, for the drill under creek), beginning at the JEA sanitary sewer pump station located near the corner of Pinegrove Avenue and Herschel Street, extending down Herschel Street under the bridge to Van

Wert Avenue, then continuing down Oak Street, and ending where it intersects with Riverside Avenue.

"This project is moving forward nicely without any issues and is on schedule to be completed by November 2018 (weather permitting)," said Gregory Corcoran, manager, community involvement and project outreach for JEA, who said they estimate about three to four weeks to reach the end of their project on Riverside Avenue, then have to wait on the bridge project before JEA can move forward with the directional drill under the creek to install the pipe to the pump station on Herschel Street. Once the entire project is completed, final milling and paving will occur.

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# Murray Hill to crown its entrance with iconic sculpture

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

The big news of the evening at the Murray Hill Preservation Association's quarterly meeting July 9 was the introduction of the proposed new neighborhood marker at Edgewood Avenue and Plymouth Street.

Currently, the neighborhood landmark, which some refer to as "the tombstone" is a small gray stone on a low brick pillar, often overlooked by passers-by. The MHPA wanted to rectify the inadvertent oversight by installing something more representative of the creative community that Murray Hill has become. During the past four to five years, the historic neighborhood has seen a variety of murals and mosaics installed on more than a dozen buildings.

"MHPA was looking to create an iconic piece to help act as a landmark for the neighborhood," said Jason Tetlak, MHPA president. "The inspiration for the design was the Great Fire that destroyed downtown [in 1901]. People who were displaced by the fire needed someplace to go, which contributed to the founding of Murray Hill."

The sculpture was designed by Jen Hager, a professor of sculpture in the Department of Art & Design at the University of North Florida, and her husband, Lance Vickery, a sculpture instructor, also at UNF.

"The idea behind the sculpture, titled 'Reawakening,' is about rebirth and refers to Murray Hill's growth and revitalization after the fire. It will be made of stainless steel, 10-feet tall and it will take approximately three months to complete," said Hager.



"Reawakening" is the name of a steel sculpture destined for Murray Hill.

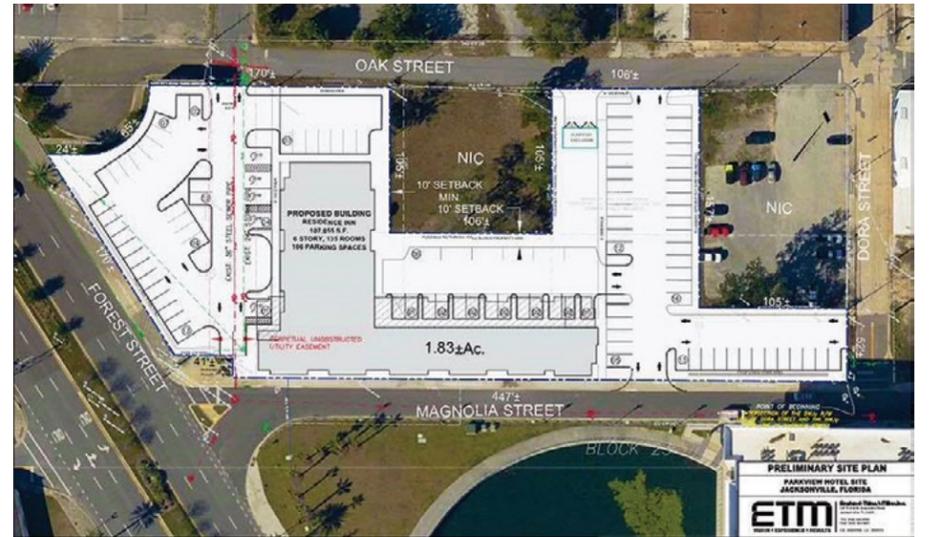
Tetlak said the sculpture will also include LED lights, which will be interactive via an app that will change the colors of the lights, powered by a solar panel.

The total cost of the sculpture and installation, including repairs and updates for the median, is approximately \$14,000, and the City of Jacksonville provided \$5,000 in a matching grant, said Tetlak at the quarterly meeting, held at El Jefe restaurant.

Although improvements had been made to the medians in the first block of Edgewood Avenue in 2004, the plants needed to be replaced and the control panel for the irrigation system in the first median had been stolen. The plan was to prep the beds and plant by the end of July but avid gardeners at the meeting suggested waiting until the weather was cooler to avoid scorching the plants before they had a chance to root.

The neighborhood association has targeted early October for the installation of the sculpture so that it is complete before the 2nd Annual Murray Hill-o-Ween, which is planned for Sunday, Oct. 28.

# Proposed hotel in Brooklyn faces challenges, adjacent property hold-outs



Site plan for a Residence Inn proposed for Brooklyn puts parking lot entrances on three of four streets surrounding the property.

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

Residents in neighborhoods immediately south of Jacksonville's Brooklyn area are unhappy over plans for a Marriott/Residence Inn hotel at the corner of Magnolia and Forest Streets, but their collective ire may not be enough to sway the opinion of the City's Downtown Development Review Board later this month.

A six-story, 135-room hotel proposed for a parcel north of Brooklyn Station has some urban planners scratching their heads over the design, which appears to ignore the goals of urban development: walkability and pedestrian-friendly design.

Opponents claim it's a "formulaic suburban design" with street-facing parking lots, instead of behind the building to create a more appealing streetscape. However, the developer is constrained, according to their attorney, by underground utilities, which cannot be relocated, on the southwest side of the property, and by two properties which are not for sale at this time.

The preliminary site plan submitted in June indicated parking would front Forest and Magnolia Streets. One property, made up of two small parcels totaling 0.28 acres on Oak Street, creates a square void, while five small parcels on Oak and Dora Streets make up another 0.40 acres in the northeast corner currently not available to the developer, Baywood Hotels Inc.

Those concerned with the suburban design are pushing for a presence at the DDRB's meeting, Thursday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m. in the Lynwood Roberts room at City Hall.

At its July 12 meeting, the DDRB gave conceptual approval with an initial thumbs-up 3-2, opposed by Rafael Caldera and Carol Worsham, with Christian



Conceptual rendering of a Residence Inn proposed for Brooklyn neighborhood.

Harden and Craig Davisson abstaining due to conflicts of interest. Harden is a principal at NAI Hallmark which, under Parkview Plaza Partners LLC, is the property owner of the site for the proposed hotel. Davisson is a partner with Studio 9 Architecture, which provided design work for Unity Plaza and 220 Riverside, also NAI Hallmark projects.

Only three people showed up at the July meeting to speak against the plan, among them Nancy Powell, board chair for Riverside Avondale Preservation, and Wayne Wood, founder of RAP.

"Part of the reason that this design is so hideous is that they do not have enough property to build a decent building. Because the contiguous property owners will not sell them the additional land they need, the developers have had to gerrymander their building around those other parcels. This is just another example of trying to cram the wrong building into the wrong place, like a fat man trying to squeeze into a pair of pants that are three sizes too small," posted Wood on social media.

The project's conceptual approval included conditions that cosmetic changes be made. According to Jim Klement, DDRB coordinator, the developer submitted revisions to the board late last month but renderings were not available at press time.

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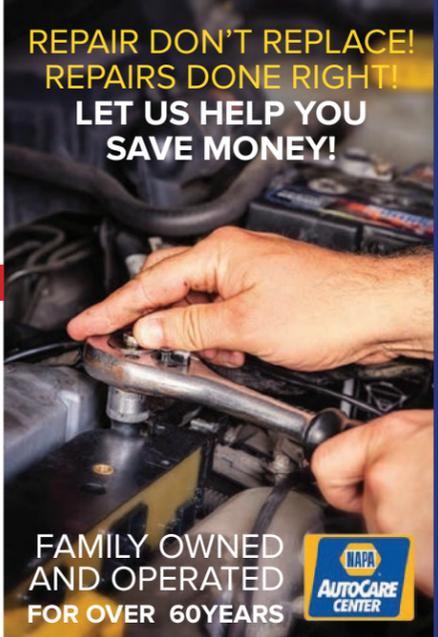
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2375 SEMINOLE RD  
3/4, 3,791 square feet  
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**\$2,750,000**



2645 OAKGROVE AVE  
5/5, 5,069 square feet  
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2912 ST JOHNS AVE 10  
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3009 ST JOHNS AVE  
2/2/1, 1,366 square feet  
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**\$285,000**



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22863 LYDIA STREET  
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3222 ST JOHNS AVE  
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**\$1,250,000**



3518 CORBY ST  
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**\$175,000**



2917 YALE AVENUE  
3/2, 1,518 square feet  
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**\$299,900**



1288 AZALEA DR  
2/1, 1,566 square feet  
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM  
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## Introducing...Mona Gardella, Director of Market Development

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty welcomes Mona to its Avondale office as Director of Market Development. Ryan Nix is now leading the beaches office and Mona will be managing the Avondale office in addition to her management role with the Fleming Island and Oakleaf offices. Please take a moment to stop in and introduce yourself when you're in the neighborhood...Mona would love to meet you!



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# New signs at Roosevelt Square Mall indicate new structures, new name



Sketch of the proposed redevelopment of Roosevelt Square Mall, to be called Ortega Park.

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

Signs erected in mid-July at various points at the Roosevelt Square Mall indicate a big change is coming for the old mall, including a new name – Ortega Park.

Although *The Resident* reached out repeatedly for information, Atlanta-based Dewberry Capital Corporation wasn't ready, as of press time, to divulge any details, stating they would have a media release available the first of August.

The questions asked of John Freeman, director of finance and leasing for Dewberry, included those based on sketchy details in the three renderings. On signs posted at mall entrances on San Juan Avenue and Roosevelt Boulevard, it appears that one wing of the building currently housing Publix would be demolished. Only Kids First Dentistry, Rack

Room Shoes and GNC remain in that wing, where CiCi's Pizza, and other retail stores were once located.

The same overview rendering indicates at least four new commercial buildings on the property, plus a residential multi-family building in the southeast corner of the property. A question as to whether Charles and George Car Wash would have a presence at the mall remain unanswered as well.

Two of the renderings imply a new open-air concept, including a pedestrian-friendly open-air mall, with current vehicle "aisles" between buildings turned into pedestrian-only walk-ways, with outdoor seating.

All of this is speculation based on renderings. When Dewberry Capital releases concrete information, it will be posted on residentnews.net. Check The Resident Community News Facebook page at residentnewsjax for notification.



A new building to the east of Metro Diner may be in the plans for the redesign of Roosevelt Square Mall.



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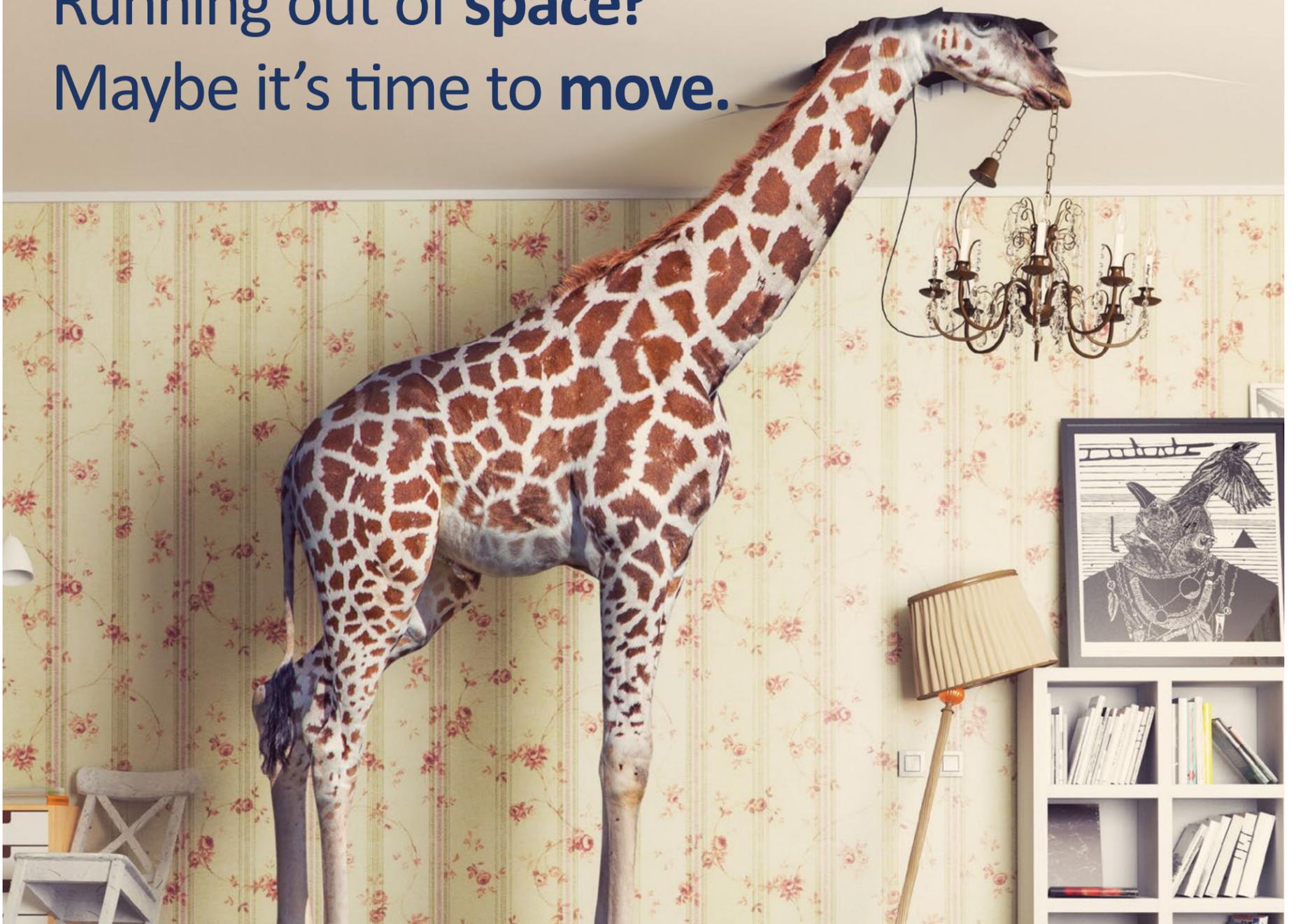
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# Klutho's dream of urban connectivity gains momentum

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Although it's been long known as the Emerald Necklace, a map of preliminary alignments connecting 14 neighborhoods in the urban core suggests a spider web.

Envisioned more than a century ago by architect Henry J. Klutho to be a series of connecting parks and greenways, the Emerald Necklace will eventually include a hiking and biking trail along several waterways, but the project could take 10 years to build and significant funding.

About 300 residents filled the auditorium at Florida State College—Jacksonville's downtown campus July 24 to get a preview of what Groundwork Jacksonville has in mind for completing Klutho's dream. The nonprofit's goal includes restoring creeks, building trails, creating parks and installing public art. It could also include a name change if a "necklace" is no longer an accurate description.



A rendering of a restored McCoy's Creek along McCoy's Creek Boulevard gives future users a glimpse of what an urban nature trail could look like.

The 24-mile trail begins at and includes the S-Line (a 4.8-mile rails-to-trails multi-use path) in the northeast section of the urban core, stretches west to the KIPP Middle School, wanders down to Memorial Park in Riverside, then crosses the river to San Marco. The project, at an average cost of \$2 million per mile, will have significant benefits for the community, said Kay Ehas, Groundwork Jacksonville CEO, and Riverside resident, in an interview prior to the public meeting.

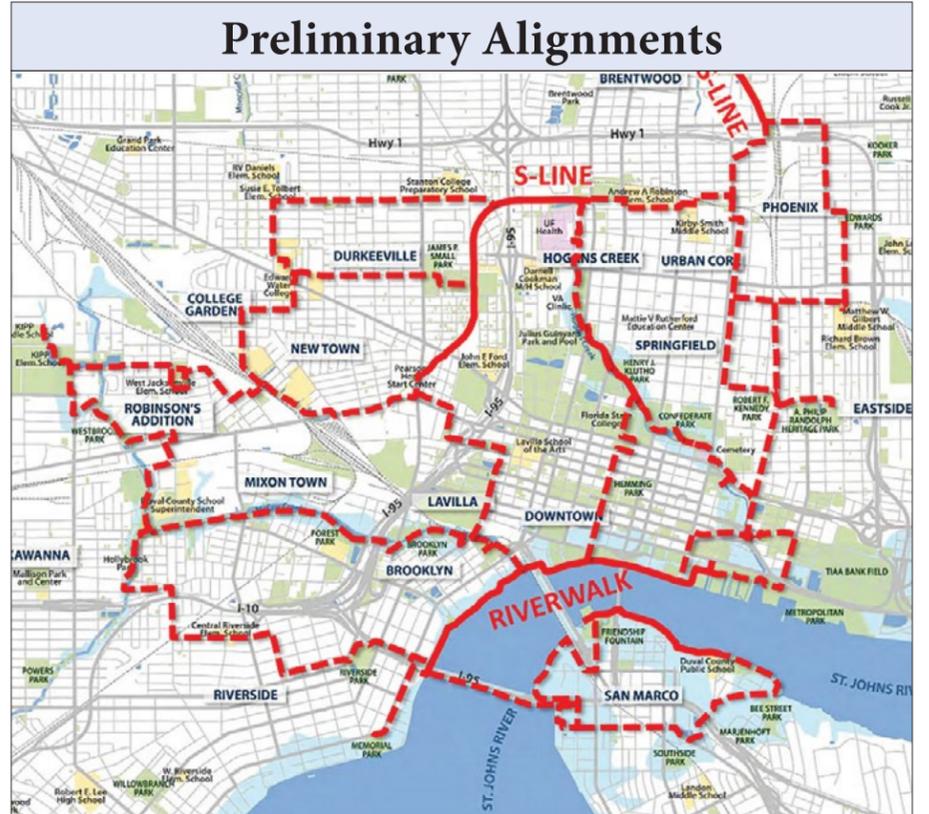
According to research Ehas has done, the improvements will raise property values and spur economic development while providing a safe, aesthetic environment for exercise.

During the July 24 presentation, Ehas said trails retain youth and local talent, while attracting new businesses and increasing revenue at existing ones. Trails also support active transportation, promoting less dependency on cars and expansion of roadways.

"We're designing this for the 60 percent of people who are interested but concerned about riding bicycles on the road," said Ehas, stating they are trying to identify low-volume, low-speed roads for the neighborhood connections to the trail.

The master plan is looking at a variety of trail types, from greenway trails completely separated from vehicular traffic, to side paths separating pedestrians and cyclists from traffic by landscape buffers, to transforming under-utilized alleys into community shared-used space, among other types.

Ehas believes a combination of public and private dollars, including grants, may be the way to get the trail built. An implementation plan, when finalized, will identify the cost and prioritization of each trail segment.



A network of trails would connect Jacksonville's urban areas in a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly way.

The \$88,200 cost for the trail master plan, developed by PATH Foundation and KAIZEN Collaborative, is being privately underwritten by a \$50,000 donation from JTC Running (JTC), as well as through grants from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Giving Forward Community Endowment Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

PATH Foundation has built over 275 miles of greenway trails, including the Atlanta BeltLine, and KAIZEN has master-planned 875 miles of multi-use trails with more than 30 communities.

To generate excitement about and support for the ambitious project, Groundwork is trying to first develop a "model mile," which will show what can be done and how it will benefit the community. They are currently looking at three options.

One option, from Riverside Park to Central Riverside Elementary School, will cost \$1.5 million to develop 1.3 miles of walkable, bikeable trail. Another option connects Hogan Street from an area slightly north of FSCJ down to The Landing, a cost of \$2 million for 0.9 miles, while the last option at the S-Line on W. Beaver Street and works its way to McCoy's Creek past the convention center. Those 1.4 miles would cost \$3.6 million.

Next steps after collecting public feedback include finalizing a Master Trail Plan report to submit to City Council for adoption, and then designing building the "model mile" trail segment would begin.

## McCoy's Creek restoration

As part of the Jacksonville Master Trail plan, Groundwork Jacksonville is partnering with the City to develop the creek restoration plan portion of Mayor Lenny Curry's McCoy's Creek project.

Mayor Curry's proposed budget for 2018-2019 includes \$13 million to begin restoration of 2.8 miles of McCoy's Creek, which has been estimated to cost nearly \$60 million over four years. The plan would include raising or removing bridges, restoring natural channels, creating greenways, and building kayak launches.

Groundwork is working with Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., a Florida creek expert, on a natural channel design to potentially redirect the flood-prone McCoy's Creek by removing manmade barricades.

"Natural channel design becomes stronger over time," said Ehas, who has support from the St. Johns River Water Management District for the concept. "Planting the right trees makes it more self-sustaining over time, and it will be able to deal with more storm water than it does today."

