

Happy to
be back
at school

On her first day
at RPDS, Ryleigh
Harris starts
the countdown
for the last day
of school.

READ MORE,
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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Doing more together

Two San Marco groups join forces to do
more for community's common good.

READ MORE, [PAGE 4](#)

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EARLY 20TH CENTURY POSTCARDS PAINT PRETTY PICTURE OF JACKSONVILLE

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Nemours event raises
funds for diabetes
research, education

Dan and Bonnie Davis were among supporters at Nemours Children's Specialty Care's An Evening of Promise at TPC Sawgrass.

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Caring Awards honor
five physicians

Celebrating 25 years helping uninsured patients in Duval County, Alex and Dr. Scot Ackerman with Dr. Michael Solloway, Dane Margol and Dr. Gary Perlman attend We Care's 25th Anniversary gala.

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FDOT bridge project
moving along

Construction crews contracted by the Florida Department of Transportation work on the south side of the Fuller Warren Bridge adding a shared bike-pedestrian path that will increase connectivity between both sides of the river.

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IN HOMES BY SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2018

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REAL ESTATE ON THE RISE

PROFESSIONALS SHARE INSIGHTS,
TRENDS IN THE LOCAL MARKET

Real estate in the historic districts has always been interesting to watch, as the market trends and indicators seem to both start, and finish, here. From rehabilitation of older homes, to infill projects that replace vacant lots, there's never a dull moment as smart buys in real estate are always seeking profit margins.

The desirable nature of the older, established neighborhoods continues to attract buyers, those who are new to Jacksonville and those settling in the neighborhood they've always desired. Higher prices and less inventory are the common denominators, begging the questions "Do we sell? Do we settle in and

renovate? Do we wait to buy? What will we buy on the other side of a sale as prices rise?"

An interesting dilemma ensues, as love for charming, historic neighborhoods continues to drive decisions and bring buyers to the table. At the same time, it lends to a feeling of satisfaction for homeowners already in their forever home watching their equity grow.

The current state of our local real estate market is full of question marks and decisions for both buyers and sellers. *The Resident* asked local real estate professionals to share their thoughts and lend their knowledge to the conversation.

READ MORE, [PAGE 12](#)



Students, faculty wowed by special guest

Two-time Grammy winner Jason Mraz, center, visited Hendricks Avenue Elementary School on Aug. 17 to participate in the first flag raising ceremony for the new school year.



Sam and Kiley Efron
with Ellen Wilson

San Marco groups discuss
parking problems

San Marco's preservation society and merchants association consider free, on-call Beachside Buggies to help alleviate traffic and parking problems around San Marco Square.

READ MORE, [PAGE 33](#)

Publisher's Note

It's with heavy hearts that our family shares the news of the passing of Vincent J. Kerr, DVM. Not only does our family mourn the loss of our patriarch, but the greater community has suffered a great loss as well.

After his family, the Edison Avenue Veterinary Hospital in North Riverside was my father's pride and joy. He treated everyone with equal regard – from those who could pay to those who needed a helping hand. He was an amazing man, with a big heart.

A lifetime of watching his steely determination to always do the right thing, and the big-hearted, generous way he cared for his animals and those of his clients, has taught me much. I have tried to instill many of the qualities he shared with me through my work as publisher of the Resident Community News Group. Throughout my life, during its highs and lows, no one has offered me more support than my father, especially when Seth and I decided to build The Resident Community News Group from scratch 12 years ago.

His example of working shoulder-to-shoulder with my mother, Diane, in his veterinary hospital provided the perfect model for our family-owned enterprise. We have emulated his love for the community through the countless hours and meticulous care that go into the pages of our publications. Always it is our goal to ensure they are timely, helpful, civic minded, and uplifting to both our advertisers and readers. Without my father's fine example, I'm not sure we would enjoy the success we have today.



He will forever be in our hearts and minds. We hope all who called him "Doc" will remember his kind nature and forever cherish their experiences with this wonderful man as well.

Dad, I appreciate the love, dedication, loyalty, and support you have given to my mother (55 wonderful years), my husband, Seth, and to your granddaughters, Tarryn and Sophia, to whom you imparted a love for critters, large and small. Many thanks for being the best father ever. Rest in peace. We will miss you.

Pamela Bradford Williams

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 Angels for Allison is a non-profit organization founded by Drew and Lee Haramis in memory of their 15-year-old daughter, Allison Haramis, who was tragically killed in a car accident in April 2009. Allison's family and friends continue to honor her legacy by providing help with financial needs and ongoing support to families who are suffering with the devastating loss of a child. Angels for Allison has helped over 340 families across 7 Northeast Florida counties.

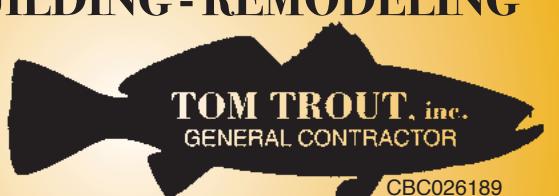
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CORRECTION

In the August 2018 issue, in the story on page 33 about new school year goals, challenges and changes, the new principal for San Jose Catholic School, Jennifer Studer, was inadvertently identified as having served as principal at Catholic schools in Fruit Cove and Ponte Vedra. Studer was a teacher at both schools. We regret the error and wish her well in her new position at San Jose Catholic School.

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Preservation society and merchants join hands to better the community

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

Perhaps Helen Keller said it best, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

This has never been more evident than during the past year and a half, since Bryan Mickler and Robert Harris took over as the heads of two of the most visible civic organizations on the Southside.

Mickler, president of the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS), and Harris, leader of the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA), have made it a point to have their boards communicate with each other more, spend time getting to know each other socially, and collaborate for the betterment of the community.

"Our goal is to make sure that both groups are thriving, and thriving together," said Harris. "We found we were all trying to do the same thing. We were trying to get everybody to focus on San Marco and the activity that is going on and to emphasize the preservation side of it as much as the merchants' side of it. Bryan has been so incredibly receptive. Before, both boards were pretty much exclusive in their thought process until the past couple of years when we all realized we were trying to do the same thing and that we have more in common than we have in divergent interests."

Mickler agreed. "Without a vibrant commercial core, you don't have a vibrant neighborhood," he said. "The real reason we want to cooperate is that our missions are parallel. SMMA can't have a successful commercial corridor without a neighborhood people want to live in. We need each other to survive."



Members of the boards of both San Marco's Preservation Society and Merchants Association mingled at the home of SMMA President Robert Harris and his wife, Paola, for a barbecue Aug. 2.

Although for many years a common board member has served as a liaison between the two groups and members of the SMPS and SMMA have mingled together at various functions, in general, the two groups have remained in their own lanes when it comes to fulfilling their separate missions, said George Foote, SMMA executive director. Since Harris and Mickler have taken over, the boards have worked hard to communicate and often work hand

"Our goal is to make sure that both groups are thriving, and thriving together."

— Robert Harris

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Professor and Chair
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville
Medical Director, UF Health Breast Center – Jacksonville
Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine,
UF Health Jacksonville

in hand at strategizing on how they can better serve the community, said Joe Carlucci, SMMA vice president.

"I think it is trickling down from the new leadership," Carlucci said. "It's no secret that back in the day the two organizations didn't collaborate as well as they do today, and to that point I think we would all just call it the past. We are not concerned as to why that was. We are more concerned about San Marco now and improving both our networks. Bryan Mickler has been really great, and Robert Harris is really, really good. They both have recognized it, and their personalities said, 'Hey, this isn't right. We're next-door neighbors. Let's talk to each other.'"

Although he gets along famously with Harris, it is Foote that Mickler credits with first strengthening the tie between the two groups. "It was George who approached me. He thought it was important to have

better coordination between the two boards," said Mickler. "George and I live across the street from each other so it's easy for us to communicate."

Under Mickler-Harris leadership, the boards got together last fall when they met at UCOM Urban Services to fill Thanksgiving bags for less fortunate residents in the community.

In addition, both groups work hard on community beautification efforts and share the maintenance of Balis Park. They will also soon join with the city in bringing a landscaping upgrade to both the park and San Marco's roundabouts, said Mickler.

In addition to having both boards gather for a friendly dinner Aug. 2 at Harris's Epping Forest home, the two organizations are coordinating a 21st birthday party on Saturday, October 13 to celebrate the 21st

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

2018 Panel of Experts from the University of Florida College of Medicine

Brian G. Celso, PhD
Assistant Professor
Psychiatry

Bharti Jasra, MD
Assistant Professor
Surgery

Andrew M. Kaunitz, MD
Professor and Associate Chair
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Shahla Masood, MD
Professor and Chair
Pathology

John D. Murray, MD
Assistant Professor
Plastic Surgery

Fauzia N. Rana, MD
Professor and Chief
Hematology and Medical Oncology

Smita Sharma, MD
Assistant Professor
Radiology

Gladys P. Velarde, MD
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anniversary of the installation of the Lions statue in San Marco Square.

"The groups have always interacted with each other, but Robert and Bryan are taking it to a new level," said Foote, who has also served as president of both organizations.

Former SMMA President Anita Vining agreed. "Robert has really done a great job of reaching out, and when Bryan took over preservation, he had a different vision. What is so good about preservation and the merchants collaborating is that we (SMMA) don't have their data base. We market and work hard to bring people into San Marco, but the preservation society has that personal one-to-one contact. They've been so helpful to us by pushing our events and anything we've got going on. They bring it up and push it out to the public," she said. "We benefit them by keeping the Square clean, interacting with the merchants and getting feedback for things they want and need and keeping them engaged."

Carlucci shared one small example of how the two groups work well together. While driving through San Marco Square in July, he spotted a pile of furniture on the sidewalk in front of the Square 1 Building and realized the tenant who operated Melos Restaurant had been evicted from the premises.

"All their stuff was thrown out on the curb. I saw it but couldn't do anything about it because I was on my way to a meeting, so I called Bryan Mickler. He immediately ran over there, called the city, and got it squared away," said Carlucci. "Having the two groups be close makes it like we have each other's back. That is a huge step that we didn't have before."

Mickler's and Harris' more inclusive attitude hasn't stopped with collaboration between their two organizations. Under Mickler's tutelage, the San Marco

Preservation Society is active in a coalition of neighborhood associations that includes Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) and Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP). He has also offered to extend a hand to newly reformed St. Nicholas Area Preservation (SNAP) by offering them assistance and the opportunity to meet in Preservation Hall. Meanwhile, Harris has welcomed representatives from the 5 Points Merchants Association, SNAP, and the newly formed San Marco East Business Association to SMMA's meetings hoping to keep lines of communication open and to assist the groups beyond San Marco's boundaries.

Rob Smith, a former member of SMMA and a longtime member of SMPS, said collaboration is important, especially with so much new development now facing the area. "By working together, we can make our lives easier and make this area – particularly the Square – a better place. It is the center of the neighborhood," said Smith.

San Marco is "ground zero" with at least four major residential developments being built in its surrounding environs, and the two organizations need to work together to increase residents' awareness of impending changes in their community, said Harris.

Desiree Bailey, who serves as a liaison between the two groups, said only good can come from the groups working more closely together. "I think it's fantastic. It strengthens our community. We have more understanding of what each organization is doing even though I think the public views it as a lot of overlap. It's similar to when people say we have so many boutiques in San Marco. We do, but when you go into the different stores you discover they are very different in what they are offering. When you get to know what each of our organizations is doing, you realize how very different they are."

Be alert for I-95 exit ramp closure to I-10



Motorists should watch for detour signs on I-95 southbound to I-10 westbound.

The Florida Department of Transportation's operational improvements project for I-95 and I-10 began a long-term closure of the exit ramp 351A from Interstate 95 southbound to Interstate 10 westbound August 17 through summer 2019, weather permitting. As part of the project's operational improvements, crews will be constructing the expansion lanes overhead on the Interstate 95 northbound exit ramp to Interstate 10 westbound in an overall effort to reduce weaving and improve operations on Interstate 10 at Interstate 95.

During this extended closure, motorists on Interstate 95 southbound will be able to take the Forest Street/Riverside

Avenue exit ramp 352A, which will not be affected. Interstate 95 southbound exit ramp 351B to Interstate 10 westbound will remain open.

Detour signs are posted to help direct motorists affected by the closure to keep right on Interstate 95 southbound to access the primary Interstate 10 westbound exit ramp 351B.

The project began May 2017 with completion anticipated in summer 2020, depending on weather and unforeseen delays. FDOT hired Archer Western as the contractor to complete this project for \$126 million.

For more information about this project, visit Your10and95.com.

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Environmental awards to be given Sept. 14 at symposium

Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board will hand out seven awards at a luncheon on Friday, Sept. 14 at the 2018 JEPB and University of North Florida Environmental Symposium, at the Adam Herbert University Center on the UNF campus.

Receiving the two major awards are John Crescimbeni, who will be honored with the Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award for his longtime commitment to scenic beauty and the environment, and Jimmy Orth, who will be honored with the Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award for his longtime education and advocacy about sustainable living and protection of the natural environment.

Additional honorees include Jessica Brothers (Jacksonville Beach Elementary) and Nathan Heffner (Alden Road Exceptional Student Center), who will receive the EPB-DCPS Environmental Champion Award; the Timucuan Parks Foundation, chosen to receive the 2018 Environmental Achievement

Award in the Community/Civic category and Dr. Scott Sowell, who will receive the award in the Individual category.

Two groups will receive the Achievement Award in the Government/Institutional category: Jacksonville Transportation Authority, for its demonstrated high regard for environmental stewardship and commitment to sustainability efforts in the community, and the Duval County Master Gardener Program, for its efforts to educate individuals about the negative impact that fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation can have on the environment.

Environmental Awards of Merit will be given to Dr. Radha Pyati, for her significant impact to the community as a scientist, educator and advocate, and to Christopher Hong and Nate Monroe, for exceptional media reporting with the "As the Ocean Creeps In" series.

To attend the luncheon, or to sign up for a half or full day symposium, visit coj.net/epb.

New cancer center to hold open house

Join Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center leaders for a first glimpse of the arts-enriched healing environment at a community open house Saturday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 1301 Palm Ave.

Enjoy tours of the new Cancer Center and food truck fare from Jammasjax, Alma Food Truck, The Butt Hutt Smokehouse, Big Island Bowls, Wrap it Up in Jax & Nitrogen Creamery.

This event is free to attend and open to the public. Free parking is available in the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center garage. The garage entrance/exit is located on Gary Street. RSVP at CommunityBMDA.Eventbrite.com

Benefit concert to be held Sept. 16

The San Marco Chamber Music Society will hold its annual concert to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave.

The music society will play music by Bach, Bloch, Poulenc, and other composers. The musicians include Les Roettges, flute, Eric Olson, oboe, Conrad Cornelison, bassoon, Ellen Olson, viola, and Rachel Clifton, piano.

For more information, visit www.sanmarcochambermusic.org.

Quiet train zone study awaiting funds

San Marco resident forming strategy committee

By Karen J. Rieley

Resident Community News

Efforts by some San Marco residents to create a Quiet Zone in their neighborhood are progressing, albeit slowly. Lilla Ross, who has lived in San Marco for 40 years, is leading the charge to create a Quiet Zone that will eliminate the need for train engineers to blow horns as they approach the 10 train crossings between the trestle bridge across the St. Johns River to Emerson Street.

Ross created a website this past April to notify other San Marco residents who are interested in quieting the train horns, and met in June with Bill Joyce, operations director for the City of Jacksonville's Department of Public Works.

"Joyce said that the next step is an engineering study that will determine what needs to be done and how much it will cost," Ross said.

Quiet zones are regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration. Because the absence of routine horn sounding increases the risk of a crossing collision, a public authority desiring to establish a quiet zone is required to equip each public highway-rail crossing within the zone with active warning devices, such as flashing lights, gates, constant warning time devices and power out indicators. Supplemental safety measures including medians or channelization devices, one-way streets with gates, four quadrant gate systems, and temporary or permanent crossing closures reduce risks and enhance safety, according to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

According to the FRA's "Guide to the Quiet Zone Establishment Process," the prohibited use of train horns at quiet zones only applies to trains approaching and entering crossings. It does not include train horn use within passenger stations or rail yards, and train horns may still be sounded in emergency situations or to comply with other railroad or FRA rules even within a quiet zone. Quiet zone regulations also do not eliminate the use of locomotive bells at crossings.

"This Quiet Zone project is quite large and addresses train crossings from San Marco to Emerson Street," Joyce said. "The City's current proposed CIP [Capital Improvement Plan] includes \$250,000 in matching funds to be applied to this effort."

The crossings that are included in the San Marco Quiet Zone proposal are Prudential Drive (at Baptist Health), San Marco Boulevard, Nira Street, Naldo Avenue, Hendricks Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard, River Oaks Road, St. Augustine Road, Emerson Street and Reba Avenue (south of Walmart). The study will identify each crossing and determine what countermeasures are needed to establish a quiet zone.

"A study would not be able to be commissioned until the proposed CIP is adopted on Oct. 1, 2018 as part of the City's FY18-19 budget," Joyce said. "At this point I would not be able to anticipate a timeframe or cost."

"The next step is an engineering study that will determine what needs to be done and how much it will cost."

— Lilla Ross, San Marco resident

The FRA does not provide funding for establishing quiet zones. Public authorities that want to establish quiet zones must be prepared to identify sources for the cost to install any safety measures needed. Costs can vary from \$30,000 per crossing to more than \$1 million depending on the number of crossings and the types of safety improvements required.

In the meantime, Ross is forming a committee to strategize about next steps. Residents who would like to be a part of the Quiet Zone initiative may email her at lillaross@comcast.net to join the committee and add their names to the more than 200 people who have signed the online petition in favor of a San Marco Quiet Zone at www.ipetitions.com/petition/san-marco-quiet-zone.

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4241 POINT LA VISTA RD W
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Beautifully updated and perfectly located in one of San Marco's coveted neighborhoods, this home exudes character and charm with a modern aesthetic. Upon entering the gracious foyer, you'll be impressed with the stunning floor to vaulted ceiling fireplace.



2228 CHERYL DR - \$399,000
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Bring the family, the pool floats and all the outdoor activities. Large backyard screaming for volleyball, kickball or great game of hide and seek. Totally fenced. Pool ready for swimming and relaxing. Separate gated and fenced area on driveway for little tykes to ride their toys without being near pool.



3005 BEAUCLERC OAKS DR S - \$350,000
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Delightful one story ranch home on a quiet cul de sac. Updated kitchen with cherry cabinets and Cambria quartz counter tops with backsplash. Recessed lighting, hardwood floors. Master bath has oversized walk-in shower and large walk-in closet.



SOLD
3759 RUSTIC LN
4/2/1-2,922 sqft.

SOLD by Lynne Ferguson! Step inside & feel like you are home. San Jose well-built ranch style home situated on a corner lot awaits new owner. This well-maintained home features spacious living areas including large living room/dining room w/hardwood floors, crown molding & plantation shutters.



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4325 KELNEPA DR
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4205 SAN JOSE BLVD - \$295,000
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Move right into this precious bungalow. All the work has been done. Updated kitchen and open floor plan make entertaining fun and easy. Multiple ways to enjoy & decorate the spaces. Hardwood floors throughout.

SOLD
10389 TRIPLE CROWN AVE
5/3-2,349 sqft.

Looking for a home to fulfill all your family's needs, then make an appointment today! All the boxes get checked with this one, in-ground pool, plenty of bedrooms, 3 baths, a private master retreat, formal living/dining spaces, cul-de-sac lot, A rated schools, huge Florida room.

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6336 WOOD VALLEY RD
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Amazing character in this beautiful home located in one of the most desired neighborhoods in San Jose. Recently remodeled, this 4 bedroom & 2.5 baths home features large open concept living w/pool. Reclaimed wood flooring.

