



See who's sporting pink to support breast cancer awareness.

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# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Doug Vanderlaan participates in community renovation project

**READ MORE, PAGE 24**



FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS

WWW.RESIDENTNEWS.NET | OCTOBER 2018, VOL. 12, ISSUE 10



## Real cats (and dogs) winners at benefit

Peter Racine, Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation president, raises a toast to the animals with a "big cat," Jacksonville Jaguars mascot Jaxson de Ville, at the Jacksonville Humane Society's annual fundraiser.

**READ MORE, PAGE 26**



## Craft beers, fine wine set mood for new event

Olivia Pitts with Ashley Helmick, Andreen Francis and Brooke Martin helped the Red Shoe Crew exceed its \$10,000 fundraising goal for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

**READ MORE, PAGE 24**



## Kickin' it at Ole Cowford

Honorary Co-Chair Donna Beames enjoyed good company at the Cowford Ball with longtime American Cancer Society supporter, Bunny Manning. The duo shared a laugh as patrons poured into the Glass Factory for the evening's event Sept. 29.

**READ MORE, PAGE 27**



## COMMUNITY LEADERS CELEBRATE BRAND-NEW ERA IN ~~CANCER~~ ERADICATION, CARE

At the podium, Baptist Health President/CEO Hugh Greene smiles as confetti and ribbons erupt amidst cheers from political and corporate leaders celebrating the opening of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in San Marco at a VIP reception Sept. 14. **READ MORE, PAGE 8**



## Digging up history in Memorial Park

On December 25, 1924, a parchment scroll – onto which was inscribed the names of the 1,220 Florida military men and women who died serving in World War I – was put into a lead box, soldered shut, then into a bronze box, also soldered shut, and buried in Memorial Park in front of the statue "Spiritualized Life." Nearly 94 years later, Brent Deloach, with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's LaVilla Station 4, carefully pries open the lid of the lead box after it was unearthed from beneath the marker plaque, assisted by Lieutenant Allen Mallard and Engineer Karl Lewis, both also with Station 4, and Battalion Chief Jack Griggs. "We were honored and excited to have been a part of this historic moment," said Griggs. The Memorial Park Association is in the process of verifying a newly researched list of names of the Florida Fallen and, if confirmed, could add up to 367 more names to the list before re-interring the box. Visit residentnews.net for updates on the historic time capsule.



## Avondale woman honored for lifetime literacy efforts

Robert and Sarah Van Cleve at surprise award ceremony Sept. 19, for Sarah's longtime efforts to eradicate illiteracy.

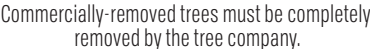
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# Letter TO THE Editor



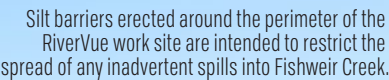
The City of Jacksonville will not pick up any tree debris when a citizen has paid a company to do the commercial work.

*Detective Sean P. Kobylarz*  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Interagency Special Investigations Unit

## DEP satisfied with RiverVue construction site environmental protections

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

Nick Duni, a City environmental specialist, went to the site on St. Johns Avenue in Avondale and spoke with the construction superintendent on July 13. “It was found that the ‘white/cream runoff from buildings across creek’ was from a cement blockage that discharged into Fishweir Creek. The superintendent had the issue corrected immediately upon notification of the discharge. During my inspection today, Fishweir Creek was free of any offsite impacts,” he said in an email response to Orth.



On Aug. 8, Russell Simpson, FDEP Ombudsman, Jim Maher, FDEP Assistant

“There is no reason to think we should not be pleased with their efforts,” said Simpson, “but we are very happy to review any concerns that residents have and to follow up with Nick.”



# Resident

## COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.

**www.ResidentNews.net**

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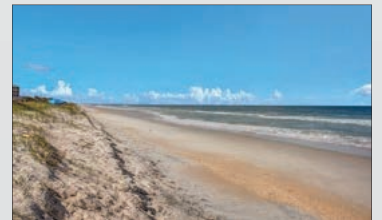
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# Developer announced, incentives package proposed to repurpose Berkman Plaza II condominium

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

When asked why a Ridgeland, Mississippi company would be interested in development in Jacksonville, Cono Caranna, Barrington Development vice president, said, “Jacksonville is perfect from a developer’s perspective...population, geography and infrastructure.”

The relatively new company, established in 2012, couldn’t have chosen a more challenging property when it took on development of the Berkman Plaza II condominium property, but that’s not how Caranna views it.

“This particular property’s location is also perfect; next to the river, stadium, arena



The unfinished Berkman Plaza II condominium will be repurposed as a hotel, developed by a Mississippi company.



Rendering for the proposed hotel and family entertainment complex on the Northbank include a berth for the USS Charles Adams.



and downtown,” said Caranna, whose company renovated a distressed property, White House Biloxi, to great success.

“It was actually way worse off than Berkman, being closed for almost 30 years,” said Caranna about the historical beach hotel which dates to the 1890s. Caranna’s company spent \$7 million to restore – over a 16-month period – the severely dilapidated property to its former glory, using as much of the salvaged material as possible.

He has similar plans for Berkman II, stating they will use the existing structure as is for a hotel, while adding new buildings for a family entertainment center and parking garage.

For nearly 12 years Berkman II has languished in a semi-constructed state following a December 2007 collapse of a five-story concrete parking garage at 500 East Bay St. One construction employee was killed and 21 were injured in the collapse. In 2014 Choate Construction obtained the property through a foreclosure settlement.

Earlier this year, under pressure from the Mayor’s Office to close a deal with a developer, Choate Construction sold the property to a Wisconsin-based company, Ohde Construction, for \$4.75 million.

The architect for the new development, which will include a 340-room hotel, is Adache Group Architects. Hotel amenities may include a lazy river, a swim-up bar, a fitness and spa room, restaurant and meeting space, a ballroom and retail space.

While declining to name the brand which under which the family-friendly resort will be built, Caranna did share some details about the property. “There will be restaurants, resort pool water playground (not open to public, hotel guests only), family entertainment center with 200 arcade games, indoor attractions such as ropes courses and/or rock wall, outdoor amusement rides such as a Ferris wheel and other thrill rides,” he said.

Additionally, he confirmed the USS Charles Adams will be docked at the new

resort as an interactive museum. The location for former guided missile destroyer has floated around downtown since 2013, when City Council approved a modification to a 2010 ordinance to move the proposed berth from the Southbank to a location on the Northbank across from the Maxwell House Coffee plant. Most recently the ship was part of Shad Khan’s proposal for redevelopment of The Shipyards.

The Downtown Investment Authority approved \$36.6 million in incentives last month for the \$150 million project, of which Barrington will spend at least \$122 million. The incentives include a 75 percent tax rebate over 20 years not to exceed \$20 million, an \$8.25 million performance-based incentive, a \$3.25 million grant to complete the redevelopment, \$1.6 million worth of three acres of city-owned property for a garage, and a \$3.5 million grant for the developer to reserve 200 spaces in the garage for public use. The Jacksonville City Council has yet to approve the incentive package.



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# Fishweir Creek restoration project faces several hurdles

Army Corps presents two-year design, permitting schedule

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

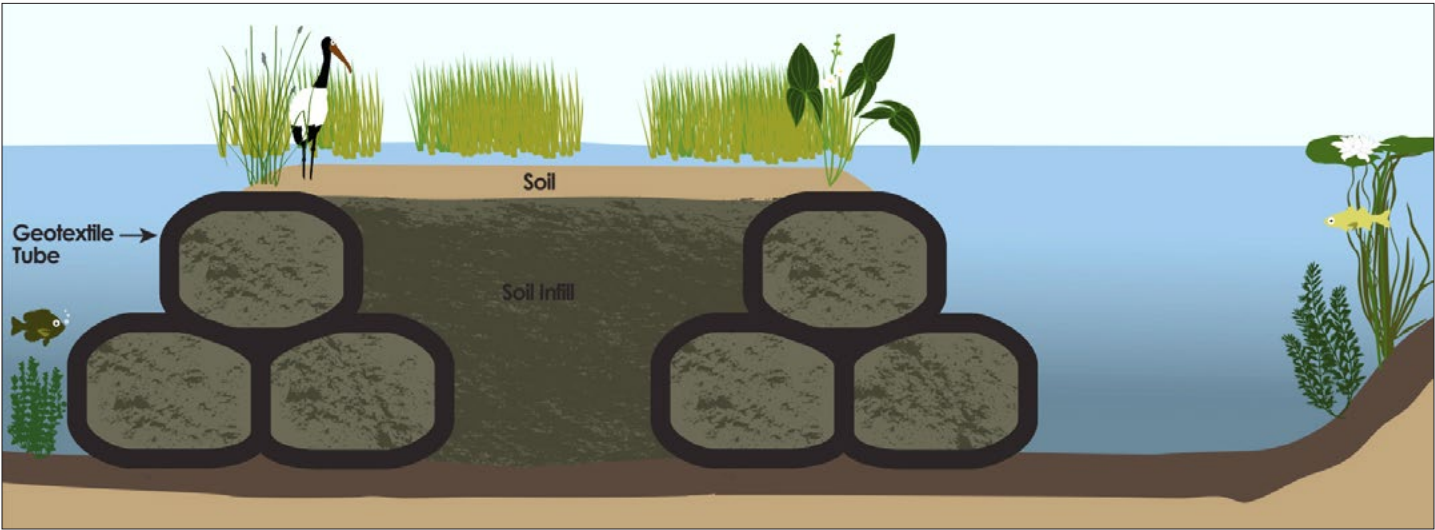
Despite support for or grumblings against the Army Corps of Engineers’ proposed aquatic habitat ecosystem restoration project on Fishweir Creek, the project has four hurdles to overcome, each of which could stop it in its tracks.

The project goals include restoring the historic estuary to healthy levels which have been reduced by decades of urban development; restoring the habitat for federally-endangered manatees; improving water quality and tidal flushing actions; creating protective and forage habitat by planting vegetation, and encouraging wildlife habitat with removal of invasive plant species.

At a public meeting Sept. 20 at Willowbranch Library, Jason Harrah, ACE senior project manager, said the first potential obstacle to achieving those goals involves gaining permission from property owners in the project area to allow temporary easements along their waterfronts. Should any of the properties have Spanish Land Grants, which puts the property line in the middle of the waterway, not at the edge of the property, and a property owner is not willing to grant the easement, the restoration project could be halted as early as January.

“If any homeowner said they want to be compensated for the muck [that will be dredged], then we could have an issue, because we are not getting into buying real estate,” said Harrah.

According to the Corps’ schedule for design and permitting, the City of Jacksonville will undertake the easement agreements for completion by the end of December. Over the next three months, the Corps will survey the creek channel, identify property lines and springs, and mark utilities.



Cross-section rendering of the marsh island proposed for the mouth of Fishweir Creek as part of the aquatic habitat ecosystem restoration project.

The second hurdle involves the Florida Department of Transportation’s concerns that dredging could impact the 58-pier Herschel Street bridge support system. Harrah said although the Corps had communicated early on in the project with all potentially impacted parties, he had just recently received an email from FDOT’s James Knight, which said “The center portion of the bridge was built in the 1920s and is supported on piles of unknown length. Due to this unknown condition, FDOT cannot determine the impact to the bridge support system from dredging the bottom down +/- 5 feet to improve hydraulic and environmental conditions on the creek. Therefore, unless the bridge is replaced with a new structure designed for the revised channel bottom, FDOT cannot support dredging beneath the bridge or adjacent activities that could cause the mud line at the bridge to lower. Currently, FDOT has no plans to replace the bridge.”

The design schedule indicates the Corps will complete hydraulic modeling and analyze bridge scour potential in early 2019, which could result in a no-go decision at the end of March unless the project can be

phased to avoid that area until the bridge is replaced – which may not occur any time in the near future.

The third and fourth hurdles were suggested by a member of the public, who asked if contaminants in the sediment could be high enough to bring the project to a halt and if funding was an issue.

In addressing the potential for contaminated sedimentation, Mike Hollingsworth, a biologist with the Army Corps, said preliminary testing indicated some elevated levels of metals are present through storm-water runoff, but this is no indication the levels are high enough to not move forward with the project.

The final obstacle to beginning the creek restoration project is funding. Although the Project Partnership Agreement was signed between the Corps and the City on June 7, 2018, the 65 percent of the costs to be borne by the Corps still requires federal government approval.

Harrah said he will start requesting funds as early as the Corp’s fiscal year 2019. “The squeaky wheel gets the grease,” he said. “The more our congressional representatives are involved, the more they hear from their constituents, the more opportunity we’ll have to receive the funding.”

Duane Kent, a City Public Works project manager in attendance, indicated the City’s portion – 35 percent of the \$6,539,700 construction cost – has been almost totally funded.

If all hurdles are cleared, actual construction could begin in early 2021, thus putting completion 20 years after the project was first initiated with a letter of intent in 2002.

### Residents express concerns

At the start of the meeting, Harrah emphasized the project was not a dredging project and the creation of a 2.3-acre marsh island was pivotal to the creek restoration

efforts. Despite efforts to explain the necessity of creating the island, some residents were not convinced.

The island, which would be constructed from the dredged material and fully encapsulated in a submersed “geo-textile tube,” would be tear-drop in shape to create two navigable channels and increase the velocity of water flowing out to the St. Johns River.

“Any material less suitable, but not hazardous, would be placed in the portion of the tube near the bottom, with the cleaner material at the top,” said Harrah, who said without the island the creek flow would not be strong enough to move sedimentation out into the St. Johns River, defeating the dredging efforts. “If the island is moved over, all the sediment will collect and create a big shoal area, incurring a dredging event every three or four years.”

For those living along the creek who were concerned about the height of the island obstructing their views, the top of the island would be planted with native species of plants and grasses that would not grow any higher than 3 feet, said Paul Stodola, a Corps biologist.

Other concerns expressed included whether the island would attract bugs, would it withstand major storms or exacerbate flooding in the area, and would the new channels impact docks along the creek.

Harrah assured the audience the Corps would consider all storm conditions in the final design of the island, while Melissa Reynolds, Engineering Technical Lead, said “We would never build anything that would exacerbate flooding.” Harrah also said increasing the creek flow should reduce the number of insects which breed in stagnant water bodies, which is essentially the current condition of Fishweir Creek.

Regarding effects on nearby docks, the Corps plans to shift the final alignment of the creek as needed to avoid dock structures and current access.



Bird’s-eye view of computer-enhanced Fishweir Creek with proposed marsh island.

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# Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center’s elaborate, intentional design aesthetic enhances cancer care, treatment for entire region

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

With great fanfare the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center building, which serves as a gateway to San Marco from the north, is now open for business to serve cancer patients and their families.

Although the new cancer center first opened its doors to patients Sept. 4, approximately 1,000 community members were able to tour the shiny new facility when Baptist Health hosted a two-hour public open house, complete with food trucks, on Sept. 15.

It’s been three years since Baptist Health began partnering with MD Anderson Cancer Center of Houston, Texas, and just over two years since construction began on the new cancer facility located at 1301 Palm Avenue.

And the new building does not disappoint. The \$184 million, 330,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art outpatient clinic is

a marvel of glass, original fine art, indoor greenspace, and natural light. Reaching nine stories toward the skyline, it is one of the largest construction projects ever done in Jacksonville, said Keith Tickell, vice president of Strategic Assets – Real Estate at Baptist Health.

“Our board and our senior leadership team wanted to do something that was distinguished in this community. As we like to describe it, this is an extraordinary facility for an even better group of caregivers and clinicians,” he said.

Designed to offer a feeling of tranquility while promoting healing, the center will function as a hub for every facet of cancer care, including physician appointments, imaging, radiation and infusion therapy. The infusion venue on the ninth floor is especially impressive, because patients enjoy panoramic views of San Marco and the St. Johns River, while sitting in any of 38 infusion “pods,” which feature floor-to-ceiling windows.

Serving as a place for clinical appointments, the building also features the nation’s first cancer-specialized Walgreen’s pharmacy, and a Life Wellness Center – a retail shop that offers wellness services and specialty-care products geared toward cancer patients and survivors, such as mastectomy bra and prosthesis fittings, and complimentary head shaving in a private environment. There is also a café, which offers healthy food selections that are especially suited for cancer patients.

Also, within the new building are areas for spiritual support, counseling, nutrition, social services and art therapy, which are



The new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center building opened for patients Sept. 4 and the public was invited to tour the newest addition to Northeast Florida’s high-quality medical offerings during an open house Sept. 15.

part of Baptist MD Anderson’s whole-person approach to cancer care, said Dr. Bill Putnam, medical director for Baptist MD Anderson.

“The opening of this facility gives patients in our community a special caring environment and enhanced access to the highly skilled multidisciplinary cancer care developed at MD Anderson in Houston. Our patients will not need to travel out of state,” he said.

A new 2,100-square-foot multidisciplinary conference center within the building will allow Baptist MD Anderson doctors to easily communicate with their colleagues in Houston as well as teleconference with others around the world, Putnam said.

A third-floor glass walkway connects the new building to the Baptist Outpatient Center and the Hill Breast Center across San Marco Boulevard. A 600-car garage is attached to the new building, offering parking for patients and physicians only.

Also included on the new campus is Hope Park, an 8,000-square-foot public space, which, as a gift to the community from Baptist Health, lies on the south corner of San Marco Boulevard and Children’s Way. Park amenities include benches, 11 lily-like trellises for shade, and a magnificent sculpture entitled “And I Still Rise,” made from more than 300 carbon-fiber rods created by internationally acclaimed artist Konstantin Dimopoulos.

A cancer patient advisory group assisted in selecting the art, wall colors, and furniture for the center, said Tickell, noting that special electrostatic glass doors cloud over to ensure privacy at the flick of a switch in the 21 private infusion rooms on the ninth floor. Chemical-free linoleum makes up much of the flooring, he said.

Works of art by more than 100 artists, the majority of which are from Northeast Florida, are strategically located on every floor of the facility, said Ryan Ali, director of development for Baptist MD Anderson.

Adorning the wall of the lobby is “Slices of the Sea,” a large colorful mural made of acrylic and powdered pigment on 30,000 glass microscope slides, which was donated by Baptist Health CEO and President Hugh Greene and his wife, Susan.

Other prominent works of art include “Flock of Wonder,” a swirl of hand silk-screened paper and aluminum butterflies created by local artist Sarah Crooks with community engagement; “Transition,” a large sculpture at the front entrance created by Bradenton artist Linda Howard that captures the transformative experience of the cancer journey while conveying a feeling of hope; and “The Circle,” a sculpture created by Colorado artist Frank Swanson, which was given by Kimberly and Richard Sisisky in memory of The Honorable Norman Sisisky and Terry R. Sisisky. Made from a solid block of red granite, the sculpture is cut in a way to symbolize people embracing, helping, and supporting one another as a caring community.