The McCoy's Creek Restoration evaluation and design plan will cost \$326,242 and is coming from a variety of sources, including a request by the City's Environmental Protection Board for City Council to approve \$84,600.

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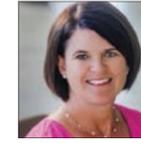
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# Historic Preservation Commission approves CenterState Bank demolition

Familiar Park and King building to make way for new development

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

A familiar sight in the heart of the Park and King retail corridor could be razed for a mixed-use development as the Jacksonville Historic Planning Commission approved a request for demolition at its July 25 meeting. But that action won't occur for at least 18 to 24 months, according to Bryan Hunter, CenterState Bank director of corporate real estate.

The 66-year-old CenterState Bank building, which sits on nearly three acres on King Street, with frontage on Forbes, Lydia and Downing Streets and Frederica Place, was originally the home for First Guaranty Bank & Trust, at one time Riverside's oldest operating bank.

The application for Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) submitted to the City of Jacksonville June 25, 2018, indicates CenterState Bank management has determined the size of the building is overwhelming and inefficient for current staff, noting a large portion of the building is unused.

Hunter said only about 3,000 to 4,000 square feet is needed to operate, instead of the building's almost 17,000 square feet on the ground floor, plus another 7,000 square feet or more in the upper story.

The COA, submitted by Hunter and Mark Shelton of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., stated the proposed use of the property would be "a mixed-use development with commercial and multi-family residential."

Hunter said CenterState Bank will operate a branch on the parcel but didn't know at

this time whether it would be an independent structure or part of the commercial use of the project. He said there would be a new structure built somewhere in the vicinity before the financial institution would even consider demolishing the current bank building, and that could be 18 to 24 months out. "We won't demolish the building until after we have moved into a new office," said Hunter. "There will be no disruption in service. Unfortunately, the [COA] application planted a seed in everyone's mind."

The potential buyer of the property is J.B. Ritz, a Jacksonville Beach developer, associated with Joseph Eckstein of Eckstein Investments and other companies. Under AC Packer LLC, Eckstein developed The Loree, a 16-building apartment complex on A.C. Skinner Parkway in the Baymeadows area.

This recent application wasn't the first time, however, that the idea of demolition and redevelopment was floated. Nancy Powell, Riverside Avondale Preservation board chair, said they met with the bank's Executive Vice President Gil Pomar and a developer's representative more than a year ago to review preliminary plans. At that time, Powell said, the plans were not well-designed or pedestrian-friendly. Pomar then indicated he was not sure they would move forward, and the project was dropped, according to Powell. Pomar is now the EVP/Regional President of South Florida Region for the bank, making that transition in December 2017.

The property is listed with a market value of \$2,521,600, on the Property Appraiser's website and was purchased by CenterState Bank for \$2,230,000 on Jan. 27, 2012, the same day First Guaranty was closed by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation due to "a troubled asset ratio of 522%," the



*"There will be no disruption in service. Unfortunately, the [COA] application planted a seed in everyone's mind."*

— **Bryan Hunter**, CenterState Bank

highest bad loan ratio of all Jacksonville-based banks in 2010.

The Property Appraiser's site also indicates the structure was built in 1922, which would deem it a "Contributing Structure" in the historic district, however, that is incorrect. Documentation with the COA notes the building was erected in 1952, when First Guaranty relocated from its first office on Park Street. Renovations were made five times in subsequent years, including a one-story addition and two-story mezzanine in 1955, drive-thru tellers in 1961-62, brick veneer in 1971, a canopy in 1974, and replacement of all windows with storefront aluminum windows in 1984.

The application also states, "The demolition of this structure to make room for a new mixed-use development will provide a more efficient use of this infill parcel as well as a drastic increase in the tax-base."

RAP's concern is to make sure the demolition doesn't happen before the project's plans are made available for public comment, risking the result of a vacant property should the plans not be approved, according to Powell.

The COA was approved with the conditional agreement that demolition may not begin until the applicant or owner has secured final approval of a new construction COA and a Planned Unit Development (PUD).



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# Good news, bad news for arts and arts education funding

For students and teachers of art, music and physical education teaching positions in Duval County Public Schools, the best back-to-school gift was news of a change in funding.

The new superintendent, Dr. Diana Greene, advocated for a strategy which would balance the budget with a commitment to arts, music and physical education. The funding will come from a school board recommendation to delay the building of the reserve fund, currently at 4.75 percent, to 5 percent. The requirement is just 3 percent.

Students will have the same arts and gym classes offered as they had last year. Had a solution not been found, teachers in those disciplines would have been required to travel between two schools each week.

Shaun Bennett, music teacher at Ortega Elementary School, and Central Riverside Elementary School art teacher Terry Woodlief spoke before the school board May 1. "We have many arts advocates, teachers and parents to thank for speaking

up. Unfortunately, to maintain the status quo, we must continue our advocacy and let our voices be heard in Tallahassee," Woodlief said on social media.

On the other hand, although the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville advocated for an increase in funding for the grant pool from \$2.4 million to \$3.4 million in fiscal year 2018-2019, the bad news is that Mayor Lenny Curry's proposed budget left that line item flat.

In a budget line item called PSG-Cultural Council, the nonprofit has received funding for arts and cultural organizations in Duval County since 1990. Over the past five years, according to the Cultural Council, its funding has remained flat since 2013-2014, when there were 21 organizations that received funding, and actually declined from its peak in 2002-2003, when it received a little over \$4 million. For the upcoming fiscal year, there will be 27 eligible organizations to tap into \$2.4 million, resulting in smaller grants.

# Riverside electrical company moves to Southside

One of Jacksonville's oldest builders of electrical and other commercial infrastructure is leaving Riverside next year for a new home on the Southside.

After working from headquarters on Rosselle Street for 28 years, Miller Electric will move 200 employees to space more than double in size at 6805 Southpoint Parkway.

Although Miller Electric owns the Riverside building they are vacating, the company will lease the 120,000-square-foot Southpoint office from ME Jacksonville FL Landlord LLC, a SunTrust real estate company.

Founded in 1928 by Henry G. Miller, Miller Electric grew from a local company to a national corporation with more than 1,500 employees. Its current CEO, Henry Brown, follows in the footsteps of his mother, Susan Walden, uncle, Ron Autrey, and grandfather, H.E. Autrey, who all served as CEO.

Through the decades, some of the company's notable Jacksonville projects include the federal courthouse (1930s), the Winn-Dixie corporate office and warehouse and the Independent Life home office (1950s), Florida National Bank Building, and the Charles E. Bennett Federal Building (1960s), Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and the University of North Florida (1970s), Riverside Hospital and the Florida Theatre (1980s), and World Golf Village Hall of Fame, and the St. James Building/City Hall (1990s), among many others.

Currently, Miller Electric is part of the design-build partnership working on the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center. The company also worked on Daily's Place, and received awards from the Associated Builders and Contractors for the UF Health North inpatient hospital and the Memorial Hospital emergency room in Mandarin.

# City budget debates begin

## Council reviews Mayor's 2018-2019 budget proposal

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

Late last month Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry presented to City Council his fourth budget since taking office in 2015. The budget proposed for fiscal year 2018-2019, which begins Oct. 1, is just over \$1.2 billion, an increase over last fiscal year of almost \$33 million, according to Curry.

Curry is proposing to increase funds for safety – with \$30 million-plus for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and \$17 million for the Fire & Rescue Department; health and education, with the goal of adding 60 more therapists at Duval County Public Schools, expanding library hours, adding new personnel and materials and replacing the library in Oceanway; and investing in the City's parks with upgrades, repairs and additional maintenance staff.

On July 24, council approved keeping the current millage rates intact for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which are 11.4419 for most of Duval County.

For most of August, the council's Finance Committee will debate Curry's budget proposal. By the end of September, council will need to approve the remaining nine budget-related pieces of legislation.

Three of the seven members represent historic districts. Committee Chair Greg Anderson lives in District 14, in Ortega. District 14 Councilman Jim Love is a resident of Avondale and District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer lives in San Marco. The other members of the committee include Joyce Morgan, serving as vice chair, Reginald Gaffney, Bill Gulliford, and Sam Newby.

In District 5's Southbank and San Marco neighborhoods, and in District 14's Riverside neighborhood, the capital improvements budget includes \$3.75 million for improvements along the St. Johns River.

Those line items include \$950,000 for St. Johns River Park, \$1.3 million for upgrades at Friendship Fountain, \$700,000 to expand the Southbank Riverwalk, \$500,000 for a civic/cultural node on the Northbank Riverwalk, \$100,000 for a floating dock on the Southbank, and \$200,000 for new fencing and railings along the banks of Memorial Park.

Also in District 14, the mayor budgeted \$270,000 for electrical upgrades and lighting at the tennis courts in Boone Park, and in Tillie Fowler Park \$313,600 for a kayak launch and \$160,000 for septic system replacement. He also put \$2.2 million into the Public Works budget for the Park Street road diet and \$500,000 for bulkhead replacement at Willowbranch Creek.

In District 5, the Millers Creek dredge project will get a \$275,000 special district match; \$150,000 was earmarked for pedestrian bridges on San Clerc Road, and \$500,000 for a bridge on River Road.

In total, the budget for District 5 is \$4,605,350 – a 33 percent decrease over last year, while the \$3,418,600 budget proposed for District 14 is 53 percent lower than 2017. Almost half of that budget will be used to create a secondary ingress/egress in Ortega Hills (\$1,050,000) and a bridge on Collins Road (\$500,000).

Countywide, the 2018-2019 capital budget is also down by 50 percent at \$39,135,660. The 25 projects slated for citywide projects includes road resurfacing (nearly \$12 million) and another \$1.25 million for signs, striping and signals; ADA compliance (\$4.545 million for curb ramps/sidewalks and \$2 million for public buildings); park upgrades and repairs (\$2 million); drainage system rehabilitation (\$4.2 million); bulkhead assessment and restoration along the St. Johns River (\$1 million), and \$1.2 million for a landfill gas-fueled leach gate evaporator.

For details about the mayor's proposed annual budget, visit residentnews.net and enter "budget" in the search box.

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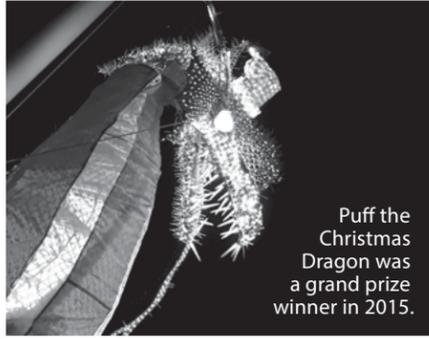
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## Annual boat parade returns to Thanksgiving weekend

A holiday tradition for more than 30 years, the annual Jacksonville Light Boat Parade is returning to the Thanksgiving weekend, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 on the St. Johns River.

Spectators will gather along the north and south riverbanks in downtown Jacksonville to see vessels of all shapes and sizes adorned with festive decorations.

The 33rd annual boat parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Boats will start at Metropolitan Park and follow along the Northbank Riverwalk to the Fuller Warren Bridge. The parade will then cross to the Southbank and follow along the Riverwalk to the Duval County School Board building. The evening



Puff the Christmas Dragon was a grand prize winner in 2015.

will culminate with one of the best fireworks show on the First Coast, featuring “waterfalls” off the Main Street and Acosta Bridges.

Captains and crews of registered motor-assisted vessels are invited to participate in the Jacksonville Light Boat Parade, to be produced by the City of Jacksonville. Registration is open and participation is free.

## Study reveals lack of inclusion for LGBTI

The largest survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) adults ever conducted in Northeast Florida finds that three-quarters of LGBTI respondents have experienced “everyday discrimination,” such as being disrespected, threatened or harassed in the past 12 months. Respondents who reported everyday discrimination were most likely to indicate that these experiences were due to their sexual orientation or sex.

A large majority of LGBTI survey respondents were currently employed. However, many respondents also reported lifetime experiences of major discrimination in the workplace, including being unfairly fired from a job, passed over for a job for which they were qualified or denied a job promotion. Respondents most frequently cited their sexual orientation as the reason for the discrimination.

Data from the study also showed that most sexual minority respondents, including those who self-identify as LGB and so forth and those who reported same-gender partners, reported being out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer to someone in their lives, and large majorities said they were out to all of their LGBTI friends, immediate family members and current healthcare providers. A substantial majority of those who were out reported acceptance from

all, most or some of the people who knew they were a sexual minority.

Researchers at the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, with funding from The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida and in partnership with a local Community Advisory Board, conducted The Jacksonville-Area Community Assessment to learn about the composition, experiences and health of adults in Northeast Florida’s LGBTI community. Community members were involved at every stage of this project, from conceptualization through interpretation of results and the generation of recommendations, and were integral to its success.

Michael Meyers, president of The LGBT Community Fund, said “The results of the survey show that we in Jacksonville have significant work to do to achieve full inclusion of LGBTI people into our community, while also showing the value, for many parts of the community, of coming out to move acceptance forward. The LGBT Community Fund will use the survey results to inform our work going forward, and we hope the results will be a basis for broad discussion about issues affecting the LGBTI community.”

The full report can be found at residentnews.net. Enter “discrimination” in the search bar.

## New life planned for decade-old downtown eyesore



### Family entertainment center in plaza’s future

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

For less than \$5 million, a drop in the bucket compared to the estimated \$150 million development cost, a derelict downtown building site will rise from its figurative ashes.

On Dec. 6, 2007 at approximately 6:15 a.m. an incident occurred during the construction of a five-story concrete parking garage downtown at 500 East Bay St. One construction employee was killed and 21 were injured in the collapse. The incident occurred when the sixth parking level, which was also the roof level, was being cast with fresh concrete. The parking garage was a separate structure from the 23-story condominium known as Berkman Plaza II.

For more than a decade the project has been halted even though Choate Construction obtained the property in 2014 through a foreclosure settlement. Under pressure from the Mayor’s Office to close a deal with a developer, Choate instead recently sold the property to a Wisconsin-based company, Ohde Construction.

Operating under the name 500 East Bay LLC, Robert Ohde and his company will serve as general contractor for a mixed-use project that will include a hotel with more than 300 rooms and a riverfront park with bars, restaurants, parking and amusement rides.

Completion is estimated for late 2019/early 2020 and could bring 900 jobs to the area. While Ohde is working on the planning stages of the redevelopment, crews will begin cleaning up the site in preparation for construction. At this time a developer has not been named, nor the entity which will rebrand the 222-unit residential tower as a hotel.

### Library Warehouse Book Sale

It’s time for another book warehouse sale from Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. The sale is Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 23-25 at FJPL’s Book Warehouse at University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. N.

Thursday, Aug. 23 (Member Night) – 4-8 p.m. Members receive a 25 percent discount on one \$15 bag and receive a second bag free. Don’t worry – if you’re not a member you can join at the door for just \$10.

Friday, Aug. 24 – 4-8 p.m. Buy one bag for \$15 and get a second bag free.  
Saturday, Aug 25. – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clearance Sale, plus buy one bag for \$15 and get a second bag free.

Special books will be discounted. Sales tax of 7 percent is applicable to all sales. Proceeds help The Jacksonville Public Library.

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



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# Jacksonville volunteers plan philanthropic show



The 2018 Art & Antiques Show Chairs: Claudia Adams, Marleigh Gulliford, Holland Gibbs, Liza Barnett Emmet (Photo credit: Tanner Deprin, Figure 8 Studio)

The Art & Antiques Show, hosted by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, announced the 2018 show chairs. The 42nd annual show will feature a Lilly Pulitzer-inspired theme "A Place in the Sun," and will be led by show chairs Liza Barnett Emmet, Holland Gibbs and Claudia Adams of Ortega, and Marleigh Gulliford of Avondale. The event will be held at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 2018.

The 2018 Art & Antiques Show welcomes over 40 acclaimed art and antiques dealers from across the country. The black-tie gala will highlight the elegance of Old Palm Beach and include live music from The Chris Thomas Band. The weekend culminates with the Children's Fashion Show, featuring current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital. The Women's Board founded its annual Art & Antiques Show in 1977 to raise

community awareness of Wolfson's unique facility and fund state-of-the-art services, programs, equipment and facilities to provide the best health care for all children in the Northeast Florida/Southeast Georgia region. For tickets, information or to find out how to become a sponsor of this year's Art & Antiques Show, visit [www.womensboard-wolfsonchildrenshospital.com](http://www.womensboard-wolfsonchildrenshospital.com), call (904) 202-2886, or email [womensboardwch@bmcjax.com](mailto:womensboardwch@bmcjax.com).



Kendall Bryan, Jr.



Christian Harden

## Five appointed to MOSH Board of Trustees

Two local men, Kendall Bryan, Jr. of Ortega Forest and Christian Harden of Avondale, along with Leslie Scott Jean-Bart, Richard Lovelace and Edward Sarnowski, were appointed to the Museum of Science & History (MOSH) Board of Trustees for three-year terms from 2018-2021.

Bryan, director of health services at LCPS Management, earned a degree in health administration from the University of North Florida and received the Leadership in Community Service Award from the UNF Center for Aging Research.

Harden is a Principal of NAI Hallmark and currently oversees the company operations and brokerages services division. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and MBA from the University of North Florida. A member of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2015, Harden has received the CoStar Power Broker, NAIOP Land Sale of the Year and NAIOP Emerging Professional of the Year awards.

Jean-Bart, an attorney at Terrell Hogan, studied at the University of Miami where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Chemistry, and a Juris Doctor, and received the C.A.L.I Award of Excellence in Florida Appellate Law, as well as the Silver Eagle, Shoe Leather and Rising Star awards from the Florida Justice Association.

With 25 years' experience in design and construction, Lovelace is the senior vice president at Stellar where he negotiates client contracts, oversees project execution and ensures client satisfaction.

Sarnowski, an associate in Holland & Knight's Jacksonville office, graduated magna cum laude with two Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy from the University of North Florida and magna cum laude with a Juris Doctor from Florida Coastal School of Law. A member of The Florida Bar and Jacksonville Bar Association, Sarnowski has received the Holland & Knight Public and Charitable Service All-Star and the Florida Super Lawyers magazine Rising Star awards.

## Silver Cow finds greener pasture in Murray Hill

Silver Cow has a new grazing ground. The eclectic gathering place relocated from King Street to Murray Hill, opening its doors at 929 Edgewood Ave. S., directly across from the Murray Hill Theater. It also has a slightly new premise, with earlier opening and closing times, said Regina Huffington, whose business partners are St. Johns Park residents Alexandria Schaefer and Jacob Pyle.

The kid-friendly, pet-friendly establishment has free Wi-Fi, two large-screen televisions, Wii, Mario Kart and board games. The venue can also be used as a meeting space.

Patrons are welcome to bring their own snacks and noshes, have it delivered, or experience a variety of charcuterie plates and nightly specials offered by the Zen Butcher Company.

Still offering unique craft and artisan beers, boutique wines, meads and ciders, Silver Cow also offers coffee, cold brew and iced coffees, kombucha, French press, Italian cream sodas, vintage and craft sodas and retro candy, Rose Lemonade and sparkling waters.



Regina Huffington, Alexandria Schaefer and Jacob Pyle



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## Charlotte Joyce, the ‘Natural Choice’ for Duval County School Board

“Charlotte Joyce for School Board” signs are springing up in yards all over Avondale, Ortega, and Riverside. According to Charlotte, the reason she has succeeded in making inroads to the eastern edge of District 6 is because “the fundamentals of my platform resonate as back-to-basics common sense with so many people.”

Born and raised in the part of town she now seeks to represent on the Duval County School Board, Charlotte was educated at Stilwell Middle School and Edward White High School before going on to graduate with honors from the University of North Florida. Although a novice politician, Charlotte is a veteran educator who now teaches and serves as the magnet coordinator for what has become the Joseph Stilwell Military Academy of Leadership.

Charlotte, a magnet school mother of five, decided to run for the open seat in January for several reasons, including her conviction that school board policy should be directed, at least in part, by a teacher who “is in the trenches and well-acquainted with the challenges faced every day by our students, their families, and DCPS staff, faculty, and administrators.”

Long-time Ortega resident Martha Terry agrees. “My husband, Gordon, and I looked at the list of School Board candidates, saw several unfamiliar names, and decided to do some research. What we found in Charlotte, from her many years’ teaching experience to her concrete plans for school improvement to her always positive personality, made her the easy and natural choice for us.”

Charlotte’s platform and priorities, outlined in more detail on her campaign website, [votejoyce.com](http://votejoyce.com), include renewing an emphasis on student discipline, improving teacher retention rates by pairing new teachers with skilled and effective veterans, identifying students with mental health challenges to connect them with resources that promote improvement,



and leading the way toward more school partnerships with faith-based organizations and businesses.

