

Riverside · Avondale · Ortega · Murray Hill

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Ritz Chamber Players
engage audience
with classical performance

Connie Somerville and Terrance L. Patterson with hostess Betsy Lovett and Angela Patterson-Hughes at an intimate party for and performance by the Ritz Chamber Players. [READ MORE, PAGE 43](#)



Oyster Roast on the waterfront draws annual crowd

Mary Ann Chambliss and Mary Coleman couldn't pass up the opportunity to celebrate the St. Johns River and have fun supporting the Riverkeeper.

[READ MORE, PAGE 27](#)



Brooklyn transformation continues with new mixed-used development

A new apartment project on Riverside Avenue promises amenities to draw millennials to a neighborhood once considered blighted.

[READ MORE, PAGE 2](#)



Littlest lives saved, thanks to local donors

Supporting the life-saving work of the March of Dimes, Patty DeStephano, Robin and Jim Love, Laura Langton and Joan Altes help raise funds at the 28th Annual Signature Chefs tasting event.

[READ MORE, PAGE 22](#)



Evening under the Big Top wows gala guests

River Garden Foundation Board President Jeanine Rogozinski shares a happy moment at the annual fundraiser with Kellie Ann and Jason Smith.

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Christmas light display spreads holiday cheer

A synchronized show of more than 7,000 lights created by Jack Wheeler, 12, drew a crowd to his opening night reveal on Garibaldi Avenue in Venetia. Wheeler is also raising funds for a cure for EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa), a rare genetic skin disorder.



Brooklyn transformation continues

Sounds of construction will again fill the air in the Brooklyn neighborhood north of Riverside when contractors will break ground in January for a new mixed-used development, Vista Brooklyn.

Jacksonville-based Hallmark Partners and Nashville-based Bristol Development Group are planning a 308-unit apartment complex at 200 Riverside Ave., in the vacant lot north of 220 Riverside and Unity Plaza.

Amenities will include a club/pool deck space with an adjacent beer garden overlooking the St. Johns River and a rooftop dog park above the parking garage. Vista Brooklyn will also include 13,000 square feet of retail space with a retail

promenade along Riverside Avenue. The Vista Brooklyn team includes private equity firm MountainStar Capital, general contractor Brasfield & Gorrie, J. Davis Architects and Rhode Island based Citizens Bank. Estimated completion date is February 2021.

“Since the development of 220 Riverside, the Brooklyn/Riverside neighborhood has continued to evolve with new restaurants, retail shops, apartments and cultural activities, which has enabled the neighborhood to have one of the fastest growing millennial populations in the country,” said Keith Goldfaden, a principal with Hallmark Partners.

Preservation group shares strategic framework with community

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

Leadership from Riverside Avondale Preservation rolled out the new strategic framework, which will guide the actions of the nonprofit, at a townhall meeting Nov. 8 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

RAP Board Chair Nancy Powell discussed the past year’s work behind developing the strategic framework, which included survey responses and focus group feedback. The process was done with the help of Julia Burns, founder and principal, Converse Consulting.

“What we found from the input was people wanted us to be advocates,” said Powell. “As far as what RAP can do, you have to think about what our organization is uniquely qualified to do,” she said, noting that while safety, for example, was high on the list of what residents value and want in the neighborhood, it’s better suited for another organization, such as the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.

Powell said RAP’s mission is to preserve, promote, advocate and celebrate the historic district. “Our goal is to be facilitators and listeners of what concerns our neighborhood,” she said. “One of the things we struggled with was, when we do take advocacy positions, how we know what we need to communicate that is important to the neighborhood.”

Some of the things for which RAP will advocate include drainage and flood control; safe pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly projects, including sidewalks, crosswalks, bike access, street lighting and public transit; appropriate land use, zoning and historic regulations; and projects with balance and compatible scale which fit with and complement the neighborhood.

Approximately 75 attended the meeting, which included updates from board members on zoning and revitalization, historic preservation, parks, trees and the RAP ReLeaf project, the John Gorrie Dog Park, the community garden and Riverside Arts Market.



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attached 2-car garage



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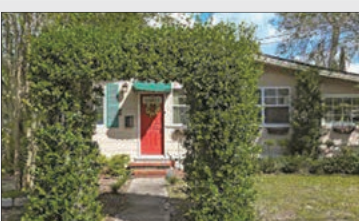
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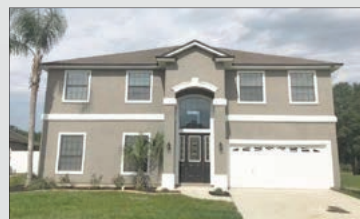
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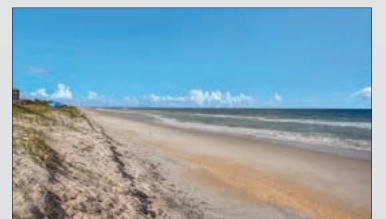
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Groundwork Jacksonville receives grant for McCoys Creek restoration

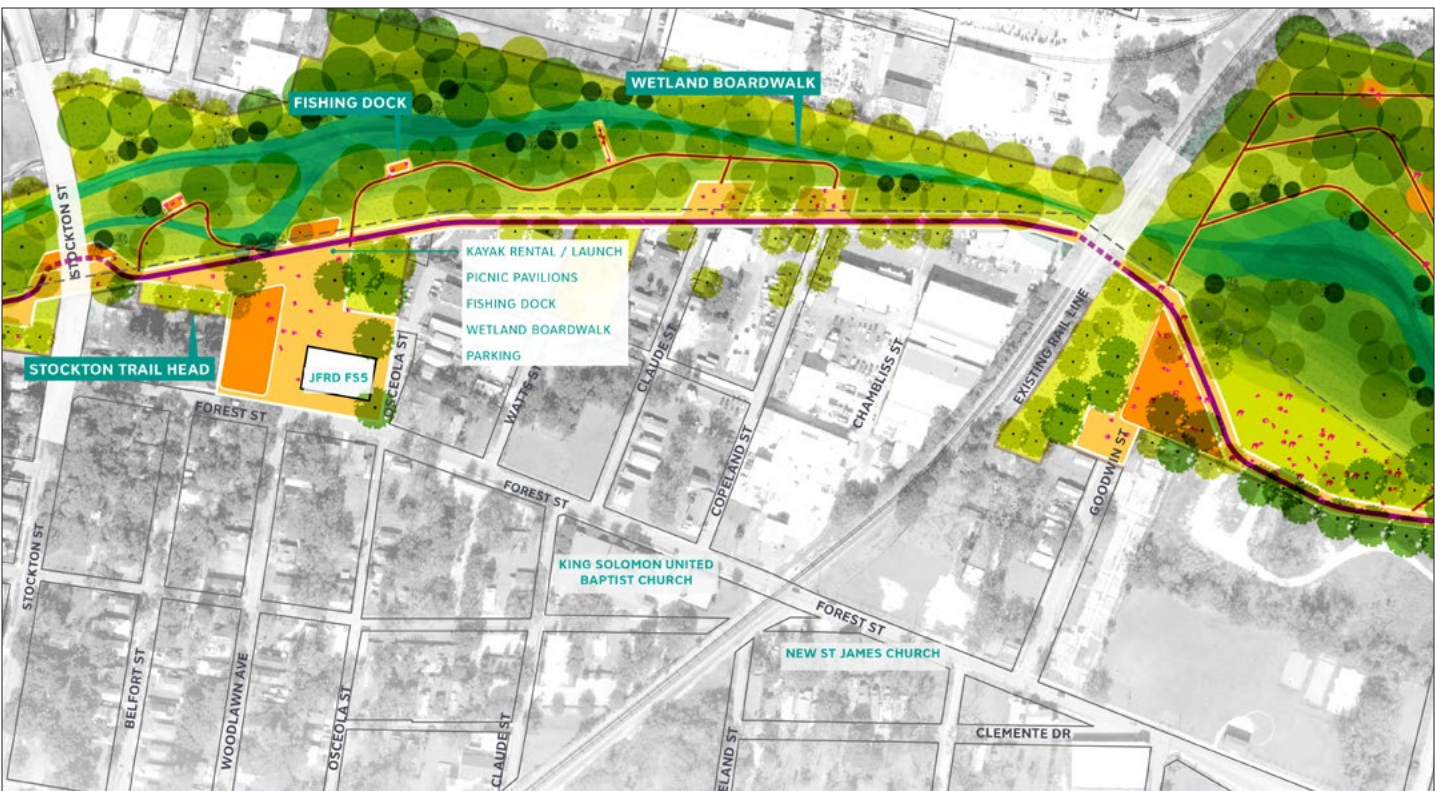
Groundwork Jacksonville and the City of Jacksonville are working on a plan to restore McCoys Creek to a natural resource. To share those plans with communities along the creek, Groundwork Jax hosted the McCoys Creek Fest Nov. 10.

Shortly after the creekside festival, Groundwork Jacksonville CEO Kay Ehas announced the nonprofit had received a \$250,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA. The National Coastal Resilience Fund grant was one of 35 awarded in 22 states and Puerto Rico.

For the grant, Groundwork is required to provide \$425,903.88 in matching funds and in-kind services. To date, Groundwork has raised more than \$200,000 including \$84,600 from the Environmental Protection Board; \$58,400 from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and \$25,000 from The Haskell Foundation. In-kind services include a typography study and hydrology modeling provided by the City.

The free family event drew more than 150 residents and nearby business owners who learned about the history, ecology and plans for restoring McCoys Creek, while enjoying music, lunch and family-friendly activities.

The primary goal of the event was to engage the community in conversations about design alternatives and to better understand how residents currently, and/or would like to interact with the creek. Guests were asked to prioritize the amenities, access and green space they want to see included in the plan, like fitness stations, kayak launches, restrooms and fishing docks among other options.



The Stockton Trail Head creates a community gathering place and plaza by the Stockton Street bridge, a key connection from the neighborhoods to the north and south. The creek widens within this zone, able to host a kayak launch and a fishing pier. To the east, the Forest Ecological Park balances active and passive recreation needs along the creek.

The City of Jacksonville has budgeted more than \$50 million over the next three years to implement stormwater management, trails and park improvements and has invited Groundwork Jacksonville to provide a plan that integrates natural channel design and green infrastructure to also improve flooding, creek function, water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation.

The McCoys Creek Restoration plan, being developed by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. in partnership

with SCAPE, Landscape Architecture DPC, impacts approximately 142 acres of surrounding land, including Hollybrook Park and Brooklyn Park, and approximately 2.8 miles of creek.

The community’s feedback collected during Creek Fest, along with input garnered from Groundwork’s ongoing community outreach with churches, residents and businesses impacted by McCoys Creek, will be incorporated into the final plans presented to the City.



Visitors at the McCoys Creek Fest check out restoration plans, provide input.

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Riverside church celebrates 30th annual Live Nativity

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Thirty years ago, members of Riverside Avenue Christian Church decided to offer a “gift to the community” during the annual Riverside Avondale Luminaria night. They settled on a tableau depicting the birth of Christ, right on the steps of the church.

It was a simple portrayal, with costume-clad members standing or sitting in silence for two hours as if posing for a painting, but the community responded positively. “Each year it seemed to grow and since the community seemed to enjoy it so much, members of the church became more involved and have enjoyed it, too,” said Jo Hardwick, church member.

Changes and additions over the years included a Christmas concert during the event, a chance to meet with Santa Claus, arts and crafts, cookies and hot cider, and even live animals.

“One year I participated in the cast and the little calf became restless. Having raised a couple of calves earlier on, I knew how to settle it down. Usually all they want to



Riverside Avenue Christian Church Live Nativity 2002



Riverside Avenue Christian Church Live Nativity 2016

do is eat, which involves suckling. I reached down and let the little critter suck my thumb. It worked!” said Sharon Bemby, who also recalled the year someone suggested one of the children be suspended from the eaves of the roof as angel. “Just imagine! Thankfully that idea was put to rest rather quickly!”

Before live animals were introduced to the tableau, “we started out with plywood animals painted by some of our members,” said Corinne McClure.

Over the years the scene moved off the church steps to the front lawn, the stage grew higher, lighting better and costumes improved, said Rick Hull. “Now the Live Nativity is the centerpiece of our Christmas celebrations and participation in it has become a rite of passage in the congregation.”

The annual event has not been without some adventures and mishaps either. There was the time the committee broke a water pipe digging holes for the animal pens; another time the donkey decided to join passers-by and dragged the deacon halfway down the street before it was returned to the pen. There was also the time the littlest angel fell asleep in the hay and many occasions families would bring a newborn to pose as Baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph for a photo op.