“Every single room from the first floor to the ninth has many pieces of unique art, and most are from local artists,” Ali said. “This is more than just a pretty building. It’s a building with purpose that also shows the intensity of the care going on here. To build a building like this is in Baptist’s DNA. We weren’t about creating a building to blend in with the landscape. Baptist wanted an iconic cancer center, and as important as the exterior of the building is, also is the interior, and the work we are doing with patients. We use the word ‘transformative’ cancer care, and it really is, down to the attention given to every single detail and the technology in every single room.”

Greene agreed. “Everything about Baptist MD Anderson is thoughtful and intentional,” he said. “We’ve created a cancer-care destination for patients in Jacksonville, the Southeast, and beyond that combines cutting-edge treatment with compassionate care.”



Keith Tickell, vice president of Strategic Assets – Real Estate and LeeAnn Mengel, administrator of Oncology Services at Baptist Health, answer questions during a tour of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer facility Aug. 31.

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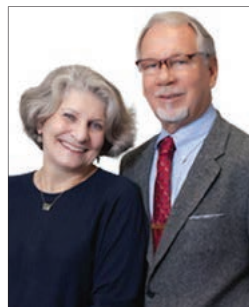
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# Downtown at ‘a point of change’ for commercial investments

By Kelly Kelly  
Resident Community News

Oliver Barakat, 48, has been a commercial real estate broker in Jacksonville since the late ‘90s. He specializes in office properties. He helps tenants find the right space and advises them through the entire process from planning and strategy, to negotiating the lease, to the purchase of a building. And he has noticed something new going on in Downtown.

Tenants are willing to pay a ton of money to be in the refurbished historic buildings. And he didn’t see that a decade ago.

Barakat, who is a senior vice president with CBRE Group, Inc., and a board member and past chair of the Downtown Investment Authority, the economic development agency focused on revitalizing Downtown, has his finger on the pulse.

“We’re kind of at this point of change,” Barakat said. “There’s historically been a negative perception about investing private capital in the downtown market. Now folks are more even keel. They are still cautious, but they are not negative about it.”

While optimism is too strong a word for Barakat, he said investors need to think twice before not considering Downtown as an investment option “where before it was an easy ‘no thanks.’”

The momentum Downtown can be linked, in part, to the efforts of the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) and its CEO Aundra Wallace, a shift in demographics and the demand for historic buildings, he said.

“I think the community finally recognized that we have to have an organization that wakes up every day and focuses on downtown development,” he said. “We didn’t have that for many years.”

The millennials are now a major demographic and they do not want to live in suburban sprawl. They want an urban experience, he said. And that has manifested itself in Riverside and Springfield’s renaissance. “But, it is also happening in Downtown in smaller pieces.”

Barakat said the third factor is a greater appreciation of historic buildings. Historically, this only happened in very large markets, like a Chicago or New York.

“Now you can go to almost any city and you will see there is historic restoration occurring in those buildings,” he said. “I think that has really helped Downtown because those old buildings lying fallow for so long were really a drag on Downtown, and now they are a major attraction because they are so unique and have so much character that you cannot replicate anywhere else.”

But this is not the first time Downtown has approached an inflection point. Barakat said the last time Jacksonville got close the recession happened. So, a sense of urgency is important to continue the velocity of investment by the public sector, as well as from the private sector side to maintain the momentum.

“The true goal for us is to ensure that any revitalization overcomes or transcends any recession,” he said. “We have to have a revitalization that is sustainable, so that when we come out of the next recession we are not starting all over again.”

And for that to happen Barakat said, “We need more projects. We need more density. We need more critical mass to get us through that.”

Critical mass refers to people. It can be measured in different ways – residential units, amount of construction and the like,



but at the end of the day the revitalization of Downtown requires a number of people living there who call it home.

There are roughly 4,000 residential units that are either under construction or existing Downtown. And, he said it will take about 10,000 units to create enough density for retail to be self-sufficient “to get us close to an 18-hour activity level on the street, and get us to a point where there is so much residential activity you have natural demand for retail, and you have office occupiers naturally attracted to the environment because it is a cool place to be.”

When a point of natural growth is reached, fewer projects need city and public incentives. Although, he said he thinks “we’ll always rely on maybe some level of incentives Downtown for certain projects, but right now almost every project needs some level of incentive.”

Incentives for redevelopment of Downtown Jacksonville – an area that includes the Downtown Northbank and Southside Community Redevelopment Areas – are in the domain of the DIA.

In August, at a commercial real estate conference by Bisnow, Wallace said his goal when he took the helm of the DIA was to build an infrastructure that made it easier for private developers and the city to talk to one another and to move projects forward. He said, “If you cannot show the ability to have a private public partnership no particular downtown in any particular city is going to get developed.”

Since that time, Wallace said the DIA has moved expeditiously on board approvals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

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for a number of projects. It took about a month for the board to approve the redevelopment of the Barnett Bank building after reaching agreement with the developer and about the same amount of time to approve the financial partnership that brought Jacksonville University downtown.

Housing mix needs to be right

During the Bisnow meeting, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry said the attractive regulatory environment for investors, combined with jobs and population growth, brought \$3.5 billion in downtown investment in 2017. “That’s a billion more than the last 17 years combined,” he said.

With that type of investment and bold plans for redevelopment Downtown, the right mix of housing is an important piece to the puzzle.

“In certain instances, a downtown can just catch fire,” Barakat said. And if it does, rents can rise very quickly, and it can create a housing affordability problem for young professionals, teachers and community workers. “So, we’ve tried to ensure, before things take off too fast, that we develop lower income and affordable housing.”

The LaVilla District west of The Landing on the Northbank is home to three such developments. Combined, they will create about 400 units of affordable and workforce housing for low- and moderate-income households, he said.

According to the Downtown Jacksonville Community Redevelopment Plan, workforce housing, which is defined as housing that is affordable to a person who earns less than 150 percent of the current area median income, is considered investment in infrastructure as fundamental as utility lines and transit. And, the DIA is charged with promoting its development Downtown.

“We haven’t built that kind of housing Downtown in many years,” Barakat said. Whereas, there has been investment in waterfront housing with developments such as the Berkman Plaza One on the Northbank and the Peninsula and the Strand on the Southbank. There have also been market rate housing developments in the Brooklyn neighborhood and Southbank next to the school board.

“If you’re gonna have a healthy residential density downtown you can’t just have residential for affluent people, and you don’t want to have just low-income housing either,” Barakat said. “You want to have a neighborhood with a variety of residences.”

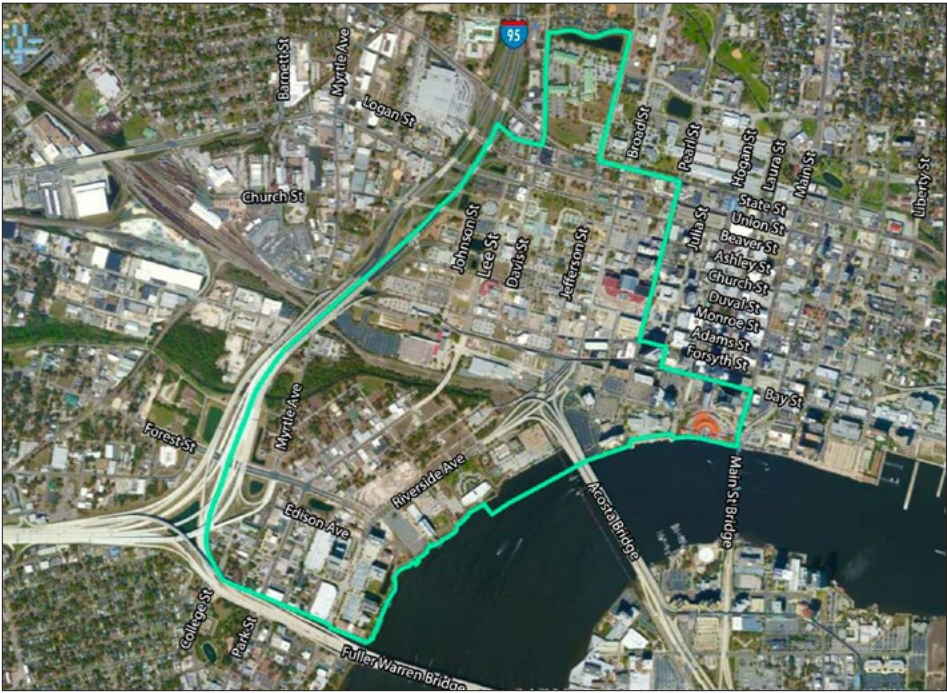
In terms of keeping the momentum strong for a vibrant revitalization Downtown, there is still work to be done.

There are a lot of vacant properties that are privately owned. “In the national historic district in the core of Downtown, we’ve got 187 contributing properties,” Barakat said. As to how many are vacant, he is not certain but said it is probably as much as one-third of them.

“We are directing many of our incentives toward those kinds of properties because if they are revitalized they are huge assets, if they are lie fallow they are a major detriment to development,” he said.

Barakat said it is also probably time to spend some money on public infrastructure Downtown, such as converting more one-way streets to two-way streets, improving wayfinding signage and lighting. He said the public realm is average and improvement adds a sense of place and helps developers come to the table.

“If you want to live Downtown, at the end of the day you want to see the neighborhood continue to improve and private developers can only do so much.”



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# Developers of residential infill projects rise to challenge

Small urban ‘subdivisions’ in the works for Riverside

By **Kandace Lankford**  
Resident Community News

With the historic neighborhoods almost at capacity, remaining lots are becoming increasingly scarce – yet the demand to live in these neighborhoods continues to rise. One antidote to the problem is residential infill, but it comes with its own set of challenges.

It can be difficult to locate and acquire potential infill property, as owners are often reluctant to sell. When they do decide to sell, the price is high and the property goes very quickly. Furthermore, planning and zoning can become a drawn-out, complicated process.

Brian Gabree of Red Clover Realty specializes in new construction in Jacksonville’s historic districts. Helping his builders find lots in these areas is not an easy feat.

“Because the infill lots are so rare, they are very difficult to find. Then when you find them, owners don’t want to sell or they want a premium,” he said. “And because it’s such a rarity to find a lot, when you build a home, it goes very quickly.”

In late September, Gabree, together with other developers and builders, held an open house to show eight new homes that were

built in historic Riverside. Also, he has helped his builders acquire 12 additional lots in the area.

“People want to be in Riverside/Avondale area and the 5 Points and Park and King Street areas. It’s highly walkable – there are plenty of restaurants, pubs for a drink after work, there is the Cummer Museum, Publix, Starbucks and more,” Gabree said. “People want to step outside their door and be able to walk or get on their bikes and have everything right there – that’s why Riverside is so desirable.”

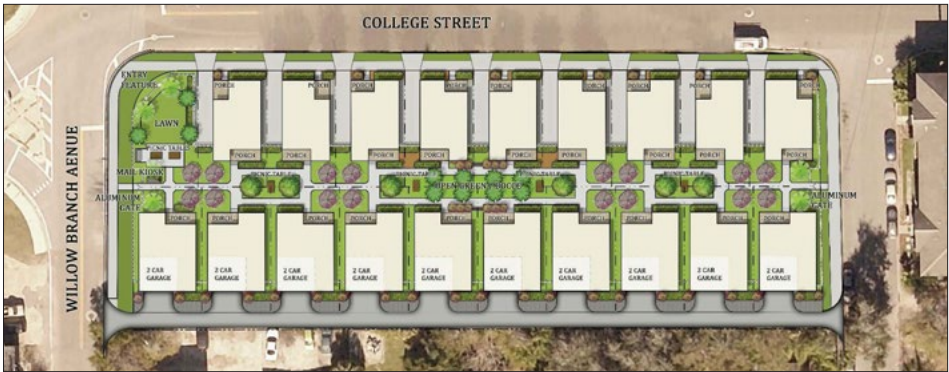
Not too long ago, Gabree helped a builder purchase a 40- by 275-foot lot for \$170,000. Today, a 50- by 100-foot lot sells for \$120,000 to \$130,000.

“Since the demand is going to stay the same and supply will go down, the prices will continue to go up,” he said.

### ‘Pocket’ neighborhoods underway

Not too far from the Park and King Streets retail corridor, a new development is underway in what some refer to as a “pocket neighborhood” within historic Riverside.

Adam Merrill, president of John Merrill Homes, is putting 17 new Craftsman-style homes on 3.5 acres at James and Green Streets, east of the CSX railroad tracks, re-purposing land which was once used by the City of Jacksonville as a maintenance storage site. Merrill, who began construction earlier this



Twenty lots, with 19 homes and community greenspace, are planned for College Street between Willowbranch Avenue and Rubel Street.

year, is also building six similar homes on Ernest Street, which are already pre-sold.

Just a few blocks away, another new pocket neighborhood community is in the works for the north half of an entire block along College Street, and the development plan has been tweaked several times since its inception. Alex Sifakas of JWB Homes came up with the concept, which has been revised to better suit the surrounding area.

The original plan for “Cottages on College” was to build 13 “skinny” homes on 26-foot-wide lots, but after months of working with Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), they came up with a different concept and decided to center the residences around a common courtyard.

“We switched gears to the courtyard concept, which was something that was historically built in Springfield and on Dancy Street, but hasn’t been built in about 100 years,” said Sifakas. “It’s something I never would have thought of, but it’s those kinds of conversations that yield a better project at the end of the day.”

The revised development will consist of 19 single-family homes built on 20 lots, with one lot being developed into a pocket park/greenspace. Ten of the homes will have two-car garages, while the other nine homes will provide two parking spaces on site. The homes will be centered around a shared courtyard space – a 19-foot by 360-foot easement running the entire length of the rear of each of the 20 lots. Homeowners will share ownership and use of this area.

“People want to live in an urban, walkable environment and can’t get that from traditional developments outside the core. Our

core neighborhoods have been going through a rebirth the last 20 years and we’re running out of lots and land,” he said. “It has to do with demand. A large percentage of the population doesn’t want to live in a subdivision 40 minutes from where they work. They want to live in an area that has culture, where they can walk to a bar or a restaurant.”

According to Sifakas, infill lots that are already platted pass through zoning and planning relatively easily, but otherwise, it becomes more complicated.

“It takes a lot of conversations with the community. If they come out in opposition, it’s not going to work. When we consider what they want, we end up with a better product and it will be better for the neighborhood,” he said. “I think people see the value of infill development – taking something like a blighted or vacant lot and turning it into a huge asset. It will bring families and tax revenue, and it will bring more businesses there – which is what I really want.”

Community “conversation” includes working with RAP, who supports the “courtyard” concept, while recognizing it is not a historic pattern and would not be appropriate to other locations in the district.

Ryan Davis of Piper Homes recently completed two homes on St. Johns Avenue on a large parcel that had an existing home and will be building two more on that parcel. The original home dates back to 1912 and was built for Philip Stockton May, a descendant of the Stockton family



One of several models of Craftsman-style homes under construction at James and Green Streets in Riverside.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 13**

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that came to Jacksonville in the 1890s and helped to develop Avondale.

“We found the property through an MLS that had it listed with a realtor. The idea was to have two homes facing St. Johns Avenue and the other two facing Riverside Avenue,” he said. “We created a central alleyway between all four homes to hide the garages behind the properties – it was a nod to the traditional layout of the neighborhood that utilized alleys off the streets.”

Davis worked with RAP on the project to make sure it would fit in with the historical aspects of the neighborhood. The project went smoothly, but planning and zoning was a bit more complicated.

“It was a little more strenuous than if it was just a finished lot that we would have bought from a developer,” said Davis. “The City takes a little bit of a harder look at the drainage and grading and everything.”

‘Groundbreaking’ development led way in Brooklyn

One of the first infill developments in Jacksonville was 220 Riverside, a multi-family housing complex in the Brooklyn area. Christian Harden, principal at NAI Hallmark, was instrumental in bringing it to fruition.

“It was being done all across the country, in every major metropolitan area. People want to live, work and play in a neighborhood where they don’t have to be dependent on an automobile,” said Harden. “The 220 Riverside project was really groundbreaking because it proved that there was a demand for this type of housing in the marketplace – sometimes exceeding \$2 per square foot. I think there was always demand, but we had a supply issue. This was the first of its kind – Jacksonville is a suburban market, nobody had offered that kind of project in Riverside.”

Finding sufficient-sized properties to build multi-housing developments such as Riverside 220 is a common problem and one of the most exasperating parts of the process.

“The tough part about infill is that it’s difficult to assemble a property big enough to build scale for multi-family housing,” Harden said. “There is a good chance you’ll end up with a person who doesn’t want to sell the one parcel that is needed to pull off the development.”

Though Riverside 220 was conceived and built based on the theory that young, urban professionals wanted to be close to downtown and all the amenities, the reality has proven to be different from what was expected. Nearly half of the residents are baby boomers.

“Home ownership is down in Jacksonville; we are below the state average. We are around 61 percent and the state average is closer to 70 percent. People do not necessarily subscribe to the American dream of home ownership – they want the flexibility offered by multi-family housing,” said Harden. “Baby boomers also want to experience the culture, entertainment and environment associated with projects like 220 Riverside.”

As such, a new multi-family housing development next door to 220 Riverside, Vista Brooklyn project, is in the works. The 308-unit complex is geared toward baby boomers with disposable income.

The 10-story, all concrete building will include a 10th floor clubhouse, infinity pool, outdoor kitchens, elevated finishes in the apartment units, a pet grooming salon and an elevated dog walking park. Additionally there will be approximately 13,000 square feet of retail along Riverside Avenue, a structured parking garage with controlled access and entrances to the tower on each floor of the garage, and dedicated spaces for retail parking on ground floor of parking garage, according to Keith Goldfaden of NAI Hallmark. The targeted groundbreaking date is October or November.

Another infill apartment project, which is nearing completion, is the \$42-million RiverVue on St. Johns Avenue. The first of three developments by Chance Partners LLC in Jacksonville, the 228-unit complex includes the tower formerly known as Commander Apartments. Seven additional buildings plus a parking garage are being built on the site of the former St. Johns Village.

“Infill development is something I’m really passionate about. We should focus our efforts on existing neighborhoods where we have existing infrastructure,” said Harden, who lives in Avondale. “I think it’s very positive. Density is healthy and allows us to make better use of our retail areas.”