About that last point, Charlotte said, “As part of the groups that formed the Stilwell Booster Club and developed partnerships with local churches and businesses, I am a witness to the generosity of the people of Jacksonville. As it turns out, the people of our city are excited when their local schools thrive and many want to be involved in offering help and support. If elected, I will encourage teachers and administrators to create more of these faith-based and community partnerships that strengthen not only our schools but the neighborhoods that surround them.”

Charlotte and her husband, Patrick, a business litigation attorney with the downtown firm Milam Howard, live on the city’s Westside. If you would like more detailed information about Charlotte, her campaign, or the August 28th election, she invites you to call her at (904) 891-9813, go to her website, or connect on Facebook at [Vote 4 Joyce](https://www.facebook.com/Vote4Joyce).

Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Charlotte Joyce for Duval County School Board, District 6.

## We Care celebrates 25 years volunteering specialty medical care

More than 4,000 low-income, uninsured patients annually receive specialty medical care, thanks to a local nonprofit celebrating 25 years of community service.

In 1993, George S. Trotter, MD, and the Duval County Medical Society’s (DCMS) Indigent Care Committee founded We Care Jacksonville as a volunteer coalition of healthcare professionals, clerical personnel, and local church groups to provide primary and specialty care to the uninsured, the homeless, and the medically underserved people of Jacksonville.

Working with a network of 10 free clinics, 500 volunteer specialty physicians and all hospitals in Duval County, patients annually receive specialty medical care, valued at more than \$16 million dollars in 2017, and ranging from diagnostic x-rays to complex and life-saving cancer treatment.

“Outside of funding, We Care’s core is its volunteers. Volunteer physicians and hospital systems are the heart of our network,” stated Sue Nussbaum, Executive Director for We Care Jacksonville. We

Care’s current volunteer network exceeds 500 medical specialists and other medical professionals who donate their services to patients referred through 10 free clinics throughout Duval County.

To celebrate the silver anniversary, and to honor medical professionals who volunteer their time each year, We Care Jacksonville will host its 2018 Caring Awards Gala Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m., at the Jacksonville Marriott Hotel Southpoint.

Current year honorees are Ortega Forest resident Stanton Longenecker, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon, Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute, who will receive the Distinguished George S. Trotter Founders Award, while Awards of Service will be given to Southbank resident Michael Solloway, MD, Psychiatrist, Baptist Health; Avondale resident Paul Nowicki, MD, Gynecologic Oncologist, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center with colleagues Stephen Buckley, MD, and Jenny Whitworth, MD; and Freddie Webster, RN, Nurse Manager, We Care Jacksonville.



Kim Goodman

## Goodman joins Avondale realty firm

Kim Goodman, of Avondale, joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeService Florida Network Realty as a Realtor in its Avondale office.

Goodman and her husband are owners of GameTruck Jacksonville, where she worked as director of the game truck franchise, primarily managing employees, and booking and planning events.

## Waugaman joins North Florida School of Special Education

North Florida School of Special Education has hired Jessica Waugaman as Director of Advancement for the school. Waugaman was previously special events manager for St. Vincent’s Foundation for four years. She brings 14 years of nonprofit and business experience to the school, where she hopes to make a difference for the children it serves.

“I knew about the school, but when I stepped foot on campus I realized that this place is truly magical, and I am so excited to be a part of such an amazing mission!” said Waugaman, who moved to Jacksonville four years ago from Stuart, Florida. She and her husband, Kevin, a graduate of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, have a 1-year-old son.



Jessica Waugaman

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Traci Jenks

## Rotary Club of Jacksonville appoints Jenks as president

Traci Jenks, of Ortega, has been named president of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville for the 2018-19 term. Jenks is the third woman to lead the club since it was established in 1912. With 216 members, the Rotary Club of Jacksonville is the oldest Rotary club in the state and the largest within its district, which encompasses 63 clubs in 12 counties throughout northeast and central Florida.

Jenks, who specializes in office leasing and sales with global commercial real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield, has been involved with the Rotary for 10 years. She has served as a member of the club's board for two years, and previously held the role of Fellowship Chair, which is primarily responsible for event coordination, for five years.

Jenks was inducted as president on June 21 at the Florida Theatre, when Past-President David Boree presented her with the presidency in the traditional "passing of the gavel" ceremony.

## Dog agility club brings home awards at state competition



Jacksonville's dog agility club, Pals and Paws, at a state competition.

Pals and Paws, a Jacksonville dog agility club, sent 23 owner/handlers and 27 dogs to the annual Dog Agility Competition of Florida (DACOF) June 30-July 1 and came home with two of the top five places.

Clubs and training schools from all over Florida sent up to three teams of nine dogs, three at each level of competition.

"It is a veritable three-ring circus with 400-plus dogs competing simultaneously in three agility rings – one Novice, one Open and one Excellent/Masters – throughout the weekend," said Christine Tarantino,

whose Shetland Sheepdog, Regan, was on a fifth-place team, competing on the Excellent/Masters level. "This is a state agility competition that can be found nowhere else in the United States."

The competition was held at the Silver Spurs Arena, an indoor facility in Kissimmee, Florida, where Pals and Paws teams Uptown Funk, Jive Talkin', and Don't Stop Believin' put their pups through their paces.

The teams consisted of very seasoned dog/handler combinations and first-time dog and handler combinations. Miramar



Christine Tarantino's Shetland Sheepdog, Regan, leaps over the bars at a dog agility competition. (Photo by Phyllis Ensley Photography)

resident Shannon Murphy was team captain and her Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Kermit, helped put Uptown Funk in second place, while Jive Talkin' took fifth, and Don't Stop Believin' was in 24th place out of 50 teams. Pals and Paws also took Large Team second place in the Crating Area Team Challenge, earning the club \$75 toward its 2019 DACOF team entry fee.

"This is the best Jacksonville has ever done at this competition since it started in 2001," said Tarantino.

## Wolfson Children's Hospital designated a pediatric trauma referral center

### Ranked among top 50 children's hospitals

Wolfson Children's Hospital was named the only state-designated Pediatric Trauma Referral Center in Northeast Florida by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), moving the Southbank-based hospital from provisional status.

Additionally, U.S. News & World Report ranked Wolfson Children's Hospital among the top 50 hospitals in two specialties in its 2018-19 Best Children's Hospitals rankings: pediatric neurology and neurosurgery, and pediatric cancer.

The state designation officially began July 1, 2018, and continues through June 30, 2025 (Wolfson Children's will need to

reapply for the designation before the 2025 date).

The FDOH named Wolfson Children's Hospital a provisional Pediatric Trauma Referral Center in December 2017. The hospital's goal with this new designation is to continue to provide comprehensive, high-level care to the most critically injured children when they need it most.

"The process of earning the status of Pediatric Trauma Referral Center has not been easy. It involved a lot of work, patience and persistence," said Michael D. Aubin, Wolfson Children's Hospital president. "Physicians with Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville, the UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville, and Emergency Resources Group, along with Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Health team members

representing all disciplines and departments, have invested their time and talent in earning this designation. We have been providing lifesaving trauma care for many years, and our highly skilled team will continue to make a positive impact in our region as a Pediatric Trauma Referral Center."

Wolfson Children's trauma transport fleet includes one fixed-wing aircraft, two air ambulance helicopters and three Kids Kare Mobile ICUs.

U.S. News & World Report began ranking children's hospitals in 2007 on their ability to help children, particularly those with rare or complex medical conditions such as cancer; congenital heart disease; diabetes and metabolic disorders; brain, spine and nervous system conditions; diseases of the digestive tract and more.



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

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

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

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

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

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



PD. ADV.

## Four residents among art grants recipients

Four Riverside/Avondale residents are among 11 artists who received career development grants totaling \$38,500 from the 2018 Art Ventures Fund, awarded by The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

Sarah Crooks, Agnes Lopez, Jordan Poole and Ben Thompson were chosen by a selection panel from more than 40 applicants.

Crooks plans to create a catalogue of her monumental textile series, "The Red Pearl River," and publication will coincide with a series of traveling exhibitions. Lopez will mount a photo exhibit, "The Faces to Remember," at the Florida School of the Arts in February 2019, featuring a series of portraits of World War II veterans, a Holocaust survivor, the first African-American teacher at an all-white Jacksonville School, among others, as they recall historically significant events. Poole, a singer/songwriter, will use his grant to purchase materials to record, promote, perform and release a body of new music. Thompson plans to purchase a hydraulic forging press for his studio and hopes to



Sarah Crooks  
(Photo by Natalie McCray)



Ben Thompson  
(Photo by John Burroughs)



Jordan Poole



Agnes Lopez

create a new body of sculptural work, allowing him to present workshops to other artists interested in the medium.

The other artists who received grants include Anthony Aiuppy, Christopher Clark, Manila Clough, Ingrid Damiani, Jovita Harper, Laura Mongiovi and Elena Ohlander.

## Women's civic club earns outstanding award for 12th time

The Uptown Civitan Club in Jacksonville will receive the coveted Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club award during opening ceremonies of the Civitan International Convention July 22 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. This is the unprecedented 12th time Uptown has received this award, which recognizes the best all-around Civitan club in 30 countries.

The Uptown Civitan Club was chartered in May 1983 as a club of energetic, dedicated and civic-minded women who were seeking opportunities for fellowship, knowledge, enhancement of leadership skills, and community involvement. Over 35 years of service to the community Uptown has raised and donated more than \$600,000 to local nonprofits and expended many thousands of hands-on volunteer service hours.

In addition to the Shropshire award, Uptown will receive two more awards. "We have been recognized for our outstanding club newsletter and for our outstanding service project, Tee Up for Pine Castle, for those with development disabilities. This Flagship event was held at Topgolf last summer and funds were raised to support Pine Castle," said Mattie Fraser, a longtime member. "This year our Flagship event, to be held August 26 at Topgolf, will raise funds for the North Florida School of Special Education."

The Uptown Civitan Club is part of Civitan International which is a worldwide organization of men and women volunteers whose members are dedicated to serving individuals and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with development disabilities.

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### Nemours creates new marketing position



Sarah C. Sanders

Nemours Children's Health System's newly-created position of senior vice president and chief marketing officer was filled by Sarah C. Sanders, formerly associate chief marketing office at the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

In this new role, Sanders will lead the multi-state health system's local, regional and national marketing strategy to help advance the health of children and their families. She will report to David J. Bailey, MD, MBA, president and CEO of Nemours, and will work with geographically diverse marketing and communications teams in Central and North Florida and the Delaware Valley.

"I am delighted to welcome Sarah to Nemours where she will help elevate our enterprise-wide marketing strategy and brand evolution. Her background and experience are a wonderful complement to our strong educational and academic mission," said Bailey. "With her expertise and leadership, we will be able to reach even more families in the U.S. and internationally, fulfilling our promise to help every child in our care reach his or her full potential."

### Walthour promoted at Burdette Ketchum

Ortega Forest resident Ginny Walthour has been promoted to Vice President, Strategic Communications & Public Relations for Burdette Ketchum, an integrated marketing agency. She will continue to assist clients in the areas of issues management, public affairs, media training, social media and external/internal communications.

Walthour joined San Marco-based Burdette Ketchum in April 2012 after working as a public information officer for the City of Jacksonville for seven years. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in marketing and from Georgia State University with an MBA degree in International Business.



Ginny Walthour

### Busey named to Florida Top 100 lawyers

Ortega resident and Chairman of the Board of the Smith Hulsey & Busey law firm, Stephen Busey has been named as one of the Top 100 attorneys in the state of Florida, as ranked by Florida Super Lawyers, which evaluates lawyers across the country for its annual list of top attorneys. There are more than 100,000 members in The Florida Bar.

In addition to being chairman of the firm, Busey is a trial lawyer and is experienced in bankruptcy litigation throughout Florida. His practice centers on complex commercial litigation and insolvency matters.



Stephen Busey

## Community asked to support youth crisis center grant challenge

The Youth Crisis Center (YCC) has five months left to raise more than \$50,000 to qualify for a \$100,000 matching grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, to help launch its new, nine-bed House of Hope emergency homeless shelter.

To date, \$45,300 has been raised and every dollar donated until December 31, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. will be matched. "We are so appreciative of the generous support shown by the Delores Barr Weaver Fund for the House of Hope," said Kim Sirdevan, president and CEO of Youth Crisis Center. "She understands the urgency for our homeless young adults and every day that goes by with the House of Hope not open, is one more day they might spend on the streets and at risk."

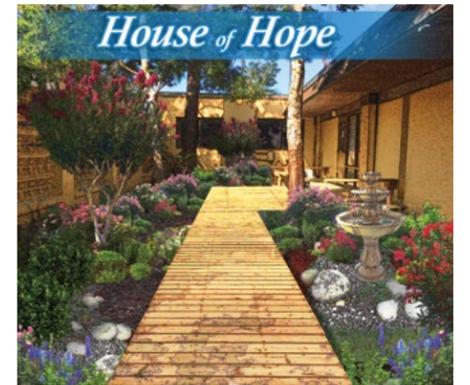
The House of Hope, located on the YCC campus, will serve young adults 18-24 years old, who identify as LGBTQ, are being stigmatized, discriminated against

or are the targets of violence. The projected opening date for the House of Hope is late 2018 to early 2019 and is dependent upon YCC receiving the necessary \$243,273 in estimated annual operational costs for the emergency shelter.

The community is being asked to provide its support in order for YCC to qualify for the funds available through the Delores Barr Weaver Fund Matching Grant of up to \$100,000.

"The YCC House of Hope will be a beacon to young people who have had the crushing experience of alienation from family support," explained Delores Barr Weaver. "We need to embrace them so that they may gain the footing they need to be productive good citizens in our community."

Generous supporters for the House of Hope include The Bailey Group, The Chartrand Family Fund, Feeding NE Florida, FIS, Florida Blue, Joseph Barton, Michael and



House of Hope at the Youth Crisis Center

Glenn Miller Family Foundation, Robert Hudson, RS&H, TIAA, United Way and VyStar Credit Union.

To learn more about the Youth Crisis Center, or to donate in support of its programs or the new House of Hope emergency homeless shelter, visit [www.ycc.org](http://www.ycc.org).



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# Put your feet first and good health follows

Geriatric podiatry specialist Dr. Earl Horowitz has had more than a little rain fall into his life, so when his Riverside-based practice was inundated with a waterfall through the roof, he was pragmatic about his next steps. After packing his office into four large pods, Horowitz temporarily relocated to an office three miles away on the Westside, where he continues to see patients four days a week.

Horowitz is a specialist in geriatric podiatry and, having treated feet in Northeast Florida for nearly six decades, he can be rightly called a preeminent expert in the field. Even at age 85, Horowitz 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.



*“The ability to be mobile and to walk pain-free is one of the most significant aspects of the senior lifestyle.”*

— Dr. Earl Horowitz

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 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 Westside Foot and Ankle Clinic, 1824 Blanding Blvd., or call (904) 387-0433 for an appointment. Dr. Horowitz’s practice is open Monday, Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Tuesdays.

PD. ADV.

## Avondale realty firm brings on new director



Mona Gardella

The Avondale office of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty welcomed Mona Gardella as its new director of market development. She also serves the Fleming Island and Oakleaf offices for the realty firm.

Gardella was an elementary school teacher prior to moving to Florida in 2008 and pursuing a career in real estate. In 2015 she was promoted to director of market development for the Fleming Island office, which has ranked No. 1 in selling in Clay County for the past three years. She earned her Broker Associate Real Estate license in 2017 and serves on the Southwest Council for the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

Ryan Nix, previous director of market development in Avondale was transferred to the company’s Beaches office.

## North Florida School of Special Education hires new director

Kim Namey has joined the North Florida School of Special Education as Director of Business Operations and Donor Relations. She previously worked as executive director of the Community Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation for two years, and at United Way of Northeast Florida for 10 years, including in the position of vice president of resource development.

After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in exercise and sports sciences from the University of Florida, Namey worked at the YMCA in membership development and facility operations. She enjoys walking on beach with her husband, reading, running, gardening, and participating in running races and triathlons.



Kim Namey

## Williams elected to North Florida Land Trust board of directors

Avondale resident Shane Williams joined the North Florida Land Trust board of directors, and was elected to serve as a member at large for a term of three years.

“Conservation of land and our natural resources is vital to the future of Florida and I have great passion around protecting these for our future generations to enjoy,” said Williams, who completed a year of service as an intern on NFLT’s board through Hands on Jacksonville. “Past boards, in conjunction with the NFLT staff, have built a tremendous foundation for us today and I am honored to be a part of their bright future.”

After serving nearly 20 years with Wells Fargo, where he was consistently named to the top rankings for his profession both regionally and nationally, Williams joined Guild Mortgage as Southeast Renovation Manager.



Shane Williams

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# Christmas comes twice a year at Wolfson Children's Hospital



Wolfson Children's Hospital Vice President CC Brooks (far right) accepts a check from Jersey Mike's Subs franchise owners Austin Whetsel (second from right) and Drew Maider (second from left), who also delivered two trucks full of toys to Wolfson Children's Hospital during Christmas in July.

The annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Christmas in July Toy and Donation Drive, sponsored by Jersey Mike's Subs, was celebrated when franchise owners Drew Maider and Austin Whetsel, along with staff and employees, dropped off two trucks full of toys at the hospital rotunda July 25. They also presented a check for the Child Life endowment at Wolfson Children's Hospital in the amount of \$61,694, the results of Christmas in July donations and the 14 stores' Month of Giving campaign in March.

Toys are part of the healing process for young patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital and are needed throughout the year. The toy supply typically dwindles during the summer, so the summer toy and donation drive provides an opportunity for members of the community to give new, unwrapped toys, art supplies, and financial donations to purchase developmentally appropriate toys for kids with special needs.

During the July 25 drop-off event, community members and businesses delivering toys at Wolfson Children's Hospital were greeted by Wolfie, the hospital's mascot, and by Santa Claus (annually portrayed by John Hucks), who delivered more than 3,800 toys (valued at nearly \$39,000) to children in the hospital. In addition to Jersey Mike's Subs significant contribution, another \$9,361 was collected at the event. Online giving continues through July 31 at ChristmasJuly.com.

Wolfson Children's Hospital treats more than 157,000 children each year in the North Florida and South Georgia region, using toys and art supplies to help soothe, distract and ease the anxieties of children of all ages during treatment for illness and injuries. Child Life specialists use these items to help ease fears by encouraging children to engage in normal activities to make their hospital stay less overwhelming.

# Realtors pack meals, raise funds to fight hunger

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors held its second annual NEFAR Fights Hunger event May 23, with 250 NEFAR members packing 75,000 meals for hungry children and families in Northeast Florida. Prior to the event, which is conducted in partnership with local charity organization Hunger Fight, NEFAR members raised the money to buy the food to be packed into the meals. Hunger Fight distributes the packaged meals to multiple schools and local agencies throughout Northeast Florida that serve children and families who are food insecure.

In its first partnership with Hunger Fight last year, NEFAR raised the money for and 200 members packed 50,000 meals. This year, NEFAR upped the ante by setting goals for 250 members to participate in the meal packing event and for \$18,750 (the cost of 75,000 meals) to be raised. NEFAR member donations exceeded the goal, with \$20,706 being raised. The excess funds raised have already been allocated as seed money for a 2019 NEFAR Fights Hunger event.

The community service project was conducted through the efforts of NEFAR's Community Affairs Task Force, led in 2018 by NEFAR member Lisa Andrews.




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# Resident encourages leaders to rehabilitate Murray Hill Park

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

For a 77-year-old park, the Murray Hill Park and Playground is actually in fair condition, but at least one Murray Hill resident, Jose “Junior” Lazcano, would like to see it get a little attention.

The park, located at 4208 Kingsbury St., near Ruth N. Upson Elementary School, has quite a few amenities, among them four ballfields – one of which is a fenced-in T-ball field, scoreboards, two restroom buildings, two concession stands, a basketball court, a paved walking path, a playscape and a splash pad. Unlike other parks under the responsibility of the City of Jacksonville’s Parks and Recreation Department, it also has a large parking lot, so visitors don’t have to park along the nearby residential streets.

There used to be five ballfields in the 10-acre park, but Murray Hill Athletic Association (MHAA) Athletic Director Tony Sotille said they allowed one to grow over in the hopes that by combining it with another ballfield it would encourage the Robert E. Lee High School baseball and softball teams to use it for practice – and maybe kick in a little money toward maintenance.

For several decades, MHAA has taken responsibility for the ballfields, one set of restrooms and a concession stand, putting toward maintenance what little money they have left after buying uniforms and baseballs and paying umpire fees.

Sotille, who has been associated with MHAA for the past 12 years as the parent of a ballplayer, a coach and, for the past

three years, as athletic director, said registrations for baseball have been declining over the past several years, which means a decline in funds toward maintenance. He’s trying to get lacrosse going at the park to increase use – and maybe funds.

Lazcano, who bought a house in Murray Hill four years ago to provide a home for his partner’s two teenage cousins, first became interested in “fixing” the park when he discovered all six of the basketball hoops were missing. “There was space there, but all six were cut off,” he said.