The 30th annual Live Nativity will be held Sunday, Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m., at Riverside Avenue Christian Church, 2841 Riverside Ave.

Murray Hill Heights neighborhood finally gets new playground



A new playground in one quadrant of Four Corners Park in Murray Hill draws neighbors together.

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Sarah, Sean and Sawyer Collins live just a couple of blocks from Four Corners Park in Murray Hill. On Nov. 3, they took a stroll up to the Murray Hill Library to participate in early voting, then wandered down to the park to spend time at the new playground, which opened Oct. 24.

“We’re very excited about it,” said Sarah Collins. “It seems like it was in process for a long time, but then it went in very quickly.”

The playground was, indeed, a long time coming. Two and a half years ago, in May 2016, residents met with Keith Meyerl, a division chief with Parks, Recreation and Community Services, at which time they indicated a preference for a small playground in a design that would fit in with the heavily wooded nature of the 7.38-acre Four Corners Park, which has four quadrants created by the intersection of Lawnview Street and Lamboll Avenue.

A year later, after getting pushback by a few residents who were afraid the playground would bring in crowds from other neighborhoods – as has happened with the much larger playground in Boone Park on St. Johns Avenue, or would create parking issues or attract undesirable activity in the park, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department decided to postpone ordering the equipment until representatives could talk to those opposed. In the meantime, residents started an online petition for the park and received 160 signatures in support.

There were hopes the new playground would be installed by December 2017, but the City did not place the order for the

Kompan equipment until this past summer. The estimated cost of the playground was \$65,000, which was funded by City Council District 14 bond funds.

The material selected by Stacy Moseley, the Kompan representative who has worked with several community groups and schools in playground renovations, is Robinia, a hardwood with a 15-year warranty that blends with the wooded landscape of the park. Additionally, a slide saved from the Boone Park playground renovation was relocated to the Four Corners playground.

The playground was finished in late October, in time for families to meet prior to heading out for Halloween trick or treat.

“It’s a great meeting place. We get to see other families in the neighborhood,” Collins said. “It gets us out of the house more.”



Sawyer Collins show off his balance skills at the new playground in Four Corners Park in Murray Hill.

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Murray Hill Library to celebrate 50 years of community service

Submitted by Judy Klein
Friends of the Murray Hill Library Board Member

On the heels of celebrating the 50th anniversary of Jacksonville’s city-county government consolidation Oct. 1, 1968, the Murray Hill Library will celebrate its own 50th anniversary Dec. 15.

The Murray Hill Library was the last branch library approved to be built in Jacksonville before consolidation. The first mention of a possible library in Murray Hill appeared in the Florida Times-Union on Feb.13, 1960, with the headline “Residents Desire Branch Library in Murray Hill.”

The article states that “some Murray Hill residents yesterday expressed disappointment because the suburb has not been favorably considered by the Jacksonville Public Library’s board of trustees as the site of a branch library” and that “residents believe the area’s growth justifies the establishment of a branch.”

Nothing more happened for five years until Dec. 17, 1965, when an article appeared that explained that some city councilmen had approached Cecil C. Bailey, then chairman of the Board of Library Trustees,

with the idea. Bailey went on to say that they had been making a survey of the area and felt a branch was needed.

By February 1966 four sites were being considered by the trustees for the branch, and the selection of an architectural firm was being discussed. The next month a site at Edgewood Avenue and Kerle St. was approved for the proposed branch and the board recommended selection of architectural firm Hardwick and Lee to design the building. A model of the proposed library was unveiled in June 1967, and work began on the branch in November. Mayor Hans Tanzler was present for the groundbreaking. The William E. Cellar Co. was in charge of construction with a cost estimate of \$134,510.

A Times-Union headline in December 1967 brought the distressing news that “Library’s Branch will be Bookless.” It turns out the \$75,000 requested in the 1968 budget for books was eliminated by the City Council. It went on to state the branch would be ready to open sometime in June but would have no books until the new budget could provide them in the fall of 1968.

Despite the setbacks, dedication ceremonies and open house for the new Murray Hill Branch Library were held Dec. 16, 1968, with Mayor Hans Tanzler and many of the city’s dignitaries present. The opening paragraph in the newspaper article described the event by stating, “Jacksonville this evening opens a community Christmas gift of lasting and immeasurable value with the formal dedication of the newest addition to its expanding public library system.”

The approximate cost of the project was \$234,000, excluding books. The book capacity of the library was 22,200 volumes with 15,000 in the adult area and 7,200 in the

children’s section. The seating capacity was 116 with the meeting room seating 42 people. First branch librarian was Judy Starling.

The new Murray Hill branch soon became the library’s busiest branch with its circulation leading all other branches in 1969. One of those using the new library was a 16-year-old teenager named Bill Brinton, who as a 7-year-old had moved to Jacksonville when his father, Harry Brinton, became Jacksonville’s new library director. He was going to Robert E. Lee High School at the time and went on to earn a law degree at the University of Florida before moving back to Jacksonville to become a lawyer and practice as a litigator and preeminent national expert on sign regulation and the first amendment. Brinton also maintained his strong love of libraries and books that he had as a child.

Between 2005 and 2014 the library budget was reduced by 41 percent, resulting in the Murray Hill Library and five other urban core libraries having their hours cut to 20 hours a week in 2010. This was seen as the beginning of the end for these libraries and a group of Murray Hill residents met to mobilize and fight the cut in library hours. Brinton was there to help in the community effort.



A posed photo of a young Bill Brinton and his parents, Harry and Jane.



The Murray Hill Library, of mid-century modern design, was designed by the same architectural firm which designed the Haydon Burns Library.



Bill Brinton cuts the ribbon for the re-opening of the Murray Hill Library in 2010 after budget cuts forced hours to just 20 per week.

A new organization, the Friends of the Murray Hill Library, was formed and soon had over 700 unofficial members. The group created a logo and obtained tee shirts, wrote letters to the editor, had television and radio interviews, spoke at the Library Board and City Council meetings, and even held a protest march to the front of the library carrying signs. Thanks to the strong advocacy effort, the hours were restored by the Library Board and the Friends group held a big “Back to 50 Hours” Celebration on Oct. 23, 2010. Brinton, who served on the Friends board from 2010 until his death in 2017, was chosen to cut the ribbon to reopen the library.

The Friends of the Murray Hill Library will hold a “Flashback to ‘68” celebration, as well as a tribute to Bill Brinton, Saturday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 918 Edgewood Avenue S.



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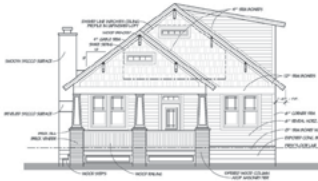
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Feeding Northeast Florida fundraiser seeks to fill empty bowls

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. Today you have lived and made it so many others can live as well,” said Feeding Northeast Florida Board Chairman Josh Martino, to a crowd of more than 276 during the Jacksonville community food bank’s Empty Bowls luncheon fundraiser at the Jacksonville Main Library Nov. 2.

Martino, who owns Bono’s Bar-B-Q, was only one of several speakers who took part in a program that included Dr. Jennifer Brown, executive director of KIPP Jacksonville Schools, Frank Castillo, CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida, agency clients, and foster parents Trevic and Michelle McAfee of Mayport Naval Station, who have utilized resources from the food bank to feed more than 11 foster children they have had in their custody over the years. Action News Jax Chief Meteorologist Mike Buresh served as master of ceremonies during the event, which raised \$32,455.

Many local restaurants offered soup at the luncheon including Black Sheep Restaurant, Restaurant Orsay, Black Sheep at Intuition, Bellwether, Moxie Kitchen + Cocktails, River and Post, Bistro AIX,

Southern Grounds Coffee, Indochine, Biscottis, The Bread & Board, The Happy Grilled Cheese, Bono’s Pit Bar-B-Q, NOLA MOCA, The Magnificent Café, and M. Hospitality Restaurant and Catering Group.

Art students from The Bolles School, Fishweir Elementary, the Jewish Community Alliance, John N.C. Stockton Elementary, Robert E. Lee High School, Samuel Wolfson High School and Venetia Elementary School, and others donated empty ceramic bowls to be sold at the event.

In his parting words Castillo mentioned the empty bowls provided to each guest at the fundraiser. “As you look at the empty bowl you will take home today, please know there are many others in the community who are also looking at empty bowls, which they will not be able to fill,” he said. “Food insecurity in Northeast Florida is a \$1.1 billion problem, and if you don’t remember any other number from this presentation, that’s the one I want to leave you with. The good news is hunger and its many underlying problems are solvable. I believe within the community we have the intelligence, the resources, and the generosity to overcome this.”



The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida supported Feeding Northeast Florida’s fundraiser Nov. 3. Front: Yan Cumper, Grace Sacerdote, Janet Allen, Nina Waters, Delores Barr Weaver, Latrice Wright, Erin Broderick. Back: Emmanuel Fortune, Kathleen Shaw, Joanne Cohen, Amy Crane, John Zell, Carol Nieves, Christina Fleck, Amber Jubinsky, Mariette Hartley, Susan Datz Edelman.



Back: Robert Broadhurst, Jimbo Stockton, Paul Stasi, Angela Washington, Latrina Patrick, Marilyn Woullard, Arthur Barlow, Jamie Davis. Front: Jamie Davis and Patty Heard



Kaci Honeycutt, Sarah Dobson and Michelle McGriff



Delores Barr Weaver with Mariette Brodeur





Carrie Rogers and Waylon Rivers



Sherry Ohl, Michael McKinney and Jason Eddy




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City Council committee on regulating vacation rentals hears from hosts, opponents and industry lobbyists

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

At the start of the Nov. 15 special committee meeting on short-term vacation rentals, Committee Chair and District 11 Councilman Danny Becton stated his goal was to leave the meeting with a template to begin crafting legislation that will provide guidelines for the city departments which will oversee the popular trend of renting private homes for short periods.

Reminded of his promise at the Oct. 22 meeting that public comments would be heard first, Becton rearranged the agenda to allow 16 people to share their thoughts. Of those who spoke, four were outspokenly against allowing short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods, nine were current or former AirBnB hosts, and the other speakers indicated support for local control over the practice.

By the end of the meeting, following an hour of public comment, and another hour discussing considerations for local regulations and ordinances in other cities, Becton didn't have his template, but he did have offers from vacation rental industry platform providers to assist in creating the legislation by sharing what they feel are best practices in the industry.

"I'm happy to work with you to figure this out, to create a definition for what's considered an owner-occupied short-term rental," said Kenny Montilla, a policy associate with AirBnB. "I'm happy to send the council some language I've been working on, what I've seen in other jurisdictions."

For Avondale resident Colin Thakkar, those words are akin to letting the fox into the henhouse. "AirBnB's strategy is they are taking advantage of the fact the cities and counties don't really know how to enforce their laws, so they are basically offering to enter into agreements to do what they are already legally required to do in exchange for local governments to change the zoning laws," he said in a separate conversation with *The Resident*.

Thakkar is currently at odds with a neighbor who moved out of Avondale but is renting the home for short stays. "We want our kids to be able to play in the front yard and the driveway. The houses are really close together. Not knowing who it is, is the problem, not just the times when there's a loud party. That's frustrating," he said.

American dream, neighborhood nightmare

The ideal that everyone should have an opportunity to achieve success through hard work, determination and, apparently, short-term rentals, appears to be butting heads with property owners who fear for the safety, well-being and integrity of their neighborhood.

One of those who spoke at the meeting against short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods was Ortega Forest resident Karen Rebello, who said a real estate company had purchased the house across the street

from her in 2014 and turned it into an AirBnB site. Since then, she said she has dealt with cars parked everywhere, doors slamming at all hours of the night, garbage strewn across the lawns because the bags were not placed in bins, and renters picking fruit from her trees. Rebello said during Hurricane Irma a renter came to the door asking for help because she could not reach the host, who does not live onsite.

"My concerns are for security. Is the man I see leaving with a small boy his father, a kidnapper, or a sexual predator?" she asked.

Rebello said she complained to code compliance, met with her councilman, and wrote her homeowners association, but said the issues have continued.

Terry Moore, a real estate attorney who served for seven years on the City's Housing Commission and the Duval County Housing Authority under two mayors, stated the committee members were being induced by the promise of tax revenues from AirBnB, VBRO and others to deal with them and allow them into the city. "They don't vote here, they don't live here," he said. "They are involved in this business for profit and have been here for a number of years in our city. Our General Counsel's Office has said this is an illegal activity. You cannot run a hotel, a transient rental on residential property. I've heard people talk about property rights, but there are six, seven, eight houses affected by it. Property rights are mutual and there is an expectation when you buy a home that the zoning code will be enforced."