Servicemembers get transition support at new center at NAS Jacksonville



Ashlea Wesley, USO Pathfinder Scout; Jim Beamesderfer, Prudential, Vice President, Veterans Initiative; Bryan Burt, USO Pathfinder Site Manager; Mike O'Brien, Executive Director, Greater Jacksonville Area USO; Captain Michael Connor, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Jacksonville; John Steingrubby, The Boeing Company, Boeing Cecil Field Site Director; Brian Wolfburg, VyStar Credit Union President and CEO, Kristen Montejio, USO Pathfinder Scout.

USO Greater Jacksonville unveiled a new Pathfinder Transition Center Sept. 13 at NAS Jacksonville inside the VyStar Credit Union building. The new center will provide support for servicemembers and military spouses as they transition from the military to their future communities.

“VyStar has been a strong advocate for our military since our founding in 1952 and the opening of our first branch at Naval Air Station Jacksonville,” said Brian E. Wolfburg, President/CEO VyStar Credit Union. “In keeping with this long-standing tradition, VyStar is honored to partner with the USO and the Pathfinder program to assist service members and their families make a smooth transition to civilian life.”

USO Pathfinder program consists of personalized services, continuity of care and customized action plans. Pathfinder Scouts work one-on-one with individuals 12 months before leaving and up to 12 months after separation or retirement. Along with servicemembers, Scouts work with the spouses through any family transitions during their family’s military career.

“We want to help the servicemember and spouse successfully navigate the transition phase of their military career and help connect them with vetted resources that will help them solve their specific problems,” said USO Pathfinder Site Manager Bryan Burt. “Now is when the real work begins, and we can really have an impact,” he said. “We have 35 people already working, we’ve been open for two weeks. This is what it’s all about. This is where we can say, ‘Wow, we’re doing something great.’”

The USO Pathfinder program is supported by corporate partners who include Prudential, Boeing, FedEx, Walt Disney, Clark Foundation, Lockheed Martin, United, Microsoft, and Southern New Hampshire University. In addition, the Pathfinder program is supported locally through Keiser University at NAS Mayport.

The center at NAS Jacksonville is one of 17 locations spread across the United States, which provide the Pathfinder program. Pathfinder takes a holistic approach to provide support in employment, education, financial readiness, veteran benefits, and more.

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# Good community turnout for Murray Hill Park clean-up day

More work to do before baseball season begins

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

Neighborhoods are joining hands to help put Murray Hill Park back in good shape for the next baseball season. A community clean-up day held Sept. 15 at the park and ballfields on Kingsbury Street in Murray Hill saw 32 residents from the neighborhood as well as Riverside and Avondale come out to clean up trash, weed around the dugouts and batting cages and get a start on cleaning the two concession stands.

“We deep cleaned the concession stand at the back of the park, and were hoping to paint it, too, but the cleaning took up more time than we anticipated,” said Jose “Junior” Lazcano, who organized the clean-up day. “The front concession was not cleaned but it is on our list of things to do, once we get that back stand up and running.”

Lazcano said the goal for the Oct. 13 clean-up day is to clean the restrooms near the back concession stand and paint the stand. “Murray Hill Athletic Association is losing a lot of money with that stand being down,” he said.



Nine-year-old Drake Thompson used to play T-Ball at Murray Hill Park, so he came out on clean-up day with his father, John, to give back to the community park.



Jimmy Peluso, Adam Dooling, Lacy Lafferty, Emma Billings and Jennifer King give one of the concession stands a good cleaning on Sept. 15.

Lazcano was very pleased with the turnout, from youngsters to seniors who gave a few hours on a hot Saturday morning to benefit the rest of the community.

A contribution of another kind was also recently made for the park’s ballfields.

After the storm seasons the last two years took a toll on both the wood and the aluminum bleachers, it came to the attention of Riverside Presbyterian Church that the Murray Hill Athletic Association could use some help.

“It has been difficult to hold RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) without a main bleacher section that had been removed,” said Jan Carr, an administrative assistant at the church. “We held a fundraiser that raised \$4,000 to go towards a new bleacher set.”

Josh Cook, president of MHAA, had been looking for a new set of bleachers but the one he had in mind fell through. He spoke to Keith Meyerl, chief of recreation and community services for the City of Jacksonville, who said if Cook wanted grandstand bleachers higher than three tiers, they needed to adhere to ADA standards.

Lazcano said bleachers of that size would cost at least twice the amount donated and



Sunny Gettinger and Rheiana Ertman picked up litter and other debris around the park.

is hoping other donors will come forward to help match Riverside Presbyterian’s generous gift.

“It was such a nice donation and we are very grateful, but unfortunately it is not enough. I’m hoping we can raise the funds to purchase a good, sturdy set of bleachers so the church can see we used their money for exactly what it was intended for...and it will be,” he said.

According to Tia Ford, City spokesperson, the Parks and Recreation Department indicated they are willing to assist with the cost of bleachers at the park, and would use Capital Improvement Project funding.

## Free Fall Festival in Murray Hill

Every year members of Murray Hill Baptist Church make decorations, donate candy and roll out the booths and games for a free community Fall Festival. It’s a blast with plenty of costumes, candy, hot dogs, photo ops, and many games for ages 3 and up. The festival will be held Wednesday, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m., at 4300 Post Street. Join the more than 1,500 who come with their kids to enjoy the free event.

## Woman’s Club to hold spaghetti dinner fundraiser

To further its philanthropic mission, the GFWC Lakeshore Woman’s Club is planning a spaghetti dinner fundraiser, Thursday, Oct. 25, 4:30 – 7 p.m. at its clubhouse at 2352 Lakeshore Blvd. The \$8 cost per meal includes spaghetti with/without meat sauce or with meatballs, salad, choice of dessert, coffee or tea. Meals may also be ordered to take out. Proceeds will be allocated to local charities. For more information, contact Nancy Ware at (904) 412-6770.

## 9th Annual Mah Jongg Tournament scheduled for November 4


Temple Sisterhood will again sponsor Northeast Florida’s only Mah Jongg tournament on Sunday, Nov. 4. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch. Tournament will begin at 12:30 p.m. and consist of three rounds of four games. Registration deadline is October 21.

The tournament is open to anyone who plays with a National Mah Jongg League 2018 card for winning hands. Those who play the Chinese version would find it very different and unable to play without one. You do not need to be an expert to enjoy an afternoon with other Mah Jongg players.

With well over 100 players, local participants are joined by others from as far away as Savannah and Orlando. Prizes and awards will be presented at the conclusion along with numerous door prizes.

The cost of the tournament is \$30, and will take place at Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple) at 8727 San Jose Blvd. Registration forms may be obtained by calling The Temple at (904) 733-7078 or visiting [www.thetemplejacksonville.org](http://www.thetemplejacksonville.org).

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**3527 RIVERSIDE AVE**  
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SOLD by Liz Bobeck and Lynne Ferguson! Completely restored historic Avondale gem! This immaculate home is sunny and bright with a gourmet kitchen with beautiful granite counters and lots of storage. Enjoy your morning coffee in the New Orleans style courtyard.



**3970 HERSCHEL ST - \$355,000**  
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Come see this super cute newer construction Avondale bungalow in the Historic District. This house has a light-filled, open floor plan and is ready for you to move right in. The large kitchen has tons of cabinets and counter space and a Subzero refrigerator.



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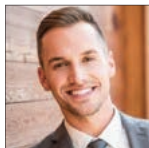
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**4362 FOREST PARK RD**  
3/2-1,418 sqft.

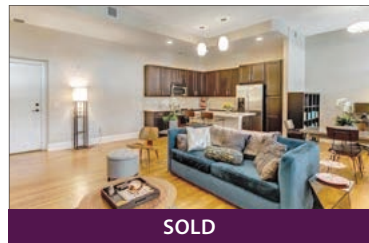
SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen and CeCe Cummings! Meticulously maintained home in County Club estates. Completely renovated top to bottom! Multiple offers and sold in one day!!



Leslie Fraleigh  
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(904) 705-6464



Zackery Williams  
REALTOR®  
(904) 962-5479



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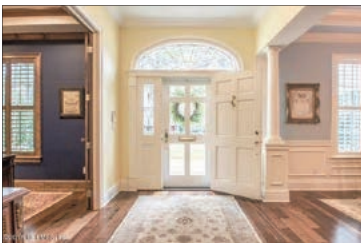
**2525 COLLEGE # 1207**  
1/1-1,023 sqft.

SOLD by Lee Elmore! This 2nd floor, 1/1 condo has 12' ceilings, hardwood floors in the main living areas, a spacious BR suite with a walk-in closet featuring the custom Elfa Closet System offering lots of storage space, and a roomy BA with a large glass enclosed shower.



**4703 ORTEGA BLVD - \$3.750MM**  
4/4/1-5,910 sqft.

On a bluff, high above the majestic St. Johns River sits this one of a kind home full of southern charm with spectacular views. Beautifully and completely renovated in 2008, with meticulous attention to detail, this riverfront estate is at once historic and modern.



**4382 VENETIA BLVD - \$850,000**  
4/3/1-3,673 sqft.

Look no further! This Venetia home has everything you need to move right in, with gracious spaces to entertain and room for everyone. High ceilings, crown molding, and beautiful hardwood floors.



SOLD

**2770 FORBES ST**  
4/2-2,100 sqft.

SOLD by Zack Williams and Josh Nugent! AMAZING VALUE and LOCATION! This Awesome Avondale traditional two-story home is just the right distance from The King Street Entertainment District. All the walk-ability set amidst an adorable neighborhood block consisting of other well kept homes.



Claire Franson  
REALTOR®  
(904) 923-5331



Laura Wesson  
REALTOR®  
(305) 331-6518



SOLD

**4652 ORTEGA FOREST DR**  
4/3/1-4,066 sqft.

SOLD by Jane Slater! Moss draped oaks, stunning sunsets, kayakers and paddle boarders floating by, this is life at 4652 Ortega Forest Dr. Located on the water in the heart of Ortega Forest, where wildlife watching is a daily occurrence, this is a home for memory making.



**2967 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$675,000**  
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Timeless with classic roots! This 1910 Avondale 3 story, Federal Revival style home, is one of the earliest houses built in the Avondale Historic District. It features one of the neighborhood's most beautiful wraparound porches!



**5400 WATER OAK LN # 101 - \$210,000**  
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Wonderful townhome overlooking Pirates Bay! This is a rare one-story, end unit. Italian travertine in foyer and hall, granite countertops in kitchen and baths. It also has a beautiful brick fireplace and crown molding.



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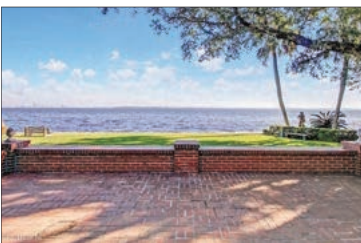
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**4151 ROBIN HOOD RD**  
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SOLD by Leslie Fraleigh and Lynne Ferguson! If you have been searching for a home in Ortega Forest this is the home for you! Located in A rated Stockton School district this charming house has it all. It is located on a wonderful, quiet street.



**5125 YACHT CLUB RD - \$1.645MM**  
6/4/1-5,401 sqft.

BEST RIVERFRONT VALUE IN ORTEGA! Classic Brick Georgian with Downtown View in the heart of Ortega! St. Johns River views greet you from the moment you enter this home from the gracious and impressive double height foyer.



**2970 ST JOHNS AVE #10C - \$475,000**  
3/2-1,822 sqft.

Rarely available and highly coveted riverfront, corner unit at Beau Rivage! Commanding views of the St. Johns River and Downtown Jacksonville from almost every room and the covered balcony! Last C unit SOLD before it went on market!



SOLD

**1445 EDGEWOOD CIR**  
4/3/1-2,666 sqft.

SOLD by Allison Steilberg! Imagine being in the heart of Historic Avondale in the most charming Shake Shingle Home! Professionally decorated, this house screams dinner party. One of the few properties in the area with an extra buildable lot, this house has plenty of room to roam.



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Interior shot of Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant at the corner of Park and King Streets.

## Beach-based restaurant chooses Riverside for third location

Tom Corsano and his wife, Jennifer, co-owners of Two Dudes seafood restaurants with locations in Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach, recently expanded their four-year-old business to open a new restaurant at 2665 Park St. in the historic Park and King Streets retail corridor.

Two Dudes, which opened in Riverside Aug. 31, is the third consecutive restaurant in a building that began as a pharmacy in 1986. Carter's Pharmacy closed in 2011, then Pele's Wood Fire Grill opened in January 2012 before closing in April 2015. Il Desco Italian Restaurant operated at the location November 2015 to January 2018. Jacksonville Beach resident Patricia Butts is the landlord of the 3,800-square-foot space.

The owners brightened up the dark interior of the former Italian restaurant,

adding surfboards donated by customers and artwork by local artists to the walls. Their signature "chalkboard" menu announce daily fresh seafood offerings.

Corsano, former food and beverage director for Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, bought the Atlantic Beach Two Dudes restaurant in 2014. In August 2017, the second restaurant opened in Ponte Vedra Beach when Corsano took over the lease for the Players Café; the two restaurants share the 3,500-square-foot space.

Many of Corsano's customers at his two beach locations live in the historic districts, so he and his wife had been looking for space in San Marco when Butts, a Two Dudes customer, said she had a former restaurant space in Riverside. "I was leery at first, imaging a high rent, but it was actually very reasonable," said Corsano.

## Philanthropic community to welcome new president at Jessie Ball duPont Fund

Beginning in January 2019, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund will welcome Mari Kuraishi, co-founder and president of GlobalGiving, as its next president.

"I am honored to have been selected by the board to take over the helm of the Jessie ball duPont Fund," Kuraishi said. "The Fund's accomplishments over the last 40-plus years, its catalytic role in collaborative place-based philanthropy, and its fidelity to Mrs. duPont's vision form an exciting foundation for the next chapter."

Kuraishi's company, GlobalGiving, is a pioneering global crowdfunding platform for vetted, community-led organizations. Since its founding in 2002, the Washington, D.C.-based company has supported more than \$340 million in giving by more than 814,000 donors to more than 20,000 projects worldwide.

"Mari's energy, vision and experience in innovative philanthropy were the essential attributes we desired in the Fund's next president," said Jessie Ball duPont Fund trustee Leroy Davis, chair of the search committee.

Prior to co-founding GlobalGiving, Kuraishi led the Corporate Strategy Group at the World Bank where she was responsible



Mari Kuraishi

for setting corporate priorities and engendering business innovation for an international financial institution dedicated to fighting poverty worldwide; and was the country anchor and officer for the bank's Russia program, where she coordinated a sovereign lending program at its Washington, D.C., headquarters.

She is chair of the board of directors for GuideStar, USA; chair of the board of directors for DataKind; chair of the board of directors for APOPO US; and a member of the board of advisors for the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.

Kuraishi earned her bachelor's degree in Modern European History and master's degree in Russian Studies from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

## Ward, Glock to serve as Fund A Cure Champions

San Marco residents Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock will serve as Fund A Cure Champions for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's (JDRF) 18th Annual Miracles Gala on Saturday, Nov. 3. Bill Hughes, Regional Director of Operations for the PGA TOUR Golf Course Properties, will be honoree and presented with the Living and Giving Award on gala night.

The Miracles Gala, to be held at the Sawgrass Marriott, is themed "One Night in Old Hollywood." The evening will feature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a seated dinner, silent and live auctions, Fund A Cure



Michael Ward, Jennifer Glock and Bill Hughes

program, live music and dancing by The Chris Thomas Band. Event organizers hope to generate a half a million dollars to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs in the areas of cure, prevention and treatment for type 1 diabetes.

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## Longtime educator receives key to Jacksonville

For more than 50 years, former Fishweir Elementary School teacher Sarah Van Cleve has been actively helping people in Jacksonville learn to read. On Sept. 19, Van Cleve was recognized for her efforts when Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry bestowed the Key to the City during an awards banquet held by Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, a nonprofit she helped found 15 years ago to train tutors to help in the eradication of illiteracy.

“I’m speechless. I’m just overwhelmed,” Van Cleve said. “I love this city and to have the key is beyond my wildest hopes.”

Upon arriving at the awards ceremony at First Presbyterian Church, where she was baptized and has been a lifelong member, Van Cleve had no idea she was, in fact, the guest of honor. At the start of the ceremony, she was extremely surprised when Literacy Pros President Julia Henry-Wilson began reading a long list of her many accomplishments that were part of an official Resolution, inscribed on a plaque, to establish the nonprofit’s Sarah Van Cleve Achievement Awards in honor of her dedication and leadership to Literacy Pros of Jacksonville.

“I was wondering why my family was here,” she said, as Henry-Wilson handed her the plaque.

A 1950 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and a longtime resident of Avondale, Van Cleve has a long history of selflessly giving back to the city. The Resolution outlined many of her lifetime accomplishments, both as a founding and board member of Literacy Pros, where she tutored prisoners and trained tutors to



Mayor Lenny Curry with Sarah Van Cleve and her key to the city

teach the city’s illiterate and underserved, as well as the numerous other civic and charitable organizations where she has served as a volunteer.

Championing the group’s service to prisoners, Van Cleve was instrumental in the nonprofit’s receiving the U.S. Program Innovation Award, when it was only one year old and the smallest council for Literacy Pros in the United States.

Van Cleve also created affiliate relationships between Literacy Pros and the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, the Salvation Army, the Jacksonville Urban League, Volunteers of America, Prisoners of Christ, and the Women’s Center of Jacksonville, and secured financial contributions from United Way, community leaders and individuals.

“This is my passion, literacy,” Van Cleve said. “I’ve loved reading all my life, and my hell would be not being able to read.”

## Clay Eye welcomes 12th physician to practice

Brandon Powell, O.D. recently joined Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons, after graduating from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of Science and from Nova-Southeastern University College of Optometry with a Doctor of Optometry degree.

“I was born in Orange Park, grew up in Fleming Island, and I’ve always loved the North Florida community. I really liked the idea of coming ‘home,’” said Powell, who is interested in comprehensive primary eye care, including ocular disease, cornea and contact lens service, pediatrics and specialty lens fitting.

Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons was established in 1977 and is now a 12-physician practice, with offices in Orange Park, Fleming Island, Mandarin and Riverside.



Brandon Powell

## A new face for an honored old brand, Jordan Marchman builds relationships

Banking on the premise there’s nothing better for a career in sales than name recognition, Jordan Marchman, a lifelong resident of Jacksonville, has recently joined Florida’s oldest operating insurance company as an equity partner.

Established in 1877, Haynes Peters & Bond Co. was a family-run insurance agency until 2007, when Caldwell “Hank” Haynes sold the firm to GHG Insurance, a division of Sihle Insurance Group.