Eventually, after offering to write a check to the City for a basketball hoop, Lazcano said one hoop was installed and one side of the courts was restriped after four months of constant badgering.

The park also needs more lighting and some of the existing lighting around the court and the fields needs to be repaired as does a fence at the back of the property, all the buildings need new roofs, and the public restrooms require attention. “Someone had lit a fire in one of them,” he said. “It’s not about adding anything new, it’s about fixing what’s there. It’s about restoration.”

Sotille said there had been a plan in 2017 to repair or replace the roofs and some were re-shingled, but the steel roofing to prevent break-ins was never installed. The bleachers are always in some state of disrepair and require maintenance, he said.

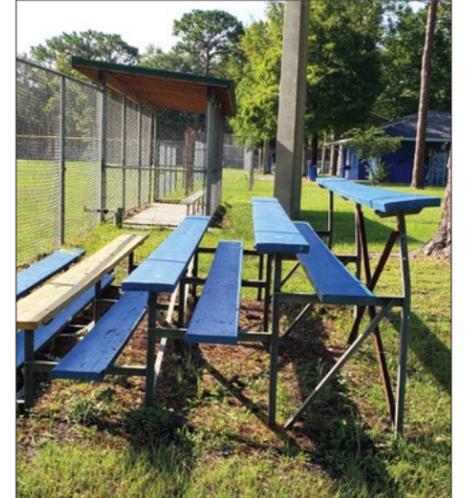
Lazcano recently walked the park with Jill Enz, manager of park development and natural resources, as well as with two of the candidates for the District 14 council seat, Sunny Gettinger and Jimmy Peluso. He said



The playground at Murray Hill Park is about 15 years old and also includes two sets of swings and a splash pad.



Murray Hill Athletic Association is responsible for one of two restroom buildings and keeps it locked when they are not present.



Murray Hill Park’s baseball fields have several sets of bleachers, some wooden and some aluminum. A couple are missing parts of the supporting structure.



The door to the women’s restroom at the Murray Hill Athletic Association’s building was open; a peek inside revealed a debris-laden floor.

Enz indicated she would contact an electrician to look at the lights and would see about getting the back fence re-enforced.

Lazcano is also trying to plan a fundraiser at the park early next year, hoping to have games and activities on each of the ballfields so people can get a sense of the park. “It started as a joke among friends one evening,

to hold a Bill Murray Day on Groundhog Day in the park,” he said. “But then I thought ‘Why not?’ Sack races, bounce houses, a local chef to serve from the concession stand, and get support from local businesses.”

If anyone is interested in helping with a fundraiser, Lazcano said to send him an email at [IAMJacksonville@gmail.com](mailto:IAMJacksonville@gmail.com).

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# Why I'm running for Tax Collector...

By Jim Overton

## Public service is more than a job to me

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Public service has been the greatest honor of my life – and I have acquired solid experience and perspective about being a good steward to all the people of Jacksonville. That is why I am in the race to become Tax Collector in August.

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Jim Overton

through the office from 90 different functions including driver's licenses, tags, fines and fees, as well as the property tax. Operations span 10 branches with 260 employees plus another 50 part-time workers. Heading the organization is a multi-faceted management job critical to the city welfare.

## A management track record

I have extensive management and leadership experience in both the private and public sectors. My background includes running a family-owned electronics business, launching a new venture in television production, and representing District 14 on the Jacksonville City Council. As a member of City Council, I was elected president and served on every standing committee. I also chaired both the Finance Committee and the Rules Committee. I bring a private-sector view to public office, and am motivated by innovation, good customer service, and fiscal responsibility.

## A sound understanding of our tax system

A life-long resident of Jacksonville and longtime public servant, I understand – and know how to apply – Florida statutes and tax laws for the benefit of the people of this city. As Property Appraiser from 2003-2015, I was responsible for a tax roll of nearly \$100 billion through the heights and depths of a recession. The real highlight of the job was working with a large, talented staff to transform the office culture. Working together, we established a more flexible organization, with agile teams responsive to the public.



Jim, Connie, Sarah and Will Overton

## Strong relationships across city and state departments

As Tax Collector, I will approach the job applying the same principals of professionalism and progressiveness that underpinned my success as Property Appraiser while using the knowledge gained from a graduate degree in Public Administration, a deep understanding of local government, and my demonstrated commitment to the communities in Duval County.

## Plan for the Tax Collector's Office

As Tax Collector, I will hit the ground running...no on-the-job training using your tax dollars. The previous Tax Collector was a steady hand who approached the job in much the same way I propose. The office

has an excellent staff, many of whom I know personally from working with them while I was Property Appraiser.

The challenge for this large organization is mapping out and implementing a path of continuous improvement, particularly in the context of fast-changing technology. Better outcomes are achieved with the right technology deployed appropriately. The office must retain skilled and motivated staff to ensure excellent service delivery. And, importantly, improvement comes from the partnership of innovative, experienced and competent leadership combined with motivated employees.

If you're interested in seeing more information, or getting in touch with me, please check out [www.jimoverton.com](http://www.jimoverton.com). Thank you for your VOTE on election day, August 28.

Paid by Jim Overton, Republican, for Duval County Tax Collector

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## Bosom Buddies founder retires after three decades of community service

After strolling down a pink carpet and perusing a “memory lane” of photos at the Women’s Center of Jacksonville, Bobbi de Cordova-Hanks greeted guests at her June 25 retirement party from Bosom Buddies of Jacksonville, a breast cancer support group she founded in 1988.

A three-time cancer survivor herself, Hanks was surrounded by current and former Bosom Buddies, along with friends and family, who toasted her many accomplishments.

“Bobbi has been a foundation of this community of women for 30 years, an advocate of women,” said Maureen St. John. “As someone who is multi-cultural, Bobbi can deal with people on any scale.”

Teresa Miles, executive director for the Women’s Center, spoke about how Bosom Buddies works within the Colcord Avenue nonprofit.

“Women who had faced tremendous, significant issues with their health needed something that was not necessarily fulfilled in the medical community at that time,”

said Miles. “Hospitals can’t necessarily replicate what Bobbi has brought to these individuals who come here on Monday evenings. The greatest challenge for us in losing Bobbi is to lose something we can’t replicate. You can’t make another Bobbi,” she said.

Hanks said she looked at a lot of nonprofits in the city for a safe place to hang their hats and “flip their wigs off. I’m so grateful to the Women’s Center and taking us in and letting us be part of the family.

“It’s been such an incredible journey to meet all these women filled with love, courage, hope,” she continued. “We’re not sitting there saying ‘Oh, poor me, I’ve got cancer.’ We’re getting on with life. They’ve given me so much love over the last 30 years and I’ve never regretted a minute of it.”

Hanks’s husband of 36 years, Jerald, was her caregiver during her treatments, beginning with her first diagnosis of breast cancer in 1986. She founded Bosom Buddies after deciding no woman should ever face



Bobbi Hanks

breast cancer alone. The nonprofit is now one of the most comprehensive breast cancer programs in Northeast Florida, offering support, advocacy and education.

Eileen Rodden, program coordinator and elder advocate at the Women’s Center, presented Hanks with an etched plaque, commemorating her three decades of service to women.



Alma Ballard, Shirley Webb, Jan Gallagher, Arnold Wood, Gillian Ticehurst



Bosom Buddies friends and supporters gather around Bobbi Hanks, center, at Hanks’ retirement party June 25.



Tammy Lefels, Karen Lahey, Monica Rojas, Joellen Coggeshall



Bob Kidd, Bobbi and Jerry Hanks, Sandra Kidd

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## Philanthropists step up, match grant for Cathedral Arts Project anniversary

Thanks to the generosity of Delores Barr Weaver, Helen Lane, Joannie and Russell Newton Jr., and Monica and Bob Jacoby the Cathedral Arts Project’s 25th anniversary year will finish with the 2017-2018 school year goals met.

Weaver, of Riverside, issued a matching gift challenge to provide \$25,000 if an additional \$75,000 could be secured. The Newtons, also of Riverside, Lane of Ortega and the Jacobys of Ponte Vedra Beach, made sure the challenge was met. Because of their generous support, more than 1,000 local students participated in CAP programs, receiving over 2,000 hours of instruction in dance, music, theatre and the visual arts.

“It was wonderfully gratifying to have four of our most long-standing donors come together with additional gifts in honor of our 25th anniversary. Glad and generous hearts of people like Monica and Bob Jacoby, Helen Lane, Joannie and Russell Newton and Delores Barr Weaver have made it possible for CAP to transform the lives of so many children these past 25 years. They all understand that there is something about the arts that reaches children in ways nothing else can,” said Rev. Kimberly L. Hyatt, president and CEO.

Weaver, who has supported CAP’s work for over two decades, was its inaugural recipient of the Guardian of the Arts Award in 2006.

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Dedications honor donors, volunteers, longtime partners

A Summer Giving Celebration hosted by the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center at its offices July 25 honored its generous donors and members of the 1010 Society (named after 1010 N. Davis St. where the offices are located).

Also at the event, President/CEO Michael Howland dedicated the Audiology Suite to the Joseph & Gertrude LaRose Foundation and the Speech Therapy Room to Sharon Kesler, former longtime speech therapist. Kesler, who retired in 2015, had been with the center since 1963, helping children with speech disorders gain the power of communication.

Board Chair Jim O'Leary dedicated the production room to board member Bill Shelton and the Children's Playroom to dedicated volunteer and Director of Operations Cathy Howland. The center was dedicated to the Haskell Company by Amy Ruth, immediate past board chair.



Jim and Sandy O'Leary, JP and Jennifer Saenz, Cathy and Michael Howland



Gloria Williams with Herman and Judy Paul



Jim White, Fionnuala Geoghegan and Bill Shelton



Noam Wolf, Judy Israel, Linda Rodman, Susan Board, and Shelly Shalev



Lisa Pappas and Steve Kaufman

Jewish community throws 'big bash'

Two months after Israel celebrated the 70th anniversary of its founding as a state on May 14, 1948, Jacksonville's Jewish community threw a "Big Birthday Bash for Israel" on July 14.

The event, held at Congregation Ahavath Chesed, The Temple in San Jose, included a traditional Middle Eastern bazaar, an Israeli-inspired dinner catered by the



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...eindl, Amy Nicotra and Nicole Marks with Seth Weintraub, Melanie Hare and Gina Gonzalez

**'bash' for Israel's 70th birthday**

Athenian Owl Restaurant, music provided by SunJammer and Israeli singer Noam Wolf, and both live and silent auctions, emceed by Dan Kossoff.

The fun evening out also offered onsite childcare services so the adults could enjoy Israeli dance lessons,. The bazaar – or shuk – sold Mediterranean and Israeli beer and wine, jewelry, and Dead Sea spa products.



Congregation Ahavath Chesed President David Kaufman with his wife Sherry



Laura Riggs and Cynthia Fisher



Judy Peek, Marisa Defeo with Ann and Don Meuse and Chris Wright



Chris and Casey Morgan with Stephanie Ebers and Reggie Thompson



Pam and Mike Muldoon with Jessica Young, Brent Martineau and Mike Young



John and Jen Bachman with Tori Pappas and Cameron Hooper

**Lightning strikes at Taste of Golf event**

Although a lightning strike on the clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass darkened the venue for an hour, it did not dampen the spirits of 600 guests who came to enjoy offerings by some of Northeast Florida's finest chefs June 28 during the 13th Annual Taste of Golf to benefit The First Tee of Northeast Florida.

Lack of power and air conditioning in the spacious gathering rooms upstairs caused the good-humored, albeit slightly overheated, guests to taste their delicacies in the dark for the first hour.

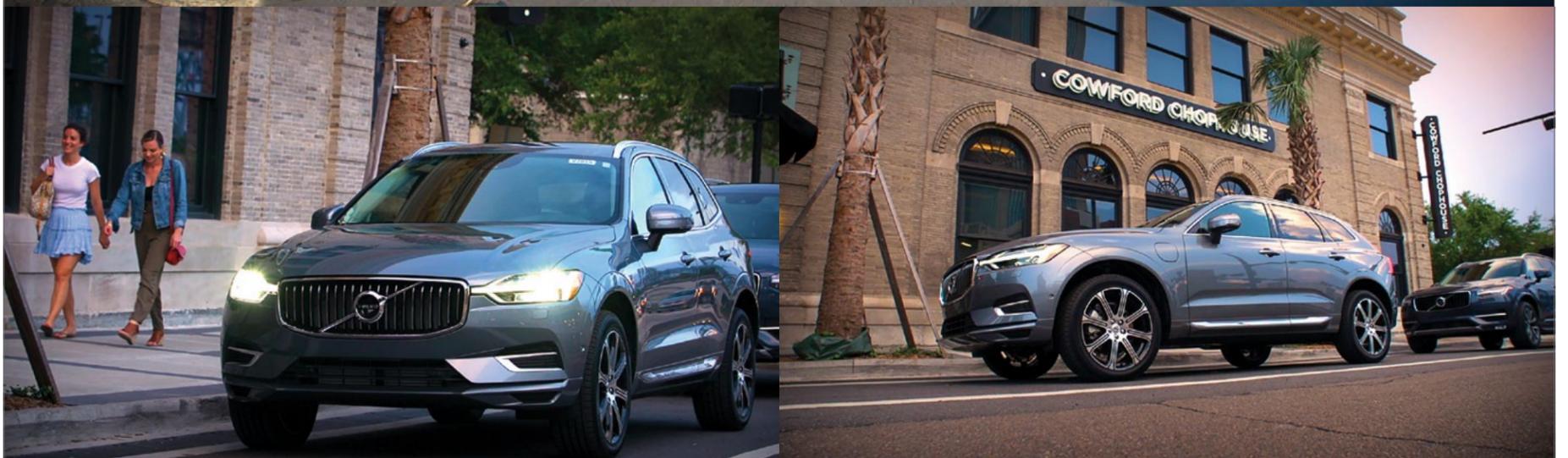
Local news anchor John Bachman served as emcee of the event, which included a toast to the chefs, silent auction, and raffle. Chefs from 12 country clubs and resorts, including San Jose Country Club, The River Club and Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club participated in the event. Chef Chris Beck of 3 Palms Grille at the Oak Bridge Club at Sawgrass was judged the winner with his pickled Mayport shrimp, green tomato chow-chow, honeydew melon gazpacho and crispy prosciutto.

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 <b>UNDER CONTRACT</b> 6239 Sage Dr. <b>\$159,900</b>	 <b>NEW LISTING</b> 6210 Arthur Durham Dr. <b>\$155,000</b>	 <b>UNDER CONTRACT</b> 4224 Anvers Blvd. <b>\$155,000</b>	 <b>NEW LISTING</b> 4729 Kingsbury St. <b>\$148,000</b>	 <b>NEW LISTING</b> 1140 Day Ave. <b>\$132,900</b>

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# Artists' guild opens summer exhibit at Avondale restaurant

Four paintings of waterfowl secured the most votes for Peggy Harrell Jennings, of Ortega, to be named "fan favorite" at the Jacksonville Artists Guild summer exhibition opening July 24 at South Kitchen & Spirits. Three dozen paintings by 26 artists are on display throughout the Avondale restaurant until the end of the year.

The guild was formed in 2009 as a nonprofit for visual arts education and social interaction. Carole Mehrrens and Bill Schmidt created the group as a legacy to artist Christine Schmidt (1922-2009), who had a dream to establish a guild which would encourage and support area artists. JAG holds annual juried shows, as well as monthly meetings in Leatherbury Hall at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Ortega.



Front: Gerri Travis, Judy Bennett, Peggy Harrell Jennings and Jordan Faulkner; back: Chip Travis, Jackie Gunning, Jon Jennings, Susie and John Faulkner



Ron Episcopo and Reggie Przybysz



Donna and John Allen



Jane Arnold with John and Lynn McCloy



Desiree Kantrim, Pat Setser and Dorie Barren



Front: Hugh and Mary Owen; back: Jim and Jo Sumara

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# Travel abroad creates lasting friendships for Riverside couple

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

Marilyn Mastin had three motivating reasons to sign up for a week-long immersion program in France this summer.

“I love France, I wanted to renew language skills I was taught in elementary school, and I wanted to challenge myself with international travel as a fairly new amputee,” said Mastin, who also noted she had been intrigued by a notice in the April issue of *The Resident*. “Everything went smoothly, and it was a wonderful adventure.”

Mastin and her husband, Alan, were two of an enthusiastic group of 42 people from Jacksonville to spend six days in late June in Nantes – Jacksonville’s Sister City – as part of the program organized by the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association and

Alliance Française de Jacksonville, along with their French partners at La Maison des États-Unis.

The diverse group (ages 6 to 81) spent six mornings in the classroom, said Avondale resident Richard Shieldhouse, Jacksonville Sister Cities vice president for the Nantes committee. “Participants were at all levels of experience with the French language – from absolute beginner to fluency. The Université Permanente of the University of Nantes provided 18 total hours of instruction to each student, and lunch each day at a nearby restaurant.”

Afternoons were devoted to tours – or just wandering the energetic and creative city. The City of Nantes and the Nantes Metropole government honored the visitors with an evening reception at its city hall. On another evening, the city provided dinner at a riverfront restaurant to them and their host families.

“The single most interesting, life changing event was staying with our host family. We began as strangers, with little common language knowledge and parted as fast friends. We learned so much about the kindness and pride of the French people. We have made friends for life,” said Mastin, a Riverside resident. “Before we left, email addresses were exchanged, and we plan to get together with our new local friends to continue practicing French. We want to learn more about our local French history and to possibly host an exchange visitor in the fall.”

Riverside furniture maker Matt Lackey was another of the participants. While in Nantes, he met Damien Hamon, a talented furniture maker with a large workshop on the Loire River in Nantes.

“I was fascinated by the way Nantes incorporated design into the fabric of the



Alan and Marilyn Mastin take a selfie with the 30-foot-tall elephant that has become a popular tourist attraction in Nantes, France.



Ortega resident Mimi Lord, right, with Mariette Cassourret, president of La Maison des États-Unis, the Nantes organization that organizes events and activities with their Sister Cities in Jacksonville and Seattle.



Damien Hamon, a furniture maker in France, with Riverside furniture maker Matt Lackey, who spent a week in Nantes learning to speak the language.

city – from wood, technology to architecture. Meeting other artisans who also do high precision work in wood was energizing,” said Lackey, who met with over 20 artists and makers working in a multitude of materials.

Lackey wants to have artisans from France visit Jacksonville for collaboration and exposition, and Hamon hopes to visit Lackey’s Nixon Street studio next November, during his slow season. “We have an amazing arts community here and such a visit would be exciting for everyone,” Lackey said. “In addition, being able to share and communicate regarding contemporary craft between the two cities would expand the techniques available to the Jacksonville Arts Scene as well as that in Nantes France.”

During the Nantes visit, representatives from Sister Cities and Alliance Française met with Les Machines de L’île Nantes, the famous organization that creates enormous mobile creatures out of wood,

metal, and leather, such as the 30-foot-tall elephant that in 10 years has come to symbolize Nantes. The group from Jacksonville explored the pathway to acquiring such an attraction for Jacksonville, perhaps to be installed as part of new riverfront projects downtown.

They also met with the organizers of the International Floralties, a huge flower show in Nantes every five years. Jacksonville Sister Cities Association member Terry Rankin is organizing a large display with Jacksonville themes for the May 2019 edition. This effort will require the efforts of talented landscape architects, master gardeners, and other volunteers, Shieldhouse said.

“We have told everyone what an enriching experience this was,” said Mastin. “We say there is no better way to absorb French culture, to enhance language skills, to make dear friends, and finally to learn about a city with much in common with Jacksonville. We are so glad we were able to go.”

## Curious if it's a good time to sell your home?

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Days on the market ..... -10%

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Number of homes sold ..... -20%  
Average sales price ..... +16%  
Days on the market ..... -11%

### ORTEGA

Number of homes sold ..... +8%  
Average sales price ..... -01%  
Days on the market ..... -10%

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Alan and Beth Weldon

## Revellers tennis social raises funds for nonprofit

Ye Mystic Revellers' theme for its 93rd Annual Pageant and Ball is "Libations... the History of Alcohol" and, carrying the theme for its mid-year get-together, the social committee did not disappoint. The tennis social was held July 13 in honor of the Whiskey Rebellion of July 1794.

Fifty members and guests gathered at the San Jose County Club for doubles tennis or just to enjoy the libations for which the Revellers are known. In addition to their standard fare, drinks included "dirty" bananas, rice whiskey treats and Mellow Jell-O shots.

The group has selected K9s for Warriors as its 2018 beneficiary and raised another \$500 toward their \$2,000 goal, according to Dr. Alan Weldon, who said Revellers would be joining K9s for Warriors in the Veterans' Day parade, the first time Revellers has been in a parade since the first Jacksonville Mardi Gras, the April Follies, back in 1923.