Moore urged the committee not to do anything at this point, but to go through legislation, through publicly-elected officials at the state level and get state relief.

Proponents for short-stay vacation rentals spoke about their experiences as hosts, some saying renting rooms or the whole house was necessary to make ends meet, others indicating it provides an affordable solution for people, such as students and seniors, who are on limited budgets when traveling.

One host, who lives in Arlington, said he has had guests from 12 countries and business travelers from all over the U.S. "AirBnB is not the devil, but helped me avoid foreclosure," he said. Jacob Southard, another host, is a Navy vet and now a student, said hosting helps him make ends meet. He began as an owner-occupied host, but now rents the whole house and hasn't experienced anything negative.

Avondale resident and former host Donna Lewis said it's important to maintain absolute local control and important to distinguish between local hosts and corporate hosts. "It's an important issue for the tourist trade. It really enhances the travel experience, to get to know a neighborhood and the best of what a neighborhood has to offer," she said. "But it's important to make a distinction because there is a qualitative difference between commercial entities that operate many, many, many units and compete directly with the hotel industry, and the little people who live on

site. It's important to distinguish between the institutional operators and the local, live-in operators who have a vested interest in their neighborhoods. I've had no complaints whatsoever from the neighbors. It enriches our neighborhood to have people come here to experience it and then want to live here."

Nancy Powell, board chair for Riverside Avondale Preservation, and Jacksonville Beach Mayor Charlie Latham, both advocated for local control over the short-term rental industry.

"This committee, and our city, has to implore upon our Duval Delegation and the industry to take back local control of this issue," she said. "The Florida League of Cities has advocated for this.

"As I understand the current laws, it is legal in certain zoning districts, any that allow hotels," Powell said. "Encouraging them downtown seems to make a lot of sense and is already legal. At the same time, there are certain zoning districts that allow bed and breakfasts; you could also clarify that any zoning district that allows bed and breakfasts can apply for an exception and it can be legal and this is without any changes [in the law]."

She also said state laws are preempting reasonable restrictions that could be done and the City should take heed of the lessons learned from other cities as to the real impact to established neighborhoods as regards investor-owned properties. "In Savannah, for 40 percent of investor-owned properties, the owners live not only outside of Savannah, but outside the state," Powell said.

Latham said the lobby for the short-term rental groups has been very strong. "We have to be the loud voice by working together to go Tallahassee to get local control," he said. "We have to respect all property rights, but it's no small problem."

The task at hand

The committee, which includes District 14 Councilman Jim Love and District 8 Councilwoman Ju'Coby Pittman, who was not present, have a lot of variables to work through before introducing legislation to City Council in 2019.

Among the issues are the legalities of short-term rentals, also known as short-stay vacations, in residential neighborhoods; limits on frequency and duration of stay; ADA compliance and other safety requirements; whether homeowners would be permitted by right or by zoning exception; whether a license and/or certificate of use would be required; whether the City of Jacksonville should establish a maximum number of short-term rentals, and whether the venue must be an owner-occupied property.

Regarding licenses, Thakkar pointed out state licenses are currently required but is not really enforced. "For the homeowners it should be concerning because most don't have any idea a license is required; it's a misdemeanor in the second

degree with up to a \$1,000 fine the first occurrence," he said.

Following public comment, the committee heard from Folks Huxford, the City's Chief of Current Planning Division; Jason Teal, Deputy General Counsel for the City, and Bryan Mosier with Municipal Code Compliance. Huxford offered a list of talking points for the committee to consider, including owner-occupancy requirements, public notices when a location applies to become a short-term rental host, among other considerations.

Teal walked the committee through a matrix of regulatory ordinances enforced in other tourist destinations, such as Asheville, Charleston, Denver, Orlando, New Orleans and Savannah, while Mosier noted there are challenges to code enforcement, but which are diminished for owner-occupied sites.

"If you're going to require registration of those properties it's obviously going to take a good bit of manpower to keep track, monitor, accept and process applications, etc.," said Mosier. "As far as enforcement, we'll enforce it indiscriminately and without prejudice. There may be less issues with the owner-occupied rentals; it's much easier to enforce when they are right there on the property."

The meeting concluded with comments from AirBnB's Montilla and from Paul Seago with Expedia Group, who urged the committee to keep the registration process simple for hosts.

As long as it's something simple, something someone can do online, in 10 minutes to hour, not three weeks to register or put a property on AirBnB or any other platform, it shouldn't take that much time to register," Montilla said. "Our main role is to create an environment that allows you to preserve the quality of life for your residents, but also create an environment where it's easy for people who want to conduct the activities and do so responsibly. Having us entering these types of agreements is one less thing our hosts have to worry about, one less thing the county has to worry about. It's in our best interests as well to make sure that this is being done correctly," he said.

Paul Seago, with Expedia Group, which does whole-home rentals, reiterated Montilla's suggestion the regulations should be simple and easy to understand, a simple check list. "No one wants this to be the Wild West, where there's no regulations," he said. "Define what a bedroom is and define the maximum occupancy in the house, so you don't end up with 'warehousing'. Name a responsible party and a time limit in which they must respond to complaints." Those are some of the things, he said, that make this rental a more seamless experience for the traveler and also for the local neighbors. "We're looking for fair and easy to comply with."

Becton has not set a date yet for the next meeting of the special committee. In the meantime, if you have an opinion to share about short-term rental opportunities in residential neighborhoods, send your thoughts to editor@residentnews.net.

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Women's Giving Alliance makes record \$543,000 in grants

The Women's Giving Alliance (WGA) has selected seven local organizations to receive \$543,000 in grants designed to lift women from poverty, announced Ellen Wiss, president, at the organization's Oct. 31 meeting at UNF's University Center. This was the second round of grants totaling over \$1 million in the WGA's poverty focus announced last year.

The 2018 grant recipients were the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center: Breaking the Cycle, \$68,696; Family Promise of Jacksonville: Back to Work, Back to Home, \$50,000; Girls Inc: Breaking Cycles of Female poverty and Welfare Through Mentoring Programs for 4-8th Grade Girls, \$100,000; Her Song: Economic

Empowerment Program/EMPath (Economy Mobility Pathways), \$38,210; I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless and Hubbard House: Step Up To Success, \$150,000; Jacksonville University: Power Camp, \$16,094; and Jewish Family and Community Services: 360 Wraparound Program, \$120,000.

Thanking the entire membership of the WGA for their contributions and participation in the focus of lifting women from poverty, Wiss handed the gavel of leadership to President-elect Mary Pietan.

Wanda Willis, Mone' Holder, Aidee Chavez Frescas, Meredith Guess, Ellen Wiss, Stephanie Cost, Pam D. Paul, Yanira Cardona, Diana Donovan

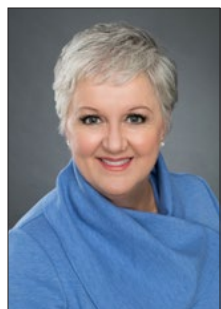


Baptist Health announces two new executive vice presidents

Baptist Health announced that two of its senior leaders, Audrey Moran and Scott Wooten, have been named executive vice presidents, expanding their current roles within Jacksonville's largest private employer of nearly 11,000 employees.

Moran, of Avondale, is the health system's new executive vice president and also president of the Baptist Health Foundation. In her new role, she will assume executive responsibility for Human Resources and Leadership Development while retaining leadership over Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy, the Baptist Health Foundation, Spiritual Care and Baptist Behavioral Health. She will work alongside Baptist Health's exceptional community of nurses, physicians, patients, team members, and supporters to create strategies for developing a highly engaged, patient-centered workforce of the future.

With a juris doctorate from Duke University's School of Law, Moran's diverse



Audrey Moran



Scott Wooten

career has included roles as top prosecutor at the State's Attorney's Office, Chief of Staff for former Mayor John Delaney, and CEO of the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. She joined Baptist Health in 2011 and was named Chair of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2016.

Riverside resident Wooten, FACHE, chief financial officer of Baptist Health, has been promoted to executive vice president. In his new role, he will continue

to serve as CFO and as a strategic advisor to the CEO and Board of Directors, providing key financial oversight that has helped Baptist Health to achieve a Standard & Poor's AA stable outlook bond rating. In addition, he will assume greater responsibility in the development and integration of future strategic business relationships and alliances. Wooten will maintain his integral role as a key executive in Baptist Health's current affiliations with Southeast Georgia Health System, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Walgreens.

Wooten joined Baptist Health in 2014 with more than 30 years of experience in corporate finance, starting his career at Price Waterhouse and ultimately serving as CFO at four major health systems. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, currently serves as Chair of the American Heart Association First Coast Board of Directors, and is Chair-Elect of Cathedral Arts Project.

Galnor, DeVooght appointed to Ethics Commission



Darcy Galnor



Carlton DeVooght

Darcy Galnor, of Lakeside, and Carlton DeVooght, of San Marco, are two of five new appointments to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission, pending approval by City Council. Resolutions were introduced Nov. 13 for the appointments.

Galnor, a criminal attorney with Galnor Shumard, P.A., will begin a first full term on the commission, beginning Jan. 1, 2019 and expiring Dec. 31, 2020. Her appointment comes at the request of the office of the State Attorney of 4th Judicial Circuit.

DeVooght, senior executive vice president, chief administrative officer and counsel for Flagler Hospital, will begin a first full term Jan. 1, 2019, ending Dec. 31, 2021. His appointment is at the request of Mayor Lenny Curry.

The other new appointees include Imani A. Boykin, an attorney, who will fill a seat formerly held by Ywana Allen, for a partial term ending Dec. 31, 2019; Latonya Lipscomb Smith, an attorney, for a first full term Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2021, and Jo Juanita Dixon, a former law enforcement official with experience in investigating public corruption, also for a first full term Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2021.

Red Rose Ball keeps event chairs in the family

The St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation announced the 2019 Red Rose Ball co-chairs, who already know what it's like to work together to ensure success. The Kulik sisters have spent a lifetime in collaboration and, together with their spouses, will use their familial formula for teamwork to ensure the 38th Annual Red Rose Ball is one to look forward to.

Stephanie and Christian Harden, Susan and David Heekin, Colleen and Andrew Sutter, and Jennifer and Charles Swain are the co-chairs for the event which will be held Friday, February 15, 2019, at the Jacksonville Marriott.



Jennifer Swain, Stephanie Harden, Susan Heekin and Colleen Sutter



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UF Health TraumaOne celebrates 35th anniversary

UF Health TraumaOne, the only adult and pediatric Level I trauma center in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, marked its 35th year of service to the community Oct. 31 with an anniversary celebration on campus.

The trauma center also recently received official verification from the American College of Surgeons, a distinction given only to trauma centers that meet the most stringent criteria.

UF Health Jacksonville's trauma center opened in 1983, the first trauma center in the state, and quickly became the region's premier facility for immediate, lifesaving care. The trauma center currently treats approximately 4,000 patients each year.

"Trauma care is just one of the many missions we have at UF Health Jacksonville, but it is important because it saves so many lives each year," said Leon L. Haley Jr., M.D., MHSA, CEO of UF Health Jacksonville and dean of the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville.



The first helicopter in service when TraumaOne Flight Service began two years after the trauma center opened in 1983.

"Trauma can happen to anyone, at any time, and it does not discriminate. Our team has been doing this for 35 years, while also leading the way in disaster preparation, and we will continue to be a leader in trauma care moving forward."

UF Health Jacksonville's trauma program began with the help of many, but it was the efforts of three physicians in particular – Joseph Tepas, M.D., David Vukich, M.D., and Ray Alexander, M.D. – that led to its creation. Their names are now part of the TraumaOne air ambulance fleet, with their initials emblazoned on the helicopters.

Pine Castle receives major gift from longtime donor

Pine Castle, a local nonprofit that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will receive a \$250,000 gift from longtime donor Dr. Thom Borowy to expand services to help adults with autism.



Thom Borowy

The announcement came during Pine Castle's Annual Inspirations Luncheon Oct. 30, held each year to raise unrestricted donations to fund the ongoing operations of the nonprofit. The event took place at the Borowy Family Life Enrichment Center, where attendees celebrated the 10th anniversary of the center's opening, thanks to a lead gift from the Borowy Family Charitable Fund in 2008.

During the event, Borowy thanked all the donors to the life enrichment center

who were present, before announcing his new lead gift to allow Pine Castle to help more adults with autism.