1451 LE BARON AVE - \$339,000
3/1/1-1,317 sqft.

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9931 HALEY RD - \$329,900
4/2/1-2,281 sqft.

Unique French Villa inspired heated pool home on a large corner lot in the heart of Mandarin. This remarkable property boasts many recent upgrades artfully married with distinct original architectural features to preserve this home's history.

6334 SAN JOSE BLVD W - \$975,000
4/3/1-3,452 sqft.

Elegant custom 2 story home features 4BR, 3.5 full and 1/2 BA, luxurious interior highlighting high-end finishes, craftsmanship & modern, open layout. Perfect for entertaining & family living. Light and bright 1st floor boasts impressive Chef's Kitchen.



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1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 1005 - \$635,000
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9931 HALEY RD - \$329,900
4/2/1-2,281 sqft.

Unique French Villa inspired heated pool home on a large corner lot in the heart of Mandarin. This remarkable property boasts many recent upgrades artfully married with distinct original architectural features to preserve this home's history.

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4/3/1-3,452 sqft.

Elegant custom 2 story home features 4BR, 3.5 full and 1/2 BA, luxurious interior highlighting high-end finishes, craftsmanship & modern, open layout. Perfect for entertaining & family living. Light and bright 1st floor boasts impressive Chef's Kitchen.



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1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 1005 - \$635,000
2/2/1-2,123 sqft.

FDOT crews work on land, water for highway improvements

By Kelly Kelly

Resident Community News

Construction is in full swing as foundation work in the St. Johns River continues and new piers are constructed to create a shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists along the south side of the Fuller Warren Bridge.

The multi-faceted Interstate 10 and Interstate 95 interchange improvement project will add two lanes to the Fuller Warren Bridge – one for northbound and one for southbound traffic, and connect San Marco to Riverside neighborhoods with a dedicated path that can be accessed by foot or bicycle.

"It's something we have not had in the past," said Odette Struys, Florida Department of Transportation spokesperson. "I think it's going to look very attractive."

The shared-use path, once complete, will be 12-feet-wide and separated from traffic by a 10-foot shoulder and a 3-and-a-half-foot barrier wall with an inward facing 10-foot-tall fence. It will have galvanized steel railings on the outside. With a substantial clearance and about a mile long across the river, the views should be outstanding, too.

"It's certainly one of the highest interstate bridges you'll be able to walk or bike across in the state of Florida," Struys said.

The project also includes I-10 improvements with construction underway for a dedicated ramp to Irene and Stockton Streets to reduce weaving traffic merging from I-95 southbound to I-10 westbound. Commuters are able to see the progress as the mechanically stabilized earth wall takes shape in the area, and construction crews begin to fill it in with dirt.

Construction will also begin on the foundation work to widen the overpass

from I-95 northbound to I-10 westbound in mid-September. In preparation for the expansion of those lanes, exit 351A, which carries motorists from I-95 southbound to I-10 westbound, closed for 10 months on Aug. 17. The primary exit for motorists travelling from I-95 southbound to I-10 westbound, exit 351B, will remain open during construction.

Crews will also fence off a portion of the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park as construction begins to widen the overpass. Struys said they have been working closely with the City of Jacksonville on the fencing and park reconfiguration, and by early September dog park-goers will see crews in the area.

Struys said the sound barriers planned for residents along the east side of U.S. 17 northbound between McDuff Avenue and Rosselle Street and along the south side of eastbound I-10 between Stockton and College Streets are still in the design phase and will be added to the construction schedule once complete.

Crews for Archer Western Contractors, LLC, the contractor awarded the project, have used 520 of the 1,283 current construction days planned for the project and a little more than 40 percent of the \$117.6 million current construction costs as of Aug. 1, she said. While construction days and costs are subject to change based on weather, unforeseen circumstances, holidays and special events, at present the project is on track and on schedule with construction crews working in tandem to bring the project to an end summer of 2020.

Struys said the speed limit for the construction zone over the Fuller Warren Bridge is 45 mph and will be for the duration of the project.



Construction underway on the new Stockton Street ramp from I-95 (Photo courtesy of FDOT)

"People are all in a rush, but we all want to get home safely," she said. "We have construction crews right there on the shoulder working at night. And it's a bridge, too, so you can imagine with the winds and speeding traffic it makes for an unsafe situation for our crews."

Boaters should be extra alert, too. Construction barges are moored along the south side of the bridge in downtown Jacksonville and will be for the duration of the project.

"It's so important that people realize it's a construction zone," she said.

The project, which started at the end of February 2017, will help ease and manage the flow of traffic along the I-95 and I-10 interchange. "About 250,000 vehicles use the interchange daily and that's expected

to rise to approximately 290,000 by 2040," Struys said. "To accommodate that increase an expansion of lanes is now needed."

Construction will be limited to the south side of the bridge. Once construction is complete on the shared-use path and two new lanes, the current median on the Fuller Warren Bridge will be moved over one lane to the south to give the northbound traffic the additional lane.

"It will be a very nice landmark for our city," she said. "I think people need to be excited about construction because it is an economic growth indicator that our city's growing, and it's just a temporary inconvenience to a long-term solution."

For more information visit
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Lions to party in San Marco Square

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

It's party time! It's been 21 years since San Marco held a carnavale to celebrate the installation of the Lions Fountain in Balis Park, and a community birthday party is being planned to celebrate San Marco's favorite felines.

On Saturday, October 13, the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) is joining with the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA) in organizing festivities that will take place in the center of San Marco Square.

"The lions are coming of age, and we are going to play with that a little bit," said SMPS President Bryan Mickler. "We are hopefully going to sing them happy birthday and have a fun time in the Square."

On April 18, 1997, the three lions were unveiled during a festive carnavale in which San Marco resident Zim Boulos was crowned king, recalled Robin Robinson, a SMPS board member.

The regal statues had been individually donated to the community by T. Wayne and Kitty Davis, Lori Boyer in memory of her late husband, Ronald J. Nemeyer, and Bonita Boyd and James (Jimmy) Boyd in honor of their parents, said Rob Smith, a SMPS board member.

"The lions have really brought St. Mark's to San Marco Square," said Robinson.



The three lions in San Marco Square
(Photo by Mark Krancer)

Concerned about the condition of the community landmark as it nears its coming-of-age milestone, the San Marco Preservation Society recently hired restoration experts from Atlanta to give the big cats a check-up, Robinson said. "We found out that the lions are not going to disintegrate. They are here to stay," she said.

"Thanks to Robin's work, we have a survey – a snapshot – of where they are at right now," said Mickler, noting the society was given the choice of continuing to have them sport a green patina look or restoring them to the pristine condition they were in the day they were installed.

"I won't bore you about hot wax, but there is one way to restore them that would require annual maintenance," he said, noting SMPS opted instead for a more conservative maintenance schedule. "It's a different level. It's like owning an old boat that has teak. If you want the teak to look nice, you have to hit it every year. Or, you can just have gray-looking teak and that's fine, too."

Regardless, the majestic lions, who dress up for every occasion, will be gussied up royally for their big day. "We dress them up for everything, but this time it will be something extra special," said Robinson.

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Annual river race selected as first global marathon swim in Jacksonville

Jacksonville and the St. Johns River will be the site of Global Swim Series' 20th United States race. The 6th annual "Up the River Downtown" 10K open water swim, presented by JumpingFish and DRC Sports, was selected by GSS as the first marathon swim in the St. Johns River.

The Global Swim Series is the world's largest open water swimming series, a collection of 140 independent races from over 35 countries around the globe that have joined together to promote open water swimming and a healthy, active and adventurous lifestyle.

Over 100,000 swimmers participate in GSS races and compete against swimmers from around the world using a Global Ranking system that recognizes both speed and participation.

The race starts at Jacksonville University on the beach and finishes at Riverside Arts Market at the Fuller Warren Bridge. The 10K swim takes the swimmer under the Hart Bridge, the Mathews Bridge, past TIAA

Bank Field, under the Main Street, Acosta and the FEC railroad bridges.

Scheduled to leverage the flood/incoming tides, the current assist will get the average swimmer to the finish in less than two hours. Slack water is at 6:57 a.m. and peak flood tide current is at 9:57 a.m. The race begins Saturday, Sept. 22, with the first wave launching at 8 a.m. Wetsuits will not be allowed as water temperature is projected to be in the 80s.

Swimmers will be escorted by support watercraft, including kayaks for close proximity and basic lifeguard support; jet skis for quick response and swimmer evacuation; pontoon boats for course oversight and mobile operation platforms. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office marine unit and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, boats will be onsite to alert and direct non-event vessels from entering the course.

Awards will be presented at the end of the race on the riverfront stage at Riverside Arts Market at 11 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics of Duval County.

Season opener a 'bubbly' affair

The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville will hold its season opening performance Sunday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral, 256 E. Church St. in downtown Jacksonville. The concert, titled "Brahms and Bubbles," will include Brahms Symphony No. 1, the first time in the volunteer orchestra's 2-year history it has played a full symphony.

The concert is free and family-friendly. Bubble soap will be distributed to children and families in the audience to fill the hall with bubbles as they listen to the majestic symphony. Alcoholic bubbles will also be available at the reception following the performance.

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JEA makes house call to discuss sediment spill with Millers Creek board

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

When three Jacksonville Energy Authority representatives met with five members of the Millers Creek Special District Board in St. Nicholas Aug. 10, the verdict was still out as to whether JEA would have to pay a fine for what might have been a third "illegal" sediment spill into Millers Creek.

In the early afternoon July 24, Louis Joseph, a creek-side resident, alerted his neighbors that a milky-colored sediment was flowing into the creek from a drainpipe on property owned by his next-door neighbor Kate Thilges. It was the third time an incident like this had occurred in the area, where 28 homeowners have elected to pay \$3,000 per year in extra taxes to cover the costs of eventually dredging the silt-filled waterway bordering their homes.

After the previous two incidents, which occurred in 2016, JEA was forced to pay a fine to the City of Jacksonville by the City's Environmental Quality Division.

Representing JEA during the onsite visit were Gregory Corcoran, manager, community involvement and project outreach; Lindsay Starner, manager, environmental permitting and compliance, and Gina Kyle, JEA media spokesperson. The trio met with the residents at the intersection of Olive Street and Tiber Avenue, near where the incident took place.

Board members who attended the meeting were Sharon Johnson, president, Jonathan Wright, Barbara McMorrow, Louis Joseph, and Derek Flynt. Bobby Baker attended in the place of his wife, Tamara, a board member, and Joe Wagner of Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. was also present. Wagner is consulting with the board on its dredging project.

JEA's team said they understood the board's concerns and explained that



A large pile of clay and sand sits at the intersection of Olive Street and Tiber Avenue as JEA works on a sewer line July 24.

everything JEA did to mend two sewer line breaks on Olive Street was done correctly, according to "standard operations."

"Any time we have a job like this, we put down filter fabric on the (storm) inlets and sandbags around that to ensure if there is heavy rainfall or anything from our site, it is not going down the storm drains," said Starner. "Those (filters) are always checked when the guys come out and when they leave."

Corcoran agreed. "What we did here is standard operations for sewer cave-ins," he said, noting he as a St. Nicholas resident and Starner, who resides in Ortega, live locally and have a stake in what happens to the environment.

JEA set up a "well-point" system when it initially arrived on the scene to de-water the area, putting a "jet" into the ground near the underground pipes, which lie 8 feet below ground, said Starner. The water from the soil around the sewer line was piped to a nearby storm drain so the area underground could dry out and the pipe be fixed. No sewerage had leaked from the sewer line, she said.

Starner assured the group that her environmental team responds "immediately" to environmental complaints from residents, and that JEA has a separate "incident response team" that also responds immediately. "I was out here that day as well," she said.

After hearing the board's complaint, JEA took the extra precaution of piping water from the well-point system into a vac truck instead of the storm drains so it could release it into the sewer system once the truck was full, she said.

"The creek is a tidal creek. It's not the sand from the streets but silting from the tides that's what's happening," Corcoran had explained to *The Resident* before the meeting.

After Corcoran and Starner finished explaining JEA's role in the incident, Millers Creek Board member Louis Joseph politely disputed their claim that the storm-drain filters were in place when the spill occurred.

"My wife called me because our kids were in the backyard fishing and they saw it," he said, noting he has the entire incident on video. "They said the creek is getting white. I saw milky water."

"Leslie, my wife, walked down here with the video and there was no protection," Joseph continued. "They (JEA) had a hose to the fire hydrant, and they were doing work with a jet and the water was rushing out. It was washing the right side of the mound of clay into the drains."

Board Member Barbara McMorrow agreed, noting she had also rushed to the scene. "These were not in place," she said, pointing to a black filter covering a drain on Tiber Avenue.

"Afterwards they (JEA) acted like when the health inspector walks into a kitchen,"



Members of the Millers Creek Special Tax District met with JEA representatives at the intersection of Olive Street and Tiber Avenue on Aug. 10 to discuss a July 24 sediment spill into the tributary near their homes. From left: Bobby Baker; Jonathan Wright; Barbara McMorrow; Louis Joseph; Lindsay Starner, JEA manager of environmental permitting and compliance; Gina Kyle, JEA media spokeswoman; Sharon Johnson, board president; Joe Wagner, senior dredging engineer with Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.; Derek Flynt and Greg Corcoran, JEA manager of community involvement and project outreach.

said Joseph. "When that happens everything changes, your whole demeanor, you are looking for problems. And that's what happened here. They brought out the vacuum truck, put those down and everything," he said.

Starner did not directly contradict Joseph, but she indicated what he probably had seen was turbid water in the creek bed. Earlier in the conversation, she said the milky white color of the creek water residents had seen was "turbidity," a result of clay or sand stirred up from the creek bottom when rushing water flowed through the storm pipe.

"There is a misnomer about sedimentation vs. turbidity," she said. "When you get a rush of water out there, that's called turbidity. It's sediment that's already in the creek, which is stirred up by the rushing water, and it's going to look like sedimentation is going on. This is a turbidity issue in the creek. I am not aware of a sedimentation issue."

Because Millers Creek is a navigable waterway, JEA decided to go "above and beyond" what was necessary and installed a floating turbidity barrier, Starner said. The barrier allows stirred-up sediment from the creek to settle in place and not flow down the tributary, she added, noting it had become dislodged more than once and was reset by JEA personnel. "This is not a normal thing that we do, but we are willing to take an extra step," she said.

"I want you to know that if the boom was a PR effort, it was a total failure," said Sharon Johnson, who added that the floating barrier had broken loose and spent five days hugging the coastline near her house or across the river. "Rarely was it protecting or containing any of the area," she said. "It spent most of its time up against the banks."

Johnson also questioned why a JEA worker said "we have fixed it now" just minutes

after the spill occurred. She said she overheard that statement when she went to the site to meet a team from the City's Environmental Quality Division (EQD), which was called to investigate the situation. "If you can fix it in a matter of minutes, what is going on?" she asked.

"When I came onsite, the only fix was that they shut down the well-point system to see if it was pulling anything," Starner explained.

The residents also expressed concern about the 260 drains that flow into Millers Creek over a watershed that comprises nearly 500 acres bordered by Bishop Kenny High School, Route 95, Emerson Street and Arlington Expressway, and that similar incidents could occur anywhere in that area. They were told by Starner that stormwater drains are managed by the City's Public Works Department and not by JEA.

"There are certain things Public Works can do if they are aware of the situation, and you need to bring it to their attention," Starner said, noting that "separation boxes" can be installed in the drains allowing sediment to drop to the bottom so that clean water can flow into the creek.

Corcoran suggested the residents call 630-City to ensure problems with the storm drains are put on the list. "Jacksonville is the biggest city in the United States and they have a lot of ground to cover. Neighborhoods are the eyes and ears of the utility and public works," he said. "Moving forward, we will make sure with our crews that we handle these things right when they come onsite."

"We will definitely be exploring anything that Public Works or the City can offer us," Johnson said after the meeting. "As a precaution, I think we are being required to police our area to determine if JEA is doing what they are supposed to be doing."

WELCOME!

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 9:
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Family Service at 5 pm
Evening Worship at 8 pm

Monday, September 10: Rosh Hashanah
Tot Experience at 9 am
Morning Worship at 10 am

Tuesday, September 18: Kol Nidre
Family Service at 5 pm
Evening Worship at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, September 19: Yom Kippur
Tot Experience at 9 am
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Housing prices back up 10 years after economic recession

LOW INVENTORY CREATES SELLER'S MARKET IN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

The real estate market is on fire in the historic districts – there is no denying that fact. With rates and inventory remaining low, the market looks bullish and prices are on the rise. As sellers cash in, buyers continue to compete for the next listing that delivers the charm of the older, established neighborhoods.

Last year alone, Jacksonville recorded a population growth of 2.5 percent, which is twice the national average, so an increasing influx of new residents means homes in highly desired neighborhoods are increasingly in demand.

Coupled with a sharply reduced inventory in the historic neighborhoods, the wave of newcomers has created a seller's market thus far in 2018. The inventory of homes in July was at a low of 3.7 months' supply, far below the market balance of five to six months, according to a report issued in August 2018 by the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR).

"With a balanced market you have six to seven months of inventory where prices typically rise with inflation," said Josh Cohen, managing broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, with offices in Avondale and San Marco. "With less than six months of housing supply you have a seller's market. We are still in a seller's market in most areas although inventory has been rising slightly, combined with a slight increase in mortgage interest rates. The word is out, and sellers are taking advantage of the friendly market climate."

Cohen said in the Riverside, Avondale and Ortega neighborhoods there are 4.8 months of housing supply, a 20 percent increase in the past 12 months.

Demand for housing in the historic neighborhoods is very high, concurred Sally Suslak, broker/owner of Traditions Realty, based in Riverside.

"I believe people moving in have the hardest job finding a place to live because of the demand. This has been a trend for many years now and I see it continuing," said Suslak. "One good result of this demand is that other areas adjacent to Riverside and Avondale have taken on a new life – especially Murray Hill. With more affordable housing, great things are happening up and down Edgewood Avenue."

Housing is tight, too, in San Marco, according to Barbara Swindell, broker/founder of the 35-year-old agency, River Point Real Estate. "San Marco has always been a wonderful little community, almost like a small town, that sits in the center of a big city. We can get anywhere we want quickly," she said. "You have a multiple layer of price ranges in this area, which makes for a wonderful neighborhood situation. Right now, the inventory in many price points is low."

The historic neighborhoods are a specific niche market where people want the charm and character of homes in locations that tend to be near urban areas, said Missie Sarra LePrell, associate with RE/MAX, who noted home ownership in the older communities has been fairly consistent over the years. "Overall, living in a historical area is a specific choice because of the appeal of the architectural design of the homes and the feel of history that permeates the neighborhood," she said.

Amanda Searle, broker associate for Root Realty, said more people want to move into, and purchase a home in, the historic districts. "It's definitely going up compared to 10 years ago, and even just a year ago," she said regarding the trend in historic home ownership.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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"I have found if the market gets tight, we're the last ones to feel it [in the historic areas] and when the recovery comes we're the first ones to experience it."

— Barbara Swindell, River Point Real Estate

New Listings

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 thru July
42256	29840	28880	29964	23687	22,982	27,495	29,681	32,249	31,786	31,947	25,327

Buyers' woes, sellers' joys

Even as buyers are lamenting the scarcity of available historic home properties, sellers are enjoying an average sales price of more than 8 percent higher than a year ago, according to NEFAR. The report also notes the length of time it takes to sell a home has also decreased – from 67 days in July 2017 to 61 days – a decrease of nearly 9 percent.

"In the San Marco, St. Nicholas and San Jose markets we are seeing appreciation combined with much lower inventory, which creates a buzz when that hot property hits the market," Cohen said.

"A good percentage of homes sell for more than their asking price in some areas and price points," added Suslak.