## Landscape design contest heightens awareness of creek restoration

Sarah Crooks and Amy Morie spent their Easter Sunday kayaking McCoys Creek, endeavoring to put the finishing touches on their entry in a casual competition to re-imagine the creek which has been partially hidden for five decades by the Florida Times-Union building.

Their winning design was one of two entries created by members of the Emerging Design Professionals (EDP), a local chapter of the Young Architects Forum and members of The American Institute of Architects-Jacksonville. Brandon Pouch, an architect with RS&H, provided the other entry for the McCoy's Creek restoration project contest.

Competition parameters included recommendations for "daylighting" the creek at the Times-Union, mitigating flooding, improving water quality, creating wildlife and fish habitats, providing a bicycle/pedestrian trail, identifying recreational areas and "making it really pretty."

Crooks, a Riverside resident, artist and founder of Evervess Art Studio, partnered with Morie, a landscape architect and principal at Mulberry Hill Studio, to come up with a plan to demolish the Times-Union building in favor of a park and recreational space.

The renovation of McCoys Creek is part of Groundwork Jacksonville's larger focus on developing the Emerald Necklace, a chain of connected parks and greenways around downtown Jacksonville. The design contest helped bring awareness to Groundwork Jacksonville's vision.

Crooks, Morie and Pouch shared their designs at the AIA's summer social June 26 at the Haskell Building, where seasoned architects and emerging designers rubbed elbows over food and drink.



Todd Sack, Barbara Sharp, Mary Tappouni and Jeff Edwards



Competition winners Sarah Crooks and Amy Morie



Andres Santandren, Kirsten Evans, Sarah Kaufmann and Andrew Tobias



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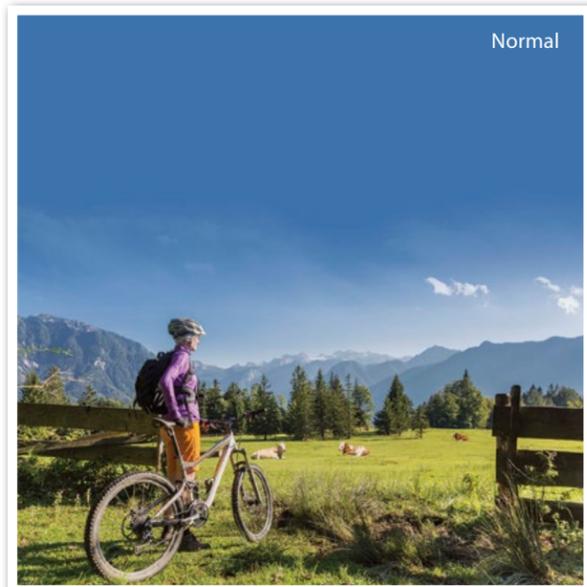
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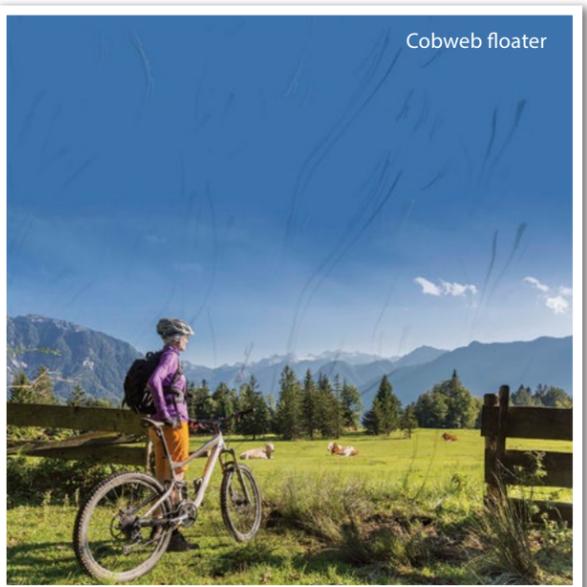
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Russell Pecoraro, M.D., Retina Specialist

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Russell Pecoraro, M.D., Retina Specialist with Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons, describes the source of floaters as "the breakdown of the clear gel of the eye, known as the vitreous. Most eye floaters are

normal and caused by age-related changes that occur as the gel turns to liquid. Microscopic fibers within the vitreous tend to clump and can cast tiny shadows on your retina, called a "floater."

He continued, "Seventy percent of people will have floaters in their lifetime. While floaters are certainly an annoyance, they can also negatively impact the quality of people's lives and interfere with everyday tasks such as watching television, driving and/or reading."

"If you experience floaters and are interested in finding out if you are a candidate for the laser vitreolysis, we welcome you to call our office. We're

very excited to offer this new laser option to patients, as it will greatly reduce floaters and allow patients to regain their clarity," he said.

In addition to laser vitreolysis, Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons offers comprehensive eye care in the following specialties: Glaucoma Surgery, Diabetic Eye Disease and Macular Degeneration, Laser Cataract Surgery, Laser floater lysis, Cornea Surgery, Medical Retina, LASIK Surgery, Cosmetic Eye Procedures, Pediatric Ophthalmology, and Pediatric Eye Exams. They also offer routine eye exams, contact lenses, and boutique eyewear for the entire family.

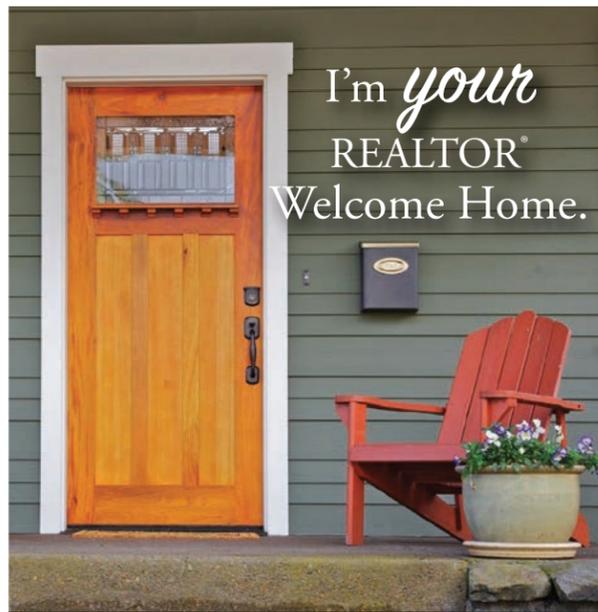
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# Jacksonville cathedral choir performs in Washington

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

Organist Timothy Tuller and 38 members of the Cathedral Choir at St. John's Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville spent almost two years practicing for the opportunity to sing a handful of times at the Washington National Cathedral last month.

The Cathedral Choir prepared both musically and financially for a five-day residency with a rigorous 20-month schedule of rehearsing, singing, and fundraising. For the five days and nights spent in the nation's capital, choir members raised around \$20,000 to pay for hotel accommodations; each member was responsible for getting to and from Washington.



Timothy Tuller

Serving as choir-in-residence July 18-22 at the Washington National Cathedral, the St. John's Cathedral Choir applied for the honor back in October 2016, according to Tuller, who said the choir was accepted the day after sending in their application and a recording. "They deemed us worthy. We had a pretty smooth glide into it compared to some of the places we've been."

Tuller previously led the choir on two trips overseas, when they served as choir-in-residence at Ely Cathedral in England during summer 2010, then traveled back to England in the summer of 2014 to sing at Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. The "local" trip was not as expensive as the overseas trips, which cost upwards of \$100,000, he said.

It's not typical that one choral group would serve as choir-in-residence at Washington National Cathedral for as long as the St. John's choir did. "During the summer, they bring in guest choirs to cover their services. It's unusual for a choir to stay as long as we are; most are just there for a day or two," said Tuller.

An Avondale resident, Tuller has served since January 2007 as Canon for Music at St. John's Cathedral, where he serves as the organist and directs the Cathedral Choir, which is comprised of auditioned singers, many of whom are also accomplished instrumentalists.

During their five days in Washington, the choir sang during four Evensong services and a Sunday morning Eucharist following an hour rehearsal with the Washington National Cathedral's organist. With Tuller conducting, they performed some pieces



The St. John's Cathedral Choir at the Washington National Cathedral

written by Jacksonville composers, such as Jacksonville University alumnus Byron Adams; Bob Moore, and Robert Roth, who sings bass in the choir.

In addition to the services at the Cathedral, choir members took various excursions to the many cultural and historical offerings on hand in the nation's capital.

"We were very fortunate and happy to have the opportunity to take our music to

such a wonderful church and venue," said Tuller. "We hope it fostered goodwill and good relations between our diocese here and the diocese in Washington, D.C."

Although not allowed to record any of their own performances there, Tuller said the national cathedral usually posts its Sunday morning worship services on YouTube, so the choir's Jacksonville supporters can enjoy at least one performance.



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# Memorial at Cecil Field takes another step toward plan for national destination site



Ray Gottry, Mike Cassata, Buddy Harris, Sam Houston, Edmund Turner, Dean Leonard, and Bob Buehn at a check presentation from LSI, Inc. prior to the dedication ceremony.



Forge 3D Printing Studio owners Adam Dukes and Bryce Pfanenstiel, who created the new aviator wings.



The unveiling of the Naval Flight Officer Wings, funded by the Viking Association



Dwayne Enos, Blane Wilson, Mac Hines, Tony D'Aleo, John Prevette, Johnny Crews and George Walko were among members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046, which presented a check for \$1,650 for a new pew in the chapel.

**By Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

More than 200 members of the community, including many veterans and current servicemembers, gathered on a sweltering morning July 10 to dedicate the POW-MIA Memorial Parkway, formerly known as New World Avenue, and to celebrate the unveiling of two sets of aviator wings on the front wall of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass.

A bill introduced by Councilman Doyle Carter (District 12) and co-sponsored by Councilman Jim Love (District 14) was passed in May by the Jacksonville City Council to rename the six-mile road leading to Cecil Field, effective July 1.

Love and his executive administrator, Kevin Kuzel, attended the ceremony, which

was poignant to both men, who flew A7 Corsairs out of Cecil Field. Additionally, Kuzel's father, Frank, will be commemorated at the memorial when the names of more than 82,000 missing and unaccounted for servicemembers will eventually be on display. As a member of the 101st Airborne glider troops, Frank Kuzel was captured and held as a POW by the Nazis for about six months during World War II.

Retired U.S. Navy Captain Sam "Shoebags" Houston, former base commander 1992-1994 and board chair for the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, welcomed the attendees. Following the unveiling of the new street sign in front of the chapel, remarks were made by Retired U.S. Navy Commander Albert "Buddy" Harris, who described the formerly inadequate process undertaken

by the federal government to locate and retrieve prisoners of war or missing in action.

Within two years of changing the process and getting the Missing Persons Act of 1996 passed, they brought back more missing people than had been brought back in 15 years, Harris said.

The second half of the program focused on two sets of wings constructed by 3D Forge Printing Studio and affixed to the chapel's exterior. After the wings were unveiled, remarks were made by Retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mike "Carlos" Johnson, who represented the A-7 Corsair II Association, which funded the Aviator Wings, and by Retired U.S. Navy Captain Edmund "Junior" Turner, who represented the Viking Association, which funded the Naval Flight Officer Wings.

The Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial was dedicated in 1973 by the families of POW-MIA pilots and servicemembers to ensure the soldiers are not forgotten.

The site currently consists of Heroes Walk and Freedom Trees, markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm War eras, a pavilion with a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, and a granite base seal of a former Master Jet Base.

In 2017, the nonprofit revealed an ambitious \$30 million, multi-phase plan to create a memorial center and museum to serve as a historic destination site with exhibits, special events and activities, artifacts and memorabilia.

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# Vintage Harley-Davidson tour FROM PAGE 1



Helen Lane waves from a vintage 1918 Harley-Davidson, on tour in the United States, thanks to two Frenchmen, Pierre Lauvergeat and Christophe de Goulaine. (Photo by Mark Krancer)

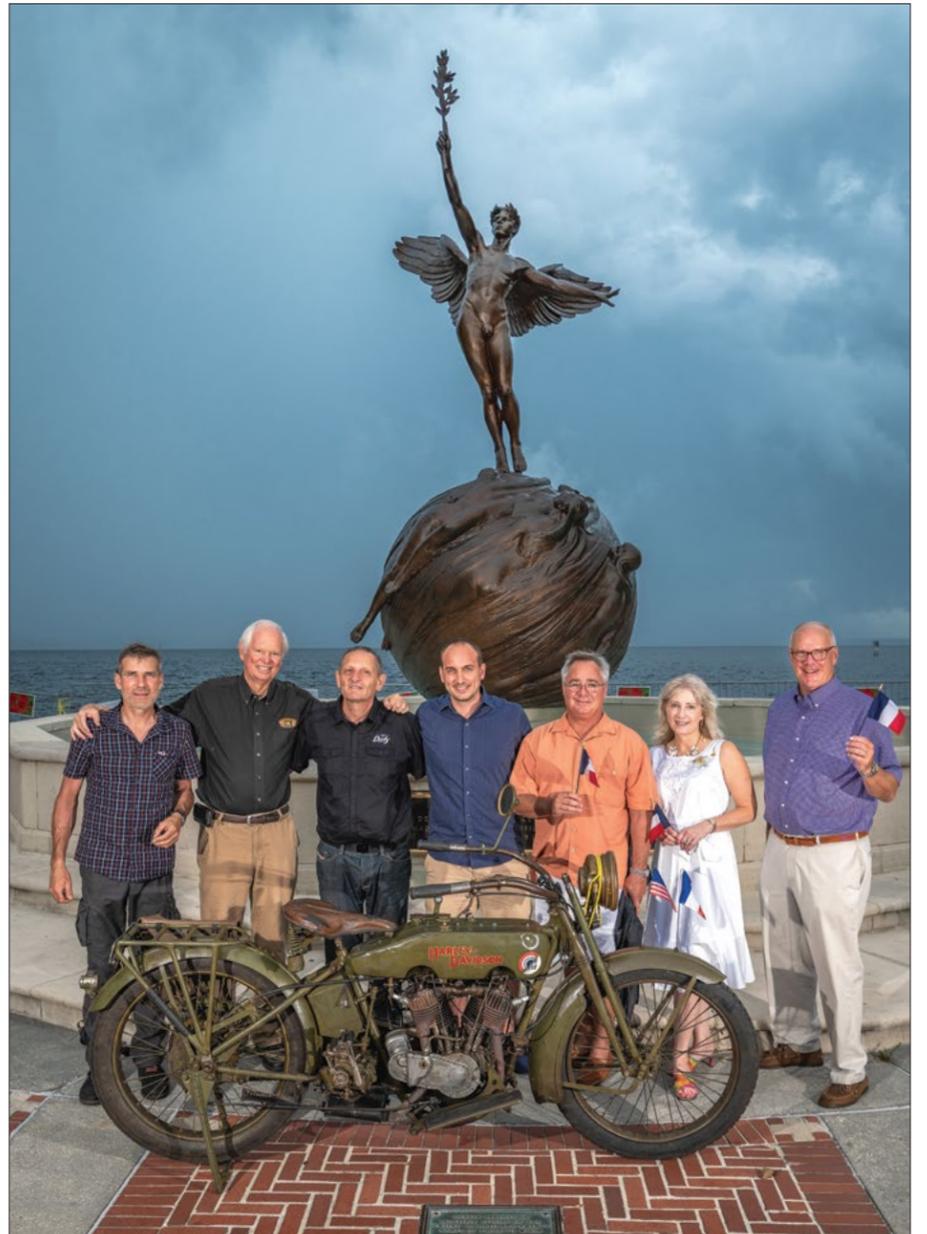
Propeller Club chapters in Mobile, Jacksonville and Nantes – which is Jacksonville’s first Sister City – shipped the motorcycle from Nantes to Mobile, where Goulaine and Lauvergeat began their journey, accompanied by Photo-journalist Olivier Touron and Journalist/Editor Thierry Butzbach.

The Jacksonville agenda included a tour of the lighthouse and maritime museum in St. Augustine, escorted to and from by the Jacksonville Harley-Davidson Hog Club, and a get-together at Adamec Harley Davidson-Baymeadows on June 29. After the June 30 morning tour of Fort Caroline National Memorial, and a meeting with Michael Corrigan, new executive director for Visit Jacksonville, The Propeller Club sponsored a luncheon at Restaurant Orsay, where Riverside resident Tim Tyler displayed

a 1911 U.S. Army officer’s wool uniform, hat and other items.

Later that afternoon, the Frenchmen and their hosts, including Joanelle Wood Mulrain, convened at Memorial Park for a photo opportunity. Ortega resident Helen Lane, Memorial Park Association President Percy Rosenbloom of Fairfax Manor, and Propeller Club President Ed Coppedge and his wife, Mary, of Empire Point posed with their French visitors at the statue. Memorial Park was created in 1924 to commemorate the 1,220 Floridians who lost their lives in World War I.

Goulaine and Lauvergeat plan to be back in France to ride up the Champs-Élysées on November 11, 2018, commemorating Armistice Day. Lauvergeat’s grandfather was liberated from the trenches in 1917 and his father from German camps in 1944 by American soldiers.



Christophe de Goulaine, William Robinson, Pierre Lauvergeat; Florent Pigard, president, Alliance Française, Jacksonville; Ed Coppedge, president, The Propeller Club, Jacksonville; Janice Lorenze, president, The National Huguenot Society, and Percy Rosenbloom, president, Memorial Park Association (Photo by Mark Krancer)



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# WAY WE WERE: BLANCHE & DANIEL COFFMAN, JR.

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Whether traveling to an airshow, a college reunion or to see their children and grandchildren scattered all over the world, Dan and Blanche Coffman have been taking to the sky in their Cessna 172 since 1993. “You’re 60 – get yourself an airplane,” Blanche said to Dan.

A former naval aviator, Dan got his wings in 1955 and served as a “special weapons delivery pilot” over the South China Sea with the Pacific 7th Fleet. On his return to the states, he continued to fly with the Navy Reserves and with friends Hal Lynch and Dewitt Dawkins. Dan’s Wright Brothers “Master Pilot Award” certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration hangs on the wall of the Coffmans’ Riverside condominium.

But before beginning their globetrotting journeys, the couple’s journey to the altar – from Blanche’s hometown of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Dan’s in Richmond, Virginia – started 35 years earlier on a blind date in 1958.



Naval aviator Dan Coffman, 1955

Blanche said, “He had just broken up with his girlfriend.” Dan interjected, “My buddy said his girlfriend could fix me up with a date. I said I’d go if my date was as pretty as his girl. We went out and in walked this gorgeous girl,” he said, gesturing to Blanche.

The Vanderbilt University law student and “the cutest thing to ever come out of Thomas School of Nursing,” according to Dan, had dinner at the Flaming Steer in Nashville.

While in law school, Dan struggled financially. He was going to school on the GI Bill, living on \$110 a month and the \$2 per game he got for refereeing football games. Blanche would feed him lima beans, which she admits were not very well cooked. She laughed as she described how they went “plink, plink” on the plate when she served them.

Dan’s father, whom he credits with being the most influential person in his life, helped in many ways. Although he had only an eighth-grade education, Dan Coffman, Sr., ascended in the ranks as a career Sears Roebuck furniture specialist in Chicago, then moved to Daytona where he became an executive with Top Value Stamp Company.

In 1959, Blanche was living in an apartment and working in a doctor’s office in Nashville while Dan had graduated from law school, staying at his parents’ home in Daytona and taking a law review class to hone up on Florida law in preparation for the bar exam.

Dan had also applied to the FBI to become a special agent. He had not heard back from the FBI, but he heard from a friend that Blanche was going out with a doctor. He borrowed money from his father and went to Belk Lindsey Department Store in Daytona, bought an engagement ring (the same ring Blanche has been wearing for 58 years),



The Coffman Family: Elizabeth, Caesar, Julie, Dan, Blanche, Ginny, Emily

borrowed money for gas and hopped in his red Opal stick shift car and drove straight through to Nashville.

Blanche agreed to meet him at the same diner, the Flaming Steer, for dinner. Dan said, “I didn’t have much money and she ordered this big meal – meat and potatoes with gravy. When I asked her to marry me she dropped her fork and didn’t eat another bite!”

Blanche joked about traveling to Florida to meet the elder Coffmans, saying, “I passed inspection, I guess.” She suggested they drive around Florida and count the number of lawyers in The Yellow Pages of each town while trying to decide where Dan could practice law. Dan said he was glad she was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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still working because he was flat broke and could not seem to get a job.

Finally he got an interview with a firm in Jacksonville. Although they had no openings at the time, as fate or luck or divine intervention would have it, he met a pilot from Craig Field and during the conversation Dan mentioned that he had been flying jets out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville as a "weekend warrior" and the fellow mentioned that the Jacksonville firm of Hamilton and Bowden was looking for a pilot.