Haynes, who passed away in 2014, was a local legend and Marchman hopes to begin to fill those shoes. “Hank was salt of the earth; he never met a stranger,” said Marchman, who lives in Venetia with his wife, Ellie, and their fur-baby, Gus, a yellow Labrador.

Marchman, 36, attended Riverside Presbyterian Day School, St. Johns Country Day School, and graduated from The Bolles School, where he was on the rowing team. That experience in teamwork has helped Marchman succeed in his prior companies, as a national accounts manager for Mac Papers, director of business development for LanVilla Outdoor Home Improvement and, most recently, an agent with Brightway Insurance.

About his new position with HPB, Marchman said, “I believe our level of service is what separates us from other agencies. Communication and follow up are a large part of that. The competition is stout within our industry and these days you can purchase different types of insurance online, however many of those products are not proven nor do they provide dedicated service personnel to help you navigate the claims process.”

“Larger companies might have an off-site call center where you’re transferred



several times before your issue is resolved whereas our service team is in-house and only requires one phone call,” he continued. “We work as a team and are constantly educating ourselves to stay on the forefront of shifts and trends in our industry. We strive to pass that knowledge on to our clients to help them make informed decisions that suit their needs.”

While driving new business in personal property and casualty insurance, including homeowners, flood, auto, boat and umbrella policies for excess liability, Marchman is also hoping to be the new face of a 141-year-old company.

“I’m extremely humbled and honored to have this opportunity,” he said. “Hank left some very large shoes to fill, but I’m dedicated to building the HPB brand further and hope to make him proud.”

Marchman’s office is in the Summit Building at 1000 Riverside Ave., Suite 500. Give him a call at (904) 421-8632 or email [jmarchman@hpbins.net](mailto:jmarchman@hpbins.net) to begin a new insurance relationship.

*“We work as a team and are constantly educating ourselves to stay on the forefront of shifts and trends in our industry. We strive to pass that knowledge on to our clients to help them make informed decisions that suit their needs.”*

— Jordan Marchman

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# Nutrition and fitness coach helps remove obstacles that prevent becoming ‘your best you!’

Marilyn Gilman has spent much of her adult life living and teaching others how to be “the best possible you.”

When it comes to weight loss, fitness and nutrition, there’s no easy one-size-fits-all solution. There’s also no magic wand and no magic pill, said Gilman, a lifestyle coach who refers to herself as a problem solver of sorts. “I find many people are simply overwhelmed by what to do to start making changes or by all the misinformation about what works and what doesn’t.”

What Gilman often discovers with those she consults with is they want to know how to navigate a healthy lifestyle with diet and exercise without feeling constantly deprived and overworked. She feels passionately about helping others live their best life and feels it’s her life’s work to do so.

“Good nutrition is not that complicated,” Gilman said. She tells her clients to keep their food as close to the farm as possible. If you try to maintain this tenet you are more likely to make good choices and, of course, portions are a consideration in the equation.

In addition to helping her clients make good dietary choices, she helps them focus on their attitudes about embracing a healthy lifestyle and inspiring them to achieve success.

So what Gilman does do for her clients exactly? First, she has a conversation about where they are in terms of overall health and fitness levels. She then works with her clients to make an individual plan that is best suited for their lifestyle while attaining the results they desire.

Gilman’s business model is not about selling weight-loss plans or exercise equipment, although she does firmly believe supplements are an adjunct to a healthy diet and solid fitness regimen to help minimize the natural effects of aging. To meet her, you wouldn’t guess she’s a mother of four – it’s because she practices what she preaches.

Gilman has spent many years learning the science behind good nutrition and solid fitness protocols that work. Some years ago, she owned a weight-loss clinic that morphed more into a health management clinic focusing on weight loss for some clients but also helping those who sought to just eat better and incorporate fitness into their daily lives. Gilman also teaches nutrition classes twice a week for Title 1 school students through Cathedral Arts Project. “It’s not part of my business, but I feel very passionate about nutrition education, and it helps to teach it early,” she said.

Her own fitness regimen and healthy lifestyle was more than beneficial to her pregnancies – it saved her life.

When Gilman was pregnant with her third child at age 34, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The baby was delivered prematurely by Caesarean section so Gilman could begin chemotherapy. During treatment she almost lost her life from a double pulmonary hemorrhage among other life-threatening complications.

Gilman doesn’t share that experience easily or often, but said it illustrates the powerful effects a healthy lifestyle can have during a critical illness. “My sister, who is a Nurse Practitioner, is convinced my fitness is what saved my life after hemorrhaging,” said Gilman. “My lifestyle didn’t prevent me from getting cancer, but it helped me survive it,” she said.

Gilman has a B.S in Nutrition & Dietetics, as well as certifications from the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA) and the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), indicating she is well-qualified to help others adapt to a healthier lifestyle.

Together with her clients she seeks to develop flexible nutritional guidance and workout regimens that will keep them inspired and still be easy to follow. “I like my clients to reach their goal and not need my services anymore except when they want to make a change or feel they have hit a plateau they can’t breach on their own and simply need some renewed inspiration,” Gilman said.



After an initial meeting with a new client, Gilman said the frequency and type of contact depends on the client’s needs. Meeting in person is the best but phone and email work too when on her programs. “Many times, clients are looking for ideas on food choices or just answering questions and providing unique solutions to remove obstacles in the way of success.”

No two people are alike. “Our paths are different sometimes, but our goals are often very similar,” she concluded. “Not everyone wants weight loss, some want sports nutrition, or they want to change their body composition.”

*“Our paths are different sometimes, but our goals are often very similar. Not everyone wants weight loss, some want sports nutrition, or they want to change their body composition.”*  
— Marilyn Gilman

To start your own personalized program in nutrition, fitness or both, contact Marilyn Gilman at [mgilman319@gmail.com](mailto:mgilman319@gmail.com).

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SPEAKER SERIES: Christopher D. Flagg , FASLA and Eric Lycke, ASLA, “Elevating Design & Design Thinking: Memorial Park Then & Now” - Followed by Memorial Park Walking Tour

13 @ 10 AM

SPEAKER SERIES: Jimmy Orth, St. Johns Riverkeeper, “River Rising, Our River’s Future” - Followed by Memorial Park Walking Tour

20 @ 10 AM

SPEAKER SERIES: Rory Diamond, K9s for Warriors, “How K9s for Warrior Research is Changing the Service Dog World for Warriors and Long Term Effects for the Civilian Population” - Followed by Memorial Park Walking Tour

27 @ 10 AM

SPEAKER SERIES: Holly Keris, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, “Ninah Cummer & The Creation of Memorial Park” - Followed by Memorial Park Walking Tour

NOVEMBER 2018

3 @ 10 AM

SPEAKER SERIES: Alan Bliss, Jacksonville Historical Society, “The Legacy of Memorial Park in Jacksonville History” - Followed by Memorial Park Walking Tour

10 @ 9 AM

PLEIN AIR @ The Park with Artist Gary Garrett, 9 AM - 2 PM

10 @ 10 AM

SPEAKER SERIES: Dr. R.B. Rosenberg, Clayton State University, “The Florida WWI Memorial Database: Uncovering Military-Related Deaths During the Great War” (Talk will be held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave)

11 @ 6 AM

BAGPIPES & BAGELS (at Sunrise), Doug Russell, Bagpiper, “National Piping Sleep in Peace Now the Battle is Over”

11 @ 11 AM

BELLS OF PEACE Nationwide Bell Ringing Ceremony  
Coordinated by St. John’s Cathedral

11 @ 5 PM

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM  
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All events will be held at Memorial Park, which is located at 1620 Riverside Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Speaker series and walking tours will take place rain or shine.

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# Maxi Auto Care stands on the quality service it provides

The sign on the building is new but the work performed by Maxi Auto Care technicians and mechanics at 591 Oak Street is the same quality service appreciated by customers for years.

John and Karen Gordon, who opened Maxi Auto Care 15 years ago on Beach Boulevard, recently had the opportunity to take over another automotive shop which had served Riverside and the surrounding neighborhoods for the past 12 years.

Now, after nearly two months of work on the building and equipment, Gordon said he's open for business. "We are now up to date and ready to provide maintenance and repairs on foreign and domestic vehicles," he said, noting the family-owned business is a trustworthy shop and encourages readers to look up their reviews. "We pride ourselves on keeping our customers informed so they are in a position to make the best choices for their vehicles."

Gordon's business philosophy is to treat people the way he and his staff would want their families treated. "Our commitment to our customers is really simple – 'We Diagnose, You Decide,'" he said. "We offer courtesy inspections when servicing a vehicle, we address the concerns the customer originally came in with, we inform them on any safety concerns that may have shown up during the inspection and we share information on different maintenance programs to keep their vehicle trouble-free."

Gordon's quality ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified technicians employ today's latest automotive technology and are equipped to handle all major and minor repairs on foreign and domestic vehicles.

Maxi Auto Care is a Napa Auto Care Center and most service comes with a 24-month, 24,000-mile nationwide warranty. Maxi Auto Care uses Valvoline Automotive fluid products and flushing equipment, and Valvoline warrants the



John Gordon, owner, and Ryan Rush, manager of Maxi Auto Care

*"We pride ourselves on keeping our customers informed so they are in a position to make the best choices for their vehicles – 'We Diagnose, You Decide.'"*

— John Gordon

systems they service. "It's like an extended warranty but Valvoline gives it to you at no cost if you maintain service at their recommended intervals," said Gordon.

Along with Eric Harriott and Greg Warren, who have been repairing and maintaining the vehicles in the Riverside neighborhood for many years and are still part of the Maxi Auto Care team, the new service manager, Ryan Rush, brings an impressive resume and a lot of energy to the business.

To experience quality customer service and automotive maintenance and repair, make an appointment today. Call (904) 358-9800 or visit maxiriverside.com. Hours at 591 Oak Street are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed on weekends.

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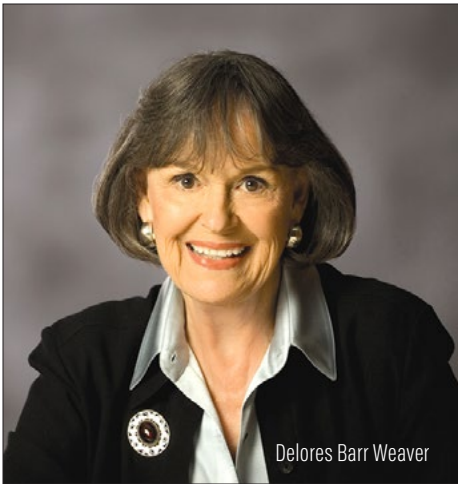
# Delores Barr Weaver makes \$1 million endowment gift to United Way

United Way of Northeast Florida received a "first of its kind" gift – a \$1 million endowment from Delores Barr Weaver – to benefit the community in a sustainable way.

Issued from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the \$1 million endowment is the first such gift in United Way of Northeast Florida's 94-year history. Nearly 20 years ago, the Weavers gave United Way its very first \$1 million gift in 1999 to establish the "Weaver Challenge," making them a member of United Way Worldwide's Million Dollar Roundtable.

"Delores is a game changer and forward thinker who continues to lead the way with this gift," said Michelle Braun, president and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida. "She understands how critical endowments are to the longevity of organizations like United Way and the more than 70 partners we support. We are so thankful for her generosity."

The Weaver Challenge grant initiative allows donors to annually step up their gift over a period of years and, through this



Delores Barr Weaver

challenge, the Weavers were able to leverage their investment in 1999 to generate more than three million new dollars for Northeast Florida over a five-year period.

Weaver's recent endowment gift ensures her annual United Way Tocqueville Society support will benefit the community forever, providing a sustainable revenue stream to United Way and its partners.

"United Way of Northeast Florida is a critical leader in addressing the most challenging conditions of our community," said Weaver. "I am proud to support United Way's efforts for generations to come, knowing the lives of local children and families will be irrevocably transformed."

# Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery celebrates 41st anniversary



Congratulations to Hooshang Harvesf, on the 41st anniversary of Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery. Hooshang opened his oriental rug business – sales, cleaning and repairs – at 3571 St. Johns Ave. in the Shoppes of Avondale on Sept. 15, 1977.

"I still look forward to coming to work every day. I enjoy the community and my customers tremendously," said Hooshang, who holds a Ph.D. in economics and imports his unique, hand-made rugs directly from every weaving country in the world.

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## Bliss named historical society head

Alan Bliss, Ph.D., is the Jacksonville Historical Society's new executive director, succeeding Emily Retherford Lisska. Bliss had been serving as JHS's interim executive director since January 2018.

"Through a very rigorous process, led by search committee chair Jeff Graf, Alan emerged as the clear choice to lead JHS at this important time" said Board President Pat Andrews.

"Our 2016 Strategic Plan shows that Jacksonville is positioned to significantly raise its game in terms of how it presents local history to its people and visitors. That excites me," said Bliss, who has served on the society's board since 2015, chairing or co-chairing committees for Strategic Planning, Programs, and Property Management. "It aligns with my experience and credentials, and with my



Alan Bliss

fascination with Jacksonville and its history. Other Florida cities, such as Tampa, Orlando and St. Petersburg have set high standards in the field of local and regional history. An appetite exists across this city to, in our own way, do as those communities have done. I am eager to advance that project."

Since 2006, Bliss has taught history courses at the University of North Florida, including urban history, maritime history, and a seminar on public history, all emphasizing Jacksonville. He is also a member of Jacksonville's Downtown Vision Alliance, the Urban Land Institute (North Florida Chapter), the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, and the Naval Order of the United States. He is an active member of Riverside Presbyterian Church, where he chairs its Property & Maintenance Committee. He also serves on the board of Fonkoze, USA, an anti-poverty and micro-finance nonprofit serving Haiti.

In addition to Graf, the search committee included David Chauncey, Esq., Michael Fackler, Esq., Frederick Kent III, Esq., Honorable Harry Reagan, and Charisse Thornton.

## New ophthalmologist joins Riverside eye center

James Tammaro, M.D. has joined Robert Schnipper, M.D. at the Jacksonville Eye Center, where he will focus on small incision cataract surgery, multi-focal and accommodative implant lenses for cataract surgery, glaucoma and cataract combined surgery, and laser procedures.

Tammaro is a board-certified ophthalmologist with more than 20 years of experience. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Rice University in Houston, Texas, and went on to study medicine at world-renowned Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Before joining the Jacksonville Eye Center, Tammaro was the owner of a private ophthalmology practice and ambulatory surgery center in Lake Havasu, Ariz., where he consistently performed more than 1,200 cataract, glaucoma, and laser surgical procedures each year. By joining Schnipper, Tammaro will help expand the practice to accommodate the rising number of patients requiring LASIK, cataract surgery and lens implantation.



Dr. James Tammaro

## Budnick appointed president/ CEO Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty



Christy Budnick



Linda Sherrer

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently appointed Christy Budnick president and chief executive officer (CEO), assuming full executive leadership responsibilities of the firm, effective immediately. The company's founder, Linda Sherrer, will continue as chairman. Sherrer will focus on the company's corporate business development, builder services and company philanthropy.

"I admire Christy's passion, tenacity and leadership, and I know she will continue to lead Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty to new levels of success," said Sherrer. "The company has been under our dual leadership for many years, and I am confident Christy will build on our momentum."

Sherrer has guided the company since its inception in 1988. Budnick joined the company in 2002 as branch manager of the company's Beaches office and was promoted to executive vice president of

residential real estate in 2006. Prior to joining the firm, Budnick worked for Bank of America as its vice president of sales and leadership training.

"I am honored and humbled to continue the legacy created by my mother. She is my role model and I admire her vision, leadership style and strategic insight that have inspired our company's success," said Budnick.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has a team of more than 400 real estate professionals in nine offices throughout Northeast Florida. The company operates a corporate relocation division, a new home and condominium sales division, Florida Network Property Management, Gibraltar Title Services, LLC and Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty ranks as one of the Top 25 companies in the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network.

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# Men wear pink to raise funds, show support in fight against breast cancer

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

The third annual Real Men Wear Pink campaign enlisted 34 men – from CEOs and business owners, to attorneys, chefs and the leader of a popular swing band – to support the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville.

The men were challenged to raise \$90,000 this year and had already raised more at the Aug. 14 kickoff event than at the same point in previous years. Each candidate is challenged to raise at least \$2,500.

Joining Charlene Shirk this year as co-chair is Ortega attorney John Phillips, who set an individual Jacksonville record last year by raising \$20,324 – even while coping with Hurricane Irma flood damage to his home and his office.



Charlene Shirk, co-chair for the 2018 Real Men Wear Pink campaign, is surrounded by local men who are supporting the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Jacksonville.



Mark Moss William Milne

Other local men include Riverside resident Mark Moss, of the Law Offices of Mark F. Moss, and longtime Ortega resident William Milne, Residential Mortgage Lender for TIAA Bank. Moss and Milne share why the campaign is important to them.

“I, like so many others, have had close friends and family members that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Most recently,

my aunt, Michelle “Shelly” Moss, was diagnosed with breast cancer,” said Moss. “She was diagnosed with two different types of breast cancer, invasive lobular carcinoma and DCIS. Because of early detection, she did not require chemotherapy, and is a 6-year survivor. Raising money and awareness for breast cancer is something I have been doing since undergrad. Each year I would participate in events for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and my fraternity raised funds annually for Sharsheret [a Jewish breast cancer organization].”

Milne also lost a loved one to cancer and is inspired by friends who fought breast cancer successfully.

“My passion to fight started in 2010 when I lost my mother, Susan Milne, to stomach cancer right before she turned 67 years old. I had only been married for two months before her diagnosis, and she then passed away two months later. Not a day goes by that she is not on my heart, mind and soul. I constantly think of all that we could’ve done together these past eight years. I dream of watching her interact with my sons, whom she never had the opportunity to meet. As a result of this, I’m driven by the opportunity to help anyone who is affected by cancer,” said Milne. “Likewise, three other friends, Allison Steilberg, Susan Donnell and Teresa Hale, have all faced breast cancer and

victoriously and courageously. All three have a tremendous positive impact on my life, and they are shining examples of courage, determination, inspiration and what is possible.”

Moss added that, as a father-to-be, a large motivator is creating a better tomorrow for future generations. “The world can be cruel and hard enough as it is. When you have to be concerned about something like breast cancer – regardless of your age, race, socioeconomic status – the world can be even more daunting. I’m fighting to find a cure not only for those that are fighting now, but to hopefully prevent future generations from dealing with the devastating impact of breast cancer,” he said.



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# Realtors spend weekend revitalizing home for disabled veteran

By Patricia Larkin  
Resident Community News

For the second year, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty-Avondale, through its charitable organization CBV Cares, sponsored a home revitalization and restoration project for a family in need in Springfield. Over just two days in September, dozens of volunteers and donors all came together to complete the project.