Increasing home values could also mean sticker shock for first-time buyers, especially those used to paying rent at Jacksonville's

average of \$1,000 a month, according to rentcafe.com. To stay within budget, there are some older homes, mostly bungalows, that will keep them close to the same monthly cost, Suslak said.

"Depending on the interest rate, that payment would put you in the \$125,000 to \$150,000 price point," she said. "You may get lucky and find a small home in the area. You will have more luck finding a small condo, but in both cases, you will have to look hard." Swindell echoed that point, saying the beginner's market in home buying is roughly \$150,000, but it's a very small home.

However, on the bright side, Swindell sees a trend in downsizing. "Nationwide the broad-brush trend for several years has been downsizing. The general feeling today is 'smaller is better' – I think they are looking for less house, but with more useable square feet," she said.

Suslak calls it "smartsizing" saying "Whether they are just starting out, are middle-aged or empty nesters, I see people making decisions which are right for the way they live and for their pocketbook," she said. "Most folks don't want to pay for or take care of more house than they need."

The current trend for sellers, however, seems to be trading up when it's their turn to purchase. "According to statistics, the current trend for sellers is definitely to trade up with over 52 percent of the market going in that direction," said LePrell. "About 28 percent of buyers purchase the same size home mainly because they want newer or a different location, and approximately 20 percent of buyers trade down, primarily the empty nesters not needing all of their space."

Searle said she's finding that millennials – those born between 1981 and 1997 – are leading the way in home buying but are

looking for turn-key homes rather than tackling a renovation. "First-time homebuyers want home ownership experience first," she said.

"The big group that's buying now are the millennials," agreed Swindell. "My children live within walking distance from me and I have no doubt their 20-something children may come back and live in the area; it seems to be a generational thing."

LePrell also agreed that millennials are buying homes and looking for them in the historic neighborhoods. "The largest group of homebuyers recently has been approximately the 25- to 34-year-old age group at 26 percent, followed by 34- to 44-year-olds at 21 percent and then the 55- to 64-year-old group at 18 percent," she said, but noted they aren't ignoring

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"I see the market staying strong and healthy for the immediate future. The economy is good, and this will allow people to continue buying homes."

— Sally Suslak, broker/owner, Traditions Realty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

renovations. "Buyers are not as afraid of purchasing older homes that are not in good shape because of all of the ideas and expertise generated by the myriad of TV shows offering advice and solutions."

Renovating makes good sense

When it comes to a choice between buying a dream home or creating it within their current home, Suslak said residents who have been in their homes for many years are choosing to stay in them, renovate them and make their "forever home" their "dream home," and Swindell is on the same page. "People have been renovating like crazy lately, preferring to stay where they are," she said.

"There has been a large trend of owners preferring to renovate over buying in the past and in the present for the same reason

— they do not have the money to pay for the newer home and the closing costs to buy and sell," said LePrell. "In some cases, they just love their house and the neighborhood that they live in, but they have either outgrown their house or they need to update it."

LePrell also said all the homes she sold in the past year were pre-owned versus new construction. "Many of these homes have become so much more attractive because of the tasteful remodeling and renovations. Even in the historical neighborhoods like San Marco and Avondale, for example, owners enjoy the marriage of the charm and character of the older architecture with the modern convenience and utility of the updated kitchens, baths, plumbing, and electric, etc."

Suslak said 98 percent of her sales were the pre-owned, "lovingly used," 100-year-old-plus homes in the historic neighborhoods,

and Searle noted pre-owned homes made up 95 percent of her own sales.

"Both sides of the river are high-demand markets because of the desire for a certain landscape and lifestyle," said Cohen. "Many people moving into the area want a historic home, walkability to shopping and dining, access to parks and nature, and historic homes offer authenticity and character that many buyers identify with."

As far as who's moving in, there aren't enough residents moving out to open the doors. "I don't know of too many people moving out of San Marco," said Swindell, who has lived in that area for 69 years.

The advantage of the niche market homes in the historical areas is that the sellers have the opportunity to stay in their beloved, charming neighborhood because there are smaller homes, bungalows, or larger homes to move into as their

needs change," LePrell noted, supporting the idea homeowners tend to repurchase in the same community.

Suslak estimates that about 85 percent of Tradition Realty's buyers are from Northeast Florida. "The other 15 percent come from literally all over the world," she said. "Jacksonville's medical community, its colleges and universities and naval bases bring many people to this area for business. They love the area and recommend it to friends and colleagues as the place to live."

What recession?

The 2007-2008 economic downturn seems, 10 years later, like a distant memory. Although homeowners all over Jacksonville saw a depreciation then, the

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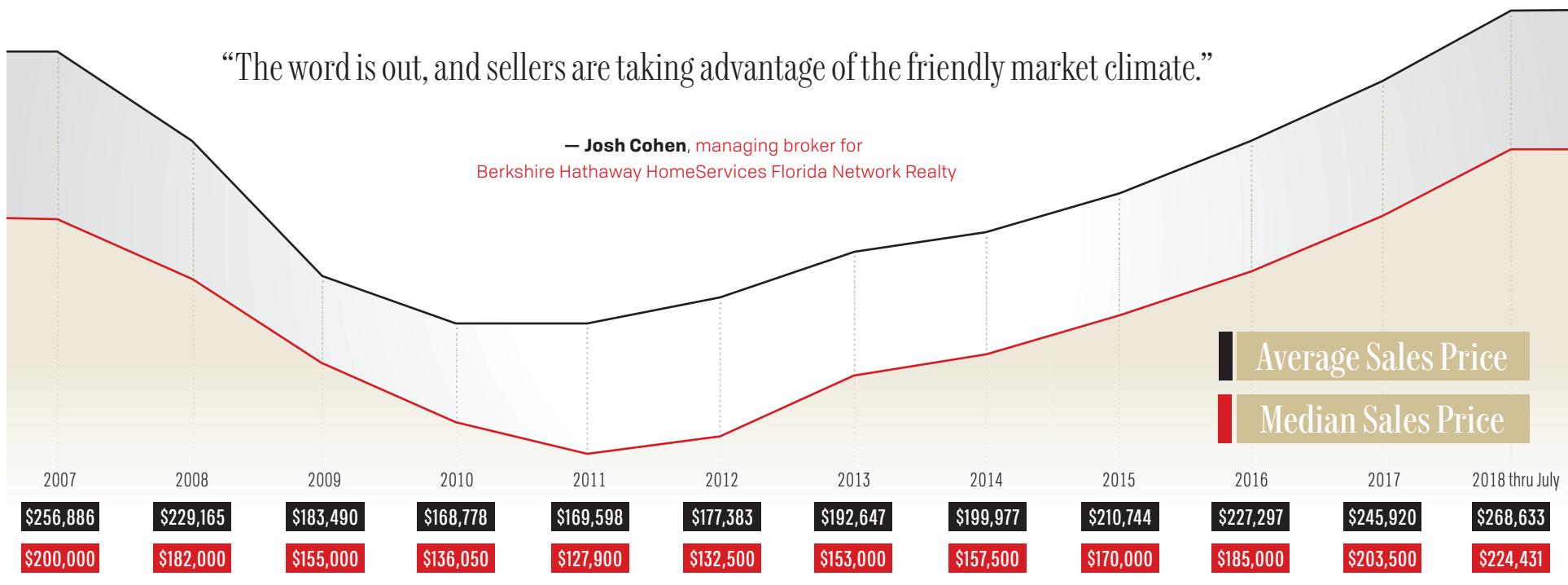
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impact of the recession wasn't as severe in the historic neighborhoods.

"Over the years, I have found if the market gets tight, we're the last ones to feel it [in the historic areas] and when the recovery comes we're the first ones to experience it," said Swindell. "Things can be getting difficult and we won't feel it nearly as quickly as other places and we do come back quicker, because of the parks, walkability – things you can do and get to by walking are a real plus. This is kind of a unique area."

But whether it's the unique neighborhood pockets found in Avondale or San Marco or elsewhere in Jacksonville, the real estate prognosis is still trending positively.

"I see the market staying strong and healthy for the immediate future," said Suslak. "The economy is good, and this will allow people to continue buying homes."

It doesn't hurt, either, that Trulia listed Jacksonville as one of the top 10 real estate markets poised for growth in 2017 based on key metrics including high affordability, strong job growth, low vacancy rates, and home searches on Trulia. And, according to Forbes magazine, Jacksonville posted a 3.8 percent job growth rate in 2016, which makes it one of the healthiest markets for employment opportunities in the state.

Also, Jacksonville was No. 19 out of the top 20 cities where you could find a mortgage for \$1,000 or less in April, according to gobankrates.com. At that time, a 4.25 percent mortgage rate was equal to \$963 in a monthly mortgage payment – perhaps just enough for a small starter home in Murray Hill, where inventory seems to be slightly higher there than in other historic neighborhoods. A search at the end of August on Zillow.com for

homes in the \$100,000 to \$125,000 range yielded 12 for sale in Murray Hill, but zero to five in other areas.

Millennial Joshua Garrett is a first-time homebuyer and, after renting for almost nine years, said he was at a point in his life where he was done sharing walls with his neighbors. While renting in Avondale, Garrett and his girlfriend spent over a year looking for a home with three bedrooms, two bathrooms but had a hard time finding anything that met their needs for less than \$200,000 in Riverside, Avondale or Ortega.

"We eventually found a cute, nice-sized home in Murray Hill. It's a 3/1 but has a flex room that we can turn into a bathroom," said Garrett. "We saw quite a few houses in the Murray Hill and Lakeshore area that we would consider as move-in-ready but, in my opinion, you're still not going to see a decent move-in-ready home for

less than \$150,000 they were mostly in the \$175-200,000 range. People like us are moving to those areas, because Avondale, Riverside and Ortega have just become so expensive."

Garrett, who grew up in Murray Hill and attended Ruth N. Upson Elementary School, also said they had to act fast because "any nice home in the historic neighborhoods that was going for \$215,000 or less wouldn't last more than a couple days to a week on the market.

"I'm happy to see the neighborhood making its way back to the quiet, family-friendly community that I remember as a kid and, truthfully, still is in most areas of the neighborhood. Hopefully it will be even better."

Next month, part 2 – A look at the state of the real estate market in downtown Jacksonville.

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Old-fashioned quality butcher shop opens in Square

Joe and Milouda Cline celebrated the grand opening of Cline's Custom Meats last month at 1625 Hendricks Ave.

Joe has more than a decade of experience in the meat business and the couple were inspired to open an "old-time" butcher shop, complete with meats on display, by Milouda's father, who was a butcher in the 1970s, and her brother, who has multiple butcher shops.

"I personally never thought I would open a butcher shop," said Milouda, who has worked in the restaurant industry for 15 years. "However, Joseph had the idea for quite some time and has bounced it around. This past January we collectively started to initiate the concept, and I am looking forward to carrying on my father's legacy."

After renovating 800 square feet of space formerly used by La Nopalera restaurant, the Clines opened their doors last month, offering prime cuts of beef, lamb, poultry and veal. The store is open Monday through Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m.

"San Marco and surrounding neighborhoods have been growing, and we have seen their support to the businesses in the area," said Milouda, who previously worked at Taverna's. "Working in the Square the past five years made us feel we can fill a void due to the lack of retail food stores by providing the option of buying quality meats and seafood."

Junior League announces new officers

Anne Detlefsen is the new president for the Junior League of Jacksonville for 2018-2019. In her eight years as a member of the Junior League, Detlefsen has served as President-Elect, Vice President of Communications and co-chair of the League's Unique Boutique fundraiser.

Originally from Shelton, Connecticut, Detlefsen is the director of digital production at the PGA TOUR, where she has worked since 2010. Detlefsen lives in Jacksonville with her husband, Leif, and three sons, Jacob, Andrew and Samuel. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of New Hampshire, and is an alumna of Leadership Jacksonville's Class of 2018.

The 2018-2019 Junior League Board of Directors includes Katie Thompson Neilson, president-elect; Lori Bayler, executive vice president; Megan Bush Del Pizzo, treasurer; Natalie Woods, treasurer-elect; Danielle Stacy, nominating chair; Vanessa Proudfoot Andrews, nominating-elect; Michele Megas, sustainer representative; and Murika Davis and Linda Kim, both members-at-large.



Anne Detlefsen

Restaurant opens in Lakewood with 'coastal casual' cuisine

Thanks to his mother, who motivated him to move out of hospitality management in South Carolina and into restaurant ownership, Chef Richard Robinson opened First Coast Deli and Grill in late June after spending two months renovating a former Mediterranean restaurant at 6082 St. Augustine Rd.

The Jamaican-born chef received his culinary training in Charleston, then moved to Jacksonville, where he opened a catering business and cooking school. While perusing real estate deals one night, Robinson saw the restaurant building in the Lakewood area. He rejected it at first



Chef Richard Robinson

sight, then after a second visit, the seller took his second offer.

He creates different specials every day from a cuisine he calls "coastal casual" and serves a colorful plate. "People eat with their eyes first," said Robinson. "I love making people happy, and food puts them in a happy place."

Artists awarded microgrants to assist entrepreneurship



Manila Clough



Crystal Floyd



Boja Kragul



Mark Krancer



Bob Self

In connection with the 2nd Annual Entrepreneur Symposium for Creatives: Every Artist is a Small Business, the Community First Cares Foundation committed \$10,000 in individual artist grants. On Aug. 18, Community First awarded the first \$5,000 to five artists of various disciplines. Applications for the second five grants will be accepted through Oct. 18. Visit culturalcouncil.org/entrepreneursymposium

The five artists who received \$1,000 each at the symposium include Crystal Floyd, a mixed-media assemblage artist who will use her grant to create a book to help people understand and address

grief in a healthy way; Mark Krancer, a photographer who has planned a project to focus on the rehabilitation and resocialization of formerly incarcerated individuals; Boja Kragul, a clarinetist who is working to produce two live concerts that combine classical compositions with digitally-created visual art; Bob Self, a photojournalist who plans to create an exhibit at the Ritz Theatre and Museum showing the final days of the LaVilla neighborhood; and Manila Clough, an artist who will create a tactile mosaic of flora and fauna indigenous to Northeast Florida and which will include spellings in braille.

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Husband and wife take over secretarial duties for Millers Creek board

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

The Millers Creek Special District Board received a twofer when it asked Scott Bates to join the board a few months ago and in May to serve as secretary.

Assisting Bates with the secretarial work is his wife, Debra, who takes notes and aids with all secretarial duties, said Board President Sharon Johnson, joking that "Deb is the power behind the throne."

"My wife Deb and I have been sharing the secretary duties since May 2018. She's definitely better at capturing the meeting minutes than I am, but with her travel schedule, would likely not be able to attend every meeting, so I'll pick up the slack," Bates said. "We hope that between the two of us we can make sure there isn't a lapse in secretarial duties."

Scott Bates' appointment came during a reshuffling of board members and positions



Scott Bates



Debra Bates

earlier this year. When former Board President Rene Pulido stepped down from his duties due to business commitments, Johnson, who had been secretary, took over as president. Jonathan Wright became treasurer when Christopher Rose resigned in February after the sudden death of his wife, Teresa.

Also serving on the board currently are Barbara McMorrow, Louis Joseph, Derek Flynt, and Tamara Grooms Baker, who

joined a few months ago and initially helped spearhead the dredging project in the very beginning. Flynt and Wright are the only members who remain from the original special district board when it began three years ago.

The Bates are longtime residents of Mayfair Road, having moved to the St. Nicholas area from Michigan in 2009. They currently own two homes on the street and are still living in their home on the east side of Mayfair Road while their new creek-front residence undergoes an extensive renovation.

"We purchased the home across the street from us in March to be on the water," Bates said. "We'll sell our current home once the renovation is complete. We are the fourth family to purchase a second home on Mayfair, so that tells you a lot about the neighborhood. We have a lot of great people who care about the street, and the neighborhood and would really like to see the creek eco-restoration project come to fruition."

Bates works as a division treasurer for a heavy civil and marine construction company in Jacksonville.

He said he feels the creek restoration project is important for several reasons. "In its current state, Millers Creek is a lifeless mud flat at low tide. It's important to have the creek become a permanent and vibrant part of the St. Johns River ecosystem, removing obstacles that interrupt the natural flow of water necessary for water life to survive," he explained.

"It also opens opportunities for Millers Creek residents as well as Jacksonville residents and visitors to enjoy the calm water inlets off the St. Johns," he continued. "It's been well documented that we've had a manatee stranded in the muck, though I don't think that's the only time that's happened. Restoring Millers Creek back to a viable waterway is a critical part of supporting other area restorations; every small success supports overall efforts."

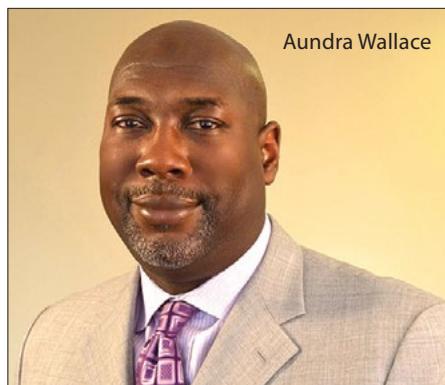
DIA head takes on new role with JAXUSA

After five years serving as chief executive officer for the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), Aundra Wallace will be the next president of JAXUSA Partnership, the economic development arm of JAX Chamber, effective Oct. 1. Earlier this year, longtime JAXUSA President Jerry Mallot announced he would retire effective Sept. 1.

A local committee of past and current volunteer leaders of JAX Chamber and JAXUSA Partnership worked with a search firm to vet and interview candidates from across the country. The search committee included Tim Cost, Jacksonville University president and chair of JAXUSA Partnership; John Peyton, president of GATE Petroleum and JAX Chamber chair; Kelly Madden, head of commercial banking for Florida for Wells Fargo, past chair of both JAX Chamber and JAXUSA Partnership; Darnell Smith, North Florida Market president for Florida Blue and past chair of JAX Chamber, and Daniel Davis, JAX Chamber president and CEO.

JAXUSA is a private, nonprofit division of the Chamber that oversees economic development in Northeast Florida, working with regional and state partners to create jobs and generate investment. In 2017 alone, JAXUSA Partnership helped attract 5,000 new jobs and more than \$633 million in private capital investment.

"Through a very competitive process, Aundra emerged as the right person at the right time to lead our economic development at JAXUSA Partnership," Davis said. "We



have incredible momentum right now and Aundra will use his skills and relationships, both within Jacksonville and around the globe, to keep the momentum going and attract jobs to our region."

Wallace, 50, has helped finalize and move forward deals which had struggled to take off over the years, such as the Barnett Building and the Laura Street Trio and the former JEA Southside Generating Station on the Southbank, which will be a mixed-use development known as The District. Wallace also structured the financial incentive package to assist One Call Management with its business expansion on the Southbank and participated in and helped facilitate the VyStar headquarters relocation to downtown Jacksonville.

Wallace previously served as Executive Director of the Detroit Land Bank Authority and as Senior Vice President for Real Estate Development and Lending at the North Carolina Community Development Initiative in Raleigh. He graduated from Georgia Southern University and has a master's degree in Public Administration from Clark Atlanta University.

River Garden residents raise funds to support Pine Castle



River Garden Resident Council leaders present \$500 to Pine Castle residents and leaders.

The River Garden Resident Council of Mandarin-based River Garden Senior Services presented a \$500 check to Pine Castle, a Jacksonville-based organization serving adults with intellectual and other differences, at a luncheon Aug. 23. Pine Castle will also receive a matching donation from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund. The funds will be used to make improvements to the Pine Castle campus, including the cafeteria and courtyard.

"We are fortunate to have wonderful support and spaces at River Garden to enjoy our days and we want to share with others who may be in need. It's about community and having an impact. That's important to us," said Betty Infeld, council leader. "Pine Castle is working to create

jobs, promote independence and develop a sense of worth for many, and they need help. This gives us the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others."