Dan said, "I lucked into that job and they got a two-fer. I was hired as a pilot and a lawyer as soon as I passed the bar. My dad drove up from Daytona with a telegram saying I'd passed, so I called my sweetie in Nashville and two days later I was with the leading labor law firm in Jacksonville.

"Then I got a call from the FBI saying J. Edgar Hoover wanted to talk to me. I met with the agent who said I would go to Quantico. Blanche pointed out that I had done my job for the government, which included 96 carrier landings - many at night," he said.



Blanche and Dan Coffman cut their wedding cake Oct. 8, 1960.

The couple married October 8, 1960 at First Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and still joke about the length of reception line. Blanche's mother was the

youngest of eight children and her father "was near the end of 12" so it's no wonder when Dan shook someone's hand he then whispered to Blanche, "Who was that?" Her response: "I'm not sure, but I think it's one of my first cousins."

The Coffmans established a home on Edgewood Avenue in 1960, but it wasn't until five years after their marriage that Blanche's professional nursing career came to an end. In the next five years their lives changed dramatically with the arrival of four daughters: Elizabeth, 1965, Julie, 1966, Ginny, 1969 and Emily, 1970.

Under doctor's orders for bedrest during one of her pregnancies, housekeeper and long-time friend Bernice Floyd quit all her other clients to care for the growing family. In appreciation, since Bernice did not drive, Blanche gave Bernice's husband her Ford Country Squire station wagon.

The Coffman girls were involved in every imaginable activity - ballet classes, academic and musical endeavors, student government, athletics, choirs and choruses at Riverside Presbyterian Day School and The Bolles School. The entire family was involved in church functions and programs since Blanche and Dan have been members of Riverside Presbyterian Church since 1962. They have served as elders and been on numerous boards and committees.

In the 1970s, Dan and Pastor Harry Beverly worked to establish Riverside Tradition House for recovering alcoholics, which is still a vital part of the community. He worked on the Literacy Action program, served on the board of the Children's Home and was president of the Jacksonville Exchange Program.

Blanche worked at Riverside Presbyterian Day School from 1985, until retiring in 1995, as development director and editor of the Riverside Review. She was instrumental in starting the Meals on Wheels

program, was treasurer of the Symphony Guild and Planned Parenthood; she was on the Jax Bar Auxiliary, the Bolles Mothers' Association and a member of the Stokesia Garden Circle.

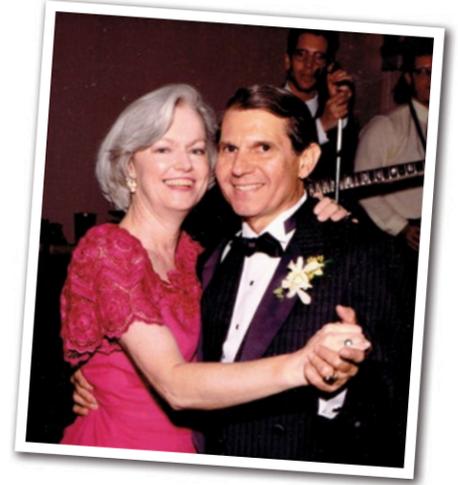
Dan was busy founding and maintaining his practice in 1965, which became Coffman, Coleman, Andrews and Grogan, P.A. He retired for the first time in 1998, practiced state and federal court mediation from 1998 until 2008, when he joined the law firm of Holland and Knight from which he retired in 2016.

Despite work and community involvement, the Coffmans still found time to play golf and spend time at their lake house with their daughters. Blanche loves to cook, but Dan teases that he hasn't gotten a home-cooked meal since they gave up their home on Timuquana Road and live in the Sonora quadruplex, named after a longtime tenant and friend. Their Riverside location makes walking to restaurants in 5 Points entirely too tempting.

The Coffmans are proud of their daughters' accomplishments. Dr. Elizabeth Coffman, a professor at Loyola University; Rev. Julie Hester, associate pastor at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N. Carolina.; her husband Rev. Dan Hester, is a Methodist minister. Ginny Tate is a teacher who works with autistic children. She and her husband, Ben, live in Chipping Norton, England. Emily Kronic and her husband, Ogi, live in Liberia, Africa where she is the USAID senior foreign service officer.

"The most exciting thing is having all of our daughters and the grandchildren together for a couple of days once a year," said Blanche. "If it wasn't for the girls, we wouldn't be such world travelers."

Dan mentioned England, Rwanda, Nairobi, Kenya and destinations in the states as places they have been, and there are many more



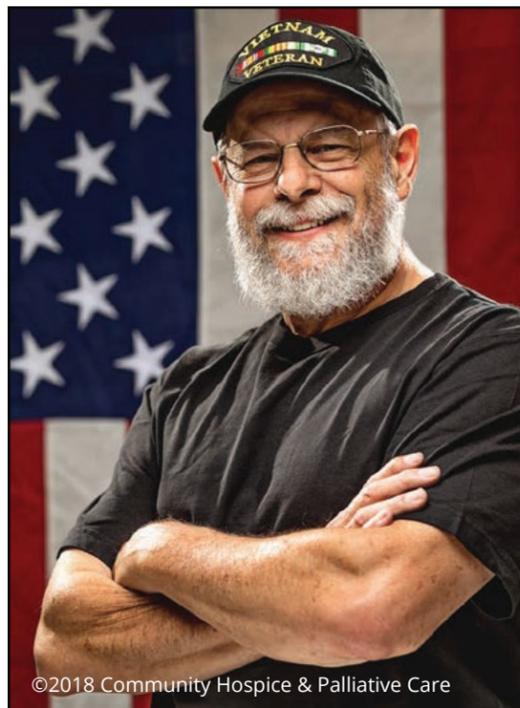
Blanche and Dan Coffman

air shows to zip off to this summer and upcoming fall.

Despite many blessings throughout their lives, it hasn't all been blue skies.

Dan contracted scarlet fever during his childhood in Chicago and was quarantined with his mother in the family apartment over a beauty parlor. He spent most of his time listening to the radio and recalls hearing President Franklin Roosevelt had died. The doctor informed the family that Dan needed penicillin but there was none to be had because of the war. Dan's father called the president of Sears, Robert Wood, who then called Illinois Governor Dwight Green, who somehow managed to get the penicillin delivered to the doctor that very night. "He came over with the biggest needle I've ever seen," Dan remarked.

On her 70th birthday, Nov. 13, 2006, Blanche was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent the difficult treatment with faith, grace and the joyful spirit that Dan said was a contributing factor in his initial attraction to her. They are looking forward to their 58th wedding anniversary this fall.



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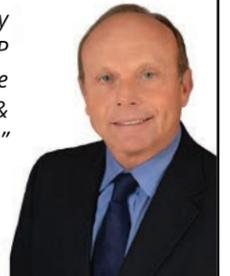
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# Lakeshore Woman's Club celebrates 70th year

A local woman's social and philanthropic club is celebrating its 70th anniversary just a tad late. Thanks to Hurricane Irma, which flooded its clubhouse, last year's celebration was cancelled.

"We had almost a foot of water in the club and the deck and gazebo shifted," said Nancy Ware, first vice president of the Lakeshore Woman's Club. "The water turned the terrazzo floors at the club dark with black streaks."

Originally known as the Lakeshore Garden Club, it consisted of seven numbers in 1946, meeting in the home of Mrs. G.F. Wichman, who later became the first president of the Garden Club. The following year, the name was changed to the Lakeshore Woman's Club, joining the Duval County Federation of Woman's Clubs and later the Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1949.

The influence of Federation work was strongly felt in the Lakeshore Woman's Club; three members were elected officers of the Duval County Federation with one member going through the chairs to become elected president of the clubs, according to Ware, who provided a history of the organization.

The original desire of the club was to provide a community house for the residents

of the Lakeshore section, and the members raised sufficient funds to purchase property on Lakeshore Boulevard on which the club now stands, she said.

In January 1954, ground was broken, and construction was started on the building. The first meeting in the new clubhouse was held in August of that same year.

Through the next several years the club focused on equipping, furnishing and decorating the building. They had ribbon drives and other fundraisers for a parking lot at the rear of the building. The membership grew from those seven women to 66 members. In 1960 they finally were able to afford air-conditioning and, through their diligence, in six years they were able to pay off the mortgage. The club also obtained the adjoining property and this additional land, with room for parking, would ultimately be used for the expansion of the clubhouse facilities.

During 1959 the club "adopted" a 14-year-old Korean girl and supported her monthly. The club assisted in establishing a Disabled American Veterans chapter in Jacksonville. The club also made its building available for Camp Fire Girl Bluebirds and sponsored



Lakeshore Woman's Club board members Paula Mundy, Paula Castleberry, Nancy Ware, Wanda Gad, Betty Hayes, Pam Montean, Terry Laws



The Lakeshore Women's Club after Hurricane Irma swept through in September 2017.

*"Even after the clubhouse was built and the dances were held there, the standards of the gala never changed."*

— Nancy Ware, vice president, Lakeshore Woman's Club

a teenage group of approximately 60 members in a summer employment program.

Annual dances were a tradition of the LSWC, which put much time and effort into the semi-formal or formal affairs, often held at some of the nicer places and hotels in Jacksonville, Ware said. "Even after the clubhouse was built and the dances were held there, the standards of the gala never changed."

The club members created revenue by renting the facility. All reservations had to be paid in advance with a deposit of \$10 and rental fee was \$20. Suppers were \$40, meetings \$30, weddings \$30, dances \$35. A fee of \$11.50 was charged for card parties in the afternoon or \$17.50 in the evenings.

In 1973 the club once again broke ground to build a new clubhouse, which was dedicated in November 1974. In the years leading to this new building project, LSWC did not stop its philanthropic effects, donating funds to Boys Homes, Duval Medical Center, Hacienda Girls Ranch and Sheriff's Boys Ranch. They awarded four \$500 scholarships to local students every year. And while continuing to do all of this major philanthropic work, the women managed once to pay off yet another mortgage in just five years, said Ware.

LSWC continued to do what they could to improve their community and country while

maintaining a clubhouse, which received many repairs and upgrades over the years. In 1991, LSWC was awarded Club of the Year in District IV for its work with the Lighthouse Learning Center, a preschool in Orange Park.

During the years 2013-2018 the club had the building completely repainted and installed all new windows and a new air-conditioning system. The women began a memorial garden and hold services there each spring. They acquired a gazebo from Terry and Mary Powell and weddings are held there quite often.

Four booster members were added to the club's roster and they do much to enhance what the women do, including building a deck adjacent to the back of the building. The club has doubled its membership, received numerous District and State awards and is in its sixth consecutive year receiving an Honor Score, of which it is very proud. Several members serve on the District and State levels. The club awards scholarships to local high school senior girls, and supports many local charities, as well as the General Federation of Women's Clubs Partnerships.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, September through May at 11 a.m. at 2352 Lakeshore Blvd. Call (904) 388-7921 or email [lswc2352@gmail.com](mailto:lswc2352@gmail.com) for more information on becoming a member.

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# In Memoriam

## Melvin Grover Fannin, Sr.

Feb. 3, 1923 – July 9, 2018

World War II veteran Melvin Grover Fannin, Sr., 95, passed away July 9. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Fannin served in the U.S. Navy for five years, then worked at Naval Air Station Jacksonville for 26 years in the Civil Service. After his retirement, he owned and managed real estate and worked as a home inspector. A member of Riverside Presbyterian Church, Fannin lived in the Riverside Presbyterian Apartments before he passed away.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 67 years, Irene Fannin, and is survived by his wife Peggy; son, Melvin G. Fannin, Jr. (Kathleen); grandchildren, Tim Fannin and Adam Fannin (Stephanie) and great-grandchildren, Kaley, Patrick, Keaton and Holden Fannin.



## Mark Leonard Bramlett, Jr.

Dec. 29, 1924 – July 12, 2018

Longtime Ortega resident and retired dentist, Mark Leonard Bramlett, passed away July 12 at the age of 94. The Oklahoma native attended Vanderbilt University, Emory University and then graduated from the University of Louisiana School of Dentistry in 1948.

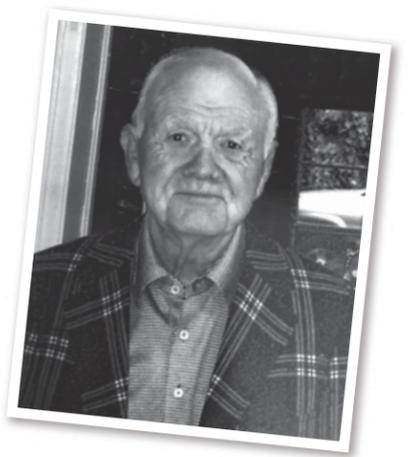
After serving in the U.S. Naval Reserves, he opened a practice in Jacksonville, living in a boarding house in 5 Points. Bramlett married Erin Wilcox in 1953 and the couple had three children and five grandchildren. His wife predeceased him in 2006 and Bramlett remarried in 2007 to Pat Sanow.

Bramlett was president of the Northeast Florida District Dental Society, chairman of the Boy Scouts of America North Florida Conference Muskogee District, and a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville. He was a golf champion at the Timuquana Country Club, and taught Sunday School at Ortega United Methodist Church for over 50 years.

“When we came to Jacksonville in 1972, my wife and I joined Ortega Methodist Church, and soon found ourselves in a new Sunday School Class, taught by Dr. Mark Bramlett. He was a snappy dresser, with the best looking polished loafers in the crowd,” said Don Ingram.

“He loved to mentally challenge the class, and often began each session asking us to discuss several big words, relating to Bible interpretation. (Despite his efforts to educate us, I am lost to remember what the words were.) Dr. Bramlett was a serious student of the Bible, taking courses in Greek and Hebrew, and loved archeology related to Bible lands. At the church, he established a small library filled with his personal books on Bible history, Bible interpretation, philosophy, and other related subjects.

“As he slowed down, when he reached 90, others stepped up to lead the class, but we all looked forward to the beautiful prayers from Mark to open and close our meetings. He blessed us all, and we miss him,” said Ingram.



*“He was a snappy dresser, with the best looking polished loafers in the crowd.”*

— Don Ingram

## Ralph Wadleigh Hoyt, Jr.

July 5, 1926 – June 20, 2018

The smiling face behind the counter of Hoyt Stereo, Ralph Wadleigh Hoyt, passed away June 20, just a few weeks shy of his 92nd birthday. Many residents will recall the 45 rpm records they purchased at the shop when it opened in the Roosevelt Mall in the 1960s.

An active member of Riverside Presbyterian Church, Hoyt was a veteran of World War II and a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville. He was instrumental in bringing his son-in-law, Percy Rosenbloom, into the Rotary Club in the 1970s. Sadly, Hoyt’s daughter, Betty Hoyt Rosenbloom, passed away just seven weeks before her father.

Hoyt and his wife of 63 years, Nancy, had moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, where they opened The Pineapple Post, a home furnishings and gift shop. The couple enjoyed spending time at the mountain home they built in Cashiers, N. Carolina. Nancy predeceased her husband in 2011. Hoyt is survived by two daughters, Brooks Holland (John Rob) and Anne Carlson (Steve), as well as seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.





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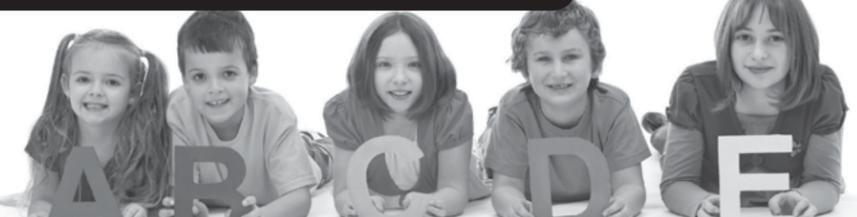
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# Female umpire leads on the diamond

## Wild pitch delays her historic milestone

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

Cheryl Rogers Philips had hoped to make a bit of local Little League history June 23 but a stray pitch to her face mask put the brakes on being the first female umpire to call home plate in a district playoff.

"I took an approximately 45 mph pitch directly to my face mask resulting in my face mask coming off and being momentarily knocked unconscious. I have been told I got back up and told the batter he could walk to first base as he had been hit by the ball," said Philips, who lives almost within a strong ball throw of Fishweir Park. "The young man responded 'No, Blue, you got hit.'"

"Also I have been told I repeatedly told the JFRD rescue crew I needed to finish

calling the game," she said, but that was not to be. "I have been struck by stray balls several times as an umpire, but this was the first time I could not complete a game and had to go to the hospital."

Philips said she has called all bases as well as home plate in her 20-plus years as an umpire for Florida District 11 Little League, but not in a playoff game. How and why she became involved as a Little League volunteer umpire is as interesting as her thwarted debut behind home plate in a playoff game.

After attending Fishweir Elementary School, Philips went to Central Baptist Christian School, where she played the position of catcher on the softball team, as well as ran track. "You might say I was always behind the plate," she said.

Philips was determined to attend Robert E. Lee High School at the time her first cousin Charles (Corky) Rogers was the athletic director and head football coach. "I decided to fly under the radar as far as sports and tried out for the cheerleading team," she said. "I made the team and became a squad leader."

When Philips' two sons were young, they played for the Navy Ortega Lakeshore League (NOL) and during one game she objected to a call.

"I did not like a call the umpire, the late Shotty Drew, made and he and I had a discussion about the call," she said, laughing. "Shotty said 'If you think you can do a better job then why not come out here and umpire next year?' I took that as a challenge and the rest is history."

Philips completed certification as Little League umpire, which included a training class at the Florida District Little League



Cheryl Philips suited up for home plate



Cheryl Philips calling third base



Cheryl Philips, center, with fellow umpires Tommy Usser, left, and John Cerie.

School in St. Petersburg. As a volunteer, she is responsible for her uniform, equipment, travel, and "oh let's not forget medical. Bills are still coming in on that."

Further motivation to be an umpire occurred her first year. "Most people and the coaches thought it was a joke or that I would not last," Philips said. "Twenty-plus years I am still standing, so I guess the joke was on them as I have proven myself and have the respect of my fellow umpires."

One poignant memory she recalls was the time she called her first perfect game early in her career. "A perfect game means the pitcher allowed no hits and no players to make it to base. Shotty [Drew] was calling first base and I was at home plate," she said. Drew passed away not too long after that in May 2000, and Philips said when she called her first game the next season without Drew, she found a cross-shaped pine needle on home plate. "I smiled and looked up to heaven, knowing Shotty was calling that game. I gave the

pine needle to Shotty's son who was attending the game."

Philips serves as a senior umpire, and for two years had taken her turn as chief umpire. She said she has called more than 200 games in her career, about 10 to 15 games per season, and has umpired games for her sons and her two grandsons.

"It is a wonderful experience and so much more than just attending a game while they play. It gives you the actual involvement with them as they play rather than you just being there," said Philips. "I have some awesome memories of these kids making plays, but what is really great is when an adult I called as a child calls out from the stands 'Great call, Blue,' as I now call plays for their children."

Philips was recently invited to attend a dinner for umpires who have called playoff games. She is the only female to be invited and this will be her third invitation in 22 years. "It will be fun to sit back and listen to all the 'uncut versions' from the umpires," she said.

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# New school year brings new goals, challenges, changes

BY MARCIA HODGSON, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After an all-too-short summer break, students will head back to school later this month. *The Resident* asked the Duval County Public School principals and heads of schools for private schools what goals and challenges they anticipate as the school year begins.

## JENNIFER B. BRIDWELL

Lake Shore Middle School



Principal Jennifer B. Bridwell may be new to Lake Shore Middle School, having arrived in March 2018, but with 22 years of experience at various middle schools throughout Duval County, she is ready to do all she can to improve the school academically.

"We are aiming for a 'B' or higher school grade this year. We have amazing students, talented staff, and I know that we can make this happen by continuing to invest in a dynamic learning environment," she said. "One of our strengths as a school is the diversity among students, faculty, and staff! Every day, we have an opportunity to learn something new from each other."

This year, Lake Shore is offering Early College, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), CTE (Career and Technical Education) programming, and will be adding chorus to its curriculum.

"One of our biggest challenges this coming school year is actually one of our greatest opportunities," Bridwell said. "That is working to increase our business and community partnerships. We want to be the pride of the Avondale/Riverside area."

## KIM REPPER

St. Paul's Catholic School



Although it is currently planning its 100th anniversary, St. Paul's Catholic School may be one of Riverside's best kept secrets.

"St. Paul's is a loving, supportive community. We take care of one another in times of need, and we celebrate with one another our successes. Everyone who comes to St. Paul's says there is an energy here that does not exist anywhere else," said Kim Repper, who has served the school as principal for nine years.

This year St. Paul's will continue its Individually Chosen Exploration program (ICE), where students select a non-traditional elective to study during each marking period, said Repper. "Students may participate in Lego, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), gardening, drama, dance, video production, sign language, music and much more," she said.