CBV realtor Cindy Corey said she feels energized about future projects after seeing the response from the community. Next year the initiative is expanding to renovate not just one but two homes annually.



Debra and Raymond Thomas in front of their Springfield home.

“We were really excited that CBV Cares was able to grant the money that kickstarted this project. I was just astounded at the degree of support in that community,” said Corey. “All the neighbors showing up, it just kind of gives me chills to talk about it. It was awe inspiring. I would like to see it replicated all over the city, honestly.”

The number of businesses and private donors contributing far exceeded expectations. A short list includes An Olde Time Hardware, Carolina Lumber, Empire Electric, LanVilla Landscape King, Leroy Thompson Painting, LISC Jacksonville, McGowan's Heating & Air Conditioning, European Street Cafe and Social Grounds Coffee.

“LanVilla was an amazing contributor, they sent their whole crew and all the materials. It was an amazing gift,” noted Corey.

Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) Executive Director Kelly Rich echoed the sentiment. “We were able to give a whole lot more than we initially expected,” shared Rich near the conclusion of the weekend project. “The homeowners, of course, are just tickled. The wife was hugging everybody.”

Improvements included a complete renovation of the exterior, including a fresh



Christie Radney, Cindy Corey, Ed Akers and Wade Griffin, agents at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Avondale office



Joshua Wilkerson, Hallie Dufresne and Michael McCall improve the front porch during a renovation project for a home in Springfield.

coat of paint, new porch rails, landscaping and a new AC unit. Over 50 volunteers showed up to contribute the hard work on a hot Florida weekend to get the job done.

“This home is a contributing structure in the historic district,” explained Rich. “Not only is this project a benefit to the resident but protecting the historic housing stock.” Rich recently relocated from Louisiana to take what she calls her dream position and enthusiastically shared her love for living in Springfield.

Homeowners Raymond and Debra Thomas have lived in the neighborhood over 25 years and raised the children in the home.

Raymond is a disabled veteran who worked for JEA and Atlantic Bank over the years. As they’ve gotten older, keeping up with home repairs became more challenging, and they feel being chosen as the recipients for this project is a blessing from God.

“We thank God for blessing us and people taking their time and resources to help this project,” said Raymond. His wife Debra grew up nearby on Pearl Street and they met in 1976 at the historic Myrtle Avenue Ball Park where famous players like Hank Aaron once played. “We’ve seen the neighborhood evolve a lot and change over the years,” he noted.

## Red Shoe Crew welcomes donors at Steins & Vines event

Donning his fire-engine red Chuck Taylor sneakers, Red Shoe Crew President Matt Lindberg welcomed nearly 200 participants to the Steins & Vines fundraiser to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville at Intuition Ale Works Sept. 21.

“Every dollar we raise goes directly to the house,” said Lindberg, adding that the evening’s \$10,000 goal was exceed by \$3,000. “We hope everyone has a wonderful time while we raise funds and awareness for Ronald McDonald House and the families that stay there.”

A special VIP reception for the young philanthropists’ group was held in Intuition’s rooftop lounge before the official event began an hour later. Included in the festivities were a silent auction, raffle tickets, food, complimentary wine from Riverside Liquors, a Kendra Scott jewelry pull, and live music by The Band Be Easy.



Travis and Stephanie Taylor



Ashley Riedel, Damon Hosmer, Sabrie Edmonston, Awbree and Robert O'Quinn





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The Pajcic Firm supports the Jaguars Foundation which partnered with nearly 300 area nonprofits that offer support to so many in the Jacksonville area. Those assisted last year include more than 11,000 veterans, 13,000 young people

participated in health and wellness programs and 8,000 students earned tickets to games in the Honor Rows and Honoring Our Troops programs.



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Mel and Felicia Cox with Kim Sole, Patrick Zalupski and James Sole



Amy Derringer with Yaira Osborne



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Lindsay Layendecker with Gloria Fabian

Animal lovers' generosity benefits veterinary medical fund

Chaired by Jacksonville Jaguars General Manager David Caldwell and his wife, Joelle, the 20th Annual Toast to the Animals gave Jacksonville's animal lovers a chance to sample some of the best cuisine the First Coast has to offer, while supporting the Jacksonville Humane Society. The Sept. 22 event, held at TIAA Bank Field's US Assure Club, benefited the JHS medical fund, which serves homeless dogs and cats in need of extra veterinary care and TLC.

Following champagne and hors d'oeuvres in the Jaguars owner's suite for VIPs, guests enjoyed a silent and live auction,

music, entertainment, a wine pull, and an exclusive Jaguars raffle, all to support one of the community's worthiest causes. Last year the Humane Society cared for more than 7,000 animals, rescued 500 from Hurricane Irma, and released more than 6,000 through adoption.



Tom and Kathy VanOsdol



Chris and Aly Leeper with Jon and Karen Schwartz and Susan Kelly



Drs. Samer and Nina Garas with Neetal and Dr. Saamil Oza



Virginia Hall and Lauren Corley with Chef Hermann Muller and Jane Lanier

Must-attend benefit another culinary crowd-pleaser

Over 450 connoisseurs of gourmet food and fine wine – and supporters of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation – enjoyed two days of fine wine and delectable dining during the 17th Annual Delicious Destinations Sept. 7-8 at The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The five-star culinary experience and fundraiser brought top chefs from around the country, as well as local culinary superstars, to show off their skills while contributing

their time and talent to support St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs, including the Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, which offers Rural Outreach, Urban Outreach and Pediatric Outreach.

The benefit, which raised over \$275,000, included the ever-popular Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon, a VIP Preview Reception, and live and silent auctions at the Delicious Destinations wine and food event.



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Susan, Jay and Lindsay Williams



Dale and Maria Edwards with Moody and Tim Baker

Patrons rallied for survivors, loved ones at Cowford Ball

The American Cancer Society’s annual Cowford Ball took up the theme “Party ‘Til the Cows Come Home” and patrons danced the night away at the Glass Factory Sept. 29 to one of the best dance bands in the country, Soul Survivors, from Miami.

If dancing wasn’t enough activity, guests took the (mechanical) bull by the horns to test their riding skills or tried their luck at casino games. Live and silent auctions, as

well as a jewelry and wine pulls, offered something for everyone. The evening included a tribute to cancer survivors, victims and caretakers, featuring glow bracelets in a variety of colors which represent many of the cancer awareness programs.

Major sponsors included Ring Power Corporation, Mrs. C. Herman (Mary Virginia) Terry, and Mary Jane and Jack Uible.



Attorney Teresa Sopp, Assistant Public Defender with Bob Link of Pajcic & Pajcic, Francine Walker, The Florida Bar director of public information, Ginny Mitchell, and Robert W. Murphy of Murphy Law



Jacksonville Area Legal Aid President Jim Kowalski with George Z. Bateh



Kacie Brewer and Alex King of Fallgatter & Catlin with Piper Kerman, author of “Orange is the New Black”



State Attorney Melissa Nelson with George “Buddy” Schulz of Holland & Knight and Judge Suzanne Bass

Equal Justice honorees celebrated by JALA

Jacksonville’s legal community was out in full force when Jacksonville Area Legal Aid hosted its 19th Annual Robert J. Beckham Equal Justice Awards Celebration at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel Sept. 20.

During a VIP reception, the attorneys had the opportunity to rub shoulders with the evening’s keynote speaker, Piper Kerman, author of the memoir, “Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison,” which was adapted into an Emmy Award-winning television series by Netflix.

The Honorable Melissa W. Nelson, state attorney, Fourth Judicial Court introduced this year’s Equal Justice Award honoree

George E. “Buddy” Schulz, Jr., a partner at Holland & Knight.

Ramona Chaplin, 2018 president of the JALA board of directors, bestowed President’s Awards to Canan Law of St. Augustine and to Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow for Outstanding Philanthropy in 2017.

Also, during the award’s celebration, The Honorable Hugh A. Carithers of the Fourth Judicial Circuit recognized Outstanding Pro Bono Service Honorees Debbie Lee Clark, James Russell Collins, Lisa Anne DiFranza, John Wilson Humes, Jr., Douglas John Milne, Jeanine Beard Sasser, and Tania Romaine Schmidt-Alpers.



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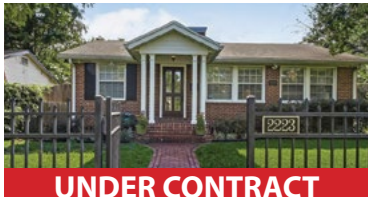
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# Shindig for the Sanctuary gathers friends, neighbors

This year’s Shindig for the Sanctuary theme was a nod to neighbors and community, with the Garden Club of Jacksonville’s ballroom decorated to evoke thoughts of a serendipitous gathering with friends on a front porch. About 175 attended to raise approximately \$50,000 for the Sanctuary.

Featuring dinner by Bono’s & Pastiche Catering, beer courtesy of Strings Sports Brewery, music by The Wetland String Band and a small silent auction, the Shindig was funded through the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund, which allows more of the proceeds to benefit the Sanctuary on 8th Street, a place of hope for children in Springfield since 1992.



Sanctuary on 8th Board Chair David Barksdale with Janet Reagor, associate director

“What the kids get out of the Sanctuary is the emotional and social issues they get help with and get better at,” said Peter Gunnlaugsson, board member. “The more you get them young makes it more and more important. This year we have 43 kids, 18 more than last year. Adding consistency and continuity to their lives is what makes a sanctuary.”



Turning out in support of The Sanctuary on 8th were staff and boaters from The Marina at Ortega Landing. Seated: Peter Roach, Jeanne and Don Brown; standing: Barbara Burke, Bill Hallock, Tom and Diane Russell, Loretta and Bruce Fleming, Leslie Jones, Cam Melangton and Ralph Hubbard

# More than a majestic event, Dragon Boat Festival raises awareness for breast cancer survivors

By Patricia Larkin  
Resident Community News

Since nonprofit In the Pink first purchased two dragon boats in 2012, the sport has grown in popularity as more and more Jacksonville citizens discover the majesty and pageantry of the carved boats gliding along the river.

Twenty rowers, one drummer, and one steering crewmate at the rear comprise each team, who compete each year against teams from around the country in the annual Dragon Boat Festival.

Today the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Club includes many teams. Along with the Mammoglam, the original team of breast cancer survivors formed by In the Pink, corporate teams, community teams and athletic club teams have also formed.

Part sports team, part support group, the Mammoglam train regularly on the water throughout the year to steadily paddle the long boat in perfect synchrony. It offers the opportunity for connection with each other, with nature, and with an emotional sense of peace and deeper meaning.

This year the Mammoglam performed nearly as well as the higher-ranked athletic teams, coming in right behind them each



Dragon Boat Festival Grand Champions Mat Stone and Laura Brunner on the mixed premier team FLASH, with Dragon Boat Club Head Coach Marty Millard

time. “For us to be that close to a premiere team in all three races is such an accomplishment for us, because we’re mostly breast cancer survivors,” said Mammoglam teammate Kathy Reynolds. “It was such an honor for us.”

Dragon Boat Club Head Coach Marty Millard grinned from ear to ear after the day’s races Sept 22. “Winning is unbelievably awesome,” he said. “This is our sixth year and the first time we won.”

It’s an extra feat because the Dragon Boat Club members have responsibilities to organize the entire event over two days. “We’re not just in it, we’re running it,” explained Millard.

In the Pink Founder Jeri Millard, herself a two-time cancer survivor, felt grateful for the support of over 50 volunteers throughout the festival. “It’s so fun. It’s a great day, we love the water here,” said Millard. “All of our corporate teams and our sponsors, we can’t do it without them.”

A unique boutique with various items needed for cancer patients all in one place, In the Pink serves over 2,000 people with cancer each year at three locations.



Jeri Millard

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**2836 Cherokee Circle South**  
Adorable Riverside 2BR/1BA bungalow near CoRK arts district and Bold City Brewery! Large pie-shaped lot on very quiet street. Open concept eat-in kitchen with satillo tile. 858 sq. ft. \$125,000.



**2210 Gilmore Street**  
This home features 2BR/1BA Living room, dining room, office, updated kitchen, front porch. The home is in the exciting Riverside Neighborhood and is conveniently located to the Historic 5 Points area. 1,208 sq. ft. \$219,000.



**2317 Ernest Street**  
Charming 1924 Riverside bungalow with 3BR/1.5BA, living room, dining room, hardwood floors, office, updated kitchen. Conveniently located to the Historic 5 Points area. 1,100 sq. ft. \$229,000



**2531 Forbes Street**  
3BR/2.5BA with office, wonderful kitchen, front porch, hardwood floors, rear deck and fenced backyard. The home is located in the exciting Riverside neighborhood and is conveniently located to the Historic 5 Points area. 1,400 sq. ft. \$355,000.



**1828 Cherry Street**  
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**2101 College Street**  
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**848 Talbot Avenue**  
Murray Hill 2BR/2BA brick charmer with industrial beams, new kitchen, fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, rear deck, and garage. All in one of Jacksonville's hottest neighborhoods. \$215,000



## 5 Points coffee shop hosts neighborhood gathering

With a new gathering place each month and also a new time, First Fridays, hosted by Riverside Avondale Preservation, provides a great way to get to know neighborhood businesses, meet new friends and hang out with old ones.

The September event was held at BREW 5 Points, Sept. 7, and preceded an art opening for Michelle Dailey at the popular coffee shop.

“There’s never a dull moment in our neighborhood as you well know,” said Nancy Powell, RAP Board Chair. She noted members of the board met with developers who are looking to demolish CenterState



John Sapora, Susan Painter, Rick Pariani and Cheryl Sapora

Bank and build a multi-story mixed use development on the site. “It can be super positive, and we’ve got to make sure it can be super positive,” she said.

This month First Friday will be held Oct. 5, 5-7 p.m., in the Riverside Avondale Community Garden at Park Street and Azalea Terrace.



Samantha Smid and Alicia Smith with Brandon Pouch and Chris Byers



Kevin Elphick and Craig Handley with Maxwell Wihnyk and Phillip Stamborski



Dan and Janell Damata with Natalie Broussard



Carey and Ruth Ann Hepler with Joan Sullivan

## Annual 10K swim highlights recreational use of river



JumpingFish Founder Jim Alabiso, Tony Pooley with Environmental Services, Inc., District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, Giselle Carson, third-place finisher in the Women’s 50-59 age group

Forty-five swimmers, ages 14 to 68, came from all over Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and one from Minnesota, to participate in the 6th annual “Up the River Downtown” 10K open water swim, which was also the 20th United States race in the Global Swim Series.

Presented by JumpingFish and DRC Sports, the race started at Jacksonville University on the beach and finished at Riverside Arts Market at the Fuller Warren Bridge. The 10K swim took swimmers under the Hart Bridge, the Mathews Bridge, past TIAA Bank Field, under the Main Street, Acosta and the FEC railroad bridges.

Swimmers were escorted by support watercraft, including kayaks for close proximity and basic lifeguard support; jet skis for quick response and swimmer



District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer hangs a medal around the neck of marathon swimmer Anne Eaddy of St. Cloud, Florida, who placed fourth in the Women’s 50-59 age group.

evacuation; pontoon boats for course oversight and mobile operation platforms. Other swimmers not participating in the race enjoyed a one-mile “fun” swim from The Landing to the arts markets in Riverside.

As swimmers reached the dock at the end of the course, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer was there to hang medals around each swimmer’s neck. Boyer, who chairs the Jacksonville Waterways Commission, has been pursuing waterfront and waterways activation for the past two years. This race was one of the many recreational uses Boyer advocates for the St. Johns River.

JumpingFish Founder Jim Alabiso, of Riverside, has long been a champion for swimming the St. Johns River and established the annual 10K swim to demonstrate how he and other swimmers could bring focus and more community involvement to the area’s best natural asset.

Awards were presented at the end of the race on the riverfront stage at Riverside Arts Market. Jacksonville resident Jacob Pishko, 18, was first place finisher overall with a time of 1:35:56, while second overall was Sandra Frimerman, 35, from Excelsior, Minn., with a time of 1:39:12.



Joni Roberts, second place finisher in the Women’s 50-59 age group

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# Law firm leads community service day to honor victims of 9/11

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

It was no coincidence that the Child Guidance Center’s office on St. Augustine Road was selected as the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance community project by the Jacksonville office of Holland & Knight.

Lindsay Swiger, a partner at the downtown law firm, also happens to serve on the Child Guidance Center’s board of directors as first vice chair/chair-elect. And the 67-year-old nonprofit was in dire need of repairs and beautification inside and out.

“This type of help is unbelievable,” said Theresa Rulien, Ph.D., the president and

CEO for Child Guidance Center. “We don’t have money for a new roof, a new drain field, much less funds to beautify the offices. This is really a godsend.”

Established in 1951 to help children, adolescents and their families cope with the stresses of life, the center offers a full range of comprehensive, state of the art behavioral health services. The programs were created to focus on kids at risk for removal from their homes, or who are victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, families with domestic violence, alcohol abuse, said Rulien.

With four offices, a 24-hour mobile crisis rapid response team, and therapists who go into the community into schools and homes, there aren’t enough funds to pay for niceties.

“We have funding through wonderful partners like the Kids Hope Alliance, the United Way, through Medicaid, but none of the grants or contracts pay for the correct amount of administration, overhead, etc.” Rulien said. “It used to be someone would give you \$100 and say ‘Do good work,’ and now they give it with the stipulation ‘I want it spent for this thing.’”

Rulien doesn’t begrudge restricted giving, but said often it comes down to providing a needed service versus maintaining the infrastructure where the service is performed, similar position many low-income families experience when making a choice between paying the utility bill or feeding hungry children.

Rulien was ecstatic to learn that more than 100 volunteers from Holland & Knight and its community partners would descend on the Southside office and headquarters September 8 with paintbrushes, weed-whackers, trimmers and other tools in



Children of Holland & Knight associates help clean up the grounds at the Child Guidance Center on St. Augustine Road.



Kathleen Griffith, Holland & Knight attorney



Bags of yard debris pile up at the Child Guidance Center.



Workers for Taylor Tree Services assess trimming needs.



Debbie Mackie, front, and Lindsay Swiger, Holland & Knight attorney, paint the reception area/waiting room at the Child Guidance Center on St. Augustine Road.

hand to give more than half a day’s time in various renovation projects including painting, landscaping, facility maintenance and sprucing up the grounds.

“We’re refreshing the lobby, adding a chalkboard wall and a Lego wall, cleaning the furniture, painting and cleaning the interior throughout the center, preparing goody bags for the kids, and for the staff, pressure washing, landscaping, mulching, weeding, trimming, building a therapeutic garden – giving the property a whole facelift inside and out,” said Swiger. “It’s a great family event, we have helpers of all ages.”