This is the largest donation ever made by the Resident Council, which raises funds through bake sales, ceramics sales and other small fundraisers. The matching-fund program will help do more than they could do alone, said Kari Bell, River Garden communications and marketing manager.

All programs at Pine Castle, located at 4911 Spring Park Rd., support a single goal: empowering adults to learn, work and connect. For more information about the matching funds program, visit pinecastle.org/donate/weaverchallenge.

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United Way provides school supplies for students, teachers

More than 57,000 students and teachers in Duval County Public Schools will benefit from this year's Stuff the Bus campaign, which exceeded its two-bus goal by a full third busload of school supplies. The month-long campaign, sponsored by United Way in partnership with First Coast News, included more than 100 United Way corporate partners and hundreds of Northeast Florida residents.

Volunteers from TD Bank and the community sorted the supplies at Andrew Jackson High School and, with the help of Enterprise, delivered them to nearly 90 schools the week before the new school year began.

Volunteers from TD Bank sorted more than 60,000 school supplies collected for Stuff the Bus Aug. 6 at Andrew Jackson High School. (Photo Credit: United Way of Northeast Florida)



Enterprise generously donated staff and equipment to distribute school supplies collected for Stuff the Bus. (Photo Credit: United Way of Northeast Florida)



JM Family/Southeast Toyota Distributors collected more than 19,000 school supplies for Stuff the Bus Aug. 3 at The Markets at Town Center. (Photo Credit: United Way of Northeast Florida)

Southside agency earns two awards for Florida Baptist Convention

RLS Group, a full-service marketing and advertising firm, recently received two creative excellence awards for a client video presentation entitled "Be The Spark." The video won a Bronze Telly Award in the Religion/Spirituality category and an Award of Distinction from The Communicator Awards in the Film/Video Fundraising category.

"We take a client's idea from conversation to concept and then to communicating it to their audiences in an effective, creative way that gets results," said Rob Storey, president, RLS Group. "We're particularly proud and honored to share these two accomplishments with our long-standing client, Florida Baptist Convention, our

agency team and the production team at Spectrum Films."

Storey and his wife, Jill, who is vice president and creative director, are San Jose Forest residents.

"Having just started my role with the Florida Baptist Convention, I was pleased to partner with RLS Group for our critical Cooperative Program promotion to inform our 3,000 churches about the power of a combined 'spark' that starts in each of our hands," said Mark MacDonald, Strategic Communication Catalyst, Florida Baptist Convention. "The campaign achieves the communication goal: together we can reach the world with the Gospel."



Mark MacDonald, Strategic Communication Catalyst, Florida Baptist Convention, Dr. Tommy Green, Executive Director - Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jill Storey, Vice President and Creative Director, RLS Group

Soud named to The Common Application Board of Directors



Steve Soud

Bolles Director of College Counseling Steve Soud, of San Marco, has been named to the Board of Directors of The Common Application, an Arlington, Virginia-based not-for-profit member organization committed to access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process.

Soud is the only independent upper school leader – and the only representative from Florida – to serve on The Common Application board, which includes 17 primarily college-level representatives from institutions across the country. He will serve a three-year term with the prestigious college admissions group.

The Common Application member organization is comprised of more than 800 colleges and universities from around the world. It began 40 years ago as "The Common Application Experiment," a brainstorming product of 15 schools who "envisioned a future when a student could complete one application and send copies to any of the other 14 schools." Its founding changed the course of college admissions. Today, more than 1 million students use the Common Application to submit more than 5 million applications each year.

"I'm honored to have been nominated for this position and look forward to contributing to an outstanding group of professional colleagues," Soud said.

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Annual backpack challenge results in nearly 800 collected

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected 778 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 19th Annual Backpack Challenge.

The backpacks and school supplies were donated to students throughout Northeast Florida in partnership with Dreams Come True, Operation New Hope, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the USO, Orange Park Middle School, St. Johns County Backpack Project and Charles E. Bennett Elementary School.

"We are truly grateful that our Realtors, employees, clients and community joined together and contributed the supplies

many local children need to begin the school year, setting the foundation for a student's confidence and academic success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "Our team looks forward to participating in the Backpack Challenge every year and we are very proud of their efforts."

During the campaign, backpacks and school supplies were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The backpacks were purchased for students in kindergarten through grade 12, and filled



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty donated backpacks filled with school supplies to Dreams Come True, among others. At Dreams Come True: Linda Sherrer, Dumya Proctor and family, Christy Budnick, Marisa Mariano, Emily Goldberg and Isabel Dondero

with school supplies including pens, pencils, paper and notebooks.

"Words cannot express how much we appreciate the numerous donations and generous support we received during the Backpack Challenge," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "Our team

loves to support events that provide opportunities to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our communities. We are thankful for the donations we received and for our dedicated team who helped make the event a tremendous success."

City Council, JAX Chamber paint Bay Street in support of Jaguars



Jaguars mascot Jaxson de Ville and members of the ROAR pose with Debbie and Aaron Bowman, Jacksonville City Council president, and Paul Blackstone (right), CSO for 121 Financial, the title sponsor at the 2018 Painting of the PawPrints.

District 14 Councilman Jim Love was among the more than 400 people who came out July 28 to paint the paw prints along Bay Street from the base of the Main Street Bridge stretching to TIAA Bank Field. Families, business leaders and Jaxson de Ville used yellow paint and stencils to brighten more than 330 paw prints.

The Painting of the PawPrints began in 1995 and is seen as the unofficial kickoff to the Jaguars season. Jacksonville City Council President Aaron Bowman and his wife, Debbie, painted the first paw print at 7:45 a.m. to kick off the event, whose title sponsor was Riverside-based 121 Financial Credit Union.



Jacksonville City Council President Aaron Bowman paints the first paw print at the 2018 JAX Chamber Downtown Council Painting of the PawPrints, with help from District 14 Councilman Jim Love, who holds the stencil in place.



Bruce Musser



Pam Prier



Tim Hedrick

DESC welcomes three to board of directors

The Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, also known as DESC, recently welcomed Bruce Musser, Pam Prier and Tim Hedrick as new members of its board of directors.

Musser is the owner of Hairpeace, a salon in Riverside. Musser, of Avondale, is a former board chair for JASMYN, active with the 5 Points Merchants Association and is a 2002 graduate of Leadership Jacksonville.

Prier, of Deerwood, is retired from pharmaceutical sales. She is currently president of the Bold City Chapter of The Links, a trustee at Historic Mt. Zion AME Church

and a trustee at Edward Waters College, among many other community activities.

Hedrick, a Miramar resident, is an attorney with Rogers Towers and is joining his first board of directors.

DESC was founded in 1981 when several downtown churches joined forces to help homeless people and working poor families. The organization seeks to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ by providing basic needs for those in emergency situations. The center is accessible on Ocean Street in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church and served nearly 12,000 families with food, clothing and financial assistance last year.

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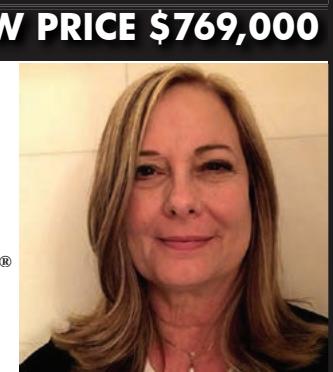
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Ally employees provide life-altering equipment

Ally Financial employee volunteers in the Jacksonville office assisted the JT Townsend Foundation Aug. 15 to deliver and set up a new speech-generating device to a person in need in the community. This new device will help the user to better communicate with others and will improve quality of life. Ally will also make a donation to JT Townsend Foundation on behalf of the employee volunteers. The JT Townsend Foundation is dedicated to providing hope to the community of people living with disabilities through offering financial assistance for adaptive equipment and services that will improve their lives.



Carmen Townsend, JT Townsend Foundation Giving Committee chairperson, with Ally employee volunteers Rosa Valenzuela, Jackie Regan, Phavy Charleus, Danielle Leon (kneeling) and Sabrina Chavous

Lawyers' professional organization elects officers



Katie Dearing



Elizabeth Ferguson



Michelle Bedoya Barnett



Michael Orr



Christian George



Cyndy Trimmer

Katie Dearing, of Ortega Forest, is the Jacksonville Bar Association's new president as of July 1. She is also running for the 4th Judicial Circuit seat being vacated by her father-in-law, Circuit Judge Peter Dearing, who is retiring.

If Dearing wins the judicial seat in the August primary or the November general election, Dearing would become the first JBA president to be elected judge during their term in office. She plans to remain president until her term expires June 30, 2019.

Also serving is Elizabeth Ferguson, of St. Johns County, as president-elect, Michelle Bedoya Barnett, San Marco resident, as treasurer, and Michael Orr, also of St. Johns County, as secretary. Cyndy Trimmer, of San Jose, is new to the JBA Board of Governors.

Christian George, who serves on the Board of Governors, was elected president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar Association. He resides in Ortega.

Toastmasters helps nonprofit staff reach out to community

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) provides many different outreach programs to Northeast Florida residents who are facing hardships and want to stabilize their lives and realize a fresh start. To do this, LSS depends on staff members to go into the community and make presentations, speaking about both the problems and the services available.

Like many human service agencies, LSS has limited resources available to help assist their staff members develop better presentation skills and become more effective and accomplished speakers. However, they found that a local Toastmasters Club, Top O' The Rock, is a tremendous resource in assisting their staff members develop better speaking, listening, and leadership skills.

"We are committed to our mission and to the personal development of our staff members. It is very beneficial when agencies like LSS can take advantage of a community resource like Toastmasters," said Mary Strickland, LSS president and CEO.

Two members of the LSS senior staff, Danielle Adams and Nina Frank, are members of the San Marco Toastmasters Club. Both are very enthusiastic about being members of Toastmasters. Adams commented that while she used to "make it through" public presentations, since joining Toastmasters she has learned to be more compelling, dynamic, and less nervous when she speaks.

While Toastmasters is about public speaking, it is a whole lot more, according to club president Sue Mills' profile on the



LSS staff: Danielle Adams, Mary Strickland, president/CEO, and Nina Frank, with Sue Mills, Top O' The Rock Toastmasters Club president

"We are committed to our mission and to the personal development of our staff members."

— Mary Strickland, LSS president and CEO

club's webpage. "It is about developing listening skills and being able to provide constructive feedback. It is also about cultivating leadership skills. All of this is done among the friends who are members of our club and we have fun doing it. The experiences we have, and the skills we develop in Toastmasters help us both professionally and personally," she stated.

Top o' the Rock Toastmasters meets in San Marco every Wednesday, noon to 1:15 p.m., at Beaver Chevrolet, 3494 Philips Hwy. It is open to the public and serves all surrounding areas. More information can be found at www.toporock.com.



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Andre Acevedo	Ian Chase	Oscar Rosado	William Milne
Blair Sharpe	James Shrader	Pat Geraghty	Zane Collins
Bradley Talbert	Jeff Hewitt	Paul Bryce	
Chris Condon	Joe Camerlengo	Raymond Chin	
Chris Thomas	Jordan Elsbury	Scott Einhorn	
Christopher Jackson	Kevin Holzendorf	Steve Strum	
Curt Lox	Larry Wilson	Terry Flenniken	
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San Marco realty firm celebrates 35 years serving neighborhood

When Barbara Swindell founded Riverpoint Real Estate in 1983, she said her inspiration was simple: the Golden Rule. That inspiration still holds true today as the agency celebrates 35 years in the heart of San Marco.

"I believe we have thrived because of our outstanding reputation, which we have never taken for granted," states Swindell, who hosted an anniversary party at the firm's office at 3215 Hendricks Ave., where they have been located since their first year in business.

Swindell has more than 40 years' experience in real estate and founded her company six years after selling her first

home. Her daughter, Carrie Swindell Atkins, joined the agency in 1988, a third generation REALTOR®.

Four other women who make up the team with at Riverpoint Real Estate have a collective 90 years' experience. Leslie Kulik and Sheridan Forness Cheshire joined the agency in 1994, Sally Farr in 1997 and Laurie Reese, the "newest" realtor, in 1998.

"I feel very strongly about my industry and the way we help people with the very most expensive things they might buy in their lifetime," said Swindell. "I love what I do, I always have. I've met more people than I would have ever met had I done something different and the most interesting people."



Front, Sheri Cheshire, Laurie Reese, Carrie Swindell Atkins; back: Barbara Swindell, Sally Farr, and Leslie Kulik

Miramar couple ties knot in Nashville

Elizabeth "Betsy" C. Baggett and David C. Leavitt tied the knot July 28 in Nashville Tennessee. The ceremony for the Miramar residents was held at the West End United Methodist Church with a reception following at ONE on Cannery Row, an event venue converted from an 1883 factory.

Leavitt and his bride were introduced by mutual friends when they both attended Auburn University, where Leavitt earned a degree in finance and Baggett in math.

The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia, returning home in time for the new school year. Baggett is a geometry teacher at Mandarin High School. Leavitt is a financial advisor for Edward Jones, with an office in the Shoppes of Avondale.



Betsy and David Leavitt

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Insurance firm nominates Seمارك Ranch for grant

Cecil W. Powell & Company, in conjunction with the Westfield Insurance Foundation, nominated Seمارك Ranch for grant, which was given to help provide a loving home for children in need.

The downtown insurance firm, an independent agent for Westfield, nominated Seمارك Ranch for the Westfield Legacy of Caring grant program, which invests in communities and helps impact disaster recovery, family stability or safety, and programs that invest in attracting and developing talent to insurance as a career. Cecil W. Powell & Company is one of 88 agencies in 17 states donating to 95 nonprofits under the program.

"At Cecil W. Powell & Company, it is our responsibility to be a good neighbor and do our part to help strengthen the communities we call home," said Fitzhugh K. Powell, Jr., president. "We are proud

of our collaboration with Westfield and the collective impact to critically important initiatives that are essential to so many people in our own backyard."

Powell, a Colonial Manor resident, is third generation leadership at the 83-year-old insurance and bonding firm founded by his grandfather. His father, Fitzhugh, Sr., serves as board chair emeritus. The office is located at 219 N. Newnan St. in the historic Morocco Temple Building.

Seمارك Ranch, located on a 468-acre campus in Northeast Florida, seeks to provide a traditional home environment where each child can experience the security of boundaries and the acceptance of unconditional love. The Seمارك approach is therapy-based and individualized. Seمارك strives to heal wounds and help children prosper in faith, in school, and in the community.

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Bonnie Sinatro won the 2018 Outstanding River Friendly Yard award.

St. Nicholas home earns Outstanding River Friendly Yard award

Bonnie Sinatro, of St. Nicholas, takes the environment seriously enough to use low-maintenance native plants, prevent stormwater runoff, and minimize the use of irrigation, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides in her yard on Monticello Road.

Sinatro's efforts recently earned her the annual Outstanding River Friendly Yard award, which recognizes individuals or businesses that have implemented river-friendly landscaping and maintenance practices that reduce the impact on the health of the waterways.

Excessive use of fertilizers is one of the leading causes of the nutrient pollution problem that plagues waterways throughout the state, triggering algal blooms, red tide events, and fish kills. In Jacksonville's older neighborhoods, the storm drains lead directly to the St. Johns or its tributaries. As a result, stormwater that runs off of yards and into the streets picks up litter, debris, motor oil, fertilizers, chemicals, and pet waste along the way, and this polluted water is transported directly into our waterways untreated.

The award is given by the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Florida Native Plant Society Ixia Chapter, and the University of Florida IFAS Extension.

Southside nonprofit welcomes health center to campus



Lutheran Social Services senior staff and employees gather for the grand opening of the CAN Community Health center.

The deep South, which includes Florida, is home to nearly half the estimated 1.1 million people in the country living with HIV. In the No. 9 spot, Jacksonville made the list of top 10 U.S. cities for rate of new HIV diagnoses. Bringing health services, education and counseling to people in these cities is the commitment that drives CAN Community Health's continuing expansion.

"When we first started discussing the possibility of a partnership with CAN Community Health, we immediately knew how life-changing a comprehensive care clinic would be for the clients we serve and the greater Jacksonville community," said Mary Strickland, president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services. "There simply weren't medical

services for people with HIV/AIDS on the Southside until now. We are so proud to join CAN Community Health in filling this service gap for our neighbors in need."

CAN Community Health owns and operates 29 medical clinics, including its newest, at the Lutheran Social Services office at 4615 Philips Hwy. A ribbon-cutting was held Aug. 23 for the new state-of-the-art facility, which includes a pharmacy that will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CAN's mission is to create hope and healing for the community, combat stigma, increase knowledge and prevention, remove obstacles to care, and continue research in HIV/AIDS.

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Reagan Alonzo with Carolyn McClanahan and Dr. Victoria Findley



Retired We Care Executive Director Sue Nussbaum with Executive Director Susan King

Caring physicians honored as We Care celebrates 25 years

It's been 25 years since professionals from the Duval County Medical Society first formed the We Care Jacksonville network of volunteer doctors and nurses to donate care to uninsured patients, and the nonprofit celebrated its silver anniversary by awarding five of its own with Caring Awards at its annual gala Aug. 25 at the Marriott Southpoint Hotel.

Honored with the George S. Trotter, MD Founder's Award was Dr. Stan Longenecker of Ortega, an orthopedic surgeon at Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute.

Receiving Awards of Service were Dr. Michael Solloway of the Southbank, a psychiatrist with Baptist Health, and Dr. Stephen Buckley, Dr. Paul Nowicki of Avondale, and Dr. Jenny Whitworth, all gynecology oncologists with Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center. Also recognized with a newly-created Award of Service was Freddie Webster, RN, director of Patient Services at We Care Jacksonville, Inc.

Kathy Harris chaired the event which included a silent auction, cocktails, dinner and dancing.



Linda Rodman with Paul Metlin and Wendi Humble



Jon and Mimi Holman with Lynda and Garth Gridley



Mark Roesler with Leah Roesler



Raphael Duprey with Larriane Rodriguez and Kyle Etzkorn



Gene and Ruth Atwood

Cathy Curtis with Leslie Kincart



Barry and Pamela Mann with Kim and Jim Adams



Tracy and P.C. Bryant with Ron and Sonja Rice

Downtown's biggest, best indoor picnic draws crowds

For the sixth year, the Florida Theatre's Blues, Brews and BBQ indoor picnic and summer fundraiser, held Aug. 23, did not disappoint as nearly 500 theater lovers raised a record \$40,000-plus in support of one of three remaining Florida theaters built in the 1920s.

Guests enjoyed wings, pulled pork, smoked brisket and more from ABBQ, Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, Gilbert's Social, Mojo No. 4 Urban BBQ and Whiskey Bar, Monroe's Smokehouse

Bar-B-Q, River City Brewing Company and Wicked Barley Brewing Company. Dessert was provided by Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Blues music continuously performed by The Snacks Blues Band and Beale Street kept the crowd engaged while they sampled brews from Bold City Brewery, Intuition Ale Works, Seven Bridges Grille & Brewery, Veterans United Craft Brewery and Wicked Barley Brewing Company.

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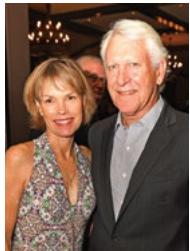
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Fred and Laura Goldstein with Meagan and Mark Toney

A tremendous show of support, promise to children

The 6th annual An Evening of Promise was presented by THE PLAYERS and took place at their favorite venue – the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse – in Ponte Vedra Beach. The evening was full of amazing music, cocktails and fabulous cuisine, all in support of children being served by the physicians and team of nurses at Nemours Children's Specialty

Care in Jacksonville. Passionate supporters mixed and mingled with friends and colleagues at the TPC Clubhouse, where patrons could overlook THE PLAYERS Stadium Course. Funds raised from the event will benefit childhood diabetes education and research. The Honorary Chair was Ron Price, Chief Operating Officer, PGA Tour, Inc.