This fall also marks St. Paul's Year of Service. "It is in giving that we receive, and our student body has so much to give!" Repper said.

"Our students are amazing little people with so much potential. Their parents are always willing to help our community. The teachers are dedicated and will go above and beyond for our St. Paul's family," she said.

## SCOTT SCHNEIDER

Robert E. Lee High School



As far as Principal Scott Schneider is concerned, Robert E. Lee High School is the finest comprehensive public high school in Duval County, which is demonstrated by its student body's ability to achieve college scholarships.

"We're the best high school in Duval County Public Schools for all students," he said, noting Lee High offers all programs including Early College, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and will add AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) this year.

Although Schneider, who has served as principal at Lee High for three years, said an "on-going challenge is student attendance," he is especially proud of the Class of 2018's ability to achieve more than \$8 million in college scholarships, which is the highest scholarship amount out of all comprehensive high schools in Duval County.

This year, his goal is to surpass that by having his students aim to achieve \$9 million in scholarships and an 88-percent graduation rate. "The tremendous faculty and staff along with an amazing group of diverse students has created a College-Going Culture!" he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

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**MONIQUE CHATMAN**

Venetia Elementary School



There is one word to describe Venetia Elementary School – “premier,” said Principal Monique Chatman, who will be in her second year as Venetia’s principal and her fifth at the school. “We provide a premier learning and working environment for teachers, staff and students,” she said, noting the school is celebrating its 75th birthday this year.

Venetia’s biggest challenge this school year is remaining visible throughout the community, said Chatman. “Community visibility is critical to our overall success and efforts, and toward creating a robust learning environment for our students,” she said. “We want the community to know all of the great things happening at Venetia Elementary and how we can, in turn, support them.”

Although a date has yet to be announced, the school will soon celebrate the grand opening of its new cafeteria, a replacement of the former eating facility, which was heavily damaged by fire in December 2017. “The students’ and faculty’s resiliency during any challenging situation makes this school a great place to work,” she said.

Also new this year is a garden club and Spanish club, which will be added to Venetia’s offerings, said Chatman. The school is also continuing its Medical Arts Magnet focus and military support activities. “We want to ensure we are providing hands on, engaging experiences for our students to enjoy and love learning as well as to build positive peer and staff relationships,” she said.

“Venetia is a sweet school with a great history. As soon as you visit Venetia, you will feel the family-oriented atmosphere among students and staff. Additionally, it is an honor to support our large percentage of military students, and we appreciate the support of our military families,” she said.

**DINAH STEWART**

Central Riverside Elementary



The theme at Central Riverside Elementary School (CRES) this year will be “Oh, The Places You’ll Go,” said Principal Dinah Stewart, adding that in addition to the many clubs and programs currently offered, her school hopes to add a Girls on the Run Club for female students in Grades 3-5.

“This year it is our desire for students to embrace the use of technology as an avenue to become global learners. An extension to our goal for the 2018-2019 school year is to provide additional opportunities for students to participate in learning clubs.”

Like all Duval County Schools, Stewart said she expects to encounter different challenges from one year to the next. “It is our goal each year to identify and address each challenge as quickly as possible,” she said.

Characterizing her school as a “learning oasis,” Stewart said she witnesses “amazing energy” from both the students and teachers each day. “Central Riverside Elementary has a lot to offer students, parents, and teachers. We provide each student with a well-rounded education in a safe and friendly environment. At Central Riverside, we have the most beautiful, interesting, and talented students from all over the Jacksonville area,” she continued.

“Our students are truly here to learn and grow in a positive and nurturing climate. Central Riverside is the perfect example of how people can live together, work together, and learn together in an environment where individuals respect each other, support each other, and help each other to succeed. We are surrounded by community and business members who are supportive to our students and teachers. There is no greater place to work than CRES.”

**KATHY TUERK**

St. Matthews Catholic School



This year St. Matthew’s Catholic School celebrates the 70th anniversary of serving the Avondale, Lake Shore, Murray Hill and Ortega communities, and the year will be “brimming with milestone events and celebrations featuring fun, fellowship, friends, food and faith sharing,” said Principal Kathy Tuerk.

The annual Fall Bazaar, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 2, will be extra special, she said. “It will be a distinctive festival of a joyful remembrance of the past and present.”

In her 18th year as principal of St. Matthew’s, Tuerk’s biggest challenge will be replacing seven experienced faculty members who have left the school. “Our faculty is a wonderful combination of master teachers with 15 or more years of experience, those with 10 or more years, and teachers new to the profession with five or less years,” she said, adding her multicultural faculty is an “eclectic” union of people from all over the world including Chile, Colombia, India, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.

“Our school’s goals for the year include the ongoing development of teaching based on the needs of each child and their learning styles, enhancing the fine arts program to include additional performance programs, and continued STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics),” she said.

Exceptional Student Education will also be in full swing at St. Matthew’s. “Three new faculty members will be advancing and implementing an integrated support team for teachers and students to increase student learning and enhance social and emotional development,” said Tuerk.

**SHANNON ROSE-HAMANN**

Ortega Elementary School



In the community for nearly a century, Ortega Elementary is a small, wonderful, magnet school that partners with area museums to provide hands-on, mind-on learning experiences for students to examine their world, explore their strengths, and exhibit their knowledge, said Principal Shannon Rose-Hamann. It is her goal this year to have her students understand their capabilities.

“I would love for every single student to reach his or her highest potential by taking ownership of learning and developing leadership skills,” she said, noting it is her second year as principal. “We are empowering students to own their learning by having them set goals and monitor their progress.”

To facilitate a love of reading in her students, Rose-Hamann has set the goal of having each child at Ortega Elementary read an entire book series this year.

She also plans to continue to implement “rigorous, differentiated, data-driven instruction in every classroom” to increase achievement and help all her students to grow.

This year yoga classes, a safety team, and a school cheer team will be added to the slate of extra-curricular activities Ortega Elementary already offers, including safety patrols, TOTs, News Crew, Green Team/Garden Club, Music Club/Steel Drum band, Art Club, Student Council, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girls on the Run, Battle of the Books, and Chess Club.

“The best part of my day involves interacting with our students. They are excited about learning, eager to acquire new skills. I truly enjoy my classroom visits,” she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43



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**SHAWNA WHITE**

West Riverside Elementary School



Although they may not wear colorful Caped Crusader costumes when they attend school this fall, you can be sure the students, teachers and staff will have their imaginary capes on when they return to West Riverside Elementary.

“This year, ‘Knowledge is our superpower!’” said Principal Shawna White. “We will celebrate the superhero in each of us as we strive for another successful school year!”

Beginning her third year as principal, White said there has been increased interest in West Riverside’s Dual Language Program, and her biggest challenge this year will be looking at options as the school seeks to expand it.

Two new afterschool clubs will also be available to students – Girls on the Run and a cooking club. The school already offers the NASA Club, Green Club, and Children’s Enrichment Workshop (CEW).

“We look forward to continuing to provide students with the best educational experience possible. Our school is one that focuses on kindness and teaching the whole child. In addition to focusing on the academic rigor and expectations, we want our students to have an elementary school experience they will never forget,” she said, noting that the school has been in operation longer than any other in the area – 107 years.

“We value each one of our students. Every family, student, teacher, and staff member are a special part of what makes West Riverside a great school and great place to be,” White said. “Everyone has a sense of pride in the school. We all work together as a team and support each other. There is a rich history within the walls of West Riverside. We are still educating the heart of the historic district and installing a passion for learning.”

**KEVIN CONKLIN**

St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School



As it begins its 49th year on the banks of the St. Johns River in Ortega, St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School is an exciting place to be, said Head of School Kevin Conklin.

“Since its founding in 1970, the school has been committed to ‘Preparing children to learn and to lead in the global community,’” he said. “As I begin my fifth year as head of school, I am excited each and every day to work with faculty and administrators in creating a unique partnership with each child and every family.”

St. Mark’s has an “evolving curriculum,” which prepares students to meet a fast-paced world that is in constant change, he said. “Our multifaceted curriculum equips our students to communicate succinctly, solve problems, and make a positive difference in this world. Our program nurtures and challenges our students to develop not only academically, but also to develop a strong moral compass.”

Included in St. Mark’s academics is an advanced science and technology curriculum that is grounded in the Next Generation Science Standards and is fully engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities. This year the school plans to fully implement the Lucy Calkin’s program of Reading Units of Study, in collaboration with Columbia University’s Teachers College. This new program complements the Writing Units of Study curriculum, which the school already has in place, Conklin said.

“Teachers and students take full advantage of our beautiful open-air campus with elective offerings in vegetable and native plant gardening, interscholastic athletics on Berg Field surrounded by the Durkee Track, and daily brain-boosting exercise on multiple age-appropriate outdoor playgrounds,” he said.

**KIMBERLY M. DENNIS**

Fishweir Elementary School



A small neighborhood school with a visual and performing arts magnet program, Fishweir Elementary School is diverse in many ways, said Principal Kimberly Dennis. “Diversity ensures students are given an opportunity to express themselves artistically, creatively, and academically. Fishweir is a school where teachers genuinely care about their students and teach the ‘whole child’ to meet all of their needs.”

District-wide budget cuts will impact Fishweir Elementary, particularly its art program, said Dennis. Having less money for art has set her focus to seeking funds to support Fishweir from the community at large.

“The goals I have for the upcoming year are to increase business partnerships in the community, raising funds for the school with the help of our PTA (Parent-Teachers Association), working to establish the ‘Friends of Fishweir’ organization, and increasing parental involvement in the PTA and SAC (School Advisory Committee),” she said, adding even neighborhood residents without small children have a great familiarity with the school.

“Fishweir has students whose parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents attended our school,” Dennis said. “It sits in the heart of the Avondale/Riverside area and is truly a jewel in the community. I love the diversity and small-knit community that Fishweir is a part of. I am thankful, humbled, honored, and blessed to lead this dynamic school, which has such a rich history!”

**BEN KETCHUM**

Riverside Presbyterian Day School



As Riverside Presbyterian Day School celebrates its 70th year, the school is in the process of planning for its future, said Head of School Ben Ketchum, who begins his second year at the school.

“The school community is in the process of prioritizing various strategic initiatives. The opportunity to collaboratively imagine and plan for the future is both stimulating and exciting,” he said.

“Riverside Presbyterian is a school that intentionally celebrates childhood, while remaining focused on academic excellence and the spiritual, ethical, emotional, and physical development of each child,” Ketchum continued. “It’s a place where children are encouraged to think deeply and explore, as they develop into life-long learners and conscientious citizens.”

Ketchum said his goal this year is to enrich the curriculum with innovative programming that supports the mission of the school and continues to allow its students to emerge with strong morals, a positive sense of self, as well as being well prepared academically, spiritually, and socially. “We are especially excited about realizing many of the initiatives we have embarked on over the year, especially those related to our students’ social and emotional development, global awareness, and ability to think deeply about topics, issue, and the world in which they live,” he said.

This fall, RPDS will expand its robotics team so that it includes students in younger grades. It will also incorporate movement, drama, and yoga into its pre-primary program, he said. After-school academies will include a musical, lacrosse, chess, entrepreneurship, set design and construction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

**MARY VIRGINIA FISHER**

St. Johns Country Day School



There will be a new but familiar face at the helm when students return to St. Johns Country Day School this fall.

With more than 40 years of experience at St. Johns Country Day, Mary Virginia Fisher, who began teaching French at the school in 1975, has taken over as Acting Head of School. She replaces Edward Ellison, the former head of school.

This year, under Fisher's tutelage, St. Johns will celebrate its 65th anniversary, Friday, Sept. 14. "This is sure to bring special pride in St. Johns' strong history and many unique traditions, but it seems we are always commemorating new and amazing accomplishments of our students and faculty," she said noting such celebrations are the all-school extravaganza St. Johns on Broadway, and the girls' soccer team's seventh consecutive and 10th overall state championship. "Beginning each day with a flag raising and announcements attended by all students and teachers ensures the recognition of the year's highlights from preschool to Grade 12," she said.

The biggest challenge facing the educators at St. Johns is "providing the 'why' of what we teach," Fisher said. "Students demand not only quality but relevance in their studies. They know that success in their lives in college and beyond will depend not only on knowledge of the subjects they study, but more importantly on their ability to be independent thinkers and problem solvers who can tackle whatever life throws at them."

To answer this demand, St. Johns has recently debuted several new programs to redefine its student's college preparatory experience so that it more fully encompasses individual student interests, she said.

Continuing and expanding programs in academics, athletics, and the arts is an annual goal, Fisher said. In academics the school is offering new Fellowship programs so students can tailor their studies in Health Sciences, International Studies, Computer Science, Community Engagement or Visual Arts.

The school is also starting up an honors and Advanced Placement program called Heinrich Scholars, that requires completion of the College Board's AP Capstone curriculum and honors/AP courses in all disciplines.

In athletics, the school has hired several new coaches in basketball and football.

The school also provides all students in Grades 5-12 with an iPad and offers age-appropriate access to technology to its younger students as well.

And this year, St. Johns students will again collaborate with the White Oak Conservation Center, she said. "We feel very fortunate to be invited to on-site excursions to White Oak where middle and upper school students receive firsthand experience both in the lab and with the animals," she said. "It is this kind of real-life experience that distinguishes our programs in all divisions, work that is incredibly beneficial for both our students and local and worldwide conservation efforts."

**STEPHANIE BRANNAN**

John N.C. Stockton Elementary



Building on last year's academic progress is the goal at John N.C. Stockton Elementary School this year.

"We have made great academic strides this last year but maintaining those high results can be very difficult," said Principal Stephanie Brannan. "As with every year, the challenge will be to consistently create strategies that will keep the students focused and motivated in order to ensure their continued success."

This year, Stockton Elementary is receiving a new PITSCO Science Lab, comprised of modules that provide students with collaborative, hands-on learning opportunities in science, engineering, technology and mathematics, as well as an updated state-of-the-art TV production studio. "I am not sure who is more excited, the students, teachers or the parents," said Brannan.

"John Stockton is a true neighborhood school where everyone – faculty, staff, students, and parents – believe they play a role in our success," she said.

"I love John Stockton because it is a community-oriented school that truly projects the meaning of education – 'an enlightening experience.' The teachers, students, parents, and extended family members that make up the community that is Stockton truly put the success of, not just the students, but the school as a whole at the top of the priority list," Brannan continued. "By doing so, unity has to be one of our strongest attributes, which makes coming to work here every day as easy as A-B-C."

**YVONNE SPINNER**

Ruth Upson Elementary School

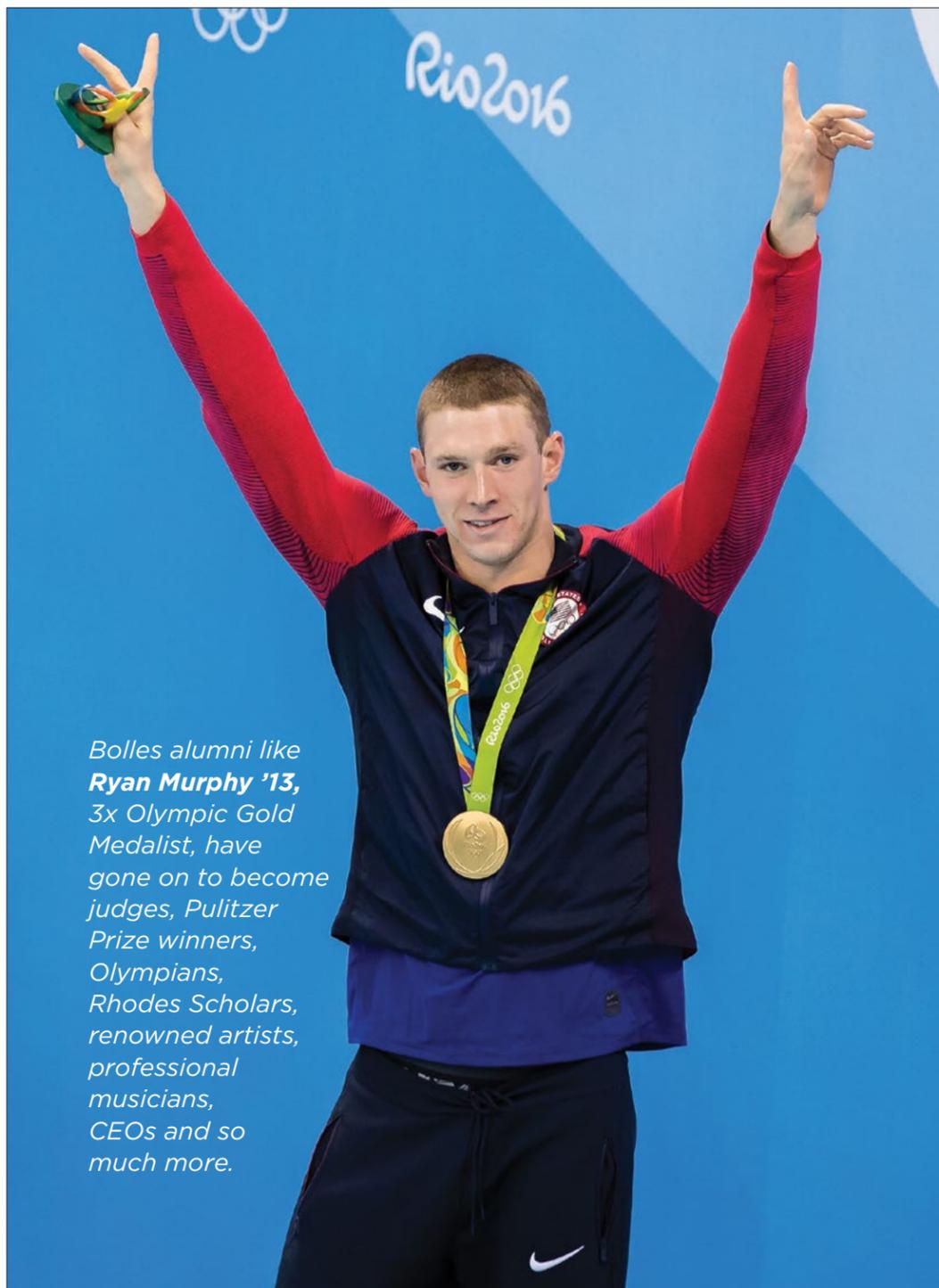


A community school that has been a fixture in Murray Hill for more than a century, Ruth Upson Elementary School has served many families for multiple generations. "I love that the neighborhood and teachers feel like family," said Principal Yvonne Spinner, who has served the school for three years.

The biggest challenge facing Ruth Upson Elementary this year is "maintaining parental, community, and faith-based partnerships, which ensure the school's prosperity," Spinner said. "As a community school, growing and strengthening these partnerships are a vital component to our student's success," she noted.

This year, Spinner is adding pottery, digital animation, and coding to the curriculum.

"We are focused on promoting both academic and social growth in our students, so they can blossom to their fullest potential as young, productive, and ethical learners," she said.



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Amy Perkins  
(Photo by Laura Evans Photography)

### *Self-care, healthy relationships among focus at Episcopal School*

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's new Health, Safety and Well-being program is community-wide and involves students, parents, and faculty and staff. The program will focus on four themes in 2018-2019: Self-Care, Healthy Relationships, Global Awareness, and Choice.

Within these themes, key topics include stress, anxiety, mindfulness, physical health, bullying, social media, gratitude, diversity and tolerance, service, and high-risk behaviors.

"Episcopal seeks to value and prioritize these issues with a commitment that goes beyond any single year of programming," said Amy Perkins '92, Director of Student Services. "We have planned a comprehensive and evolving array of opportunities for students and parents, professional development for faculty and staff, and resources for the entire community."

The school schedule will devote at least three special activity and event periods per semester to Health, Safety, and Well-being for students; professional development for faculty and staff; and special events for parents. Topics relating to the Health, Safety, and Well-being effort will continue to be incorporated into one Chapel session per semester and into Global Community Day, to be held Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, and which will focus on mental health and global awareness.

Episcopal, located in Empire Point, is also partnering with Baptist Health for the upcoming school year. Baptist Health will provide four expert speaker panels for the Episcopal parent community. Two events will take place during the fall semester and two will take place in the spring, addressing the following topics: Physical Health/Nutrition; Anxiety/Stress/Coping Skills; Influence & Effects of Social Media and Screen Time, and High-Risk Behavior/Substance Abuse.

## Road trip to nation's capital caps year of service



The Stockton Safety Patrol and chaperones in front of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

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

Two long days of travel bracketed four days touring 11 memorials and monuments, four museums, one cemetery, one cathedral, one famous house and one theme park. For 25 fifth-grade students at John Stockton Elementary School, the trip to Washington, D.C., and Williamsburg, Virginia, was reward for a job well done as members of the school safety patrol.