Holland & Knight’s community partners in this effort included The Association of Corporate Counsel North Florida Chapter, BNY Mellon, Florida East Coast Railroad, Hope Worldwide, Interline Brands, JetBlue, Krystal Klean and Taylor Tree Service.

“This is an effort that started after 9/11, our eighth year of doing community service projects, in honor of a partner in the New York office who lost his life during the tragedy as an emergency responder,” said Swiger, referring to Glenn Winuk, a Holland & Knight partner and volunteer EMT who, on 9/11, exited the firm’s New York office and died while rescuing others.

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# Riverfront setting perfect venue for rowing club benefit

Supporters of First Coast Rowing enjoyed a beautiful night on the banks of the Ortega River Sept. 22 at the Ortega River Club. The third annual fundraiser offered guests a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction which included a sailboat cruise as one of the many items, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the oar fund, a scholarship fund, and to fill items on the club's wish list, ranging from stroke watches to sculling and sweep oars, an outboard engine and double scull shells.

Live music by the Wetland Stringband, catered barbecue and a variety of delicious home-baked desserts by club members and sponsors rounded out the evening for approximately 120 guests, who supported the club's mission to help children establish strong character, learn life skills, and develop physically and emotionally through the sport of rowing.



Marme Kopp, Mike Nolan, Monique and Coach Paul Mokha, James Meschia



Marme Kopp, Miles Schueth



Tripp Ferrer, Emily Ferguson and Chrissy Ferrer



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## New Garden Club season full of programs, projects

The Women's Garden Club of Jacksonville kicked off its 2018-2019 season with an open house, hoping to attract new members and sharing their plans for the year. In the newly repainted ballroom, Garden Circles and other related groups – such as the Budding Gardeners Club, Memorial Park Association and the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens – set up displays around the perimeter of the room, while a well-stocked buffet held center court.

The first event kicking off the new program Thursday, Nov. 1 is a Designer of Distinction presentation by John Grady Burns, a floral artist from Natchez, Miss.

New this season is a fashion show, “New Year, New You,” to be held Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, with fashions presented by Peggy Johnson of The Petunia Patch, which has provided fashions for women in Jacksonville for 46 years.

The annual Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 23, and Blooms Galore & More plant sale will be held Friday-Saturday, April 5-6. Monthly events include Fun With Flowers demonstrations, typically on Wednesdays, and the horticulture programs offered by the Men's Garden Club the first Monday of each month.

The club's civic project for the year is the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. Proceeds from a variety of events, such as Blooms Galore & More, and the annual Flea Market, will help fund the donation.

Also receiving funds from a Natural Disasters USA Grant, which was sponsored by the Garden Club through the National Garden Clubs, Inc., was Memorial Park Association. The \$3,500 grant will be used toward repairs from hurricane damage.

The Garden Club, located at 1005 Riverside Ave., will host the Florida Federation of



Norma Basford and Marlene Goodwin

Garden Clubs District IV Fall Meeting, Friday, Oct. 12. Guest speaker will be Kathy Stark, Lake Shore resident and artist, whose work “The Wilderness of North Florida's Parks” serves as a tribute and a guide to the great unspoiled stretches of the region.



Memorial Park Association members Michele Luthin, Joanelle Mulrain and Kelly Varn



Dawn Holder with Shirley Walters, 93



Wildflower Circle members Lois Lambert, Marilyn Hollowood and Nancy Zatarain



Sonya Petit, Irene Woodworth and Bobby Arnold in front of the centerpiece they created for the Garden Club's open house.

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Art exhibit, benefit held to fund outreach writing programs

Women Writing for (a) Change, Jacksonville began as a project in 2014, but owner Jennifer Wolfe has recently applied for 501(c)(3) status to increase outreach beyond Wolfe’s living room, to support writing programs for incarcerated women at the Community Transition Center, at the library and at a variety of places in the community. “The purpose is to raise up people’s voices,” said Wolfe, who hosted a fundraiser at her Riverside home.

The Sept. 7 event included nearly 50 pieces of art from over 20 local artists, curated by artist/attorney Deborah Reid. A portion of proceeds from the sales will help fund Women Writing for (a) Change, Jacksonville to fund its outreach programs.

The evening included the exhibit RISE: A Feminine Approach to the Craft of Art,



Bonnie Solloway, Tracy Sadeghian and Melissa Ross

with presentations by the artists: Jennifer Bothast, Bronwen Chandler, Cookie Davis, Lisa Dykgraaf, Crystal Floyd, Caitlin Flynn, Sondie Frus, Barbara Fryefield, Joyce Gabiou, Sheila Goloborotko, Margete Griffin, Jenny Hager, Marsha Hatcher, Sylvi Herrick, Erin Kendrick, Leslie Kirkwood, Hope McMath, Traci Mims, Elena Ohlander, Debbie Pounders, Deborah Reid, Lana Shuttlesworth, Thorn, and Emine Zander.



Mary Moriarity with Doug Pullen



Lauren and Greg Cephus with the artist Thorn



Karen Erren, Jennifer Wolfe, Deborah Reid

Threatening weather doesn’t stop concert in the park



Front: Michele Luthin, Laurie Jarvis, Agnes Danciger, Mary Jarrett and Bobbie Arnold; back: Kelly Varn, Susan Burleigh and Susan Ober with Robert E. Lee High School NJROTC members Verielle Hamton, Bradley Gruber, Nakiayh Williams and Destiny Flynn with NJROTC instructor Kenneth Ingram. (Photo by KramKran Photo)

After rainy weather during the Memorial Day weekend forced a reschedule of a concert and picnic in Memorial Park, the threat of similar weather over Labor Day weekend almost conspired to do the same. Fortunately, the skies cleared up long enough for families and supporters of Memorial Park to spread out on the lawn and enjoy a concert by the Navy Band Southeast Wind Ensemble and Jazz Combo.

Timothy Burleigh, Memorial Park Association board vice president opened the evening with remarks, followed by presentation of the colors by four members of the Robert E. Lee High School Navy Junior ROTC. The Navy Band Southeast welcomed several former Navy musicians to join the band in concert.

“Memorial Park Association was so pleased that the event was able to be rescheduled as it had to be postponed due to weather back on Memorial Day weekend. We were even happier the rain held off this time allowing for a fantastic evening!” said Burleigh. “A big thank you to Navy Band Southeast for putting on another terrific



Memorial Park Association Board Member Tim Tyler with his wife, Melissa (Photo by KramKran Photo)

program for the crowd. The Association is excited about the many upcoming events during weekends this fall leading up to Veterans Day and our commemoration of the centennial end to WWI.”

Presented in collaboration with the City of Jacksonville’s government division, the Memorial Park Association hosted the free concert and picnic in the park Sept. 2. Food trucks Not Your Mama’s Eats & Treats, Murray Hillbilly and Extreme Burgers & Shakes provided fare for the crowd of nearly 400.

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THE WAY WE WERE: ROXIE HORNE MERRILL

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Somewhere in Ortega there is an old tree that may still have the initials “R.H. + R. H.” carved into its trunk. “We were just 12 years old,” recalled Roxie Horne Merrill, “when Rogers “Tiger” Holmes and I had a crush on each other.” Today, both Roxie Merrill and Tiger Holmes are well-known, highly respected nonagenarians, having raised their families and lived productive lives in their hometown of Jacksonville...and still, Roxie’s eyes twinkle with mischief as she recalls those distant memories of childhood.

The first daughter of Chalmers Duke Horne and his wife, Eleanor, Roxie was born in 1921 in Bryan, Texas. “Dad was a captain in the U.S. Cavalry, and they actually rode on horses back then,” said Roxie, adding that her father, a native of Jacksonville, met her mother in San Francisco, married her, took her to Texas, then to Panama and then home to Florida. “She was a debutante and Jacksonville was a culture shock for her. When they got here in the 1920s, Park Street wasn’t even paved!”

Roxie’s three sisters, Barbara (Bobby Arnold), Patricia (Barnes – deceased), and Molly (Toombs – deceased) were born in Jacksonville. “Our father believed in the beaches,” recalled Roxie. “He bought land and never worked for anyone else. Dad left us land when he died – about 13 blocks in Neptune Beach, and more – we’ve sold it piece by piece over the years.”

Growing up in Riverside, Roxie attended West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and Landon High School. Always a bit of a rebel with an independent spirit, Roxie sought higher education after graduating in 1939. She first attended Shorter University in Rome, Georgia – a women’s college where she studied history, and later studied at the Kingsmith School of Interior Design in Washington, D.C. “Even at that young age, I resented the fact that women generally didn’t work,” she said, “and I became a successful entrepreneur as a young married woman, but I’m getting ahead of myself. First, I must tell you about my beloved husband, Jabbo.”

Roxie met her future husband, James C. “Jabbo” Merrill, Jr., on a blind date. Four years older than Roxie, Jabbo had graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1939 with a degree in industrial management and come home to work in the family business, Jacksonville Shipyards and Merrill-Stevens Shipyards. “Jabbo desperately tried to enlist and was turned down because of his terrible vision,” said Roxie, “but what they did at the shipyard, repairing ships and building Liberty ships, turned out to be vital work for the war effort.”

In fact, the Merrill-Stevens Shipyards had built blockade runners for the



Jabbo Merrill holding grandson Nick, Roxie seated, daughter Roxanna Seely on the ground, son Jimmy and daughter Winky

Spanish-American War, barges for construction of the Panama Canal, merchant ships during World War I, and then in World War II, the company built 82 Liberty ships and 12 tankers. Roxie helped launch several of these vessels with bottles of champagne, and the Liberty ships were named after many local luminaries such as Alfred I. DuPont, David L. Yulee, Telfair Stockton, Henry B. Plant, II, Isaac Mayer Wise, Robert Mills, Anna Dickinson, Negley D. Cochran and others.

Roxie Horne and Jabbo Merrill were married October 7, 1942 at the St. Johns Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville, with a grand reception at the Windsor Hotel. They took the train to New York City for their honeymoon and then came back home

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 37**

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to do whatever they could for their country. Roxie remembers Jacksonville at that time as a town “full of bright young men in uniform...the war was on and everyone was doing their part.” Many years later, Roxie and her granddaughter, Maltby Fowler, traveled to France and stood in silent reverence at the site of the U.S. Military Cemetery in Normandy. “There were white crosses as far as the eye can see,” said Roxie. “I told Maltby, ‘This was my generation.’”

The couple moved into their home on Ortega Boulevard right away and added on to it over the years. There they raised their three children, Roxanna, Jimmy (James, III), and Eleanor “Winky.” The Merrills retained ownership of the Ortega house even when, in 1975, they took a 20-year hiatus, moving to Coral Gables, Florida, where Jabbo became chief executive officer of Merrill-Stevens Dry Dock Company in Miami. “I loved Miami!” declared Roxie, remembering that they attended St. Stevens Episcopal Church in Coral Gables, enjoyed an active social and civic life, and had season tickets to the Coconut Grove Playhouse.

One special event that happened in Miami was when Jacques Cousteau came to town. “Mr. Cousteau was having his boat repaired at Merrill-Stevens Shipyard so we have a



Roxie Merrill with Jacques Cousteau

big party for him,” recalled Roxie. “I had the privilege of squiring him around and making sure he met everyone, and everyone met him. He and his crew spoke beautiful French and charmed everyone. He was a precious man!”

Soon after Jabbo and Roxie moved back to Jacksonville in 1995, Jabbo passed away as the result of a lung disease. Roxie still lives in the Ortega home to which her husband brought her as a bride back in 1942.

And, speaking of homes, Roxie is quite proud of helping to preserve the old Merrill House, a stately Queen Anne home built by James E. Merrill (Jabbo’s grandfather) in 1879 and expanded in 1886. It was designated a local historic landmark in 2000. Roxie watched, in 2002, as the historic home was moved to its final resting place next to old St. Andrews Church, where the Jacksonville Historical Society headquarters are located.

The 12-room house, featuring rough-cut shingles that resemble fish-scales, a square tower, and an imposing gable, was one of the few Jacksonville residences that survived the Great Fire of 1901. After being restored to resemble its original splendor, with many of the furnishings and accessories donated by the Merrill family, the Merrill House was dedicated by the Jacksonville Historical Society as a museum in November 2005,

and is open to the public for tours through the Jacksonville Historical Society.

Always an entrepreneur at heart, Roxie partnered with Barbara Hoffman and Mariah Bisselle in 1959 to open a gift shop, “The Added Touch,” in Ortega. “We went to New York and stayed on Park Avenue with Mavis Powell’s aunt. It was a real adventure! We had \$1,000 to spend on gifts for the shop and that was a lot of money back then.”

Roxie remembers that Mariah was the conservative owner of the trio, wanting to save money, and that Barbara was all about spending. ...and Roxie was somewhere in the middle. At one point, they carried Pappagallo Shoes, an exclusive brand that was wildly popular in the fashion industry in the ‘50s and ‘60s. The ladies’ shoes were manufactured and distributed in New York City, sold only to private gift shops, and were uniquely designed for boutique clientele. “Those Pappagallo shoes were a roaring success for us,” recalled Roxie. The Added Touch gift shop was a triumph of entrepreneurship for Roxie and her partners until Barbara’s husband became ill and the Merrills moved to Miami. Amazingly, the shop remains open today, under new ownership.

During their 53 years of marriage, Roxie and Jabbo did an immense amount of traveling the world. “Jabbo was a wonderful husband!” declared Roxie. “He took houses



Roxie Merrill with an unidentified woman and Walter and Bitty McRae



The Horne sisters: Bobby Arnold, Roxie Merrill, Pat Barnes and Molly Toombs

in France and Italy and we took trips nearly everywhere.” They also engaged in playing tennis and golf together, joining other couples at the Timuquana Country Club for golf twosomes. Often, they would dance the night away with their many friends at local nightclubs. Roxie and Jabbo Merrill were a fun couple who worked hard and played hard.

Today, at age 97, Roxie continues to travel, if only to North Carolina. “Daddy bought a motel in Hendersonville,” she said. “My parents would go up and come back on overnight trains – no sleepers back then.”

Roxie travels by car, driven by her companion, Isis, and still enjoys the Carolina mountain breezes. She still goes to Bible study regularly, keeping her mind and spirit active, and Roxie also keeps in good physical shape by taking Pilates classes twice a week with her old friend, Helen Lane, and others in the Ortega area.

Ortega has changed a great deal since she first moved there in 1942. “When we first moved here, there were woods across the street and rabbits would run over and eat everything we planted,” she recalled. “Now, living on the river and looking out on this great city...well, it’s special. This house wraps its arms around me and so does God. He’s done so much for me. I’ve had a wonderful life!”



Roxie and Jabbo Merrill with their children



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# Centuries-old art form still alive in Northeast Florida

By Peggy Harrell Jennings  
Resident Community News

Until the French Revolution sent lace makers, along with their patrons, to the guillotine in the late 1700s, the art of hand-made bobbin lace was in high demand among royalty. Thankfully, for a group of lace makers in Northeast Florida, the art form is no longer a threat to life.

Once a symbol of prestige in Italy, Belgium and France, intricate, handmade lace was often smuggled into England in coffins,



placed in hollowed-out loaves of bread, hidden by ladies in their garments, rolled into gentlemen’s brandy flasks, and through other ingenious methods devised to transport this costly, luxurious item for collars, cuffs, gloves, head coverings and other adornments, including decorations for church altars.

The Jacksonville Florida Lacers meet twice a month to keep the historic artform alive, creating items of delicacy and beauty. Carol Robson from St. Mary’s, Georgia joined in 1991 and drives down to facilitate the group, which gathers from Arlington, Murray Hill and Mandarin and as far south as St. Augustine, Palm Coast and Ormond Beach.

The lacers were introduced to the art in a variety of ways. Roseanna Torruella learned bobbin lace making as a child in Puerto Rico. Kay Hymes lived next door to the person who owned a lace making supply business and was inspired to learn. Mary Kight saw a travel show on television about Belgium and was inspired to begin lacing. Donna Paganodenny said, “I painted until my mother put a crochet hook in my hand.”

Most of the women have experience with textile arts such as embroidery, tatting, crocheting and knitting. Linda Schleel has crocheted since age five and later taught tatting. Many have participated in craft shows, fairs and colonial craft exhibits.

Murray Hill resident Connie Temple was inspired to take up lacing when she saw tiny, dollhouse dolls wearing intricate lace outfits at an art festival. She called the International Lacer’s Association who directed her to someone in Gainesville then finally to Robson in Jacksonville.

“Most of us do Torchon lace, which is the simplest. It is very therapeutic. There is a



soothing rhythm to the clicking of the bobbins,” said Temple. “I had been away from it for a few years but after a traumatic and stressful year I decided to go back, and Carol is so encouraging. She is there for us – there is no question that we have put to her that she doesn’t know the answer, or she will go and find out. She has pushed us to go a little farther than we thought we could.”

Robson is a master craftsman and, the group joked, a tough taskmaster as well. “Rip it out,” “Go back, go back – do it right” are her catchphrases. Denise Williams is the newest member, and all agree that Robson is patient, kind and generous with her time, information and patterns.

Like her daughter, Sheyla Ogilvie, who assists, Robson is dedicated to teaching and continuing this dying artform. She said the most difficult thing about teaching is helping

someone figure out a mistake and one of the women quipped that making bobbin lace is both the “most soothing and the most aggravating activity.”

With numerous bobbins of thread, pins which make up the pattern set in a pillow, and a complicated manner of braiding and twisting the threads, one can see how frustration could vie for the therapeutic value, although they agree time disappears when they get into a zone as the highly decorative bobbins click and the patterns emerge.

“I would rather do this than go to a psychiatrist,” remarked longtime lacer Torruella.

Persons interested in learning this fascinating craft can contact Carol Robson at (912) 882-6803. The Jacksonville Florida Lacers meet at Ortega United Methodist Church, 4807 Roosevelt Blvd., the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m.



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# Cooperation during Riverside church project delights leadership

## Musical heritage remains intact with new hybrid organ

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

Leaders of most organizations know change is difficult. It may be especially challenging for a religious organization, which can often hold fast to tradition – sometimes to the detriment of the institution.

For the Rev. Steve Goyer, senior pastor at Riverside Presbyterian Church, one recent major change was one he wasn’t looking forward to leading but, as it turned out, Goyer said it was one of the best experiences he had ever gone through with his flock.

“The love, the passion that everyone has for the instrument and the level of cooperation from all the players...it’s been a really cooperative community event,” said Goyer about the 56-month project to replace the church’s 1927 Moller pipe organ.