"I recently heard that of the 1,600 adults in northeast Florida who are on a waiting list to receive services from agencies like Pine Castle, many of them are living with autism, and the incidence of autism is growing" Borowy said. "While Pine Castle serves about 40 adults with autism today, I felt compelled to give the organization the necessary funding to help them better serve this growing need in our community."

To expand services for adults with autism, Pine Castle CEO Lori Ann Whittington said Borowy's donation would once again be the lead gift for a new campus facility. "Our hope is to be the best provider of adult autism services in the region, and Thom's generous gift will allow us to move past our current capacity to bring adults in from that waiting list and offer the most current and effective services to meet their needs."

Golf association raises record amount for scholarship program



JAGA Scholarship Trust officers Bob Streightiff and Ken Hicks with tournament chair Adair Roberts (center), former JAGA president 2014-2015

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) raised a record \$20,000 Oct. 29 at its 16th annual Scholarship Golf Classic, where 104 golfers participated in a four-man scramble on the Ocean Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The money raised goes a long way toward supporting JAGA's Scholarship Trust program, which currently provides financial aid to 25 students who represent 16 JAGA-member clubs and 15 different colleges in and outside the state of Florida. Since the

Trust was formed in 1974, JAGA has awarded approximately \$1.75 million to more than 300 deserving area students who aspire to earn college degrees. The golf event was launched by former JAGA president, the late Bill Black (1993-94), and carries on in his honor.

The first-place Gross prize-winning team included Matt Lucas, Jeff Dennis, Scott McCaleb and Joe Bynum, while the top Net prize-winning team members were Fred Seely, Tom Tomlin, Joe Stepnes and Jeff Adams.

Murray Hill gets unique new yoga studio

Murray Hill resident Katie Helow recently opened a one-of-a-kind yoga studio in the neighborhood, not too far from where she lives. The singer/songwriter/musician – and massage therapist for nearly a dozen years – said she sings for her clients to enhance relaxation.

Casita Yoga is located at 937 Edgewood Avenue S. across the street from the Murray Hill Theatre. Business has been steady since opening the first of October, said Helow, "despite the lack of signage."

Helow and Melissa Ospina, also a 500-hour certified yoga teacher, offer morning and evening classes Monday through Saturday, and plan to add private lessons. For information about the classes, visit casitayogastudio.com or call (904) 339-8825.



Katie Helow and Melissa Ospina

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Dignity U Wear founder’s family converts Fanny Landwirth Foundation to advised fund

The Trustees of the Fanny Landwirth Foundation have converted their private family foundation to an advised fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and one at the Western North Carolina Community Foundation in Asheville, NC.

The Fanny Landwirth Foundation was established in 1982 by Henri Landwirth in memory of his mother, who was killed in the Holocaust. Henri survived, and devoted himself to improving the lives of those in need. Henri created the Fanny Landwirth Foundation to help ensure that the pain and agony of the innocent victims



Henri Landwirth

of the Holocaust is never forgotten. Sadly, Henri Landwirth passed away on April 16, 2018. The Fanny Landwirth Foundation has contributed more than \$10 million in the past 35 years to numerous nonprofit organizations addressing critical needs in communities where Trustees live.

Landwirth was also the founder of Dignity U Wear, which was based in Riverside since its founding in 2000 until it was absorbed by Soles4Souls, out of Nashville, Tennessee in July 2017.

Grants will be considered and made in line with the Landwirth family’s values and areas of interest, which include safety-net services; Jewish causes; Holocaust remembrance and awareness programs; efforts to reduce prejudice, bigotry, and hate; programs addressing elder care, including, but not limited to, elder care education, and programs that provide comfort, solace, joy, and respite to individuals with disabilities, serious, chronic or life-threatening illnesses and their families.

“We are so honored to be a part of the next chapter in the Landwirth family philanthropy,” said Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “Henri was a hero in so many ways, and his charitable legacy in creating Give Kids the World Village and Dignity U Wear cannot be underestimated. We look forward to this partnership with the Landwirth family to continue his work in perpetuity.”

At this time the family is not accepting applications for recommendations for funding; instead, they will be contacting organizations in their communities to discuss funding opportunities.

MOSH president receives leadership award



Maria Hane

Maria Hane, president of the Museum of Science & History (MOSH), received the Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award at the annual Leadership Jacksonville Alumni Luncheon Oct. 30. Hane was nominated by fellow alumni based upon community service and leadership efforts that have positively impacted the community and her demonstration of the Leadership Jacksonville core values of ethical leadership, awareness and understanding of complex community issues, value of diverse leaders sharing and challenging perspectives, shared community vision and action taken for the greater good.

A Riverside resident, Hane has served as president of MOSH since June 2009. During her tenure at MOSH, she has completed more than \$5 million in capital improvements, including the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium, one of the largest single-lens digital planetariums in the nation.

During her 25-year tenure in the nonprofit and public sector, Hane has served in key positions with extensive experience in volunteer and board development, advocacy, fundraising, communications, governance and strategic planning. She is an active member of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2002, is a Fellow in the National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program and serves on the boards of Visit Jacksonville, the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida and Florida Association of Museums.



Front: Calla Cherneski, Mia Manselle, Logan Cook and Sam Steen; back: Rotarians David Martin, Casey Bulgin, John Cagen, and Dale Orr

Rotarians make annual gift of dictionaries

Each year the Rotary Club of Riverside delivers new dictionaries to the third-grade classrooms at Fishweir Elementary School. This year 76 third-graders received the vocabulary resource from members of the Rotary, which has been distributing dictionaries to students for many years as a service project. This year 461 students in seven Westside public elementary schools received a dictionary.

Hometown advertising agency moves office to 5 Points

In 2003, a husband-and-wife creative team launched an advertising agency based on a single contract. Now finishing out their 15th year in business, Jorge and Diane Brunet-García have recently moved their company’s headquarters from one side of the river (14 years on San Marco) to downtown (one year) and now to 5 Points.

Brunet-García Advertising’s new home for more than 30 employees is on the second floor of the Black Sheep building on Margaret Street. The office space includes a gathering area with stadium seating around a giant screen, where the company plans to host cultural events.

“We love this city and this neighborhood,” said Ortega resident Diane Brunet-García. “We couldn’t be happier to be here.”

The agency also opened an office in Washington, D.C. in October, serving clients such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s U.S. Fire Administration, the Centers for Medicare and



Jorge and Diane Brunet-García (top) and members of the agency toast their new headquarters in 5 Points.

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CenterBeam builds a great business one good relationship after another

Since establishing CenterBeam Construction in 2007 just as the economy was on the precipice of plunging, Christina Starmer has steadily built the company into what may be Jacksonville’s best-kept secret in home renovation, restoration and remodeling. Add to that real estate services – leasing and property management in 2010, and sales in 2018 – and you have all the makings of a one-stop renovation and real estate shop conveniently located at 577 College Street.

Starmer and her husband, Jeff, and partner Robert Baker started the construction side of the business with an eye toward transforming existing historic homes in Riverside and Avondale into newly-renovated homes conducive to the modern lifestyle. Their goal for the past 12 years has not been to build new, but rather to stay green in the purest sense by working on Jacksonville’s historic homes, refurbishing and repairing them to last and be enjoyable for many years to come.

One such house, on Hedrick Street in Avondale, was the childhood home of author, folklorist and human rights activist Stetson Kennedy. Baker and his wife bought the 1917 home in 1995 and, after undergoing major interior renovations in 2014 using CenterBeam Construction, the house was designated the 2015 Dream Home on the Riverside Avondale Home Tour.

A lot of care is required in salvaging the historical integrity of homes built a century ago to ensure they stand for another 100 years. By consistently adhering to historical

integrity, using quality materials and the best craftsmen around, CenterBeam has won accolades and awards – and the gratitude of their clients – for doing the right thing well.

“We just care,” said Starmer, referring to their approach to each project and to the relationships they develop with their clients. It’s not usual to take a call from a client on a Saturday evening to talk through a concern. Starmer also attends meetings the client has with their architect or engineer, lending another perspective on solutions to historic house problems. “We think out of the box,” she said, while Baker noted, “Christina is a very good designer; she has a good eye and relates to the homeowners’ goals.”

“Out of the box” aptly describes how the company has grown. The ability to renovate or build, then rent or sell a property, all under one roof, is unusual in itself, but when CenterBeam developed a service which partners their construction company with their real estate sales company it opened a door for many homeowners trying to profitably sell a historic house with major renovation requirements. Basically they offer a partnership of hand-selected properties that are in need of a remodel before they can get to the market to be sold.

“Because we’re totally invested in the project, it’s a win-win for us and for the homeowner trying to sell the property,” said Baker, who serves as Chief Executive Officer for CenterBeam Real Estate.

Another unique aspect of the company is its ability to purchase a run-down old house, then pre-sell it while it undergoes



renovation, allowing the buyer to have a say in the project.

Starmer said 90 percent of the company’s construction projects lie within the historic neighborhoods, and their stellar reputation has gotten around. “We are deluged daily with requests for renovations,” she said. “People are familiar with how we renovate, our attention to detail while maintaining its historic integrity. It’s also really important to some people that we are a female-owned company.”

On the real estate side, four property managers take care of more than 642 properties, of which about 70 percent are in the historic neighborhoods. Baker said they have created a niche for property management of multi-family buildings with 10 to 80 units, noting that larger properties typically have onsite management. “We bring professional property management skills to the mid-level rental property,” he said.

Because CenterBeam Companies has grown so well within the past few years,

Starmer and Baker brought on Bill Dannheim as Chief Operations Officer in 2016 to focus on the operational details, budgets and major project initiatives across several of the primary business lines.

In addition to the four leaders, the team includes another 10 employees, who are craftsmen, designers, property managers, an accounting manager, a marketing executive and a maintenance supervisor, many of whom have been with the still-young company for more than five years.

In spite of its young age, CenterBeam has already made its mark in Jacksonville, having earned a reputation for adhering to historic design principles for today’s client, and being recognized for inspired design and techniques in “building green” while delivering their projects on schedule and within budget. In the end, the testament to their work is the large number of clients who have become good friends. After all, good relationships build great businesses.

If you’re looking at renovation, repair, remodeling or building add-ons, CenterBeam Construction has a creative solution. For construction projects, call (904) 568-7427 or visit centerbeamconstruction.com. If leasing, property management, or sales is what you’re seeking, contact CenterBeam Real Estate at centerbeamrealestate.com or call (904) 701-3276. Both companies are companionably located under one roof at 577 College Street and welcome you to drop by any time.



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Fine wines, good friends draw hundreds to WineFest

Many glasses – about 1,200 – were raised at the 15th Annual Riverside WineFest, sponsored by Riverside Liquors. The well-known, well-attended street fest drew supporters from all over Northeast Florida who came to taste over 300 wines for a good cause. The event, which benefited Riverside Avondale Preservation, included live entertainment, local food trucks and area restaurants. RAP leadership pitched in to give host David Joudi a hand with ticket sales, which included a commemorative wine glass.



Pat Corrado, Missy and Daniel McCranie with Angela Green



Warren Jones, David Joudi, Rick Pariani and Nancy Powell



Chandler and Jamie Burroughs with John and Gayle Runion



Andres Martinez, Monique Oye and Ben Verellen with Bijal Patel, Kimmie Sanders and Rhumit Patel

Flappers, bootleggers and all that jazz celebrate Epilepsy Awareness Month

In recognition of Epilepsy Awareness Month in November, Epilepsy Florida hosted its first Great Gatsby Charity Bash Nov. 15 at Friday Musicale, where approximately 100 guests came from Georgia, South Florida, Gainesville and from all over Northeast Florida

Supporters took a step into the Roaring ‘20s as they participated in a raffle, enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres from Jacqueline Davis Catering, and danced the night away to tunes by Derek Major, all while celebrating epilepsy heroes in the community, and spreading some epilepsy awareness.

About 1 percent of the U.S. population – 3 million adults and nearly half a million children – suffer from epilepsy. Epilepsy Florida, established in 1971, serves an estimated 400,000 Floridians who have epilepsy.



Lynn Brannon, Becca Thomas, Michele Holbrook and Heather Pinckey



Kayla Jurney and Carol Stokes with Janét Stoddard



Sherry Jewell and Carly Jewell with Pam Belcher

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‘Where’s Bubba?’ benefit breaks fundraising record

The success of this year’s annual fundraiser for Downtown Ecumenical Services Council was no fish tale. “We estimate 200 were in attendance, and we are at \$118,000 and counting. It is definitely the most successful Bubba event to date!” said Executive Director David Clark, referring to the Nov. 17 “Where’s Bubba?” benefit held at Haskell.