Shirley Barton, Debra Harrison with Carolyn and Mike O'Brien



Susanne Schuenke with Susan Brandenburg



Erica Flamm and Allison Busutil

Splash of color brightens Angelwood Gala

It was all black, white with a splash of color during Angelwood's 26th Annual Gala at Sawgrass Marriott Aug. 18.

As most guests wore basic black or basic white, a splash of color could be seen in the decorative streamers hanging from the ceiling, the ballroom walls and other artistic touches throughout the venue to illustrate its Color My World theme.

The gala celebrated Angelwood's kids and their parents, said Angelwood Director Emeritus Nadine Gramling. "We're just going strong. We're raising money to support having safe places for the kids to come so their parents can work. This event is really 50 percent for the kids and 50 percent for the parents," she said, adding the nonprofit operates group homes, day care and summer camps for children, adults, and families with disabilities.



Dave Wedow, Eileen Dyson, Barbara Moore, Nadine Gramling and Geri Price



Kelli Roberts, Sarah Merkling, John Rutkowski with Angelwood Executive Director Diane Tuttle



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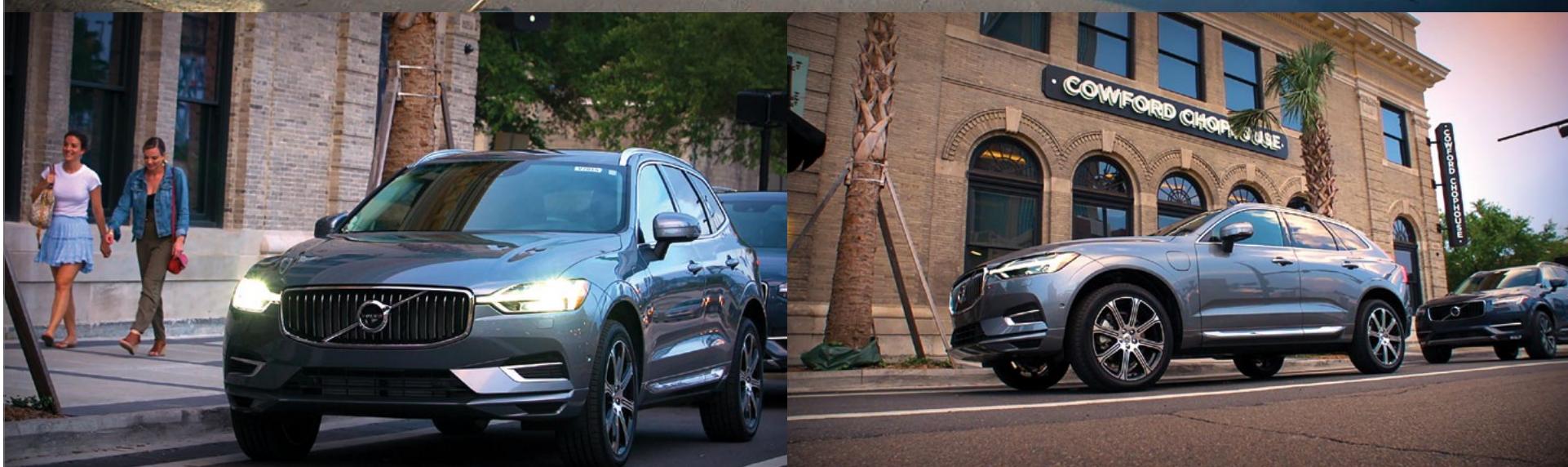


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Crowd-pleasing low country boil raises funds for Riverkeeper

The St. Johns Riverkeeper's annual Save Our Water Low Country Boil is always a crowd-pleaser and this year's event at Sadler Point Marina was no different. With a variety of watercraft small and large as background, guests mixed and mingled with Riverkeeper staff and enjoyed fresh seafood from Fisherman's Dock Seafood, local produce provided by Saturiwa Trading Co., craft beer from SweetWater Brewing Co., and live music from the Ouija Brothers.

"We're here to celebrate the St. Johns River and to celebrate you," said Riverkeeper Lisa of over 275 supporters. The Aug. 3 event raised over \$6,000.

"I am so proud to be St Johns Riverkeeper, but this advocacy work is much bigger than me. Because of you we've had a fantastically productive 2018 so far," she said, citing a petition that was successful in stopping a development in the Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve, as well as a circuit court ruling that revenues from a tax on real-estate documentary stamps should be used to protect and restore conservation lands through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, instead of being diverted to operating expenses. "But there's much more work to be done," Rinaman said.



Michael Stowers, David Barton, St. Johns Riverkeeper Executive Director Jimmy Orth and St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman with Margaret Barton and Susanna Barton



Annette Edwards with grandson, Finn Shaw, and daughter McKenzie Edwards



Steve, Jacob and Alishia Chicola



Susan and Ron Elinoff



Barbara Gubbin with Caroline Antwan

Denim and Diamonds Gala has riverfront view

Supporters of The Women's Center of Jacksonville enjoyed a view of the St. Johns River at the annual gala, held this year at the Florida Yacht Club Aug. 24. Over 120 guests clad in bling and all shades of denim joined leadership for an evening of dinner and dancing, after bidding on nearly 70 items in the silent auction and vying for items in a live auction emceed by Katie Jeffries of First Coast News.

Proceeds from the Denim and Diamonds gala will benefit the many programs and services for women in the community, including Rape Recovery and Prevention, affordable Mental Health Counseling, Expanded Horizons Family Literacy, Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Survivor Support, and the Women's Center's new Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) center which opened in April.



Lisé Everly with Katie Jeffries and Chris James



Marcus and Alma Ballard with John Levalls



Vicki and Mike Friedman



Cynthia Moreno with Caroline Yazdiya



Alice Bennett with Kimberly Stephens



Alicia Grant with Bob Leonard

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Pelican Water Systems brings mobile showroom to your front door

Do you have an aging water filtration system in your home that is no longer cutting it? Are you concerned that chlorinated water and contaminants are slipping through your water purification process? Perhaps you spend too much of your hard-earned money on bottled water?

If you answered yes, Pelican Water Systems is offering a free consultation and water test in your home to set you up with a no-waste, no-salt, customized water filtration system that will meet your family's needs.

"We want to educate people (about what's happening with their water," Pelican Water Systems CEO Iain Whyte said. "Ours is a new way of approaching water treatment systems."

Whether you use well water or municipal water, Pelican Water Systems has a solution for you. The most common issues with well water are iron and sulphur. Iron leaves those rusty stains in your bathtub and sulphur is responsible for that unappetizing egg smell. And, if you have well water, it's likely that

you have a septic tank. Septic tanks can let harmful bacteria like E. Coli and fecal coliform into your well water.

Pelican Water Systems can test for these bacteria in your well water, and typically turn results around in 36 hours. Whyte recommends that you install a UV (ultraviolet) system if bacteria is detected in your well water. The UV system typically kills 99.9 percent of all waterborne microorganisms.

With municipal water, chloramines and/or chlorine may be used to purify the water. While it's theoretically safe to drink, most people dislike the chlorine smell and the way the chlorine dries your skin when bathing or showering. A shower filter from Pelican will leave skin smoother.

If you're on municipal water and sewer, you're paying for the water you consume, as well as the water you dispose of. That's another reason why Pelican Water Systems sells salt-free systems – homeowners don't consume water through the filtration process. There are no discharges. The system doesn't even need electricity.

"You get good, quality water from every faucet in your home," Whyte said.

Pelican Water Systems' headline product is the Smart Combo, a salt free water softener and filter combination system. It combines a certified carbon filter with a certified salt-free softener, reported to reduce scale that can clog pipes and appliances by 99.6 percent.

If budget is an issue, Pelican Water Systems can even finance the system you choose, with payments as low as \$60 per month.

Typically, buying a water filtration system is a multi-step process beginning with a



"Our knowledgeable, factory trained Pelican In-Home Consultant can provide you with great in-home advice on the best Pelican Water System for your family and your home."

visit to a retailer, a home visit to test the water, another store visit to select a product, then an inspection of the home.

That process can be cumbersome, but Pelican Water Systems has a different approach. The company is a full-service retailer and the prices for all their systems are available on the Pelican website.

With headquarters in Deland, Pelican offers what Whyte calls Mobile Retail Centers. These mobile showrooms provide everything a water consultant needs in order to take care of everything on the checklist, from the initial water test to scheduling the installation of the system.

"We keep our best-selling products in our vans," Whyte said. "Two-thirds of the

vans is showroom, the other third is inventory. We also test for up to nine major contaminants on site."

Installation costs can vary based on where you want the system installed. If the system needs to be further away from the source, your installation can cost more than it might if the system is going in directly adjacent to the water source. It takes 3-5 days from the time you order for a technician to come out and install your system.

If you prefer the do-it-yourself route, Pelican offers tools to install the system yourself, YouTube tutorials can be accessed through the website, and tech support is available six days a week (closed on Sunday), from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



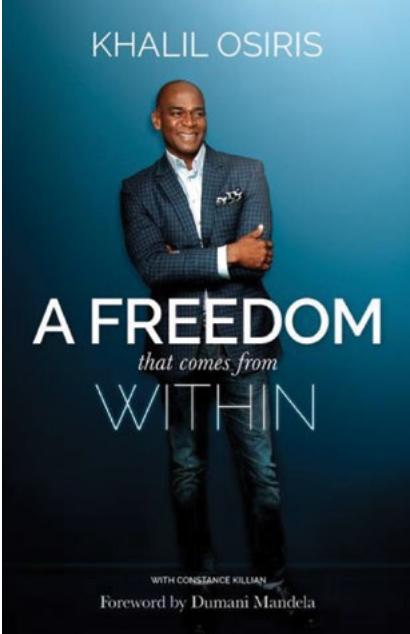
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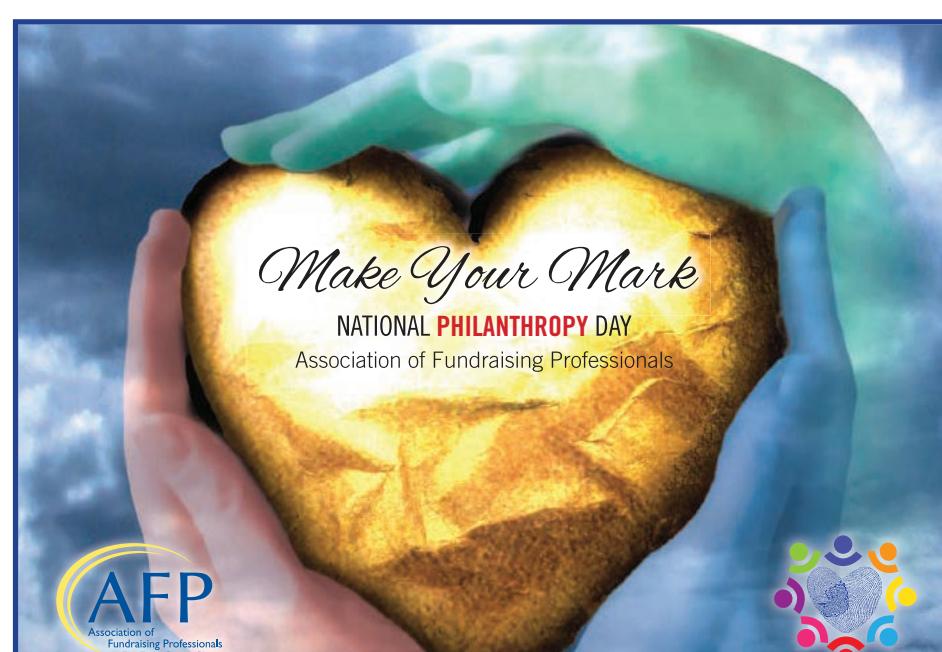
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Rethreaded throws annual party for 7th birthday

Supporters of Rethreaded, a nonprofit that provides work for survivors of human trafficking, helped celebrate its seventh birthday Aug. 4 at its Barnett Street office and workshop.

Participants of all ages were encouraged to help create a mural from a weaving loom. Shopping for Rethreaded merchandise, games, block printing and other crafts were also on the agenda at the annual celebration in the Railyard District.

The family-friendly, pet-friendly event featured music by Niki Dawson, a Season 15 American Idol performer, in an outdoor lounge outfitted and sponsored by Eco Relics. In-kind donations included picnic food from Publix, pops from The Hippo, brews from Engine 15 Brewing Company, and coffee samples from Social Grounds Coffee.

Rethreaded provides over 52,000 hours of work locally for survivors of the sex trade and sustains the freedom of 4,000 women globally by selling their products in the shop.



Carolyn Solomon with Vickie Pierre



Kylee and Caydence Kennedy help decorate a giant numeral 7 for Rethreaded's 7th Birthday party.



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Renata Bryan, Carrie Smals, Jennifer Martin, Stephanie Patton (front), Kristin Keen, Diana Respass, Jennifer Haskew and Co'Relous Bryant



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Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center serves all ages, income levels

After operating in the heart of downtown for more than five decades, Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center relocated in September 2017 to 1010 N. Davis Street. With four therapy rooms and two audiology suites, along with state-of-the-art equipment and upgraded technology in 3,500 square feet of Class A space, the Center has come far since being established by the Junior League of Jacksonville. JSCH is now a Certified Autism Center, with a non-sensory therapy room (no LED lighting, blank walls) that has its own entrance, to serve children perceived to be on the autism spectrum.

One of the biggest misconceptions about a charitable or nonprofit organization is

that it solely serves low-income families. "Contrary to that belief, we can and do serve anybody and everybody, from infants to adults, at any income level," said Michael Howland, President & CEO. "Our fees are reasonable and any revenues are reinvested in the community. We don't turn anybody away, which is why we need to hold fund-raising events."

The downtown-based nonprofit will celebrate its 70th birthday April 19, 2019. It employs two full-time doctoral level audiologists, both of whom have personal experience with the effects of hearing loss. "They are not just dispensers of hearing aids," said Howland. "We have some of the most competent, caring professionals who work here, who could work any other place and make more money, but they truly are dedicated to giving people the best possible care, recognizing they are helping people who wouldn't otherwise be able to take advantage of those services. They like not being put in a position of having to upsell services or hearing aids."

JSCH also employs four full-time Speech-Language Pathologists, as well as a plethora of interns and externs. "We have been overwhelmed with the number of students who want to be here as interns and externs. We have great clinicians to give them supervision and experience," Howland said.

On average, the Center will book 17,000 appointments annually, which includes an average of three visits for adults requiring audiology services and 22 visits for children in speech therapy. It serves around 3,000 adults per year and 1,500 children.

"Generally, a child comes to us as a speech referral, and we start with a hearing test," said Howland. "Seeing a child who cannot say many words come in, get intensive speech-language therapy, which enables them to start kindergarten able to communicate with their peers, is incredibly profound."

The Center serves primarily children in the speech-pathology department, but that is changing among adults who may need speech therapy after a stroke, or who have struggled with a speech impediment for most of their lives and make the choice to deal with it.

On the audiology side, the Center serves a higher percentage of adult patients, most age 50 and up. "We have a wide variety of hearing aids at all price points. We also refurbish hearing aids for others who could not otherwise afford them. We strive to find the right solution for each individual patient," said Howland. "Seeing a husband and wife in their 60s, that couldn't communicate because one couldn't hear, walk out of our office laughing and joking is a fabulous thing to witness."

The Center's new location is much more accessible, right off I-10 and I-95, with plenty of free parking. "It took us two years to find the right location to serve our low to moderate income population on the north and west sides, and still be accessible to everyone else. We also wanted this to be a place where our employees would be proud to come to work," he said.

With its new location and expanded hours, Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Center has seen



Front: Ciara Johnson, Christine Pearson, Jyssica Brents, Dr. Fenja Mattson;
Rear: Dr. Evonne Long, Mike Howland

an increase in early morning and evening appointments. The center offers onsite pre-school hearing and speech-language screenings, focusing on schools in lower-income neighborhoods, and is also hoping to grow industrial screenings, taking its mobile unit to companies who have OSHA requirements, said Howland.

The credit for the Center's transformation and growth goes to an exemplary board of 25 directors, who meet bi-monthly under Board Chair Jim O'Leary of Haskell. "We have an incredibly dynamic, dedicated and generous board that help to move us forward," said Howland.

Because no margin means no mission, the Center established a sustainable donor base called the 1010 Society in conjunction with the move to 1010 N. Davis Street. "Our funds come from the four 'Fs' – friends, fees, FinFest and foundations," said Howland, who noted they were extremely honored to be selected as one of 20 nonprofits to receive annual fundraising event grants from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund.



SLP Ciara Johnson works with speech patient.

For more information about Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center's services and its ongoing mission needs, visit shcjax.org or call (904) 355-3403.



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Cummer disguises construction fence, piques interest in permanent collections

By Kate A. Hallock

Resident Community New

In anticipation of a multi-year construction project on property which formerly contained the Woman's Club of Jacksonville, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens commissioned three local artists to collaborate on a 1,480-square-foot mural to disguise the construction fence – and to pique the interest of passers-by about its collections inside the museum.

The mural, depicting 14 pieces of artwork, including paintings, porcelain and sculptures on display in eight galleries inside, was celebrated with an outdoor reception Aug. 22 at the Riverside-based museum.

The collaboration between Mark Ferreira of Centism Design and Shaun Thurston, both of Riverside, and Dustin Harewood, of Lakeshore, represents the museum's collection in a meaningful and approachable way.

"We got to choose, out of the permanent collection, what we wanted to see on the wall," said Ferreira.

Over the course of 2.5 months, the artists spray painted the mural on the 185-foot-long by 8-foot-high wooden fence, which will be varnished with a protective washable,



Amber Sesnick with mural artist Dustin Harewood and Brittany Nazario

clear coat that will protect the mural from fading, scratching and chipping.

"My mission was to be as accurate as possible but with a different medium," said Thurston. "I had to make a little compromise on what spray paint can do versus a brush; it's easy to be accurate on a large scale with spray paint but to go in tight with it more difficult."

Thurston and Ferreira collaborated on the front section, adding the word Cummer to blend the classic images with the contemporary. Ferreira used his graphic design skill to incorporate pixel clouds on the front and on the side, which contains Harewood's contribution, a nod to his wife Yuki's Japanese heritage.



Judy DuBose with Marlene O'Connor



Allene and Bob Groote



Judy and Larry Roberts peruse a section of the 185-foot mural at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.



Christian and Olive Thomsen, Yhang and Lucas Quintero with Dennis Ho and Kyle Roberts



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A dehumidifier system keeps crawlspace dry.

Turners Underseal can take the 'moist' out of crawlspace breeding grounds

Most crawlspace problems occur because of one thing: moisture.

"Rodents don't like dry, insects don't like dry, mold and mildew doesn't like dry, wood rot doesn't like dry," said Chris Turner, owner of Turners Underseal. "They all thrive in a warm, moist environment."

Eliminate the moisture and all kinds of good things happen, Turner said. "Dry, healthy air comes into your house and you breathe clean air. Your doors and windows don't stick, and your wood floors don't warp. The bottom line is it really is all about breathing healthy air in your home. Crawlspace moisture is your enemy – you need to stop it," he said.

Before Reggie and Rita Walden bought their 1925 Avondale home in March 2017, they had never lived in a house with an open crawlspace, so they didn't know it could be the source of a problem. "I have a very sensitive sense of smell," said Rita, "and the mustiness and mildew made me think that perhaps things weren't clean enough."

Rita also said towels never got totally dry and pots and pans would get spotting that looked like mildew. Then they discovered moisture in the crawlspace of their home, and initially thought the best solution was a spray foam. When that didn't remove or stop more moisture, mold and rot from occurring, the Waldens turned to Turners Underseal, who installed a dehumidifier system with modifications.