"I think fifth-grade patrols have been attending this trip for well over 30 years," said Misty Allen, a specialist in the gifted program for Duval County Public Schools. "JSO takes groups for three consecutive weeks during the summer. I think about 1,000 patrols attend the trip from all over the county."

Allen and fourth-grade teacher Georgia Smith-Miller were among 14 chaperones, including JSO Officer Arthur Prater, who left Jacksonville in the wee hours of the morning June 17, returning late in the day June 22. Packed into three days in the nation's

capital were stops at the White House, the Washington National Cathedral, three Smithsonian museums and the interactive Newseum, a variety of memorials, and Arlington National Cemetery where they witnessed the changing of the guard and the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"The Air and Space Museum was my favorite because I enjoyed learning about the planes and eating space food. I also liked Arlington National Cemetery because I enjoyed looking back at the past people who served us," said Catherine Brewer, of Ortega Forest. Classmate Andrea Lundahl, lives in the Venetia area, said she enjoyed visiting the U.S. Mint "because I enjoyed learning about the process of printing our money."

The trip was capped with a stop at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, where students let off energy enjoying rides in the theme park.

The longstanding annual tradition for the safety patrol and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office began at the start of the school year with a variety of fundraising

events. "Our school does a great job of fundraising for the trip all year long," Allen said. "Some of the fundraising came from selling Dreamette gift cards, Heavenly Ham gift cards, poinsettias, tickets to the dunk booth at the Stockton Fall Festival, hosting school dances, yearbook ads, hosting the Stockton Fun Run, and selling school t-shirts."

The students are selected for safety patrols based on leadership abilities, attendance, and citizenship, Allen said. "They serve the school all school year, coming early for roll call and before school duties, then stay late for after school duties. They mainly help with arrival and dismissal of students, morning announcements and assist teachers before and after school. The trip is a special reward for their service to the school all year," said Allen.

"My favorite part of being a patrol was getting to spend time with my friends," said Brewer, while Lundahl said her favorite job was on the Media Patrol scriptwriting for the Stockton Morning Show.



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# Then and now, preschool classmates reconnect with teachers

A few couldn't make it, some couldn't be located, but for the five young men and women who got together at the Klavon family's Ortega Forest home July 8 it was a time to reconnect with each other and with their preschool teachers.

In 2006, 11 students – seven boys and four girls – graduated from the Ortega Playschool having learned initiative, persistence and problem-solving along with their ABCs and numbers, thanks to their preschool teachers, Janie Lyon and Janie Metcalf.

The casual reunion came about, in part, after Max Klavon's mother, Pam, ran into Lyon in the Shoppes of Avondale and they talked about where those former five-year-old children were today.

Three of the girls, Olivia Schueth, Emily Butler and Maddy Cardozo, took dance at Village Dance until they were almost through middle school. Three of the boys, Max Klavon, Chrystian DeMunbreun and Corbin Lowe, are Boy Scouts with Troop 2 and will soon earn their Eagle Scout awards.

"The bonds we made will last a lifetime," said Schueth, who will graduate from Bishop Kenny next spring, and hopes to attend Alabama State as a political science major. "The teachers were great; they taught us well."

Cardozo and Butler echoed their classmate's sentiments. "I'm amazed we all stayed together, but we had the greatest teachers," said Butler, who, along with Lowe, will graduate from Bishop Snyder, and is looking at attending the University of Florida in marketing and advertising.

"Mrs. Lyon was one of the best teachers I ever had," said Cardozo, who attends Stanton College Preparatory High School, as does Klavon. "She helped me become the person I am." Cardozo hasn't decided on a college yet but is considering business and finance, while Klavon said he will probably attend Florida State University for engineering and/or business.

After DeMunbreun left Ortega Playschool, he spent the next 12 years (kindergarten



Seated: Sullivan Heim, Corbin Lowe, Emily Butler, Katie Baker, Max Klavon and Ryan Holden; standing: Janie Metcalf, Olivia Schueth, Timothy Gnida, Brock Dennison, Chrystian DeMonbreun, Maddy Cardozo and Janie Lyon.



Front: Emily Butler, Max Klavon and Janie Lyon; back: Janie Metcalf, Olivia Schueth, Chrystian DeMonbreun and Maddy Cardozo

through his junior year) at St. Johns Country Day School, from which he will graduate next spring. He's also looking at FSU as well as the University of South Florida, and hopes to major in psychology.

Lyon, who retired in 2011, said she actually believed it was the bond between the parents which fostered their children's bonds. "The mothers would sit on a brick

wall outside the classroom and chat," said Lyon. "I called it the Friendship Wall."

The Ortega Playschool, which is located on the Ortega United Methodist Church campus, has been preparing young boys and girls for a successful transition into public or private schools since 1988. Gayle Runion has taken over as director after the retirement of Janie Burroughs.



Say Cheese – 100 members of the Bishop Kenny High School Class of 2022 gathered at the Carla Harris Performing Arts Center during Preview BK 2018. Students wore tie-dye shirts made during the three-day camp for a group photo taken on the last day.

## Rising freshman get campus preview

In July, members of Bishop Kenny High School's incoming freshman class participated in Preview BK, an optional three-day sneak peek at campus life Bishop Kenny style. The students participated in hands-on, fast-paced activities designed, among other things, to provide an opportunity for the students to make new friends with future classmates coming to BK from schools throughout the Jacksonville area, navigate the campus, and read the rotating class schedule.

Instructors and volunteer student counselors emphasized team building and success strategies for freshman year throughout the program. One hundred of the expected 305-member freshman class attended Preview BK 2018. Bishop Kenny's total school enrollment is expected to be approximately 1,210 students for the 2018-2019 school year, including the freshman class of 305 students. The first day of school for ninth-grade students is August 14. The entire school will return to school on August 15.



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Teens from Riverside Avenue Christian Church pose in front of the 1791 church in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, where the denomination has its roots.

### Church youth group takes mission trip, visits denominational roots

The youth from Riverside Avenue Christian Church participated in a mission trip to Lexington, Kentucky, with the Disciples Summer Mission June 24-29, serving with over 170 other Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Youth from around the country. They worked with the Early Learning Center at The Salvation Army, The Hope Center (a men's homeless shelter and recovery center), and the E7 Kids Cafe (a day camp program for inner-city children).

The teens also found time to explore Cane Ridge, Kentucky, where the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination has its roots in a Christian movement in the late 18th/early 19th century. "We had an amazing trip and look forward to next summer's mission trip with the Disciples Summer Mission to Springfield, Missouri," said Rev. Erin Dickey, pastor at Riverside Avenue Christian Church.

## Avondale family enjoys cultural exchange with French, Danish youth

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

For Jacksonville youth involved with Children's International Summer Village (CISV), it can be hard to decide whether it's more fun to be host to boys and girls from other countries or to take a turn as guest in a foreign country.

Sisters Olivia and Charlotte Nolan spent the first half of July sharing a variety of activities in Florida with girls their ages from Denmark and France, then left Jacksonville mid-month to see the sights in Copenhagen and Paris.

Olivia Nolan, a sophomore at Stanton College Preparatory High School, hosted Juliette Vasseur, who was in the United States for the second time this year, having visited New York City in April.

"We went to Ichetucknee Springs, to the beach, the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine for ziplining, the Kennedy Space Center, a Jumbo Shrimp game, shopping at the Town Center," said Olivia, who has been involved in CISV for three years. She has visited Norway, England, Spain and Canada as part of CISV.

For her part of the 2018 Interchange, Juliette took Olivia to see the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and on a hot air balloon ride.

Charlotte Nolan, who will be in eighth grade at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, hosted a Danish girl before taking her turn as guest in Copenhagen. She has also been to England, Spain and Canada through CISV.

The Nolan family of Fairfax Manor was one of about 20 local families who hosted youth from Copenhagen and Paris, building global friendships and gaining a deeper understanding of other cultures. Other 12-to-15-year-olds from Avondale who hosted youth from Denmark included Nico



The French delegation from the CISV Interchange poses for a group photo at the Cavendish home in San Marco on the last night of a two-week visit in Jacksonville.

Summa, Rowan Fix, William Rosenberg and Chloe Brown. Will Taylor, of Avondale, was a leader for the Denmark delegation and his family hosted a Fourth of July party for the French and Danish youth.

In addition to the Interchange, 14 Jacksonville 11-year-olds attended CISV international camps in Brazil, Denmark, Germany and Michigan, where they lived for a month with youth from 12 other countries; eight youth went to "Step Up" camps in Indonesia and Norway with fellow 14-to-15-year-olds from 10 countries, and seven youth ages 16-to-18 went to international camps in Egypt, Guatemala, Finland, Sweden, Mexico, and Pittsburgh, Penn.

To families who are undecided about getting involved with CISV, Olivia Nolan had pointed advice. "Get off the fence! It's a lot of fun, and a great way to meet people from other countries, and experience other cultures. You'll love it!" she said.



At the airport, Olivia Nolan, right, welcomes Juliette Vasseur to Jacksonville.

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# Ortega golfer wins junior amateur golf championship

Chloe Schiavone of Ortega, a rising junior at The Bolles School, took home the Florida Girls' Junior Amateur Golf title during the championship tournament at Bent Pine Golf Club in Vero Beach June 27-29.

Playing in a field of 70 golfers, Schiavone shot 69-72-72 to capture the trophy in the Girls 16-18 division, winning by three strokes. In the first round, she carded three birdies and an eagle on the par 5, 14th hole. She earned an even par 72 in the second round, and her six birdies and 141-total gave her a two-stroke lead going into the final round, where she did not disappoint. There she shot a two-under par 34 on the front nine, birding both par 5 holes. Steady play and two bogeys on the back nine allowed her to finish at even par.

The victory allowed Schiavone to represent Team Florida in the South Eastern Challenge Match July 29-31.

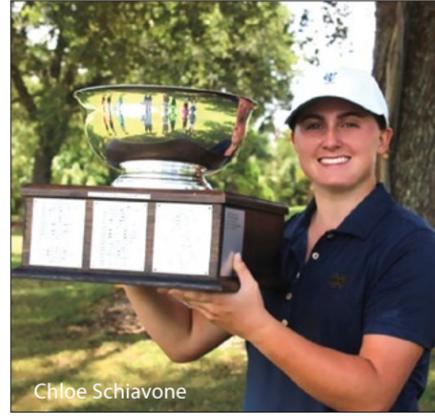
The junior championship win came on the heels of victory in the Florida Women's

Fourball Tournament at the LPGA International course in Daytona Beach, where she and her partner, Ariel Yu of Bradenton, shot 65-66 to win by nine strokes and shattered the state record by two strokes.

She and her partner, Andrew McLauchlan, also won the 2018 Florida Match Play Championship at the Forest Country Club in Ft. Myers July 21.

In April 2018, Schiavone played her second straight USGA Women's Fourball National Championship at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana, Calif., with her partner, Issy Pellet of Apopka. The girls lost in the quarterfinals but look forward to competing again when the 2019 USGA Women's Fourball National Championship is held at Timuquana Country Club next year.

Schiavone competed in the Women's Southern Amateur Tournament at North River Country Club in Tuscaloosa, Ala., losing in the semifinals. She also recently



Chloe Schiavone

lost in a playoff for the First Coast Women's Amateur title at Timuquana Country Club.

Schiavone has played at No. 1 for the Bolles girls' golf team for the past four years and was captain of their undefeated team in 2017. She has verbally committed to play golf on the women's team at the University of Notre Dame.



Jaelyn Parker

## Paxon graduate honored for 13 years' perfect attendance

When Latoya Bell's daughter, Jaelyn Parker, was in preschool at St. Stephen Child Care and Learning Center 13 years ago, the little girl set an ambitious goal: to never miss a day of school.

On July 9, the Duval County School Board presented Parker with a Certificate of Recognition in honor of achieving Perfect Attendance, Grades K-12.

The 17-year-old recent graduate of The Paxon School for Advanced Studies was a member of the National Honor Society, Marching and Concert Bands, Performing Chorus and Vocal Ensemble. She is entering Florida A & M University, where she will pursue a degree in business administration. Her supportive village of family members, including her mother, who is assistant principal at Fishweir Elementary School, were present to celebrate her achievement.



St. Paul's Catholic Vacation Bible School

## Vacation Bible School a traditional summer event

For more than a century, children have hurried out of school looking forward to summer fun, which often includes a week or two at Vacation Bible School, the origins of which can be traced back to 1894. A public school teacher who felt constrained by time started a daily Bible school in Hopedale, Illinois, to teach children during the summer.

During VBS at St. Paul's Catholic School in Riverside, children ages 2 to fifth grade learned how to lean on Jesus in times of worry or loneliness. Under the theme "Shipwrecked and Rescued by Jesus," the children also learned about friction, jungle animals and how to make new friends, ending every day with silly games.



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# Catholic schools offer academic excellence, college acceptance

## Well-rounded curriculum in faith-based setting keys to success

If you had any doubts about the value of a strong Catholic education, you could do no better than to meet Julie and John Tucker, San Marco residents and graduates of Notre Dame. John, a Class of '75 graduate of Bishop Kenny High School, led the way for their five children.

"We chose to send our five children to Bishop Kenny High School because we believe that it does the best job of educating the whole person and preparing them for college," Julie said. Three of the Tucker children graduated from the University of Notre Dame, one from West Point and the youngest is a junior at Bishop Kenny.

BK, as it's commonly known, belongs to the Diocese of St. Augustine's Office of Catholic Schools, as does Bishop John Snyder High School. BK was established in 1952 in St. Nicholas, then 50 years later BJS opened on the Westside. Together they have been graduating young people prepared to succeed in college and beyond for 82 years, collectively.

Senior classes achieve a 100 percent graduation rate and typically a 99-100

percent college acceptance rate. Students are encouraged to begin the college exploration process early in the high school career, and college applications are filed at the beginning of the senior year.

As Bishop Kenny enters its 67th school year, 200-250 members of the student body are legacy students. "Our alumni send us a clear message that they value their own BK experience when they send their children here to benefit from the same opportunities that they had," said Todd Orlando, principal.

"The primary goal of BK is the same as it was in 1952 – to provide the finest college preparatory education to the young people of the Diocese of St. Augustine in a faith-filled Catholic environment," Orlando said. "While the ways that we teach continue to change, certainly with regard to technology for example, we stay true to our founding vision and mission."

Julie Tucker agreed. "Our children left BK having grown in their faith," she said. "They entered their college years grounded in positive values on a more mature and informed level and with solid friendships."

Deacon David Yazdiya, principal of Bishop Snyder, is a 1981 graduate of Bishop Kenny; his wife, Caroline Corrigan Yazdiya, also graduated from BK, and their three children are graduates of BJS.

"With a well-rounded curriculum that includes a variety of world languages, drama, art, chorus, sports and computer/technology, as well as many extracurricular activities and sports, all within a Catholic setting,



Bishop Snyder High School has everything a student needs to thrive and grow in faith and into the wonderful person God created them to be," Yazdiya said.

Rhonda Rose, another Bishop Kenny alum, is assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools. "Our schools are unapologetically Catholic. Faith permeates every aspect, rather than being an additional piece or only relevant in religion class. It is who we are," she said.

All Catholic school ninth-grade students take English, math and science classes. Where a student goes from there is entirely up to the student. Students who perform well in one subject and not another may work at their own level of expertise in each subject. Courses are offered at standard, honors and AP levels. As Catholic college

prep high schools, they offer religion all four years. BK is the only private high school in the area to offer the NJROTC program for all four years as well.

"Our schools have high standards for student performance and behavior, and that contributes to a learning environment any teacher would be happy to work in," Rose said.

Orlando added, "We believe that the reason people choose Catholic or other private religious schools over private secular schools is the very nature of a religious school. Speaking for Catholic schools, we are grounded in the lessons of the Gospels. We believe in teaching our students the lessons of Jesus as well as traditional academic classes. We strive to prepare the whole student – mind, body, and soul."



Visit [www.bishopkenny.org](http://www.bishopkenny.org) and [www.bishopsnyder.org](http://www.bishopsnyder.org) to learn more about Jacksonville's premier Catholic high schools.

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# Flashbacks



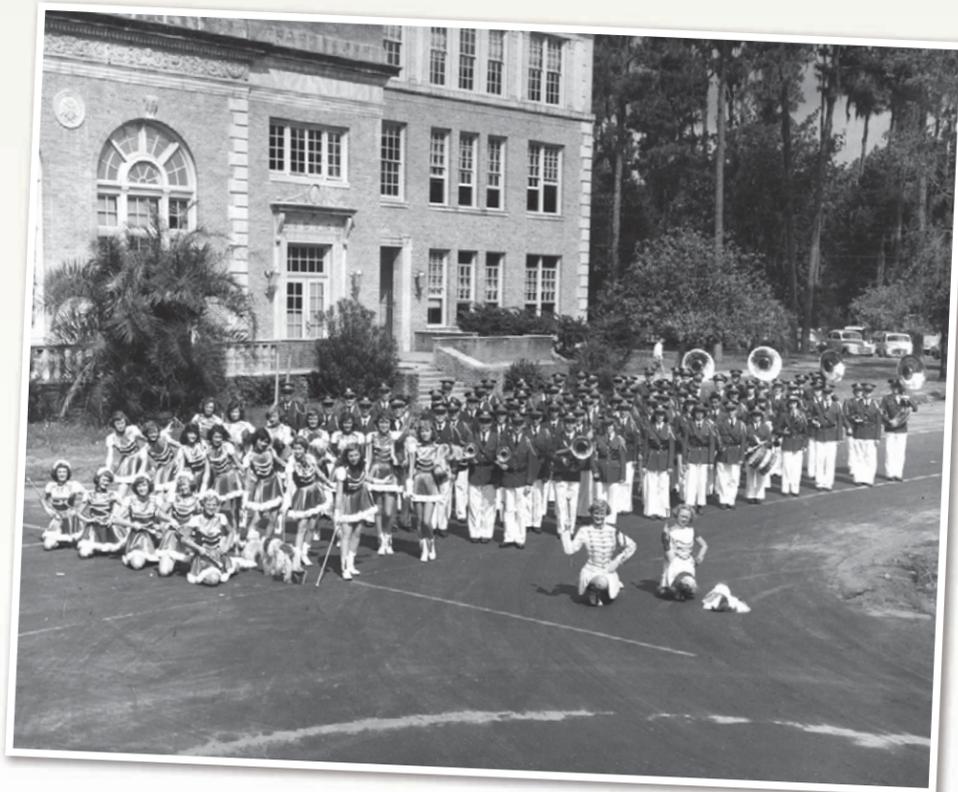
West Riverside School, likely prior to remodeling in 1936. Originally built in 1911 by an unknown architect as a Neo-Classical Revival brick building with four monumental Doric columns supporting a portico (similar to Annie Lytle Elementary School), the school was enlarged in 1916 by Henry J. Klutho, who changed it to a Mediterranean Revival style in 1922 by removing the columns and portico and adding a Spanish-style façade. The school was remodeled again in 1936, when two open-air classrooms on the rear side of the second story were enclosed and the cupolas removed. (From the Woodward Photo Collection)



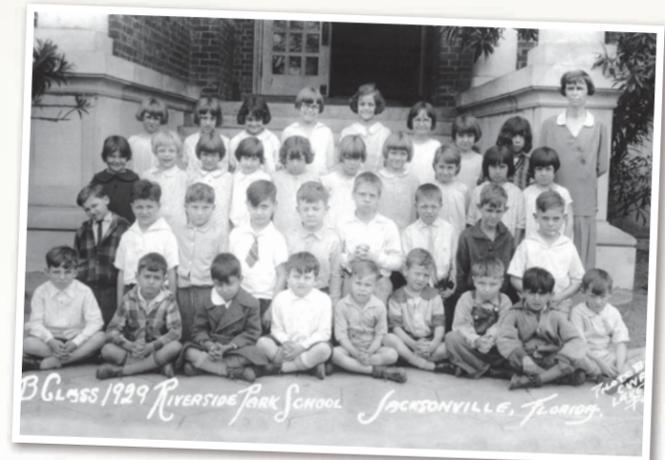
Concordia School girls basketball team, 1921. Concordia School was located at 126 Roselle Street and the gymnasium, Concordia Hall, was located at 645 Oak Street (now Friday Musicale). Concordia School was founded in 1919 as a private institution for girls. The school closed in 1925.



Public School Number Four was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style by architect Rutledge Holmes, and built by the Florida Engineering and Construction Company at a cost of more than \$250,000 in 1917. Originally overlooking Riverside Park, most of the building was poured concrete, created with the idea of being almost completely fireproof.



Robert E. Lee High School band, year unknown



The 1929 "B" Class poses outside the Riverside Park School, also known as Riverside Grammar School, then later renamed Annie Lytle Elementary School in 1950 after its principal, Annie Lytle Housh.

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

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