The event began as a fishing tournament in the 1990s to catch Bubba, a big catfish. Honorary Chairs this year were Ron and Mary Littlepage, who greeted guests at the door, while Event Chair Julie Handley made sure all enjoyed the Southern-style catfish and barbecue dinner, live music and a digital fishing adventure to reel in the biggest catch of the night.

Proceeds from the event will support the community’s impoverished and homeless with food, clothing and financial assistance. DESC was founded in 1981 as several



Ron and Mary Littlepage get photobombed by Bubba.

downtown churches joined forces to help homeless people and working poor families. The center is in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church and served nearly 12,000 families with food, clothing and financial assistance last year.



David Clark and Julie Handley



Warner and Sherry Webb with Jim and Connie Overton



Mary Virginia Terry with Beth Hood



Christian, Peter and Kelly Eckley with Fran Moulder

Enterprise presents \$21,000 to Clara White Mission

The Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation presented a \$21,000 gift to the Clara White Mission at the 24th Annual “Feed the City.” Over 250 community volunteers, including Enterprise employees, served lunch to over 1,000 homeless, homeless veterans, and low-income families at the mission Nov. 10. In addition, a distribution of clothing, free haircuts and bike repair were available.

The donation from Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation addresses food insecurity in Northeast Florida and is part of a program called Fill Your Tank that celebrates Enterprise Rent-A-Car’s 62nd Anniversary by providing \$60 million over six years to fight hunger around the globe. The Fill

Your Tank program donations made locally are determined by local Enterprise operations.

“The Enterprise Rent-A-Car-Foundation gift comes at a critical time, when many residents in the Jacksonville community are facing the silence of hunger, especially during the upcoming holiday season,” said Ju’Coby Pittman, CEO/president of the Clara White Mission. “It’s estimated that over 322,000 residents find it difficult to make ends meet, and many are served through the Clara White Mission. This support will go a long way in the upcoming year.”

The event was sponsored by Celebrations Church and radio stations 93.3/V101.5.



While Enterprise associate Mindy Doyal looks on, Ju’Coby Pittman accepts a \$21,000 check from Todd Broadwater of Enterprise Holdings.

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New yoga studio offers health, relaxation to growing community



Comfortable and intimate like a small house, Casita Yoga Studio draws you in to its space with a peaceful, relaxing vibe.

Katie Helow, Murray Hill resident, yoga teacher and musician, is responsible for that vibe. “Being able to walk into a space that feels like home without the distractions, a space dedicated to relaxation and self-betterment is what we offer at Casita,” said Helow, a 500-hour certified yoga teacher and owner of Murray Hill’s only yoga studio.

Helow opened Casita Yoga Studio at 937 Edgewood Avenue S. in October with the goal of catering to and enhancing the Murray Hill community vibe. “I love the feel of Murray Hill, it’s a supportive neighborhood and the small business community is blossoming,” she said.

A massage therapist for 11 years, Helow said she always wanted to open her own space and have her own practice. “Once I got my yoga teacher certification, I fell in love with teaching, and that’s when it all fell together. I wanted to offer both yoga and massage,” said Helow, who plans to add Thai yoga massage to her schedule of classes in restorative, gentle, slow flow, and vinyasa flow yoga, a more challenging sequence of poses and breathing.

“We are trying to create an environment that is welcoming to all types of people. For most of our classes, you don’t need any prior knowledge of yoga or specific level of athleticism,” she explained. “Our classes are geared toward being therapeutic and non-intimidating. It’s important that we help people feel better in their bodies and minds.”

To do that, Helow calls on her strength for setting a tone for deep introspection and self-understanding and her talent as a singer/songwriter and musician. “I enjoy setting a mood, creating a specific environment for people, through lyrics, singing, sound, teaching and creating a certain vibe for the class,” she said.

Helow and Melissa Ospina, also a 500-hour certified yoga teacher, offer morning and evening classes, with plans to add private lessons. For details about the classes, visit casitayogastudio.com or call (904) 339-8825.

PD. ADV.

Preemies supported through annual Signature Chefs benefit



Melissa Call, Caron Streibich and Ana Johnson with Gene Nichols, Laura Magevney and Caroline Busker

The 28th Annual Signature Chefs Auction at the Nov. 15 event at the Omni Hotel in downtown Jacksonville offered supporters the opportunity to vote for Top Chef from among the area’s top culinary talent and the award went to Laird Boles, executive chef at The Ice Plant.

The biggest winner was March of Dimes, which raised just over \$140,000 from about 250 guests who enjoyed a cocktail reception and tasting stations, as well as dessert and wine during a live auction, which offered exclusive chef experiences, getaways and more.

Event co-chairs were Dawn Duss, M.D., Pediatric Eye Consultants of North Florida, and Charles Duss, M.D., Atlantic Eye Institute. The Stephens family served as March of Dimes Ambassadors, and guests heard the touching story of Mario Christopher and Marshelly Stephens and their preemie twins, Mario Michael and Mila, now 5 years old.



Steve and Jeanne Lancaster with Maureen and Brian Bush



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Margarita J’Ville celebrates rebranding for Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Island escapism was the order of the day when Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northeast Florida held its Margarita J’Ville bash at Casa Marina in Jacksonville Beach Nov. 9.

Although thunder and lightning forced the party inside from the venue’s beachside courtyard, no one seemed to notice as Caribbean tunes were played by the Chris Thomas Band and guests mingled in enough splashy floral prints to make Jimmy Buffett proud.

Heavy hors d’oeuvres, signature drinks, and a special dessert presentation featuring Starbucks cake pops and designer doughnuts from the Donut Experiment in St. Augustine were served.

During the program, Board Member Obi Umunna, who experienced the nonprofit’s program as a Little Brother after his family emigrated from Africa, addressed the crowd.



Megan Ortega, director of fund development for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, with Sara Alford, CEO, and Jason Spencer, board chair

“This is an exciting year for us,” said CEO Sara Alford, noting the nonprofit is more than 100 years old. “We’ve rebranded with a new logo and we are reimagining the way we talk about mentoring and the urgency and necessity of mentoring for the success of the youth in Northeast Florida. This is in part a celebration, part fundraiser. The money raised here will help cover enhancements to our program and essential operations not otherwise covered by grants,” she said, adding that her agency will launch an enhanced volunteer recruitment effort in 2019. “We want to get more kids off our wait list.”



Leigh and Greg Speicher



Holly Smigelski and Kerry Boatwright-Wells



Jeremy Cheshire with Jennifer Dorsen and Joe Kinderman



Bob and Mary Denton with Billy Boatwright-Wells

Riverplace Capital celebrates 20 years in business

For one local investment firm, a 20-year milestone has been reached. The leadership team at Riverplace Capital Management thought it would be fitting to gather friends, family and clients at MOCA Jacksonville to celebrate the company’s success and enjoy a party deserving of the accomplishment.

Founder Peter Bower recognized his outstanding team while also taking time to thank his longtime clients. “We’ve assembled a great team and have a bright future ahead,” said Bower, as he made his speech to the guests assembled in the atrium, “...and we look forward to serving your needs for many years to come.”

By way of sound money management, market knowledge, and a strong track record of serving clients with distinction, Bower has assembled a strong team. The



Karen and Peter Bower

group of money managers are proud to have helped numerous clients reach their long- and short-term goals while investing and trusting in the financial management of their assets.

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Sharon and Michael Tackaberry with Mark Ross



Peter Bower and Preston Haskell

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Throwback to Sixties raises funds for land trust

There was music in the air and flowers everywhere at Wayne Wood and Lana Shuttleworth’s historic Riverside home for the epic gathering of Wayne Woodstock 2.0. There were good vibrations all around at the private party with over 500 people.

The festival was a great way to counter the negativity of world events and political unrest, said Wood, while raising funds for the North Florida Land Trust. The event raised over \$8,000 for the nonprofit, which is committed to preserving and protecting the natural heritage of North Florida.

“The contribution will help purchase land for conservation. It was a tremendous event attended by people from all walks,” said Keith Holt, North Florida Land Trust board president. “For one evening Riverside/Avondale had more tie-dyed shirts than anywhere in America!”

Wood missed the original Woodstock in 1969, so he recreated the event in 2016 to raise funds for PB & J (Party, Benefit and Jam), another nonprofit.

“Lana was remorseful at missing the first Wayne Woodstock, and so many people had such a good time that we decided to do it one more time. More musicians, more magicians, more of everything,” said Wood.

Good vibrations surrounded the event, which epitomized The Youngblood’s song lyrics “Come on people now, smile on your brother. Everybody get together, try to love one another right now.”



Lana Shuttleworth and Wayne Wood



Diane Hale, Nancy Hale and Charlie Parker



Melody and Bill Bishop



Frank Benton, Liz Krupa, Susan Frasier and Nancy Powell



Melanie Davis and Julie Ann Battaglia



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Helene and Janice Gold with David and Linda Stein, Dr. Mark Gold and River Garden CEO Martin Goetz



Gala Co-Chairs Colman and Rachel Brodsky



Robinson Repass, D.R. Repass and Gala Co-Chair Kasey Repass with JDRF Executive Director Brooks Biagini and Gala Co-Chair Kristina Greco and her husband, Chris



Pauline and Nchacha Etta, CFO of Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson



Association of Jewish Aging Services Trustee of the Year Ron Elinoff with his wife, Susan



JCA Executive Director Myron Flagler with Jackie and Stephen Goldman



Peter and Jennifer Menziuso with Justin and Audrey Adams



Colten Johnson with Casey and Tyler Burkhalter and Dea Markovic

River Garden’s Greatest Gala on Earth is really big show

“Step right up, don’t be shy. Get ready to experience the time of your life...” is what circus ringmasters often shout. And there is no question the more than 500 guests at the 26th Annual River Garden Foundation Gala – The Greatest Gala on Earth – abided by the advice, boldly supporting the popular fundraiser that benefits River Garden Hebrew Home.

Raising more than \$200,000, the event had the atmosphere of a glitzy Big Top, as guests were welcomed under a multi-colored tent for cocktails and a silent auction before the big show began.

Orchestrating the circus-themed event at Sawgrass Marriott Nov. 17 were Co-Chairs



Henny Frisch with Brenda and Gene Wolchok and Susan Connors

Rachel and Colman Brodsky. The fun and formal event included a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, dancing to The All in One Band, and amusing performances by Bittersweet Entertainment that included magicians, jugglers and an aerial contortionist.

Glamorous evening breaks records for JDRF Foundation

An evening of old-time Hollywood glamour, complete with larger-than-life golden Oscar statues, drew a record-setting crowd of more than 500 for the 18th Annual JDRF Miracles Gala – One Night in Old Hollywood – at Ponte Vedra’s Sawgrass Marriott Nov. 3.

The star-studded event generated a whopping \$600,000 – the most ever raised at a JDRF fundraiser. Kristina Greco and Kasey Repass co-chaired the event with an eye to transforming the yearly fundraiser into a million-dollar gala within three years.

A \$100,000 donation by Fund A Cure Champions Jennifer Glock and Michael Ward of San Marco was the largest single gift ever



Development Manager for JDRF Pam Williams with her daughter, Emily, and husband, Sam

received by JDRF North Florida. The Van Zant family donated \$50,000 on behalf of the Lynyrd Skynyrd Foundation.

Bill Hughes received the foundation’s Living and Giving Award for generating over \$100,000 over 10 years through the foundation’s One Walk Program.



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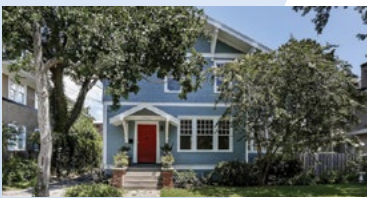
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Daisy Davidson, Erin Yalch and Barb Gaff with Amber Samaan, Kris Trotter and Sandy Salem



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Hila Head, Nancy Soderberg, Elizabeth Hood and Hank Bonar



James Hopkins, Paula and Arthur Bides, Lauren Weedon Hopkins with Jim and Susan Towler



Kyle Sess, Vicki Prybell and Blake Sherman with Lisa Owen, Jeff Simon and Rebecca Prybell

Tremendous turnout for annual Oyster Roast celebrated St. Johns River

Live music from The Firewater Tent Revival, an outstanding silent auction and raffle, and delicious oysters and seafood made for a special evening Nov. 16 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville as guests celebrated the St. Johns River and supported the St. Johns Riverkeeper. The annual Oyster Roast to benefit the St. Johns Riverkeeper has become known as one of the best parties of the year. More importantly, the critical fundraising event supports the Riverkeeper's effective advocacy, outreach, and education programs. The day before the event, the Riverkeeper received good news from the National



Cecelia and Steve Werber with Ann Hicks

Geographic Committee of Research and Exploration, which awarded the nonprofit a River Exploration (RiverX) program \$29,410 grant for the spring education boat trips. With this grant, the Riverkeeper can provide over 1,500 fifth-grade students with an on-the-water experiential learning opportunity they won't forget.