Riverside Presbyterian has a deep commitment to liturgical and classical music, and the church is well known for having one of the best music programs among Jacksonville congregations, explained Goyer. Therein, as Shakespeare’s Hamlet said, was the rub: new pipe organ vs. digital organ.

Many members, including Goyer, were leaning toward the lower-priced digital solution while the musical purists in the congregation believed only a new pipe organ would do to ensure the rich musical history of Riverside Presbyterian would live on.

The 91-year-old organ’s original design was extremely compact and failed to address sound projection into the sanctuary, according to Carl Zacheis, chair of the organ replacement committee. “Sometime in about 1960, we think, the console was replaced, but it was a second-rate mechanism that left much to be desired.”

In the early 1970s, a leading organ consultant, Dr. Robert Baker, was brought in to address the problem and indicated that “the best thing would be to pull out the old organ and start over,” said Zacheis. Instead, the Moller Organ Company was contracted to rebuild the organ and replace the console at a cost of just a few thousand dollars less than the price of a new instrument.

In the late 1990s, the organ again needed attention and after an incomplete attempt at an overhaul, a variety of consultants all indicated Riverside Presbyterian needed to start over. A consultant for the organ in Jacoby Hall found the pipe chambers “to be a war zone and the organ to be unplayable,” said Zacheis. A reputable technician was brought in to “fix the mess” and the console was replaced with a third-rate console and the ivory keys were replaced with plastic.

A committee was formed in January 2014 and, for the past four-and-a-half years, Zacheis was the primary impetus behind this project. He wouldn’t give up the idea of a new pipe organ, according to Goyer, so under the guidance of John Parkyn, a St. Augustine consultant, the committee entertained proposals for pipe organs and digital organs, and was delighted to find a 108-rank hybrid pipe organ solution from R.A. Colby Organ Builders in Johnson City, Tenn.



Rev. Steve Goyer, Carl Zacheis, Lois Gurney, John Parkyn and Roger Colby pose with new organ console.

“The first step was to consider the vision of the church as well as the musical program,” said Roger Colby, who built the organ with a three-keyboard console. “A good instrument will serve the congregation in worship as a foundational consideration. It should also be capable of playing a variety of organ literature with reasonable registration resources.”

When Colby inspected the existing instrument, he found a great deal of the pipework could be “reutilized to excellent advantage from both a musical and a stewardship perspective.”

He also said the enclosed pipe chamber openings, which faced each other across the chancel and were covered with grill cloth, significantly limited the sound emitted to the congregation. The solution included creating tonal openings in the great arch wall facing the sanctuary. That portion of the project was undertaken by The Haskell Company, which researched and examined stresses for the load-bearing arch wall, and by Lovejoy Construction, which created the opening and installed the steel frame built by Haskell.

Other work in the project included repairing and repainting the interior of the pipe chambers, repainting the water-damaged chancel ceiling, refinishing the floor, and a significant amount of electrical work to bring the building up to current standards to accommodate the new organ.

While the work inside the building was being done, Colby was building the new instrument with a lot of consultation from Parkyn and the church organist, Lois Gurney. “One of the things that I enjoy greatly is laying out all the stops and controls of the

console,” said Parkyn. “It takes a great amount of time to carefully consider the various factors coming into play. But, a well laid out console is such a joy for all those who will use it for decades to come.”

Parkyn added an invention of his own to the specification under “Miscellaneous Controls.” A number of years ago he developed a “Tuba Melody Sub” and for this console suggested a dual-purpose toe piston for moving forward or backward through settings of stops. “It is a first for the Colby Company and we think it might be a first in this country,” he said.

Colby began installation June 18 and the Riverside Presbyterian congregation heard the new organ for the first time Sept. 9. A worship celebration service is planned for 10:30 a.m., Oct. 28, to include choirs, instrumentalists, and a new work composed and played by Andy Clarke, the church’s former organist and choirmaster.

The entire project was funded by a capital campaign, to which an unnamed donor matched funds in order to ensure that organ music could be taught to children.

Throughout the process Goyer was delighted and gratified to see the church’s mission statement play out. “A Movement for Reconciliation” had been adopted by the congregation’s governing body and the staff for the purpose of becoming people who work toward reconciliation with their neighbors and within themselves.

“The last thing I wanted to do was raise money for the organ and, as the pastor, keep all the players in the right place, but it’s been one of the best experiences I’ve ever had,” reiterated Goyer.



Chancel with new pipes and organ console (lower right)

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# All about the connections

## Deerwood Rotary gift funds major renovations at DLC Nurse & Learn

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

Connections mean everything when it comes to maintaining a nonprofit and, thanks to an ongoing connection with the Rotary Club of Deerwood, DLC Nurse & Learn (DLC) received \$15,000 to help with major renovations to the school.

Further, a connection between DLC’s founder and CEO, Amy Buggle, and mural artist Nancy Jantz put the icing on the cake after the renovations were complete.

Larry Matthews, Rotary member and past president, said DLC is one of 30 charities the club gives funds to annually and has done so for at least eight years.



Mural artist Nancy Jantz, Rotarian Larry Matthews and DLC Nurse & Learn CEO Amy Buggle pose against a background of Jantz’s murals at the school.

“We have one fundraiser a year and usually we’ll net around \$250-300,000. Each year some of that money is designated

to local charities. Charlie Sawyer, one of our Rotarians, submitted a proposal for DLC about eight or nine years ago and every year since we’ve contributed. He said it would be a good place to put some of our local charity money – and he was right,” said Matthews.

The Rotary Club gave DLC \$15,000 to refloor the school, which is located at Murray Hill United Methodist Church, 4101 College St. There was enough money left over to purchase an occupational therapy kit, too.

“The Deerwood Rotary has been a longtime supporter of DLC and our mission to serve children with developmental and intellectual differences and their families,” said Buggle, who founded the school and child care for children with special needs 30 years ago. “They have generously contributed to carpeting, to our therapy and computer equipment needs, storage and cabinet needs, occupational therapy kits, and now flooring.”

In conjunction with the flooring project, and due to a relocation of the school’s entrance, Buggle wanted to enliven the entryway and hallway. Enter Nancy Jantz, owner of JantzArt MURALS, who spent over a month at DLC painting the downstairs

hallway, bringing her acrylic paints and small ladder with her each day.

Jantz, who lives in Deercreek, started a painting ministry after her two daughters, Shari Lynn Henry and Jill Diane Henry, both passed away in 1981 from Batten’s disease. She met Buggle attending Crossroad United Methodist Church and learned about DLC Nurse & Learn.

“We feel incredibly lucky to have the both the Deerwood Rotary and my good friend Nancy Jantz help with major renovations around DLC this summer,” said Buggle. “Nancy stepped in and painted our hallways with beautiful murals of animals, flowers, and children with special needs. She spent well over a month at DLC making sure everything was just right. It’s absolutely breathtaking.”

DLC Nurse & Learn will celebrate 30 years of service to children with special needs and their families in August 2019. Nearly 4,000 children with Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, Spina Bifida, microcephaly, seizure disorders, g-tubes, apnea monitors and other special needs have benefited from DLC and their unique services which include nursing care, one on one therapy and educational services to children of all abilities.

# Technology enables blind musician and friend to make sweet music together

Submitted by Larry Tallman

Essentially blind since birth, Paul Kurtz of Ortega Forest hasn’t let blindness hinder his careers or his musical ambitions.

Born in 1952, Kurtz has retinopathy of prematurity, a condition caused by oxygen damage to the retina of the eye in an incubator. After learning braille in first grade and typing in second, he was able to attend public school and graduated with honors from Robert E. Lee High School in 1970.

He attended Florida Southern College and earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1974, and a master’s in counseling, health, and rehabilitation in 1977 from Florida



Larry Tallman plays the tuba at a Jacksonville Tuba Christmas event

State University, where he also took classes in music theory and history above his regular course load. He later earned an associate degree in computer science from Florida State College Jacksonville, where he spent nearly 10 years counseling disabled students. After his counseling career, he spent two decades in computer science as a programmer, analyst and systems manager at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Kurtz first began piano lessons at age 8, then later trained in braille music and had more advanced piano training, learned to play trumpet for the junior high school band, then again in college, and in the FSU Trumpet Ensemble. It was then that he gave serious thought to a career in music, teaching trumpet and brass, music appreciation, and music history.

However, since there weren’t braille music materials available at the time, Kurtz had to braille every bit of music he used from junior high school through graduate school, except for a piece of the 1933 Arban Method for Trumpet obtained from The Library of Congress. Assisted by volunteer music readers, Kurtz brailled music a note, slur, and rest at a time. Eventually he would pay for 38 trumpet method books to be produced in braille and has nine others which were produced by The Friends of Library Access, Inc.

Fortunately, a major change in producing books for the blind has revolutionized Kurtz’ work. Digital braille, where braille files are produced on computer and can either be printed out in hard copy or read on a braille computer terminals or note-takers, has enabled braille to become much more transportable. Also, a program called Dancing Dots was developed to translate digital music into a braille file, but still requires a sighted person to do the front-end work.

Enter Larry Tallman, a tuba player with The Recycles and the Jacksonville Community Band, who now does the front work of editing music for braille.

Tallman, currently residing in Mandarin, started his latest music hobby in 2008 upon his retirement as a financial analyst with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. He would download public domain, turn-of-the-last century music PDF files by composers like Sousa and Filmore to modernize the arrangement and build a score for his community bands. He would scan in all the parts and change the key of parts to what is used by contemporary musicians, then edit the parts with a notation application called Music Ease and merge them into a conductor’s score.

Dancing Dots allows Tallman to scan, edit and then produce a braille text file that is emailed to Kurtz, who loads it to



Paul Kurtz with his electronic braille device and trumpet

his braille note-taker. This was so efficient they would convert all the cornet/trumpet parts of an arrangement so Kurtz could be an effective section lead and also cover any missing voices when the piece was performed. Since starting this process in the summer of 2017, Tallman has electronically brailled over 100 arrangements for Kurtz.

Using the music archives from the Chatfield Lending Library in Minnesota, Kurtz and Tallman have been able to provide appropriate music genre like “Never on Sunday,” “The Good, The Bad and the Ugly” and “As Time Goes By” for the audiences of their community bands in Jacksonville.

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# Community garden subject of documentary for competition

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

Four and a half years after the Emerging Design Professionals group – a Young Architects Forum under the American Institute of Architects – approached Riverside Avondale Preservation asking whether there was a project in which the group could be involved, and RAP offered up a community garden, the AIA Jacksonville Chapter is submitting the finished product into a national competition.

AIA Jacksonville, led by Jennifer Suharmadji, hired Kumar Pictures to film a short documentary on the design and construction of the Riverside Avondale Community Garden. Garden plot holders were filmed Aug. 18 as they tidied up beds and spoke about their involvement in the construction of the garden.

The competition, called “The Blueprint for Better,” consists of a three- to five-minute documentary highlighting how architects work with the community and civic leaders to improve the neighborhoods, said Suharmadji, chapter president. “This amazing garden came to fruition also from a competition,” she noted. The prize is minimal, Suharmadji said, but recognition of the chapter is priceless.

In June 2014, Brandon Pouch, president of Emerging Design Professionals, and three other landscape designers – Julia Epstein, Dorina Bakiri and Kimberly Patrie – had

submitted designs for the garden to RAP. A panel of judges – Melody Bishop, Doug Lane, Dr. Wayne Wood and Angela Schifanella – chose Bakiri’s design, “Simple Curve,” for the garden at the corner of Park Street and Azalea Terrace. The softly curving wood fence includes a bench on both sides of the wall, so both gardeners and passers-by can sit and relax.

After obtaining funds, a stalwart group of gardeners and other volunteers, with help from landscape architect Susan Fraser, architect Doug Lane and home renovators Mike and Debi Pyne, put in eight to 10 months’ worth of sweat equity constructing the fence and the garden beds before the garden was officially opened in April 2016.

Rose bushes were planted outside the fence in November 2016 to acknowledge the property’s former life as the Willowbranch Park Rose Garden, established by the Jacksonville Rose Society in 1955.

The garden functions as a co-op, with management by the members, and currently coordinated by Joan Sullivan. Every gardener signs an agreement and commits to six volunteer hours per quarter. Sullivan said there is currently a waiting list of 20 gardeners for the 31-plot garden, composed of 4-foot by 20-foot raised, irrigated beds, and one wheelchair accessible bed sponsored by the Friends of Willowbranch Library.

Although ongoing theft occurs – including one entire plot getting wiped out – the garden remains open to the public.



James Siler films Brandon Pouch and Mike and Debi Pyne in the Riverside Avondale Community Garden for a national competition among the American Institute of Architects.



James Siler, Kumar Pictures owner/creative director, discusses shots with community garden coordinator Joan Sullivan.



Community garden architect Dorina Bakiri laughs with Susan Fraser, who holds Dorina’s son, Ezra.



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FOR SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6



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Charlotte was born and raised in Jacksonville, has been a teacher in DCPS classrooms for almost 10 years, and sent her children to DCPS schools, including neighborhood schools and magnet schools. She is endorsed by the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, the Florida Times-Union, incumbent District 6 School Board Member Becki Couch, and Duval County Property Appraiser Jerry Holland.

Charlotte is committed to strengthening the DCPS student code of conduct, hiring and retaining highly qualified teachers, training DCPS personnel to recognize students experiencing mental health issues, enhancing the vocational and technical training offered to our students, and promoting the development of partnerships between our schools, businesses, and faith communities. For more information, please visit [votejoyce.com](http://votejoyce.com).

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After Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc on many of his rental properties, Tom Jackson decided it would be more cost effective to use his experience in tree removal and trimming in Australia and lease tree trimming and removal equipment and do it himself. After getting several requests from other property owners in the area he decided to create Jax Tree Removal.

Tom enjoys Jax Tree Removal because he of the uniqueness of each job. "Every job is diverse and needs to be approached in a very specific way," he said, noting when he was in the Special Forces serving in Afghanistan he appreciated the difference in every assignment.

"We have the equipment to take down any size tree hanging over any house, haul away the debris and clean up after the job. We have a lift that will give us about 100 feet of height," said Tom, whose company is based in Riverside. "We have stump grinding equipment, we have a loader with turf tires to carry the debris from the site to our debris-hauling truck and we have ground protection boards to protect the lawn or other vital areas."

An Australia native, Tom came to the United States in 2010 looking for new opportunities. He first bought and managed rental properties in the Tampa area, then started a rental property business in Jacksonville in late 2012, buying and

renovating 80 to 100 properties for the past five years. "I bought them back from very severe delinquencies, borderline knock-down condition, and turned them around."

Because no two tree projects are identical, Tom and his crew create a complete plan of action for the project to determine what type of equipment is needed and whether there are obstacles – such as fences – that need to be temporarily removed. They place ground protection boards to protect the lawn, either from the equipment or from the resulting debris, and they use ropes and pulleys to create rigging to carefully lower limbs and branches from the top of the tree to the ground when needed. "It takes skill and time to take a tree down without damaging the property," Tom said.

While tree removal constitutes about 70 percent of his business, Tom also trims and removes limbs and removes stumps.

When it comes to tree removal, Tom said most of his clients want to remove a threat to their home or property with removal of diseased and damaged trees being the second most common reason.

He made a pledge to be part of a tree re-planting effort and is in a small business partnership with the National Forest Foundation. For every dollar donated, the foundation will plant a tree in a national forest. "By doing this, I am trying to plant more than I remove," said Tom.

Recently, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has been warning homeowners they should not make deposits for tree removal services because the job may be left incomplete, and debris not removed.



To get a free estimate for tree services – from stump grinding to trimming or removals – contact Tom Jackson at (904) 322-7799, email [info@jaxtreeremoval.com](mailto:info@jaxtreeremoval.com), or visit the website at [jaxtreeremoval.com](http://jaxtreeremoval.com). The company is located in 5 Points, just minutes away from homes and properties in the historic neighborhoods on both sides of the St. Johns River.

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# Open air art draws curious at Stinson Park

Ortega residents, visitors to Stinson Park and passers-by along San Juan Avenue before the Ortega River drawbridge had the opportunity to view art in the making as First Coast Plein Air artists created drawings and paintings on the bank of Ortega River at the park.

Over the three-day event, Sept. 21-23, approximately 15 artists participated, including Carron Wedlund, the president of the Pastel Society; Ortega resident Sylvia Hughes, Lori Ann Sweet, and winner of the St. Augustine Plein Air paint-out Elbert Shubert. En Plein Air (ahn plehn air) means to paint in the open, so artists had to bring all the necessary equipment for the outdoor event.



## Fall art fest at library showcases local artists

The first Fall Art Fest, a joint effort of the Willowbranch Library and Friends of Willowbranch, attracted over 600 people to view artwork by local artists, participate in hands-on projects and hear speakers Brett Waller of Big Babyhead Designs, Ithiell Yisrael, director of Iron Rock films and Raelyn Wiirre of Jax Makerspace.

Wiirre emphasized the classes and use of equipment offered by Makerspace at

the Main Library for anyone with a library card. Jax Makes, a celebration of local makers and artisans, will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Main Library, 303 N. Laura St., with over 70 artists and artisans, demonstrations of sewing machines, Silhouette Camo Cutting Machine, Virtual Reality, STEAM building kits, audio recording equipment, and the 3-D printer, and more.



Participating artists Tracie (Thorn) Thornton, Mark Creggan, Cookie Davis, Troy Eittrheim, Ron Episcopo, and Ana Kamir with Willowbranch Library Manager Margaret Morford, and Art and Culture Curator of Makerspace Gallery Raelyn Wiirre, pose with digital artwork, "Sailor with sinking ship Black Toe arriving hunting Tara" by Troy Eittrheim. Other participating artists not present for photo include Brett Waller, Tammy McKinley, Jason McNeil, Deborah Reid, Denise Wood, Tim Baker.

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# International Peace Day brings students together

On the first day of school, Acting Head of School Carol Mackoul introduced a valuable and important message of peace, asking every student to remember the quote: “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.” She challenged everyone to begin each and every day by considering ways they can bring peace to their family, friends, school, community, and the world.

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21 as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.



Students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School enjoy chapel in the park, overlooking the St. Johns River, one Friday a month throughout the year, weather permitting.



Third grade students read the book “Weezer Changes the World” and then formed a prayer circle to pass the peace to their neighbor.

The students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School honored this important day by building on what has been practiced at St. Mark's. Students celebrated by showing a variety of ways they are building peace within the school and community, and ways they envision reaching out to others around the world.

The day began with a chapel service in nearby Stockton Park. Following the service, students walked with reverence back to campus to gather around the flagpole for the Pledge of Allegiance. Students hung white doves with messages of peace in trees on campus and sang songs about peace,

others wrote Diamante poems about peace, and created origami doves.