"I saw his ad in *The Resident* and gave Chris a call," said Rita. "He came out and put in a dehumidifier and it has taken care

of the problem. I haven't noticed musty odors or dampness since."

Moist crawlspaces are breeding grounds for mold and mildew, and can make you sick, especially if you have allergies or asthma, Turner explained. But even if you're not prone to allergies, contaminants from crawlspaces can still irritate your eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs.

"Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace year-round is to use a permanently installed, commercial-quality dehumidifier, like Turners Underseal compact unit," said Turner, who is passionate about health – yours and your home's.

"We install a 200-square-foot liner with a mounting pad under the commercial dehumidifier with an automatic pump, partial vent closings and drainage to the outside for trouble-free operation," he said, adding that getting the crawlspace dry and

keeping it that way will prevent it from becoming a nasty breeding ground while improving indoor air quality.

With over 30 years' experience as a certified indoor air quality professional, Turner knows his stuff when it comes to healthy, dry crawlspaces, and that was immediately evident to the Waldens.

"You need to find the source of the problem before you can find the solution," said Rita Walden, who said she would recommend Turners Underseal to anyone.

In addition to crawlspace wood sealing and crawlspace liners, Turners Underseal also does home air quality inspection. For 10 percent off wood treatment services, contact Chris Turner at (904) 903-9569, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., or check out Turners Underseal at turnersunderseal.com

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Merchants, preservationists discuss transportation solution

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

It was a chance to learn about a new transportation proposal as well as to get to know each other better when board members from the San Marco Preservation Society and the San Marco Merchants Association gathered at the Epping Forest home of SMMA President Robert Harris and his wife, Paola, for barbecue Aug. 2.

During the event, Harris introduced Billy Chenoweth, owner of Beachside Buggies, and asked him to make a 20-minute presentation about his business and how it might be the answer both organizations are seeking to alleviate parking and transportation problems in San Marco.

By running environmentally-friendly, zero-emission, long-range, eight-to-10-seat electrical carts and 14-seat passenger vans, Chenoweth, who operates his transportation service at the Beaches, is in negotiations with SMMA to provide a similar service of free rides to residents and visitors within the San Marco community between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Like Uber or Lyft, riders contact his service through a computer app.

"Our app is similar to Uber's, but when you show up on the map all the drivers can see it and see where everyone is going. Unlike Uber, which is one person to Point A from Point B, we pick up many riders and may drop them off along the way," Chenoweth said. "We can move so many people with not that many vehicles. When you order a ride from us you can see it on our app. You can see it driving around as it comes right to you."

When he first started his business in Jacksonville Beach, Chenoweth assumed he would primarily ferry guests at the hotels, but once it started he quickly realized 80 percent of his ridership was residential. "It

happened overnight. It was so quick to catch on," he said.

Chenoweth's buggies are paid for by signs advertising local businesses, which are attached to his vehicles, and through tips to the drivers. The service also serves as a "concierge," recommending to its riders restaurants, shops, and hotels that advertise, he said.

During Phase I, the buggies would service the area from River Oaks Road to the Southbank, he said. If successful, the service would extend its territory to Miramar Plaza and, later, further south.

"The idea is that instead of local government paying for this or sponsoring a local program that lasts only one or two years, we have something that can last a lifetime and grow with the city," he said, adding that in San Marco it would be his goal to raise \$2,500 in advertising per month per vehicle, which would be split among several advertisers.

Because a lack of parking and a desire to find a way to attract more people to San Marco Square have been constant issues facing his board, Harris said SMMA had been consulting with Baptist MD Anderson and JTA on a possible solution. Both the hospital system and JTA have expressed their support for whatever SMMA comes up with, he said.

After listening to Chenoweth's presentation, feedback from SMMA and SMPS Board members was positive, although Harris admitted there are some "small challenges" facing the plan, including where to store the carts and passenger vans at night and whether SMPS would agree that they fit in San Marco's historic community.

"I love the idea," said Bryan Mickler, president of SMPS, noting it would help prevent drinking and driving. "This is the first I've heard of it, but we would all like to zoom around San Marco, and if this helps the businesses, it helps us all."



Jeannie Smith, Karen Carlucci, Linzee Ott, Gordon Mott and LeAnna Cumber



Melanie Corbo and Billy Chenoweth



Mike Farnsworth, Leah Roesler with Rob Smith



Alan Rosner with Paola and Chase Harris



Robert and Paola Harris



Erin Weinberg, Ronnie Poole, Joe and Victoria Carlucci with Jon Singleton



John and Kathy Moore with Jay and Robin Robinson

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WAY WE WERE: TOM HOWE

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

There is a plaque on the wall in Tom Howe's spacious Lakewood living room that says, "If You're Lucky Enough to Live on the Water, You're Lucky Enough." That saying reveals a great deal about the man, who, today, enjoys a panoramic view of the St. Johns River and has spent a lifetime traveling the seven seas.

"As a boy, I took for granted the great opportunities my parents gave me to travel and experience the ways of the world," said Howe, recalling the personality, patriotism and great sense of humor that his mother, Maxine, displayed as the wife of Thomas F. Howe, Jr., an adventurous Navy submarine captain who made seven war patrols in the South China Seas during World War II and had numerous sea commands following the war.

A vivid example of the world that was opened to the boy by his parents was the summer trip that Howe and his mother made to Europe on the U.S.S. United States, the flagship of the American Transatlantic Fleet. "My father was the captain of a Navy destroyer and he was deployed to the Mediterranean, so we spent the summer meeting him at all the ports and then when he went back to sea, we traveled inland to France, Germany and Switzerland," recalled Howe. "Grindelwald, Switzerland was a special destination for us that summer because I was turning 9 years old." Howe's grandfather, Thomas F. Howe, Sr., had celebrated his own 9th birthday at the Grindelwald Hotel, and so had his father. Now, it was the turn of Thomas F. Howe, III, to continue the family tradition.

The boy and his mother were warmly welcomed by the dignified staff of the old hotel and all the guests were invited to help the "little American boy" celebrate his 9th birthday. Howe was showered with generous gifts which, unfortunately, included a pellet gun that shot darts. The temptation to shoot the gun was irresistible and the result was sadly predictable. "I accidentally shot the

hotel gardener in the rear," said Howe, noting the angry gardener grabbed him by the throat, shouting, "You nasty little American boy!" Upon being summarily escorted from the hotel, Maxine Howe admonished her son, "Not a word of this to your father!"

Later that summer, Howe and his mother visited the Italian Riviera, enjoying towns like San Remo, Viareggio and Portofino, where Maxine discovered an Italian Liqueur called Strega. She was so enamored of the liqueur that she began smuggling caseloads of Strega into the United States but was soon caught by U.S. Customs. Never one to back down, Maxine visited the Strega distillery in Bene Vento, Italy, and charmed the owners. Soon her costs were being covered and her export/import activities were legalized. Many years later, when Howe was an executive in the maritime industry, he would own two motor yachts, each one fondly named Strega!

Ships have always played a large role in Howe's life. He remembers that he and his mother sailed home from Europe on the Exeter, a combination cargo and passenger ship owned by American Export Lines. Since there were no other children aboard, the captain gave the young lad a job to occupy his time – shining all the brass on the bridge. He quickly learned that as fast as he had it sparkling, the salt air turned it green – it was a job guaranteed to keep the precocious boy busy.

As a pre-teen, Howe lived in a hotel with his parents in pre-Castro Cuba for several months, engaging in their active social life as they danced the nights away and sipped rum and coke. The Howe family then boarded the U.S.S. Goethals to sail to Panama, where they lived for two years on Ancon Hill, the highest hill on the Pacific side of Panama City. "We had a view of the entrance to the Panama Canal and the Pacific Ocean," he recalled. They shared that view with a friendly three-toed sloth that lived in a tree next to their house.

Howe got to go fishing in the Bay of Panama every weekend with his father and friends in a sport fishing boat. One weekend they caught a black marlin that weighed 1,300 pounds and was almost 18 feet long. It took Howe's father, two of his father's friends and Howe three hours and 47 minutes to land the big fish with Finn Nor Reels and nearly a mile of line (5,280 feet), and they were certain it must be close to world's record for the time. None of the fishermen could lift their arms above their waists the next day.

Each time one of his father's fellow submarine captains transited the Panama Canal, Howe was invited to join his father for a ride. "It was a tight group and I had the privilege of getting to know all of them,"



Tom Howe with his motor yacht, Strega

said Howe. The captains would often exit the sub for a homecooked meal and a night on shore with the Howes.

From Panama, it was on to Brooklyn, New York, where they lived in Fort Hamilton Parkway and Howe's father captained a ship out of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. One memorable weekend, his father took him to three baseball games – the Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Yankees and the New York Giants at Ebbets Field, the Polo Grounds and Yankee Stadium. Today, only the Yankees and Yankee Stadium remain in New York (the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles and the Giants to San Francisco).

Later, as captain of a Naval Destroyer Division out of Newport Rhode Island, Howe's dad led four destroyers through the Suez Canal and remained in the Red Sea for six months to assure the flow of world commerce during the "Suez Crisis" when Gamal Nassar, the president of Egypt, attempted to keep Israel from using the international waterway in their trade with the far east.

Howe's last of three high schools was in Alexandria, Virginia. It was T. C. Williams High School, immortalized in the 2000 movie, "Remember the Titans," starring Denzel Washington. "That movie, on the integration of the school, illustrated that together we can achieve anything – divided we will always fail," said Howe, noting that he later used the film as an educational exercise in the Marine Corps and in business.

Attending The Citadel (The Military College of the South) in Charleston, South Carolina was almost a given for Howe, as the Howe family had deep roots in Charleston. According to family history, the first Howes came to America from Great Britain in the

1600s and Robert Howe was given a proprietary grant of 290 acres of land in 1683 on the Cooper River just outside of Charleston. The parcel was later expanded to 1,100 acres and became known as Howe Hall. Today, Howes can be found along the low country of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, with the greatest concentration in and around Charleston.

Thomas Francis Howe, III, grew up steeped in American history and family tradition. His grandfather, Thomas F. Howe, Sr., was a captain in the Army in World War I and became senior partner of the Chicago Law Firm Howe, Rademacher and Kramer. His father, Thomas F. Howe, Jr., graduated from Northwestern University Law School and joined the family law firm, although he had always dreamed of being a ship's captain and sailing around the world. December 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, was the day that eventually led to his father's boyhood dreams coming true. Thomas F. Howe, Jr.'s reserve commission in the Navy was activated, he volunteered for the submarine service, never returning to the practice of law.

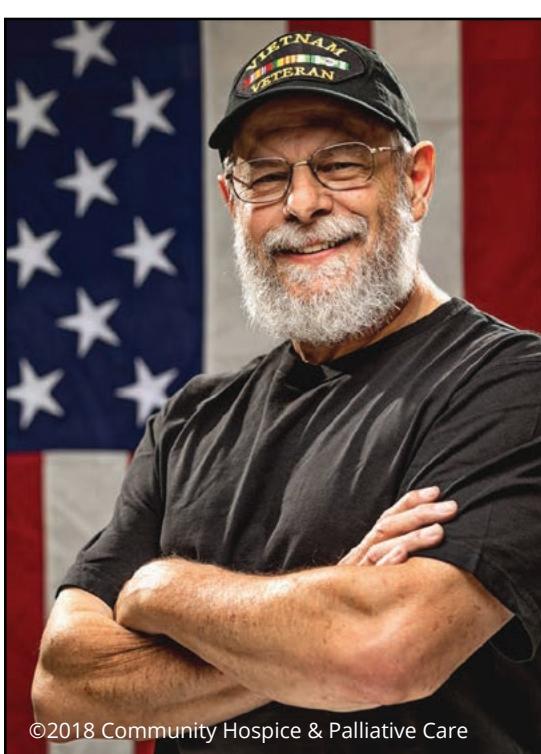
The grandson of an Army captain and son of a Navy captain, Howe III was destined to follow the military family tradition by becoming a Marine captain.

He was a junior at The Citadel when he spent part of his summer aboard the U.S.S. Mt. McKinley, his father's flagship. Captain Howe was serving as commodore of an amphibious squadron that summer and when he loaded a battalion of Marines with their tanks, artillery and supporting weapons to make a practice amphibious landing over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



Tom Howe with Isabelle Di Grazia



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**Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership
(2011 - present)**



Onslow Beach, North Carolina, Howe asked if he could eat in the officers' wardroom and meet the Marines. "That was the first time I saw Marines," said Howe. "They were not in dress uniforms, but in their utilities and combat boots and they all looked like John Wayne. That's when I decided (against my dad's better judgment) to become a Marine when I graduated from The Citadel."

He attended Marine Corps Officers Candidate School and was commissioned a lieutenant, then basic school at Quantico, Virginia and Tracked Vehicle School (Tanks) at Camp Delmar, California, where, to his surprise, actor John Wayne actually came to the tank school. Wayne invited the young Marines to come see him if they were ever in Newport Beach, and Howe, with several friends, knocked on his door one day. Wayne's wife, Pilar, answered the door and was not surprised. Apparently, visits from young Marines were fairly common.

John Wayne took them out back to his yacht, The Wild Goose, where they drank too much, smoked too many cigars, and talked for hours. "After the first shock of him being John Wayne, he became just a regular guy," recalled Howe. As a parting gift, the actor gave each of the young Marines a cowboy hat. Howe kept the hat in its original box for years and recently gave it to a friend who is a huge John Wayne fan.

A little-known fact Howe learned about John Wayne was that he almost single-handedly saved the Marine Corps from extinction. The story goes like this. After WWII, President Truman and the Democratic Congress decided to slash military spending by disbanding the Marine Corps. Many in Hollywood had served in the Marine Corps during WWII and they immediately took action with a movie script about the Marines raising the flag at Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, all agreeing that only actor John Wayne could play the lead role. When Wayne turned down the script, General Clifton Cates, Commandant of the Marine Corps, flew to California and explained to him the urgency of the situation. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. "The Sands of Iwo Jima" came out in 1949 and was a blockbuster – nominated for four Academy Awards, including John Wayne as best actor. Wayne always called this his greatest accomplishment.

Howe first commanded a tank platoon of five tanks deployed on Navy ships in the Caribbean, then was assigned to Jungle Warfare School in Panama, and later became Commanding Officer of a 50-man Marine detachment aboard the U.S.S. Columbus – a guided missile cruiser traveling in company with two aircraft carriers – the U.S.S. Forrestal and the U.S.S. Enterprise. "We had two admirals on board – J. D. Buckley, President Kennedy's PT Boat Squadron Commander in the Pacific in WWII, and Admiral James Calvert, twice the Superintendent of the Naval Academy and the submarine captain who commanded the U.S.S. Skate when it surfaced in the ice of the North Pole."

Then... Vietnam. Howe was S-3 (Operations Officer) of the First Tank Battalion in support of the First Marine Division, later serving as an advisor to a Vietnamese Army Training Camp in Hoa Cam on the outskirts of Da Nang. He was then selected as the Aide de



Tom Howe and Major General Edwin B. Wheeler survived a helicopter crash, west of Da Nang, South Vietnam.



Tom Howe's father, Thomas F. Howe, Jr.

Camp to the Commanding General of the First Marine Division, Major General Edwin B. Wheeler. He and the General miraculously survived a helicopter crash in the mountains west of Da Nang and were medivacked to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington DC., Howe with head injuries and the General with a severely broken leg. On his return to Vietnam, Howe was retained as the Aide de Camp to the new Commanding General of the First Marine Division, Major General Charles F. Whiddecke.

During his final year in the Marine Corps, Howe commanded B Company, First Battalion Recruit Training Regiment at Paris Island, South Carolina. "I discovered, then, that there is no greater responsibility and no greater honor than being directly involved in the making of Marines," declared Howe, adding that he wrote a letter to the Marine Corps stating that every Marine Officer should serve a tour of duty at a recruit training center in order to have a better understanding of his/her fellow Marines.

After being continually deployed for six years, Howe took a year off, basking on the beaches of Hawaii with a girlfriend from Charleston. "We mostly hung around the surf spots – Sunset, Waimea, the Pipeline, and Haleiwa Beach. It was a true vacation – no television, no newspapers – we didn't know what day it was and didn't care ... it finally ended when she got homesick and I ran out of money."

Returning to Charleston, Howe ran into a Citadel classmate who was working for Sea Land Service, an ocean carrier that pioneered containerization. On landing the job with Sea Land, Tom put on another type of uniform – this time the corporate navy blue or dark grey suit, white or light blue shirt, laced black shoes – no loafers, beards or mustaches. He fit right in.

The IBM of the shipping industry, Sea Land had developed a sophisticated process called ATC (Analysis of Transportation Costs) and the young, competitive, college graduates who comprised the sales force met with major corporations throughout the U.S. and abroad, looking at every cost involved with movement of freight including inland as well as ocean, and then giving them a rate proposal for services that reflected considerable savings. Today, this process is called Supply Chain Management.

Howe worked in the Pacific Division of Sea Land, relocating six times in six years, including working in an office at the World Trade Center in Tower II. After 10 years with Sea Land, he joined the Maryland Port Administration – commonly known as the Port of Baltimore. For 18 years, he worked in the Chicago office of the Port of Baltimore, calling on customers such as John Deer, Caterpillar, J. I. Case, Komatsu, etc. He then relocated to the Detroit Office of the Port of Baltimore, where he spent eight years taking on the responsibility for all import/export vehicles of all automobile manufacturers.

Over the years, Howe became a regular visitor to Jacksonville because of the company's relationship with CSX Railroad, and

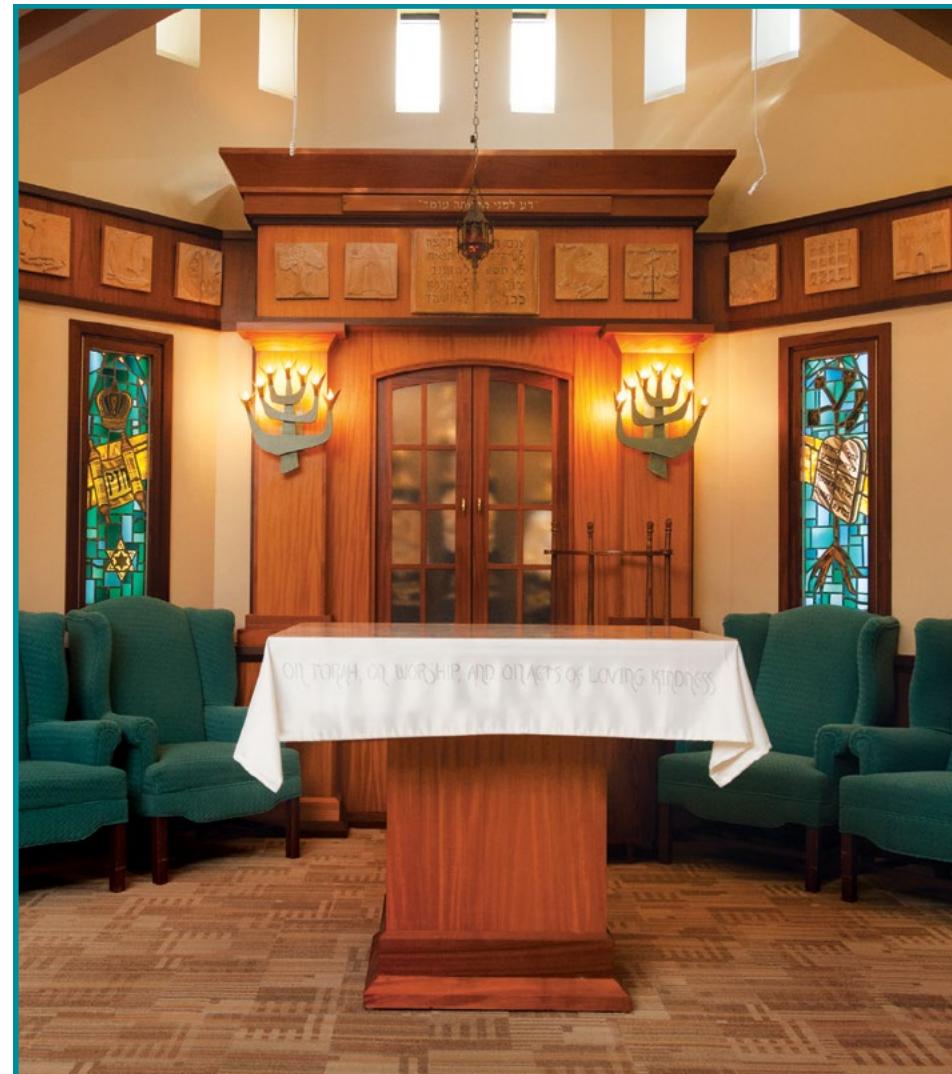
found Jacksonville to be a friendly, welcoming town with access to many waterfront residences. Although he had built a family beach cottage on Fripp Island in South Carolina, where his parents lived out their last days, Howe decided that he would retire in Jacksonville. He purchased his Lakewood condo on the water in 2006, retired in 2010, and was immediately hired as a full-time consultant by Ceres Marine Terminals, working there as a Senior Advisor until 2014. He has since worked as a freelance consultant for various maritime concerns and often does pro-bono consulting for friends around the country and the world.