Annual 'event under the tent' a success despite soggy skies

As announced, rain or shine – and it did rain, the 15th annual Festival d'Vine was held Nov. 2 at Treaty Oak/Jessie Ball duPont Park on the Southbank, where the "event under the tent" rolled out 108 types of wine, served beer from local breweries and offered tasty bites from 22 restaurants to support the mission of the Catholic Charities Bureau of Jacksonville. Over 550 guests helped raise over \$130,000 that will assist the nonprofit to provide emergency financial assistance, workforce development, food assistance, immigration legal services, refugee resettlement and care for persons with different




Gregory and Karen Montana with Frank and Marisa Mortire

intellectual, physical, social and emotional abilities. Over the past 14 years, this signature event has raised nearly \$1 million for Catholic Charities, whose programs served more than 16,712 individuals last year in five counties.

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Passport to shops, restaurants raises funds for DLC Nurse & Learn

DLC Nurse & Learn, a school for children with developmental issues, held its 4th Annual Passport to Riverside & Avondale Nov. 3, kicking off the event with a party Nov. 1 at The Stout Snug in Murray Hill. Guests enjoyed live music from Amelia River Ramblers and Gone to Plaid, food and beverages from The Stout Snug, Moon River Pizza, El Jefe, Village Bread Café, Chick-fil-A, Cool Moose Coffee Company.

Each “passport” was good at 27 participating shops and restaurants in the Riverside & Avondale shopping districts and passport holders enjoyed delicious food, tasty beverages and unique gifts and goodies. Proceeds benefited the nonprofit’s scholarship fund to help students with disabilities receive nursing care and therapy services while attending the school.

DLC Nurse & Learn is approaching its 30th year serving children with disabilities and their families, with 4,000 children helped to date.



Amy and Ollie Buggle with Kay Richardson



Anna Laura Scott, Caleigh Quast and Debbie Kozloski



Evelyn Box with Eileen Phelps



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Best Buddies names 2018 Champion of the Year

Although 350 guests enjoyed Best Buddies Casino Night of Champions at TPC Sawgrass Nov. 9 to celebrate Northeast Florida professionals and community leaders who were nominated as “Champions” by raising funds over a 10-week period, there is no risk in saying the ultimate winners are the thousands of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who benefit from the nonprofit’s programs.

Twelve fundraising champions were toasted at the event with Wally Conway taking home the 2018 Best Buddies Champion of the Year by raising \$40,000. During the 10-week period, \$187,000 was raised for the nonprofit.

Nominated for the ultimate Champion honor were Champions Wally Conway, Michelle Glass, Amy Croft, Jennifer Bauer, Lisa Haas, Carly Lozo, Staci Barnett, William Li, Frieda Jones, Abby Walsh, Marta Grudzinska, and Dr. Randall Haas.



Sydney and Lisa Haas



Christina Welch, Laura Lander and Laura Webb



Rod, Pat and Whitney Brock with Phyllis Ora, Frieda Jones and Cathy and Atillio Cerqueira



Andrea Tessaro, Katie Silliman with Best Buddies Program Manager Amanda Donovan



Randi Walker, Aimee Aleman and Karla Quintanilla



Staci Barnett with Barry and Eunice Zisser



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CCA Florida celebrates passion for marine resources conservation

Billing themselves as the “No. 1 representative for recreational fisherman,” the Coastal Conservation Association’s Jacksonville Chapter held its annual banquet and auction Nov. 8 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, where the ballroom was stuffed to the gills with fishing gear, coolers, artwork, a surfboard and many other items in the silent auction. “Our goal is to see that we have fish for our grandchildren to catch,” said Charles Holt, a member of CCA Florida, a grassroots organization committed to conserving and protecting marine resources.

The Florida Conservation Association (FCA) became the fifth state chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association in 1985 and has spent the past three decades protecting Florida’s fish from practices that would prevent future generations from enjoying recreational fishing.




Jimmy Orth with Jeff Marks and Jim Orth



Karen Holt with Charles and Tina Holt

In the 1990s the FCA played a major role in banning commercial drift gillnet fishing, an indiscriminate practice that ensnared sea turtles and other marine life in mile-long nets along with swordfish, tuna and other commercial species. “It’s a big reason we have a many fish as we do today,” said Holt. The group also promotes habitat restoration and reef building. In 2014, after CCA Member Payton Scheppe worked for four years to get two artificial reefs put into the St. Johns River, the CCA Reef and the George Holt Reef were established on the river bottom near San Marco. George is the late brother of Charles Holt, owner of Charles and George Car Wash in the Ortega area. CCA Florida also recently partnered with Shell Oil Company, and CCA’s National Habitat Program, the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), to deploy an artificial reef within the boundaries of the Floyds Folly pre-permitted site at a depth of about 70 feet, just over 20 miles southeast of the mouth of the St. Johns River.




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'Tis the season to trot out the traditions

Holiday traditions are often the glue which holds the fabric of family and community together, events and activities which are mostly embraced, sometimes merely tolerated, but always sure to roll around again next year. Following is a collection of traditions which span not only generations but also the holiday season.

By Kate A. Hallock, Peggy Harrell Jennings and Karen J. Rieley, Resident Community News



Carter, Corena and Alex Mixson



A porcelain Santa painted by Beth Mixson's mother

Nutcracker display kicks off holiday season

As long as Hooshang Oriental Rugs has opened its door to the Avondale community and beyond, proprietor Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D., has shared hundreds of the unique nutcrackers from his substantial collection during the holiday season. For over 40 years, Harvesf cleans out his display window in The Shoppes of Avondale shortly after Thanksgiving and spends a very long weekend setting up the annual display. Many of the nutcrackers are old favorites while others have been collected during the year on Harvesf's business trips overseas.

"It's my gift to the community," he said, noting that his window display is one of, if not the most visited holiday displays in Jacksonville. "One year a woman stopped at the window with her little girl and told me her mother used to bring her here, so she was carrying on the tradition."

This year, Harvesf and Carolyn Patterson worked two long nights to have the display finished before Thanksgiving. "We were up until 6 a.m. both mornings," said Harvesf, "but it was worth it."



Nativity scenes represent reason for the season

Over the past 45 years Katy Towers has collected over 100 nativity scenes, usually the smallest she can find "because I have run out of space for displaying! I also like them to be colorful if possible."

Fifty are displayed in a cupboard, and the others are scattered throughout her Ortega home. "Most are folk art – more than 25 from Peru alone – and I've bought them in shops and on travels, and some have been gifts. They represent at least 17 countries, most of which I've traveled to," she said. "They're made of wood, pottery, fabric, yarn, metal, stone, glass, cornhusks, and probably other materials. They're not fine, but they're my favorite thing to put out at Christmas. They certainly represent the reason for Christmas, and I love being able to emphasize the spiritual side of the season with them!"



Gail Atchley and granddaughters Lexi and McKenzie bake cookies using her mother's recipe.

Baking together a sweet tradition

For Gail Atchley of Ortega Forest, baking cookies with the grandchildren is the continuation of a tradition started by her mother over 60 years ago. She said, "I use the same recipe that Mother used with my sisters and me. It's called Lifelike Cookie Dough and it's basically a sugar cookie. We cut out traditional shapes and always put colored sprinkles on top." Her oldest daughter continued the cookie-making tradition with her daughters and now with her grandchildren as well. "They are Jewish, so they make Hanukkah cookies and Christmas-themed cookies," said Atchley. With a new batch of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Atchley has a lot more Christmas cookies to bake this year.

Christmas, Christmas everywhere

To say Beth Mixson goes a little bit crazy over Christmas decorations is putting it mildly. Mixson has themed areas throughout her Ortega home. Visitors to the house are greeted by collections of Santas, snowmen and Nativity sets in the living room, where Christmas trees and Reindeer are displayed on the mantel. The kitchen contains a bit of Florida kitsch, while the dining room displays a collection of angels from Mixson's childhood as well as the ones her three children made in elementary school. In the hallway a family pie safe displays her nutcracker collection.

She also has decorations that her mother made when she was a child; a Nativity set she painted and a porcelain Santa and brandy snifter she decorated. The Christmas tree continues the eclectic theme. "I have ornaments collected while traveling and, of course, ones that my children have made," said Mixson, who with her husband, David, have lived in the home 25 years. "Also, every year I give the children ornaments based on their own theme – Carter's, age 25, nautical, Alex's, 23, stars, and Corena's, 19, angels."

Tree decorations span decades of memories and gifts



Ornament-laden tree with two of John Bunker's art pieces, Amarylis Tondo and Angel with Floating Scarf, on the wall

Diane and John Bunker's Christmas tree is a beautiful reflection of their 50-year marriage. Instead of creating a themed tree each year, they place ornaments of a variety of types on their tree, according to John. "After these 50 years, the tree has become encrusted with hardly a green space peeking through," he said. The ornaments are ones given by family and friends, unique artist-designed ornaments, ornaments from their childhood, handmade ornaments they constructed during the early years of their marriage, ornaments made by Diane's former students and objects from their travels. "Even if they're disintegrating, we shove them on the tree," John said. The same happens with ornaments on the dining room table and other spaces in their Ortega home. "Also, every year I feature new paintings over the mantle and other places in our home that evoke for us continued new birth and creativity," John said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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Noisiest Christmas tree ever

For the past 20 years when Donna Allen of Ortega plugs in her Christmas tree there is a cacophony of sound and movement. Tiny train horns blare as they wind through tunnels, Lucy Ricardo mashes grapes, Steamboat Willie whistles, Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz sings “Over the Rainbow” while the Wicked Witch yells “I’m Melting” and Glinda, the Good Witch chants, “There’s No Place Like Home.” Mix in Captain Kirk, Spock and Scotty beaming up in a transporter, Alan Shepherd blasting off into space, The Beachboys singing “Little Saint Nick” and this tree, which is chockfull of animated ornaments, explodes in a sensory overload of popular culture.

Allen is a former Hallmark employee, who started collecting the ornaments in 1998. Neighborhood children delight in the hilarity and confusion of the ornaments all going off at once. Admittedly, some of the “bigger” children, like her husband John and the grown-up neighbors, look forward to the tree every year too. Allen said, “I just get a kick out of it when they all go off at once.”

Donna Allen unpacks her talking ornaments in preparation for decorating this year’s tree.



Tradition setting for next generation

Leslie Fraleigh was thinking of her three children, Clayton, Camp and Emmy, when she started a tradition of lasting value.

“I have always given each of my children an ornament that symbolized something special that represented them that year. This way, when they left home, they would have a wonderful collection of ornaments to start with,” said Fraleigh, an Ortega Forest resident. “Two years ago, I started needlepointing ornaments for each child and hope these will be a keepsake for years to come. Christmas Eve we have a big family gathering and then have brunch Christmas morning.”

Like father,
like son,
grandsons

As far back as Jon Jennings of Ortega can remember, his father made his “famous” spritz cookies. He remembers that after the dough was made in a big yellow bowl it was put outside in the cold air to chill. “Dad would press them out and we would decorate them. If one got broken while baking, we got to eat it,” said Jennings. “We stacked them carefully in piles of five, so we could do an overall count of how many we made. After the cookies were pressed there were Christmas tree and wreath shapes imprinted onto the counter.” Jennings has continued the spritz cookie tradition with his children and now with his grandsons. He said it’s nice to remember his dad and carry on a family tradition, and is looking forward to introducing his newest grandson to the cookie-making adventure.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Keeping the ‘Old Country’ traditions alive

Caroling and food are two traditions that the Bordanca family of Confederate Point use to keep the spirit of Romania – the “Old Country” – alive in their homes and their hearts.

“Most people coming from another country bring with them traditions that help them keep their identity while integrating in the American society,” said Monica Bordanca. “My favorite holiday is Christmas and all that comes with it, especially caroling. Young and old, many of the Romanians in Jacksonville gather at the St. Anne Romanian Orthodox Church for rehearsals, practicing for days, old and new, Romanian and American (sometimes Spanish) Christmas carols, in preparation for the big event...the colind (caroling), when we go from house to house and bring songs of joy to each family that opens the door to us. Because most of us work, this takes place during the evenings, sometimes late nights, leading to Christmas Day. It creates a special sense of belonging, family and community, that you don’t feel it so strong at any other time of the year.”