The idea that students can change the world was embraced. The upper school students compared and contrasted stories on the theme of peace, finding ways to promote peace within the broader community and in themselves.

# Young football fans signed to TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Dream Team

The TaxSlayer Gator Bowl and Dreams Come True signed participants of Dreams Come True to the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Dream Team Aug. 28.

The dreamers will serve as representatives and ambassadors for the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl through their participation on the Dream Team. Throughout the college football season, the Dream Team will have the opportunity to scout a game at the University of Florida, participate with local corporate executives at monthly TaxSlayer Gator Bowl meetings, distribute their rookie year player cards throughout Jacksonville, and will be highlighted individually on social media and the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl website.

At the conclusion of the college football regular season, the Dream Team will graduate from their Dream Team jerseys to TaxSlayer Gator Bowl green jackets officially making them honorary Dream Team members of the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl committee.

Their Dream Team experience will include a meet and greet with participating team players and cheerleaders in the Dreams Come True Room at Wolfson Children's Hospital in late December and conclude with being honored on-field during the 74th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl on Dec.31, 2018.

The 2018 Dream Team includes Jake Berglund (13), the Yulee High School and Middle School Mascot; Blake Dunham (9),

St. John's County loves the Florida State Seminoles; Jordyn Harris (13) representing Ortega and is on the mend after surgery to repair an atrioventricular septal defect; Deon Jordan (age 17), representing Camden County, roots for the Florida Gators; Hayes McIntyre (11), of Yulee, is partial to the Ohio State Buckeyes; Camryn Naff (10), representing Intercoastal West, said the Georgia Bulldogs is her favorite college team; representing Jacksonville's Northside, Jacob Sandoval (11) has brittle bone disease and roots for the New England Patriots; Jacob Shedlin (13) represents St. Johns County and is a Clemson Tigers fan; Tallahassee resident Norah Sproles (6) was born with



Payton Titus watches King Tatum answer questions during an interview at a press conference.

the most severe form of spina bifida; King Tatum (7), from the Northside, loves the Jacksonville Jaguars; Payton Titus (17), from Arlington, is a Florida Gators fan; and Florida State Seminoles fan Zion Williams (15) represents the Westside.

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# Teens show respect for country’s flag



Robert E. Lee High School Navy Junior ROTC members Destiny Flynn, Nakiyah Williams, Bradley Gruber and Verielle Hamton presented the colors at a Labor Day weekend concert at Memorial Park. (Photo by KramKran Photo)

# New Girl Scouts badges to power girl leadership

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) unveiled 30 new badges to further enhance the one-of-a-kind Girl Scout experience available to girls ages 5-18.

The new badges address some of society’s most pressing needs, such as cybersecurity, environmental advocacy, mechanical engineering, robotics, computer science, space exploration and more. In a safe all-girl space, Girl Scouts develop important soft skills, including confidence and perseverance, as well as hard skills, setting them up for success and preparing them to take action for a better world.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer our Girl Scouts the opportunity to earn new badges that address very important modern day needs in our communities and beyond,” said Mary Anne Jacobs, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. “Today’s girls are vocal about changes they want to see and it is important that we educate and empower our girls to be future change-makers.”



Girl Scouts has released 30 new badges exclusively for girls ages 5-18 in cybersecurity, environmental advocacy, mechanical engineering, robotics, space exploration and more.

With the new programs available at Girl Scouts, girls can now dive deeper into modern day interests, issues and challenges and earn badges in Environmental Stewardship, Cybersecurity, Space Science, Mechanical Engineering, Robotics, and College Knowledge.

Girl Scouts will continue to learn how to proactively address some of the foremost challenges of today, while also building skills that will set them up for a lifetime of leadership.

To join, volunteer or donate visit [www.girlscouts-gateway.org](http://www.girlscouts-gateway.org) or contact TriciaRae Stancato at [tstancato@girlscouts-gateway.org](mailto:tstancato@girlscouts-gateway.org) or (904) 421-3484.



# Camp Sunshine benefits Angels for Allison

Now in its fourth year, Camp Sunshine recently donated \$5,795 to Angels for Allison, a Jacksonville-based nonprofit dedicated to assisting with funeral expenses and other costs associated with the loss of a child. Camp Sunshine is run by high school students from across Jacksonville. This week-long day camp was held July 23-27 at the Cofran family residence in Ortega Forest and hosted 24 campers ranging in age from 5 to 10. The highlights of this year’s camp were water play, crafting, making slime, baking, dancing and painting Angels for Allison signature metal angels. The camp continues to be a great display of fun, servant leadership and charitable giving at a young age.

# Never too early for lesson in voting rights, privileges, issues

The Fishweir Elementary School PTA hosted a community event Sept. 18 to inform voters about what will be on the voting ballot in November. Jerry Holland, Duval Property Appraiser and former Supervisor of Elections, presented and explained the meaning of the 13 amendments to be considered. He explained the intent of the amendment as well as what a winning yes vote versus a winning no vote would accomplish in each. After the discussion, Holland took time to pose with Fishweir students and future voters.



Sawyer Jackson, Lily Hardaker, Riley Moore, Duval Property Appraiser and former Supervisor of Elections Jerry Holland, and Daisy Hardaker



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## DA Foundation funds teen’s creative writing course at University of Oxford

**Submitted by Tatiana King**  
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts  
Public Relations student

Ortega Forest resident Lily Paternoster, a senior Creative Writer at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, spent the summer in a prestigious Fiction & Poetry Workshop in Oxford, England, where she attended special classes at Summerville College on the campus of the University of Oxford. Only eight high school students from around the world were accepted for this esteemed writing program.

“I attended college English classes on Monday and Tuesday mornings,” explained Paternoster. “Then on Wednesday, we received assignments for our writing tutorial that week.

After writing all day on Thursday, we would meet on Friday with a professor in



the English Department who would advise me and polish my writing, line by line.”

As part of the program, Paternoster traveled throughout Great Britain and visited such landmarks as Warwick Castle, Blenheim Palace, and the British Museum.

Paternoster’s trip was funded by the DA Foundation, which seeks to provide students with “cutting edge training, experiences, and intensive study that will advance their Arts education.”

After graduation, Paternoster hopes to study secondary English education, and perhaps do graduate work in England.

## Summer reading assignment culminates with T-shirt design project

One of the summer reading books for St. John’s Country Day School seventh-grade students was “Hatchet,” Gary Paulsen’s story of survival against the odds in the Canadian wilderness. As a culmination project, the Honors English classes worked in the school’s MakerSpace designing T-shirts to correlate with the experiences in the novel. Ortega resident Catherine Nichols, daughter of Gene and Caroline Nichols, devised a winner with her “Top 10 Worst Things That Happened to Me in the Canadian Wilderness” design.



## Gyminators opens door for National Gymnastics Day

Paula Falls, owner/operator of Gyminators, kicked off National Gymnastics Week Sept. 8 with a free day of gymnastics, dancing, tumbling, and cheerleading. The open house at 4603 Shirley Avenue included vendors, food trucks and music outside the studio, while inside boys and girls from age 10 months to 18 years tried their skills on the balance beams, uneven bars, horse, rings, trampoline and more.

“I see this as a way to show appreciation to the parents of my students, to give back to the community, and to provide an opportunity for other small businesses in the area,” said Falls, who opened Gyminators 16 years ago after working for Duval County Public Schools for many years. “Gymnastics is the best lead-up sport for any sport because it uses every part of the body. It also improves attention at school, she said, citing development of fine motor skills, as used in writing, through work on the bars.



Coach Mike Hitzges and Gyminators owner Paula Falls with students Callie Carver, 11 and Deanna Jones, 5

Some of Falls’ clients include children of former students, and her staff includes coaches who were students at her gym more than 15 years ago. Now in college, Haley McSwain began her gymnastics career at Gyminators at age 3 and works as an instructor at the gym.




Katie Perrone helps Makai Davis, 4, perform a forward roll.



Elizabeth Pasicolan, 8, balances on a bar while instructor Haley McSwain keeps a close eye on her student.

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# Well-being, self-care a community effort

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville held the first Health, Safety, and Well-Being extended advisory day Aug. 30 with a focus on self-care. Students participated in Zumba, art, guided meditation, yoga, field games, music, and nutrition exercises, among other activities.

“Taking care of ourselves means taking care of all of who we are, as individuals and as a community,” said Amy Perkins, Director of Student Services.

The goal of the event was to highlight the fact that self-care can take lots of different forms. “We wanted to foster well-being by exploring new ways to help students learn about themselves, their choices, and their community,” she said. “The event grew as community speakers joined our own faculty and staff, who volunteered to lead sessions and share their expertise. When a French teacher leads a Zumba class and a swim coach teaches you about food insecurity, students realize that we are all more than any one role we have – student, teacher, child, or friend.”



Tess Sturgeon, assistant director of dance, balances seventh-grade student Erica Prockow in the air during acro-yoga.

The events were held during an extended morning advisory period. Each advisory group of students attended two sessions at various locations around campus. Sessions also included relay charades, art studio time, a mental health talk in the Munnerlyn by Dr. Phillip Tran of Baptist Health, acro-yoga and music, and a presentation by Amanda Ranney of Fit Peace by Peace, who spoke on the importance of nutrition.

# Ruth N. Upson celebrates Grandparents Day

Ruth N. Upson Elementary welcomed grandparents and siblings to the Murray Hill school’s Annual Grandparents Day last month. Dozens of grandparents attended, sharing lunch and time with the students.



Upson Safety Patrol members Noah Lewis and Riley Gartshore spend time with their grandmother.

# School support group gives Stockton Elementary new look inside, out

During the summer while kids were playing with friends and staying up late, the active members of Friends of Stockton were busy working hard to spruce up John N.C. Stockton Elementary School in Ortega Forest.

One of the reasons faculty and staff believe Stockton is a great school is the effort the Friends of Stockton put into planning, organizing, and implementing more improvements to the school.

The group got together on a Saturday during the worst heat of the summer, along with 25 other parents, to give the front of the school a facelift, including trimming vines and branches, mulching and planting flowers, to make the front of the little neighborhood school look appealing.

FOS also gave the front office, classroom doors, and the computer lab a much-needed facelift, said Mandy Moore, first-grade teacher and Safety Patrol advisor.

“Walking in to the office you can see our STEM [science, technology, engineering, mathematics] focus with the gear décor, a display case for the FOS-sponsored Robotics team awards, and new bright, stylish furniture. The black walkway support beams and classroom doors leading to the interior courtyards have been painted a vibrant Stockton blue,” she said.

“A special thank you to Greg McMahan and his company for doing all of the manual labor. The computer lab is a much more enjoyable place with a comforting hue of yellow paint, cute robot decorations, and shortcut commands the students can refer too while working in the lab,” said Moore.

The school support group didn’t stop with exterior and interior beautification. They also purchased additional science



Coach Adam Przymylski teaching the fourth-graders how to play GaGa Ball the safe way.

materials, such as microscopes, weather vanes, skeleton models, flower models, butterfly kits, etc., to help support the science curriculum in kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms.

Stockton Elementary is also the first school in Duval County to have its own GaGa Ball pit, thanks to the Friends of Stockton and the PTA.

A variant of dodge ball, the game combines dodging, running, striking, and jumping with an 8-inch ball. Players hit the ball at each other with their hands and are eliminated if the ball strikes them on or below the knee. They cannot pick up the ball and throw it. It is a fast-paced game and can be played with up to 25 players. “The students are always eager to play at recess!” said Moore.

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Tue., Nov. 6, 9-11 a.m.  
Thu., Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m.  
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## Fourth-grade student protests budget cuts at school board meeting

A fourth-grade student at Central Riverside Elementary School is learning early that it takes voices of all ages to protest issues and effect change. Micah Hall, who takes art class with CRES Art Teacher Terry Woodlief, spoke up at the Sept. 10 Duval County Public Schools board meeting to protest the budget cut to art, music and physical education resources.

“Our enrollment fell short by 10 students to qualify for full time resources so our resource programs will be cut in half,” said Woodlief. “We will alternate our programs at other schools changing from our students having art, music and PE once a week to only twice a month. This is quite a blow to our school.”

The boy’s mother, Allison Hall, posted a video of his speech during public comments at the board meeting, stating “There was an announcement last week at Micah’s school that all of their resources will now be part time because of budget cuts. Micah is not ok with this. So, he asked me to type while he wrote a statement. He had very minimal input from me. After school today, he asked



us to take him to the Duval board meeting tonight, so he could read this. I try and teach them to use their voice, really humbling to hear his.”

Micah delivered a two-and-a-half-minute speech, stating “Resources are important and very fun for us. We learn more than what you think we do.”

He went on to say, “All the resources combined are teaching us as much about life as we learn in our regular class. If resources are cut, all the students will be sad.

“My mom said studies show resources help with math and reading, and studies say my test scores are better if I have other activities throughout the day. Keeping resources make sense and they can help improve those scores,” said Micah.

## Everyone loves a good (shaving cream) fight



Fishweir Elementary School parents and resident in the Fishweir Park neighborhood hold quarterly picnics in Fishweir Park, where neighbors, friends and pets join for potluck and fellowship. After enjoying sweet treats from the Cool Scoops ice cream truck on Sept. 7, the children had an epic shaving cream fight.

## St. Mark’s Episcopal girls club wins Lemonade Stand Challenge



Emily Dearing, Elinor Davidson, Mamie Burkett, Margaret Brent, Sarah Frances Magevney and Abbay Magevney

In late July, a group of young girls from St. Mark’s Episcopal Church’s Girls Breakfast Club held a successful lemonade stand and bake sale on St. Mark’s campus following church one Sunday. Proceeds benefited Angels for Allison, a local nonprofit dedicated to assisting with funeral expenses and other costs associated with the loss of a child.

The lemonade stand was part of Angels for Allison’s grassroots “Lemonade Stand Challenge.” Children across Jacksonville were encouraged to hold their own neighborhood lemonade stands to support Angels for Allison’s mission of helping bereaved families. Thanks to support from St. Mark’s parishioners, the girls were able to raise more than \$300 for the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation and were recently named winner of the summertime challenge.

The girls used their winnings to purchase food and staples for the food pantry at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church and Outreach in Springfield. One of St. Mark’s ministry partners, St. Mary’s offers a variety of services to those in need in Jacksonville.

“The Lemonade Stand Challenge was a fun and tangible opportunity to help the girls understand the importance of charitable giving at a young age,” said Christine Burkett, St. Mark’s member and co-leader of St. Mark’s Girls Breakfast Club. “I am proud they decided to use their winnings to do even more good for our community!”

The Girls Breakfast Club is a Sunday school class for fourth- and fifth-grade girls offered by St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. In addition to meeting on Sundays, they participate in service projects throughout the year.

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**Aubrey Brown, LCSW and Stephanie Kinnare, PhD**

November 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.  
Munnerlyn Center - ESJ Campus

### Influence and Effects of Social Media and Screen Time on Teens

**Raj Loungani, MD, MPH and De’Von Patterson, PhD, NCSP**

March 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Munnerlyn Center - ESJ Campus

### Teen High-Risk Behavior, Substance Abuse and Vaping

**Michael Wolf, BSN, RN-BC**

April 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Munnerlyn Center - ESJ Campus

**All series events will be held at the ESJ campus (4455 Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32207)**  
**Free and open to the public • More information about the Baptist Health Speaker Series at [esj.org](http://esj.org)**



Dunkin' doughnuts with dads



Aaron and Evelyn Anderson

Whether they dunked them in milk, coffee or enjoyed them as is, Riverside Presbyterian Day School PreK 4 students and their fathers enjoyed “Donuts with Dad” Sept. 14. The event gave fathers a chance to explore their children’s classroom and view the projects the students have been working on.

Camping trip enhances servant leadership



Will Rabil with George Louh and Cameron Sharp

Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth-grade students enjoyed an overnight trip to Southwind, a Young Life camp in the Ocala National Forest, in early September. The annual experience provides the school’s oldest students with an opportunity for personal growth, team building, and a better understanding of how all are called to provide servant leadership in our communities.

Native Sons and Daughters spend day with dads at Citywide Pow Wow

Imagine spending a whole day with Dad, sharing fun activities like ziplining, archery, fishing, horseback riding on trails and in a ring, target shooting with BB guns, swimming and crafts.

That’s what nearly 200 members from 19 tribes of the Native Sons and Daughters of Jacksonville did at a Citywide Pow Wow Sept. 22 at Camp Immokalee, where at least 35 braves and princesses from the newest tribes, Mohican and Crow, on the Westside, were introduced to the event for the first time.



Archer Harrison Clark, Mohican Tribe

Robin “Brave Horse” Snowden, of Ortega Forest, participated in almost every activity there was to offer and said, “Horses and horseback riding is my favorite hobby, but the zipline was pretty awesome.” Her sister, Hallie “Shooting Star,” said she was too scared at first to try the zipline, “but once I saw my friends do it and got up there, I felt like a real shooting star!”

The main event, however, was the Timucuan Longhouse favorite – the Jax Cracker 500, a car race using the official Pinewood Derby weight of 5 ounces. Trophies were awarded for Fastest Racers and Best in Show; winners included Hayes Nightingale, Anderson Vogt and Annabelle Strasser from the Mohican and Crow tribes.

“It was definitely a beautiful, sunny day. There was a lot of fun to be had and many happy, smiling families,” said Ray “Creaking Oak” Junk, recruitment chief for the group. He noted five new families registered to join the Native Sons and Daughters after attending the event as guests.



Taylor and Annabelle Strasser with Andrew, Robin and Hallie Snowden



Charles Hicks

Ortega runner nationally ranked in Top 10

Bolles cross country runner Charles Hicks, a senior at the school and an Ortega resident, ranks seventh in the MileSplit50 national rankings, announced Aug. 28 in a countdown of the top 50 high school runners in the United States. Hicks’ individual national ranking complements the Bolles team’s national rankings at 11th in the Dyestat.com national preseason poll, 13th in the MileSplit 50 team poll and 15th in the High School Harrier’s “Terrific 22.”

As a freshman, Hicks was third in the U.S. among freshmen in the outdoors 3200-meter run and was first in Florida the same event.

In Florida he also ranked first among freshmen in the 1600 and fourth in the 800.

As a sophomore, Hicks was runner-up in the 2A Cross Country Finals, ended up fourth in the 3200 and sixth in the 1600 at the state track and field championships in 2017.

As a junior, he was first in the 5000-meter race for district, region and state cross country championships. In track he placed second in the 3200 and fourth in the 1600 at state, and was part of the first place 4x800 relay team at the state track and field championships in 2018.

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