A man who enjoys travel and still does a great deal of it, Howe also has a wide circle of friends from near and far that visit him in Jacksonville. "My mother collected people," he recalled, "and I guess I'm like her in that

respect. I've had many great mentors in my life, and she was my best. Now, I try to emulate her by entertaining friends, and I reciprocate my good fortune by helping others whenever I can."

Twice divorced, with no progeny, Howe is the last in a proud line of Howes, but his penchant for paying it forward is alive and well. When in town, he gives a good portion of his time to a lucky little 9-year-old girl named Isabelle Di Grazia.

"Isabelle is as precocious as I was at her age," he said, laughing. "She's like the daughter I never had, and I am doing my best to give her some of the same opportunities my family gave me, but there are limits: she didn't get to celebrate her 9th birthday at the Grindelwald Hotel in Switzerland and, if I can help it, she'll never get her little hands on a pellet gun that shoots darts!"



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In Memoriam

Vincent J. Kerr, DVM

December 2, 1937 to August 6, 2018

Vincent J. Kerr, a longtime Jacksonville veterinarian and a pioneer in the field passed away August 6, 2018, in hospice care at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside.

Dr. Kerr grew up in New Jersey, where he worked in greenhouses during high school before entering Cornell University to earn a Bachelor of Science in agriculture.

"At that time, they required a farm background in poultry, cattle or some type of basic knowledge before admittance into a specific field of study. If I'd been the son of an alumnus, that might have helped too. That counselor told me, 'You're no veterinarian' which was devastating...I had tears in my eyes when my father and I left. My dad wisely talked me into going back. Fortunately, the counselor recognized my horticultural work experience and sent me to take some sample plant cuttings, which were carefully examined. I was finally admitted into agriculture and completed my B.S. degree," said Kerr in a July 2014 interview with Julie Kerns Garmendia, a writer for *The Resident*.

Determined to become a veterinarian, Kerr worked summers on a farm and kept diaries of his animal work, worked a year in tetanus antitoxin research for Lederle Laboratories and was a test subject for development of the oral polio vaccine, before being accepted as the only out-of-state student into Purdue University's veterinary school in 1960.

Dr. Kerr met his wife, Diane Janney, at a country club where they both worked during college. The couple married June 22, 1963, and after Kerr graduated from Purdue in December 1963, they moved to

Boston where he practiced at Angell Animal Medical Center, before moving to Nashville in August 1964, where he served for 10 years in a multi-vet practice.

In 1974 the family moved to Jacksonville where Kerr worked for veterinarian Sam Johnson, passed his national board examination and was licensed. Then Kerr bought Johnson's practice, office and home on Edison Avenue and became the third vet to practice there after Drs. Grace and Johnson. Edison was the area's oldest animal hospital, with a vet there continuously since the early 1900s.

Diane was office manager, a fearless First Coast Crime Stopper, who founded the North Riverside Community Development Association and tackled a neighborhood hazardous waste site issue. She championed

animal welfare, was an EVE winner and NE Florida Association of Social Workers Citizen of the Year, among other honors.

Dr. Kerr was happy to get up and go to work every morning, and to the pets and owners who loved him, there was no more respected clinic, wrote Garmendia. Kerr also treated cattle, goats and worked at the horse and dog tracks in their heyday, with a large racing greyhound practice. Many clients brought pets from all over Florida, as far as Miami, to Doc Kerr.

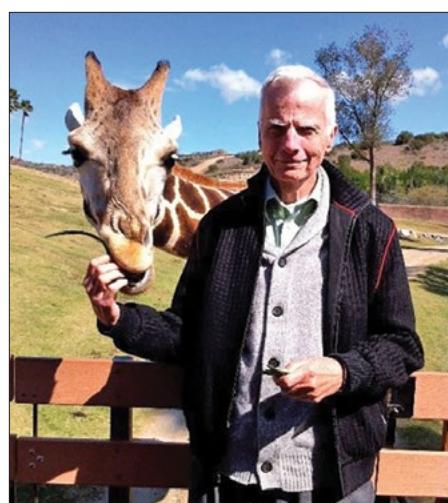
"In all those years, up until January 3, 2013 when he suffered a serious fall and had to retire, he worked fulltime, never turned down a patient, treated thousands of pets and helped several generations of pet owners," said his wife. "A vet may have an incredible facility, but what matters, what builds the practice and loyalty...the true reason people bring their pets, is that they know and trust the vet to keep their pets healthy and well....and that's Vince Kerr."

Avondale resident Pat Teems was a long-time client of Dr. Kerr, after moving to Jacksonville in 1984 and bringing her two-year-old Yorkie to him for care.

"Dr. Kerr saw me through the ups and downs in the lives of my animals until he had his tragic accident," Teems said. "Over the years Dr. Kerr and Diane and I became friends. They were the kindest, most compassionate people it was my pleasure to know. Dr. Kerr and I had many fun chats when I visited the clinic with one of my animals. He would always ask 'Are you still working?' and my answer always was, 'Same as you.' We agreed we both loved what we did, so why stop."

Another longtime client, Betty Baird, said she's also known Dr. Kerr since the mid-1980s. "He was one of the sweetest, kindest men I've ever known. Very sympathetic when I lost a pet, he took very good care of them," said Baird, who works at the front desk at the Timuquana Country Club. "You don't meet people like him too many times in your life. I loved him for the man he was."

Garmendia, an experienced animal rescuer, first met Kerr and his wife in the 1990s, after a horrific rescue. "Doc's empathy and unwavering support extended to local animal rescuers," she said. "After reading a frantic mass email begging someone to rescue a starving dog confined inside the backyard of an abandoned property, I noted the email was three days old. Believing that surely someone had already responded, I nonetheless decided to double-check.



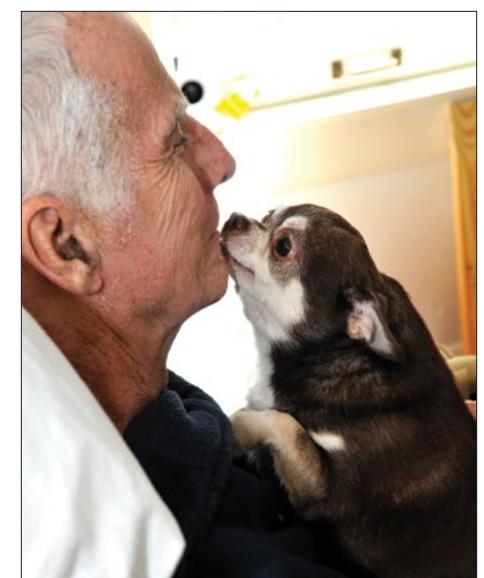
"Pop Pop was the glue that held our family together. The strongest man, both mentally and physically, who never gave up and always spoke the truth, even when hard to hear. He instilled in all of us values that we will carry with us forever. See you on the other side, Pop, enjoy all of the doggies over the Rainbow Bridge and say Hi to Nana, Tim, Tabitha and Henry Miller for me."

— Tarryn Bradford Poling



"My dad was my hero, but I didn't realize how much until I got older. Dad constantly took care of all of us. He taught me the importance of family, to work hard, and always be grateful for what you have. I have always told my sons and grandsons that if I had listened to half of what my father told me I would be much better off than I am today. Dad, you are the voice in my head that when I was young drove me crazy but now I don't ever want to lose. I will sorely miss your humor, smile, and the time we spent working on projects in the shop. God gave me a great blessing – he gave me my dad."

— Vincent A. Kerr





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Genealogy research still painstaking stroll through paper records

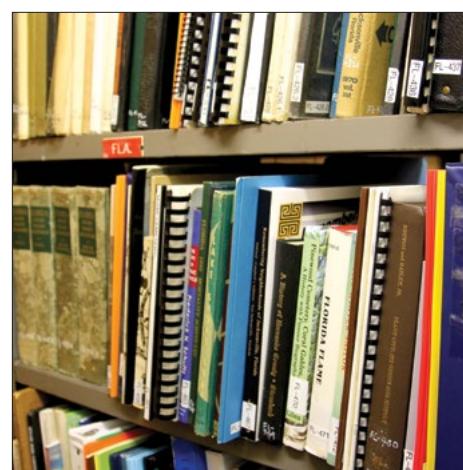
Local society invites visitors, members, volunteers

By Kate A. Hallock

Resident Community News

More than 50 years after its founding, the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society isn't as finicky about its membership. In fact, the Westside-based nonprofit opens its arms to anyone who wishes join and to volunteer their organizational and research skills.

On Sept. 20, 1964, a typewritten letter was sent by Aurora C. Shaw to a "select group" to organize the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, whose purpose was to promote "genealogical endeavors in an area where there is none at the present time convenient to us," and to hold workshops and classes in genealogy. Shaw also proposed to gather genealogical books, magazines, and materials in conjunction with the Jacksonville Public Library.



Most of the materials in the library are donated but members also pick up family records at estate sales.

Shaw, who lived on Oak Street in Riverside, was a professional genealogist and began publishing "The Southern Genealogist's Quarterly" in 1957. Learning of like-minded residents, Shaw organized the society, which began Oct. 5, 1964 and had 11 people at its first meeting in the Blue Flame Room of the Florida Gas Company. The society's founder was 85 when she passed away in 1999 in Littleton, Colorado.

Liz DuClose joined the society around 2011 because she had "a huge pile" of family books to donate to its library and to research her own family history. A graphic artist, DuClose helped produce the society's newsletter through December 2017. DuClose was born at Riverside Hospital, then the family moved to Lakewood, where she attended San Jose Elementary School. She was in the last graduating class of duPont High School, now a middle school, and moved to her Herschel Street home in 1990.

Despite the popularity of DNA testing, documenting one's ancestry still requires a paper trail. Lakeshore resident Alana Masters became a member two years ago after DNA testing determined she did not, in fact, have any Cherokee Indian ancestors as she had been told. "It made me start digging and I wanted to learn how to research," she said. "There was a book here with a paragraph that helped proved the death of a fourth or fifth great-grandfather who I had no evidence of except for disappearing off the census records."

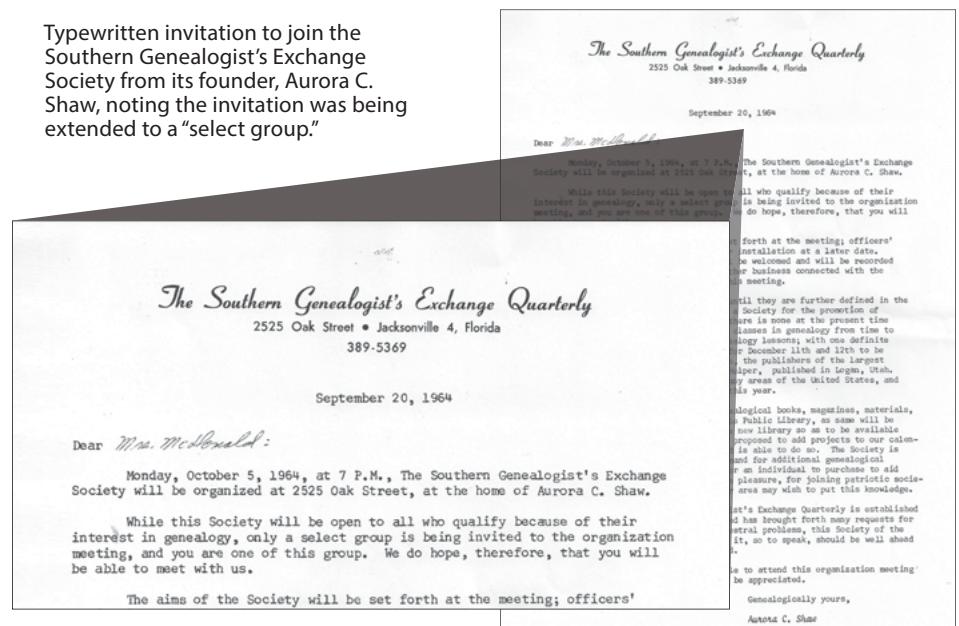
Volunteer Barry Sweetman has been doing ancestry research for the past 30 years, tracing his wife's family of Baker County, Florida from Virginia in 1640, and has advice for beginners.

"An important step in starting the process is to write down everything, even if it's



Carol Clay, Barry Sweetman, Liz DuClose and Alana Masters

Typewritten invitation to join the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society from its founder, Aurora C. Shaw, noting the invitation was being extended to a "select group."



family lore, because it may lead you in the right direction even if you can't prove it," said Sweetman, whose own family goes back to England before the Norman invasion in the 11th century.

Board member Carol Clay has been involved for four years and was a close personal friend of the society's former longtime president, Jon Ferguson, who encouraged her to help with administration. Through Ferguson's twin brother, James, who lived in North Georgia, Clay was able to meet relatives there and trace back nine generations of her mother's side, the Earnest family from Heidelberg, Germany.

After the society and its materials outgrew its storage space, an optometrist on Blanding Boulevard offered a small unit for lease and there the society began amassing genealogy books and newspaper obituaries for its own library. After outgrowing that space, the society purchased a 1,500-square-foot house at 6215 Sauterne Dr. in 2000 for \$57,500.

Visitors to the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will find in nearly every room a warren of shelves containing more than 7,000 volumes of books from around the world, including genealogies, one-of-a-kind family history books, maps, newspapers, publications, immigration records, military records and more.

Aspiring genealogists can also look at the archives online, but "true researchers understand it's not all online," said Clay. "They know you have to have documentation to prove the line and the connections. We have so many books, we're fortunate to have this amount of material."

During the society's 50th year, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission recognized the nonprofit with a preservation award in 2014 for its devotion to "preserving Southern history through their collections, publications and internet resources."

For more information on the genealogy society, visit sgesjax.org or call (904) 778-1000.



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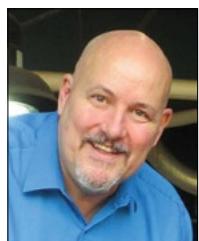
Exceeding expectations, Starling at San Jose caters to individual needs

"The best place to entrust the care of loved ones."

Nestled on Goodby's Creek, Starling at San Jose is a relative newcomer in Jacksonville's assisted living options. It's also a picture of serenity, peace and beauty for the residents who call it home.

"The entire back of the community is a walking path in a nature preserve," said Brian Best, executive director. "We have a gazebo that stretches out to the middle of the creek with a view of all the wildlife, and there's a walking area for the more active residents."

With five courtyards, including two just for memory care residents, Starling at San Jose encourages residents to get out of their apartments and enjoy the fullness of the community.



Brian Best

"This is their home – the whole community, not just their apartment," said Best. "We – the staff of more than 60 – are the guests in their home and we make sure they understand that."

At Starling, the focus is on individual choices, from the size of the apartment to the amenities and, most of all, the choices of care.

Residents who are highly independent usually opt for "concierge living," which has an ala carte menu of services. Assisted living is all-inclusive for all services. "We will not increase costs as the care level increases," said Best. "The resident is always in control of the level of care and the services they want and need."

Each of the 66 concierge and assisted living apartments have full-size refrigerators and a microwave, as well as free Wi-Fi and cable. Residents can choose from studio apartments to one- and two-bedroom or a one-bedroom with a den, and housekeeping and laundry are included.

Starling has 24 memory care apartments as well, which are secure but not restricted, said Best. The memory care program at



Starling at San Jose is unique, developed by Best after he came on board in January 2018. He calls the program RAFT for "resident and family team" and it includes regularly scheduled meetings with families and the care staff. "The families become part of the care team with equal input for the enhancement of their loved one's stay here," said Best. "We learn all about the residents, and their families become familiar with those directly involved in the care."

Starling at San Jose is a moderately-priced community in a beautiful location, specializing in upscale living at an affordable cost. One of four locations in the country, the San Jose community is also headquarters for the company. Best has nearly 40 years in the healthcare industry, including 15 years managing assisted living communities.

Moderately sized with 90 apartments for a total capacity of 120 residents, Starling at San Jose was built for activity, offering movies several times a day in its theater, cooking activities for residents who still

enjoy cooking and baking, live entertainment several times a week, including during Friday evening Happy Hour. Residents are encouraged to join in outings to special events or luncheons or just to get out and drive around. They may also develop a regular fitness regimen in the exercise gym or enjoy weekly hair care appointments.

A 5-star chef supervises the kitchen staff, who prepare menus for a fine dining experience. With three dining areas and a bistro with coffee bar, residents can choose where they want to dine, plus an all-day menu allows them to eat when they want outside of scheduled meal seatings.

The director of nursing is a registered nurse who supervises the clinical staff, including 24-hour licensed nursing care. Residents are supplied with emergency alert pendants, so no matter where they are in the community, help is just a touch of the button away.

"We're the best place around to trust mom and dad to care," said Best.



For more information about upscale living at Starling at San Jose, contact Brian Best at (904) 510-5482, or schedule a visit at the community located at 9075 San Jose Blvd.

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Hugs of encouragement from mom or dad go a long way to ease “first day” fears, whether for the first-time in preschool or kindergarten, the first day in a new grade at a new school, or back to new classrooms and teachers in familiar halls.

Knowing there's sure to be more than a little high anxiety, teachers, staff and PTA members have come up with creative ways to relieve back-to-school jitters for students and their parents. From "Boo-hoo Yahoo" breakfasts and visits from superheroes and music celebrities to hugs and high-fives from the principal, students and parents are eased into the start of a brand-new school year.



Assumption Catholic fourth-graders
Mary Cate Harvey (front), Maddie Heekin,
Brooke Soulby and Sydney Dennis



Sofina, Jenny and Elana Parker say goodbye at
Riverside Presbyterian Day School.



Big grins from Jacob and Jackson Kennedy, and Kellan and Trent Toaston at San Jose Episcopal Day School.



Emma Tennant, Emily Spottswood and Nora Osborn at the HAE kindergarten cookie party.



Sisters Ava, Yasmine and Ana Salman are ready for class at San Jose Episcopal Day School.



Twins Henry and Owen Lek hug goodbye before going to their HAE kindergarten classes.



San Jose Episcopal Day School welcomed
cousins Christian, Michael and Kaylee Salameh.



Brothers Andrew and Edmond Saoud hold the hands of their sister, Eva, on her first day at San Jose Episcopal Day School.

A photograph of a white and tan dog wearing a large straw hat and red sunglasses. The dog is holding two hand fans, one red and one yellow, in front of its chest. The background shows a blurred city skyline under a bright, hazy sky.