Bordanca said they try to keep the tradition of caroling alive, even during difficult times, such as the loss of loved ones, and pass it on to the next generation. “It amazes me how sometimes kids, who don’t usually speak Romanian, come and learn all the songs. And it is not only the caroling itself, it is the whole atmosphere,” she said, referring to sarmale (stuffed cabbage rolls) and cozonac (a Romanian version of panettone). “All the good food



Alexandru Bordanca gets a new nutcracker every year to add to his collection.

that makes the home smell like heaven, having family and friends around you, it’s what makes it so special.”

Bordanca and her husband, Andy, also started a new tradition when their son, Alexandru, was born 18 years ago, to do something special for him to remind him of his parents and to pass on. “Not knowing what exactly I wanted, one day while reading to him the Nutcracker story and listening to the amazing Tchaikovsky music, I knew what to do,” she said. “Since then, every year we add at least one Steinbach nutcracker to his collection. It has to be Steinbach, as my son puts it.”

Sometimes they find the nutcrackers at local shops, sometimes online, and some are easier to find than others, Bordanca said. “It is fun, it is something my son still enjoys doing, he still takes them out of their boxes every Christmas season. I hope this is something he will eventually enjoy doing with his own family, when time comes.”

Marking the 12 Days of Christmas with the Magi

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church has a 12-year holiday tradition involving member families and the three Wise Men – kings, by tradition – who follow the night star to find Baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

On Christmas Eve, three king figurines are sent home with three families, which host a king for one night, capturing their adventures with the king in a special journal through writing, drawings and photos. The journals are especially memorable because they include the entries from years ago. Host families can look back on where the kings have gone and what they have done over the years.

The next day, each king and its journal are passed to a different family, and this process continues throughout the 12 days of Christmas until the Three Kings and their journals are brought back to St. Mark’s on Epiphany.

This year, the kings will return to St. Mark’s during a 10 a.m. service on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6. Following the service, which includes a chancel drama about the story of the Three Kings, there will be a celebration in the parish hall with traditional Middle Eastern fare and king cakes to welcome the kings and their journals back to St. Mark’s.



T.R. Hainline, Michael Magevney and Courtland Eyrick portray the Three Kings in a chancel drama at St. Mark’s Episcopal church on Epiphany Sunday.



The Three Kings and their journals



Pages from the journals which accompany each of the Three Kings on their 12-night journey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Gingerbread display making not for faint of heart

Last year's Gingerbread Extravaganza, sponsored by the Jacksonville Historical Society, inspired two first-time entrants with polar opposite levels of experience for this year's show.

The Carpentier family of Lakeside has made classic-styled gingerbread houses for years. "The kids get a kick out of it and it brings us all together. Sometimes we each get our own wall to decorate, sometimes it's a free-for-all with everyone stuffing candy everywhere," said John Carpentier.

On the other hand, Dawn Ballard, of Murray Hill, has never attempted gingerbread house making. "There was so much fun energy at the show last year when my son and I went, I wanted to be a part of it," she said.

The Carpentiers learned about the Gingerbread Extravaganza last year through word-of-mouth. "I immediately saw the gears in my kids' heads turning and I knew it was something we could all get behind. This is the first year we've made something for more than ourselves," said Carpentier.

The whimsy and intricacies of some displays inspired both families to jump in at the deep end and go for the "wow" factor.

"Our entry is pretty far from traditional and is nothing like anything we've ever attempted. It's pretty simple though, without moving parts or lights," said Carpentier. "We formed an igloo from sugar cubes and the snow surrounding is scrap sugar from our carving process. As a kid I spent a lot of time in the snows up north, so I've found quite a bit of nostalgia here. There isn't a lick of gingerbread in the final piece. Will that be held against us?"



Dawn Ballard's magical reindeer filling station



Madeleine Carpentier works on a sugar cube igloo

Ballard said her entry is "somewhat" traditional. "It is called Santa's Secret Stop. It is a magical gas station...yes, even Santa has to stop...and one night a year a regular gas station turns into a comfort station for Santa and his reindeer. Instead of gas, baskets of oats are available to the reindeer," said Ballard, who attended a workshop led by very talented gingerbread artists. "It is going to use a lot of fondant and various candies I'm still trying to work through. Humidity is a killer for these creations and will cause even the sturdiest of candies to bend. I wish it could have lights or movement, but I'd just be excited if it stays together."

Carpentier said the process took a little more than a month. "A little bit here, a

little there. It's tough for each of us to set aside time in our busy little household, so we tinker with it when we can. We chose a relatively simple design we could manage. Our daughters, Madeleine and Gemma, helped every step of the way from planning, to clean up. Gemma is particularly good at making sugar disappear," he said. "We crafted our display at the dining table. It sat there for weeks. At any time one of us could sit and stack some cubes or talk about its design. It was easily accessible all the time. Hiding it away would have defeated the purpose of bringing us together."

Ballard had help from a friend, Tina Brooks, and a neighbor, Ella Banghart. "Tina has been an amazing help with

some tips and tricks about fondant and how to use different things. Ella came over one night, saw I was struggling, and she has a magical talent for modeling small animals!" said Ballard, who also built her display on the dining room table. At one point all of her pieces were buried under her son's science project. "I found out one of my cats like to nibble on fondant. I had made a small cat one night, came out the next morning and it was missing a paw."

The Carpentiers' igloo and Ballard's magical gas station are on display through Dec. 28 at Old St. Andrew's, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. Visit jaxhistory.org/gingerbread-extravaganza/ for hours.



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By Kate A. Hallock

“Make Your Mark” was the theme for the 2018 National Philanthropy Day luncheon and awards program held Nov. 6 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel and it was an appropriate theme for the six organizations and three individuals who were honored for making their mark.

Meredith Chartrand Frisch was named Outstanding Philanthropist, nominated by The Discovery School, where she serves a chair of its Board of Trustees. Frisch took on initiatives in early childhood development to create a recipe for academic success, a community of care and solid footing for tomorrow's children, raising more than \$1.5 million for the Jacksonville Beach-based school which serves children ages 3 to 12. "I feel incredibly humbled but am also mindful that I'm fortunate to have this base and the resources to dedicate my time and to doing what I love," said Frisch. "What I want to share is how meaningful philanthropy is when you practice it together."

persons have the same advantages as anyone else. "We cannot and do not do this work alone," said Thomas, who was nominated by The Arc Jacksonville and NFSSE. "It's because of many of you in this room that opened doors for us and you share our mission and our vision for the future with your colleagues and friends."

The Riverside Rotary Club of Jacksonville was named Outstanding Civic Organization, nominated by Community Hospice & Palliative Care, the recipient of funds raised by the annual Riverside Craft Beer Fest. In his remarks, Immediate Past President Tim Volpe said, “The Riverside Craft Beer Fest was a stroke of genius, and I credit the original visionary and founder of the event, Chris Croft, and it has been an extraordinary success, emulated by Rotary Clubs all over the country. We’ve raised over a quarter of a million dollars in the past six years.”

All American Air, an HVAC company founded in 1980 by Steve Chapman in St Augustine, was nominated as the Outstanding Small Business by Community Hospice & Palliative Care. Chapman and his wife, Christine, created the All American Air Table Tennis Classic in 2009, which has raised more than \$500,000 and supported more than 80 nonprofits in Northeast Florida.

The Outstanding Corporation award went to Swisher International, nominated by Jacksonville University, which has been heavily funded by the Jacksonville-based cigar company. Company founder Carl S. Swisher was the university's first major donor and benefactor and the foundation in his name continues to invest in JU to this day. Swisher CEO and President Peter Ghiloni, who will retire at the end of the year, said, "We've had a long history with JU since 1934 and that partnership will continue in the future."



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THE WAY WE WERE: CLAYTON FORD RILEY

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“Youth is not a career,” declared 93-year-old Clayton Riley. “I’ve found that out.”

But oh, what a career Riley has had! At the 100th World Conference of Kirby Vacuum Cleaners in 2015, where he was honored for his 50-plus years as a distributor, Riley was referred to “as a legend in his own right.”

Riley, the youngest of seven children, was introduced to the vacuum cleaner business by his brother, Corwin, who was 19 years older and known as “The Dean of Kirby Distributors.” Clayton Riley sold his first vacuum cleaner in 1946, and Betsy Miller remembers sitting on her mother’s couch in 1958, watching Riley jump up and down on a hose, pour dirt on the floor and vacuum it up to demonstrate his machine’s capabilities.

“Oh, Clayton was a showman. It was great. Of course, Mother bought the vacuum cleaner. I inherited it when Mother died, and I used it for about 12 years. When Julia Brundick Patterson got married, I had it all cleaned up and gave it to her for a housewarming gift. That vacuum has been running over 60 years!” Miller said.



Clayton Riley, distributor of Kirby vacuum cleaners

Riley’s first office was two rooms over the Green Derby, where Blue Cross is now. “Taylor Hardwick’s office was there too. Then we moved to Melba Street, across from the Dreamette in Murray Hill. There’s a repair shop there now. I had 40 sales representatives, including Gilcrest Berg while he was going to Princeton, Tom Donahoo, Kent Schmidt, and Scott Sheftall,” Riley recalled.

Born Sept. 25, 1925, nine miles from Cleveland, Ohio in a little town called Hinkley, which he humorously related is famous because “every March 15th buzzards descend on the town like the swallows to Capistrano,” Riley was drafted while attending Ohio University. He attended radio school at the University of Chicago and amphibious training, then was to be deployed to Iroquois Point in Honolulu.

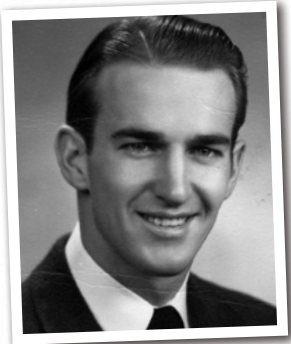


Clayton Riley on a tugboat in Japan in 1945

“We were all outfitted to go to Japan, then the bomb went off and the war was over, but on the way over we ran into a minefield and two guys were blown off the boat,” he said. “When we arrived in Japan the people there were wonderful to servicemen. They invited us into their homes.”

After graduating in 1950 from the College of Commerce at Ohio University where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi, Riley’s military career was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He came by train to Jacksonville to be a radio operator at NAS Jax. He was invited to dinner by a local physician who then asked him to take the maid home and directed young Maureen O’Crowley to ride along with him. “She was pinned to someone else at Salem College. I had just bought a new car – a 1950 Roadmaster. I think that’s why Maureen liked me. Later, we played golf at NAS Jax, had a whirlwind courtship and married in 1951.”

They had six children. Ford Riley (Elizabeth), Scott Riley (Missy), Paul Riley (Kelly), Jim Riley (Dana), Martha Love Rotella (Jay) and Jenifer Skinner (Chip). Maureen was an established artist and, along with Christine Schmidt, Eula Bull,



Clayton Riley, 1950



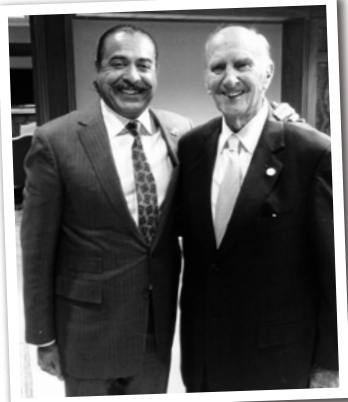
The Riley Family: Scott, Jim, Jenifer, Clayton, Martha Love, Ford and Paul

Margaret Berg and Alice Ulmer, was instrumental in establishing the Village Gallery in Ortega, the forerunner of the Jacksonville Artists Guild.

The family was well established in Jacksonville as members of Riverside Presbyterian Church, where Clayton sang in the choir and has served as a deacon, an elder and a trustee. Riley said, “The children were baptized there, grew up there. Jenifer and Chip and Jim and Dana were married there. Many of our grandchildren went to school there.” He finds it amusing that his growing family took up the entire fourth row.

Riley recently received a commemorative 50-year pin from RPC to add to his collection of numerous awards, certificates and plaques honoring his long-standing participation in groups throughout the city, including Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, JU Council Order of the Dolphin, Board of Riverside Hospital and Presbyterian Apartments, Trustee of Bartram School, Gator Bowl Association, Ponte Vedra Club, River Club and Timuquana Country Club. He was also past king of Ye Mystic Revellers. His memberships, civic activities and awards fill an entire page and include mentoring at Central Riverside School as part of the P.A.L. program and volunteering for Meals on Wheels.