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Cristina, Giulia and Sofia with mom Leslie Angiolillo at Riverside Presbyterian Day School



Bolles students Grace Pyburn, Diana Sanchez, Layne Rivera, Rachel Jacob, Dalia Handoush



Diane Milne and Emmy Pearson



Sadie Craddock, Vaden Hughes and Emily Lekas



Assumption second-grade teacher Kelly Nance, Kindergarten teacher Janice Davis and Kelly Branson, junior high math teacher



Tonya Elstein, Director of Education at Jacksonville Country Day School and San Marco resident, welcomes students as they return to school. The Baymeadows Road private school draws students from all over the area and current enrollment is 428 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. "We are connected" is the theme this year.



Second-graders Reid and Ellis Rafferty head off to Hendricks Avenue Elementary School.



Assumption Catholic third-graders Isa Miller, Nathan Couch, Louise Schwiegel



Assumption Catholic seventh-graders Nick Amico, Evan Lewis and Lucas Soulby



Heekin siblings Maddie, 4th grade, William, 1st grade and Nathan, 8th grade, are students at Assumption Catholic School.



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Boys' baseball team wins 2018 championship

The FCA Blueclaws Under Armour team are the 2018 Cooperstown Dreams Park Champions. The Jacksonville 12U baseball team competed against 103 other teams the week of June 16 in Cooperstown, New York, and went 11-0 to claim the title. The team broke the Cooperstown homerun record with their combined 59 homeruns over the 11 games to bring the trophy home. The team also tied the Cooperstown record as every one of the 13 players hit at least one over-the-fence homerun. The Blueclaws were recognized at a Jumbo Shrimp game Aug. 9.

The FCA Blueclaws Under Armour team is coached by Tom Lucas, (top left), Don Presley (top right) and Jason Thomas (2nd row far left). The players are (front row): Trevor Bradley, Jeffrey Henry, Kent Jackson, Kody Deneault, George Gilson, and Kyle Boylston; back row: Tommy Brice, Isaiah Mamea, Jacob Thomas, Spencer Stevens, Alphonso Westbrook, Tony McCoy, and Tyler Waters.



Katherine D'Arienzo

Barron Pettway

Sixth-graders enjoy active summer

Several sixth-grade students at San Jose Episcopal Day School had a busy summer traveling, camping and swimming.

Katherine D'Arienzo traveled to Detroit, Michigan for a month to attend CISV International, a global organization that inspires peace and understanding by bringing youth together from all over the world. D'Arienzo met lifelong friends from numerous countries while participating in daily activities that focus on empathy, compassion and understanding of other cultures.

Barron Pettway supported the Jacksonville Jaguars by attending the scrimmage, enjoyed his first sleep-away camp and went on a family vacation to Palm Coast, while Grey Saleeba traveled to Wyoming and North Carolina where he went lake surfing, whitewater rafting and zip lining.

Samuel Hayward attended Aquatics Camp where he went wake boarding and saw a bull shark in the water, and Yasmine Salman's summer was full of swim meets with the Epping Forest swim team.

San Marco preschool welcomes new director, offers new programming

Students at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church's Little Friends Preschool were welcomed by a new face this fall.

Mary Keith, longtime director of faithful and loving service to the children in the community, retired last spring from the day-to-day operations of running the 30-year-old preschool and invited Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church to step into that leadership role.

Stepping up to the challenge was Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Missions at HAB, who brought her experience running a large preschool and after-school ministry at a church in Atlanta to the table. Over the summer Chinn worked hard to fulfill state requirements, ready the facilities to welcome a new group of students, and develop a program which

will nurture the whole child through exploration and play.

Joining Chinn in this effort is HAB church member Chelsea Weise, who will lead the expansion of the Little Friends curriculum to include a Music and Arts Program. This new aspect adds to the creative- and exploration-focused curriculum and will give children the opportunity to explore learning through several areas of discovery.

In addition to the new music and art focus, Little Friends has plans to extend programming to create more ways to meet the needs of the community and provide unique opportunities for students and families. Those offerings include expanded care, for students as young as six weeks old; extended hours, allowing parents to drop their children off at 8 a.m. and pick



Claire Chinn



Mary Keith

them up by 5 p.m.; garden classes taught by Master Gardener Rebekah Duvall, and story time with Librarian Julie Babcock, who will teach children how to get the most out of the library.

For more information about Little Friends Preschool, visit habchurch.com/littlefriendspreschool.



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Pediatric patients envision healing world of their own

The healing power of the creative process is being celebrated for the seventh year at MOCA Jacksonville. The downtown museum is partnering with Art with a Heart in Healthcare to feature "A World of Their Own," a special exhibition of artwork by pediatric patients from Wolfson Children's Hospital.

"It is our honor to share the works of these talented young artists with the community," said MOCA Director Caitlin Doherty.

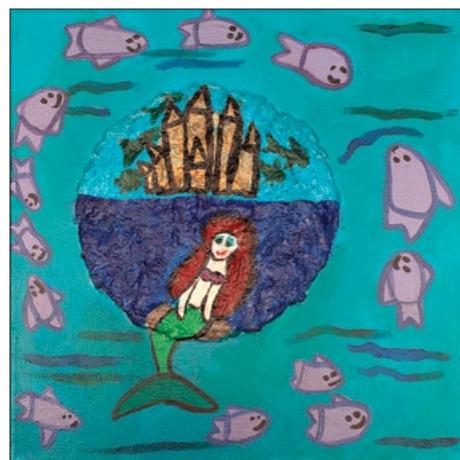
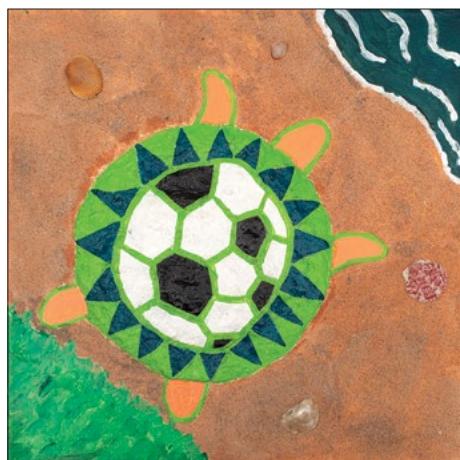
For the 2018 exhibition each artist was presented with a question, "If you could create your own world ... what

would it look like?" In answering this question, each patient created a three-dimensional art work capturing their own unique world, drawing from their own personalities and stories.

Art with A Heart in Healthcare is a nonprofit organization that provides personalized fine art experiences to enhance the healing process for patients and families at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Each patient is partnered with an artist in residence of AWAHH, bringing out their natural talents, while promoting self-confidence and self-awareness during their hospital experience.

"I am so fortunate to spend part of my day creating art with these very special kids. Every year, I say this year's show is my favorite, but this year the show is really something special," said Christy Ponder, executive director and artist in residence of AWAHH. "Each patient that we worked with did such a great job expressing their world on the canvas. I am so thrilled that Capital Bank has so generously sponsored this year's show. For a child to have their work hung at MOCA is truly something extraordinary."

"A World of Their Own" will be on view in the MOCA Jacksonville Education Gallery through December 2.



Corbin Clifton Jones, 11, chose to have a Star Wars World because he loves Star Wars. He painted the rebel base on it because "Rebel Alliance always wins."



Kiley Schofield, 8, chose to create a Tiger World for her favorite animal, which she says are "colorful, soft and brave." She also likes galaxies, which inspired her to paint one as the background in her artwork.



Because of her love for the beach, Macy Lee, 11, decided to make a world that includes the ocean and sea turtles, and her love of soccer.



Savannah Lahtinen, with her father, Todd, says her world would be an Ariel World because she loves Ariel. One of her favorite activities is to color in Ariel drawings during hospital stays.

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Successful Southside youth program springboard for spin-off



New Native Sons recruit Dylan Shepherd with Hayes "Roaring Lion" Nightingale and Dylan "Swimming Otter" Brock

Thanks to a strong presence in the San Marco area, the Native Sons and Daughters has spawned a new tribe in the Ortega area. Native Sons and Daughters has its roots in Indian Guides, a YMCA-based program from the 1920s, and is geared toward children age 5 to 12 and their fathers.

The tribe holds monthly pow-wows with fun activities and participates in many city-wide outings such as football and baseball games, bowling, and campouts, which include archery, BB gun competitions, ziplining, rock wall climbing, canoe races and much more.

Cooper Nightingale, also known as "Chief Soaring Falcon," and Hayes "Roaring Lion," had joined a tribe based in Mandarin a year ago and was inspired to begin a new tribe to serve the Westside. He will serve as chief of the Mohican tribe for the boys, while Drew "Chief Walking Man" Snowden will lead the Crow tribe for the girls.

School year opens with new chapter for Bolles' Swisher Library

Following a yearlong transformation, the Swisher Library on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus has a new look and function ready for the 2018-2019 school year. The brighter, more student-friendly space better supports Bolles' academic initiatives, including student-centered educational experiences and the School's Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) technology, according to Librarian Katherine Moody.

Moody has been working for the past year cultivating plans for the library redesign. She consulted with local academic library directors, students, faculty, school administrators and interior designers to conceive plans that suited today's students and educators.

"I wanted to be sure my vision for the Swisher Library aligned with our school culture as well as our academic mission," Moody said. "The result, I think, are progressive enhancements that will make Swisher a more attractive environment for student learning, research and gathering."

Some of the most obvious redesign elements includes the addition of private study rooms, flexible workspaces that can accommodate both individual study and



The Swisher Library on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus

"We wanted to create a genuine, comfortable work space where students can find help, focus and get their work done during the school day."

— Katherine Moody, Librarian, Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus

group work, and the addition of powered furniture that can support students' BYOD needs. Other restyled functions include an Information Desk designed for walk-up assistance and an in-house IT office with dedicated student hours.

"We wanted to create a genuine, comfortable work space where students can find help, focus and get their work done during the school day," Moody said. "It is a much different student vibe than The Canteen or the Bent Center."

This summer's upgrades were not limited to physical areas. Moody also launched a new library website that includes a research suite she describes as "the library we don't see when we walk in the door."

"Students and faculty have online access to an entire research suite including eBook reference shelves, primary resources and streaming media," Moody said. "The suite is fully integrated with the students' Bolles Microsoft 365 accounts."

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Bishop Kenny freshman on road to success

The Bishop Kenny High School Office of School Counseling hosted a success seminar the second week of school for parents and freshman students, to assist them in making a successful transition to high school. Topics included a four-year student educational plan, the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, study skills, grade averaging and cumulative and core GPA calculation. Presenters were also available to answer individual questions from families in attendance.

The ninth-grade success seminar is the first in a series of informational evening programs held each school year for all students, with topics appropriate to all four grade levels. This project is



Susan and Steve Garfield attended a 9th Grade Success Seminar at Bishop Kenny High School with freshman son Will, a graduate of San Jose Catholic School.

representative of the Bishop Kenny High School commitment to partner with parents in the education and formation of their children by providing a culture of faith, personal enrichment, and high academic standards.

Wolfson campus sports new gathering place

Students arrived on campus to find murals on the walls, a redesigned guidance suite, upgrades in the indoor cafeteria, and a new outdoor cafeteria/courtyard, renovated through a grant from Chartwells, the food service provider for Duval County Public Schools. Since then, groups of students, parents and community partners have hosted work days for the school grounds, the football stadium and the baseball complex.

Current 8th grade students who want to check out the campus can attend a preview tour on Monday, Oct. 8 or Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Wolfson looks forward to welcoming back Wolfpack alumni for Homecoming on Friday, Nov. 2.



A redesigned guidance suite was one of several new items greeting Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies.

Bishop Kenny ROTC hosts Cyber Camp



Front: Jake Chaput, Elizabeth Mayer, Matthew Bryant, Winston Peele, James-Patrick Marquez, Ryan Soroka, Francise, Soereh; back: Carter Moore, Hayden O'Neill, Kyle Davis, John Sellock, Matthew Seale, August Gould, Megan O'Connell-Becker and Luke Gould.

The Bishop Kenny Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) unit was one of a select number from across the United States invited to participate in the Air Force Association's (AFA) 2018 CyberCamp Program this summer. As an AFA CyberCamp host, the BK unit received software and a hands-on curriculum kit designed to teach cyber safety, cyber ethics, and critical network security skills to students.

BK Naval Science instructor Master Chief Kevin Harris was the lead instructor and Tom Nguyen, a member of the BK IT Department, assisted throughout the week. The camp culminated with an exciting team-based competition putting campers in the role of IT administrators, tasked with finding and addressing cybersecurity vulnerabilities

in simulated network environments. The local AFA CyberCamp competitions closely mimic AFA's annual CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

The CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program was created by the Air Force Association in 2009 to attract students to cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to the nation's future. In addition to the annual National Youth Cyber Defense Competition and the new AFA CyberCamp program, CyberPatriot has three other programs for various age groups.

Master Chief Harris has also entered five teams from BK to participate in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition this fall.

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2018 OPEN HOUSE DATES

Ponte Vedra Beach Campus

Wed, Oct. 10, 9-11 a.m.
Tue, Nov. 13, 6-8 p.m.

Whitehurst Campus

Wed, Nov. 7, 9-11 a.m.
Tue, Nov. 27, 6-8 p.m.

Bartram Campus

Tue, Nov. 6, 9-11 a.m.
Thu, Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m.

San Jose Campus

Fri, Oct. 5, 8 a.m.
Fri, Nov. 2, 8 a.m.
Fri, Dec. 7, 8 a.m.

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Whitehurst Pre-K-5
Bartram 6-8
San Jose 9-12

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Join us for an Open House to experience a day in the life of our students. We encourage you to see

for yourself how our high-caliber teachers engage students in exciting, active and challenging learning. Try Bolles Life for a day and you might not want to leave!

Discover the possibilities at Bolles. To find an upcoming Open House, please visit www.Bolles.org or call (904) 256-5030.

Flashbacks

Robert Sanford, who grew up in Ortega and once lived in San Marco, tells the story of his grandfather, Ross Apgar, who rented an apartment on Riverside Avenue when he worked as a photographer at the H. & W. B. Drew Co. from 1903 to 1913.

"He and his pal were up in the attic one day exploring, and they came upon a huge antique trunk. When they opened it, it was full of postcards, stamps and envelopes. They split them up between the two of them," said Sanford. "As time went on, my mother said during the Depression her dad had to sell some of the rarer stamps just to put food on their table. What was left over he made into three albums, one for me and the other two for my cousins."

These are a few from Sanford's postcard collection.



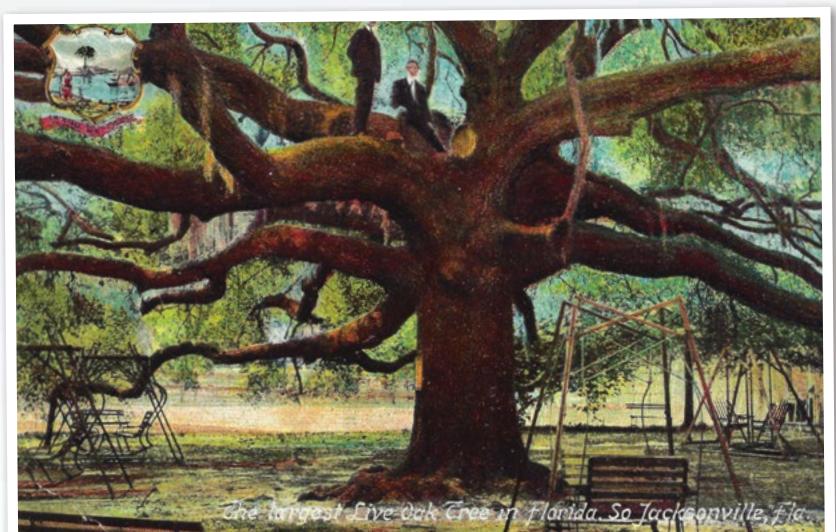
Above:
Labeled "Balloon Ascension at Dixieland Park, Jacksonville, Fla.," the postcard shows what was then called "The Coney Island of the South," which opened in 1907 on the Southbank in the vicinity of the Doubletree Hotel and the Chart House.



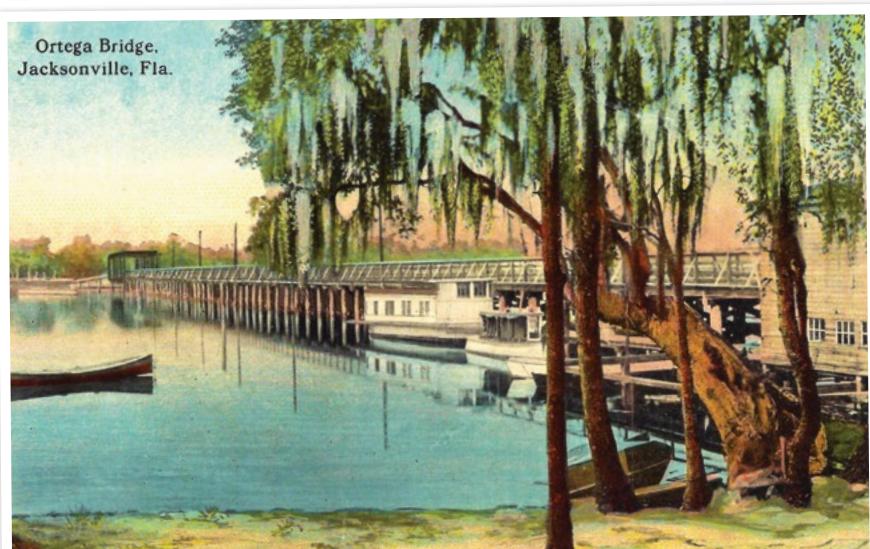
Left:
The hand-tinted postcard from the early 1900s is labeled "Dixieland Park at night, Jacksonville, Fla." It was addressed to a woman in Highland, Florida, and the sender wrote: "Elsie, I am in Jacksonville, expected to find you here. If possible, come on 5:30 this afternoon. If you can't, come tonite (sic) or come tomorrow."



Labeled "The big live Oak Tree at Dixieland, Jacksonville, Fla.," the hand-tinted postcard was published by H. & W. B. Drew Co. of Jacksonville and was part of the Florida Artistic Series.



Labeled "The largest Live Oak Tree in Florida, So. Jacksonville, Fla.," the postcard men in the upper reaches of the tree, which would have been about 150 years old in the early 1900s. Swings and benches beneath its branches provided places for Dixieland Park visitors to rest.



Labeled "Ortega Bridge, Jacksonville, Fla.," the postcard of a wooden bridge and boat landing was published by H. & W. B. Drew Co. of Jacksonville and was part of the Florida Artistic Series.



Labeled "Out to Ortega, Jacksonville, Fla.," the postcard was published by H. & W. B. Drew Co. of Jacksonville, printed in Germany, and was part of the Florida Artistic Series.

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It's hard to believe it has been one year since Hurricane Irma devastated Jacksonville. The Pajcic Firm and the Pajcic Family Foundation donated \$150,000, teaming up with The Jaguars Foundation for the recovery effort.



Much of our contribution went to the Ken Knight Drive area, where the Ribault River caused disastrous flooding to so many homes. It did not take long for the water damage to ruin flooring, appliances and cause mold and mildew.

Many families were forced to move out temporarily. It was a long and tedious recovery process that is still ongoing for some. However,



it was very rewarding to see first-hand the many families who were helped during the difficult days that followed. Curt Pajcic visited with a few residents who were so grateful to be back in their newly repaired homes. As Curt put it,

"This is what our community is all about. We are blessed to be able to help our neighbors when they are in need."



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Jammas Jax – Asian cuisine • Alma's Fusion – Mexican with a twist
Butt Hutt Smokehouse – BBQ • Big Island Bowls – Poke bowls, Acai bowls
Wrap It Up – Wraps, salads • Nitrogen Creamery – Homemade ice cream

Parking is available in the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center garage.

RSVP: CommunityBMDA.eventbrite.com