The energetic, exuberant, friendly, talkative and amusing Riley sprinkles his conversation with jokes, quotes, life lessons and is likely to burst into song at any moment. He remarked that being a Beta Theta Pi has been a “big part of my life” and frequently refers to other people as “he’s a Beta.” He tells of meeting Shad Khan and singing the Beta song with him the day before a big game. Coincidentally,



Jaguars owner Shad Khan with Clayton Riley

Khan had worked for Scott-Fetzer Company, which had partnered with Jim Kirby to produce the first vacuum cleaner, and Khan and Riley at different times had the same boss.

“I grew up in the Depression. People didn’t have jobs, but my dad had a paint store and was a farmer in Parma, Ohio. I spent summers with my grandpa in the country working. He gave me a quarter at the end of the summer for bringing the cows home and cleaning stalls. I did that until I was 14, then I had a newspaper route and got a job at the Parma Country Club as a caddy. We got to play on Mondays when the course was closed, and I won the caddy championship. I was riding my bicycle home when I heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. So many dropped out of high school and enlisted,” he recalled.

From these humble beginnings Riley’s business acumen earned him numerous trips, two Cadillacs, a Lincoln Town Car

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 40**

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CONTINUED ON **PAGE 39**

and a Rolex watch, but, as he joked, “Not all at one time.” Now a “Distributor Emeritus,” Riley has been retired since 2000 but stays active as a motivational speaker, most recently giving a presentation at the Rotary Club. His philosophy of life and business is based on the Rotary Four-Way Test: 1) Is it the truth? 2) Is it fair to all concerned? 3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Widowed in 1976, Clayt, as he is called, was introduced in 1981 to Mary Elizabeth (Bibbie) FitzGibbon who was also widowed, by Kate Schellenberg at a tennis match at San Jose Country Club.

“That encouraged a date. We went to Bolles to watch football then went to San Jose Country Club for dinner. She was a tennis player and played golf. I had played golf with her husband but had never laid eyes on Bibbie until then,” he said.

Eleven years his junior, Bibbie continues her active tennis life and attends St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Riley said the difference in their religions has never been a problem. He mentioned that Bibbie was a star athlete winning Best Athlete in high school. "I didn't want that," laughed Bibbie. "I wanted to be voted the prettiest." She



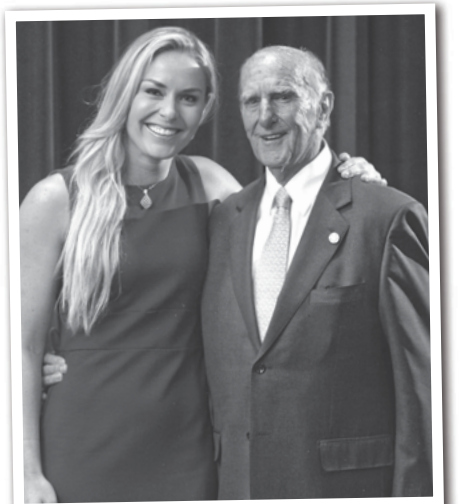
joked that what she and Clay had most in common when they eloped in 1982 was their combined 11 children. They now have 45 grandchildren and great-grands and more on the way.

Riley's golf game has been affected recently due to severe arthritis in his knee, "bone on bone," as he describes it. He belonged to the "Throw Ups" golf group known for putting balls in a hat and throwing them into the air to find a partner. He said they persevere despite being down to about six original members and taking about four and half hours to play.

Riley has charged through all sorts of pain and injuries from the almost incapacitating knee problems to a torn rotator cuff. He reveled in telling the story that the day before he was to have surgery, he played golf in the morning at Timuquana Country Club while walking with a cane, then played tennis in the afternoon with his surgeon's wife. He came in seventh in the golf tournament and thereupon postponed his surgery indefinitely.

The Rileys' Ortega Forest home is decorated with paintings by his son, wildlife artist C. Ford Riley, artwork by his other offspring, historical documents and interesting memorabilia. Like any proud father, he is quick to share a letter he received from former First Lady Laura Bush when Ford's painting was selected to be presented to the Bush family. Other notables include Steve Forbes, who sent him a necktie.

He is proud of his children and grandchildren. “Jim is an attorney with Rogers Towers. Jenifer stays active at Bolles with her kids and grandchildren. They are all so talented,” he said. “Martha Love – she lives in Montana, Paul, and Ford are artists,



and Scott represents Ford and Paul. They got all their talent from their mother. I can't draw a circle. Bibbie's kids are great, too. Laurie lives in Venice, Andy in Texas, David in Melbourne, Susan McCormack – she lives right down the street." Sadly, Bibbie's daughter, Susan Ingram, passed on recently.

Riley's many accomplishments and successes can be attributed to his work ethic and dynamic personality. Mention his name and the response is immediate. "Clayton Riley? Now he's a great guy!" "Wonderful person. Witty, funny, generous." "Boy, he can tell some great stories." "Sweetest man."

Riley dedicated 58 years to Kirby Vacuum Cleaner Company and advised new dealers: "See lots of people and ask them to buy. Take care of your customers and get them to work for you. They will if they like you."

But who doesn't like Clayt Riley, a self-professed social butterfly? Affable, gregarious, humorous, Riley ends conversations with "I'll see you when the roads get better."

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Nonagenarians break national swim records

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Ortega resident Ed Graves, 95, and John Corse, 94, of Avondale, have proven yet again that age is just a number. The two local swim dynamos have been setting record-breaking scores and beating national and international swim records in individual events and as part of a relay team for years.

In 2014, with Betty Lorenzi and Joan Campbell, they broke the Japanese record in the 200m free relay (ages 90-94) by 15 seconds. In 2017 they set the world record in the 400-meter mixed freestyle. At the 10th Annual Rowdy Gaines Masters Classic Oct. 12-14 in Orlando their current team broke national records yet again in the 200-meter Free Style Relay with William Zani and John Cornell from Orlando. The record they broke was one they had established in previous years with their original team, “The Fab Four,” which included Tiger Holmes and Bill Adams.

The men each swam on varsity teams as undergraduates in college. Although no longer competing, Tiger Holmes was the instigator in convincing the others to return to competition in the early 2000s. The combined age of the current relay team is a remarkable 360 years old. Corse and Graves practice three times a week. Graves said it’s important to “stay at it, that’s what counts.” Corse admits that having a group of friends who “put the pressure on you and expect you to be there” is essential to success.



William Zani, John Cornell, John Corse and Ed Graves



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– In Memoriam –

James Horner Winston

October 31, 1933 to September 19, 2018

Jacksonville has the U.S. Navy to thank for bringing one of the biggest-hearted philanthropists to Northeast Florida, which has benefited greatly from the leadership and generosity of James H. Winston, who passed away Sept. 19, 2018, just weeks shy of his 85th birthday.



Born in Raleigh, North Carolina on October 31, 1933 to the late Robert Watson Winston Jr. and Anne McKimmon Winston, he was valedictorian of his 1951 graduating class at Virginia Episcopal High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in three years from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In 1954 Winston entered Naval Officers Candidate School and, during that time, married Mary Burgman Winston, his wife of 54 years who passed away January 13, 2009. After retiring from the Navy in early 1958, the Winstons remained in Jacksonville, where they raised two children, Mary “Kimmie” McKimmon Winston and Dr. James “Jimbo” H. Winston Jr.

Winston’s 60-year business career included real estate investing and development with the Charter Company, and the Barnett Winston Company, which developed the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island.

Well-known among the ranks of civic and business leaders, Winston was tapped for service on many nonprofit boards. One of the earliest he joined was the Episcopal School of Jacksonville’s Board of Trustees in 1970, on which he served until 1976. He served as a trustee again in 1985 until 1989. Winston was named a Trustee Emeritus, the highest honor Episcopal can give to one of its former trustees and, in 2017, Episcopal dedicated its head of school office, named Winston House, in his honor.

“Episcopal has had few champions like Jim Winston. From the beginning, he was very involved in the school’s founding and especially supportive during the challenging early years of the school. Jim has connected our leadership with his vast network of friends and associates, bringing new families, financial contributions and resources to campus. He has even led tours of the school himself!” said The Rev. Adam Greene, Head of School.

For more than 20 years, Winston served on the board of the YMCA, as Chair in 1985 and later chairman of its capital fund drive. The new YMCA on Riverside Avenue was named the Winston Family YMCA in recognition of the Winston family’s contribution to its success over the decades.

“Jim cared deeply for both the Y and the city. He really understood the impact the Y has on the community. That’s what drove his involvement in our important work for more than 50 years,” said Eric K. Mann,

president and CEO of the First Coast YMCA. “How incredibly fitting that his name graces the Winston Family YMCA, a place that’s welcoming to all and serves as a shining example of the good that can happen when a community comes together. His YMCA family will certainly miss him, but every day we will honor his legacy through the lives we transform in Jacksonville and across the First Coast.”

Winston is survived by longtime family friend and wife, Jeanne Bass Winston, who grew up with his first wife, Mary, during summers in North Carolina. “Jim loved Jacksonville and was so concerned that I would love it as much as he did,” said Jeanne, who lived in Ft. Lauderdale before marrying Jim. “Nobody could sell Jacksonville better than he did.”

Winston is also survived by Jeanne’s children, Brett Bass (Caroline), Dr. Brian Bass (Susie), and Dr. Brenda Bass (Ken), and grandchildren Hana and Leo Mason and Aiden and Hunter Winston, as well as nieces and nephews.

“I grew up with the Winstons but didn’t realize how special Mr. Winston was until I was older and saw how much he cared about people. He had sparkle in his eyes, an inner light,” said Anne Burpee Rain, of Ortega. “He shared his warmth with every person he spoke with because he genuinely cared. Many of us will miss his twinkle and his smile.”



“Nobody could sell Jacksonville better than he did.”

— Jeanne Bass Winston

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the clarinet, Kevin Sharpe on piano, and Alison Buchanan, soprano. Patterson founded the nonprofit in 2002 to address the dearth of black musicians and artists in established musical groups. “Symphonies contain less than 2 percent of blacks as players,” he said. “I’m hoping for viable changes in the music field so their talents can come to fruition.” Lovett hosted the event to celebrate the strong leadership and recognize Patterson personally for his continued efforts and accomplishments on behalf of the chamber music players.



Patsy Moore with Desiree and Richard Preston and Terry Moore



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Riverside school celebrates diverse heritages

Students of West Riverside Elementary School and their families enjoyed the second annual Multicultural Traditions night Oct. 12. Originally held in December last year, the event was moved to take advantage of Hispanic Heritage Month. The 100-plus-year-old school is culturally diverse, so its families came together to celebrate and share what makes each unique.

Families from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Africa, Poland, and England shared their cultural traditions with traditional food from each country, musical instruments, and photographs. There were also special performances from a Peru dance group and Puerto Rican drummer Felix Colon. Others shared family-time traditions such as camping and family game night.



Iliana Espinosa-Beckert and her son, Sebastián Beckert, share the Mexican culture.



Nathalie Rivera, Luke and Ava Curell, Keniel Ocasio, Max and Cort Csar



Nathalie Rivera is dressed in Puerto Rican costume, while Luke Curell shows off a set of maracas, rattles made from gourds.



Schiavone named 2018 FSGA Junior Player of the Year

Chloe Schiavone of Ortega was named the 2018 Florida State Golf Association Junior Girls' Player of the Year during an annual dinner Nov. 16.

The Bolles School student was honored with the Girls' Junior Player of the Year award following her 2018 season that saw four victories and seven top 15 finishes on the Florida Junior Tour.

Her first individual Florida State Golf Association Championship occurred at Bent Pine Golf Club where she won the Girls' Junior Amateur Championship. Schiavone carded the only under-par round of the championship with a three-under 213. She also won the 2018 Junior Amateur Match Play in July at the Forest Country Club.

Earlier in the year, she teamed up with Izzy M. Pellot to advance to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship.

In Florida Junior Tour events, Schiavone captured one win and two other top-10 finishes. She accumulated 18,894 points over the course of the 2018 season, the most for a Girls' Junior Player of the Year since Sierra Brooks took home the title in 2015 with 21,100 points.

Central Riverside student named Kid Mayor for a day

Central Riverside Elementary fourth-grade student Micah Hall was selected from among 60 candidates to become the official Kid Mayor of Jacksonville Nov. 2. Hall, 10, spent the afternoon with Mayor Lenny Curry learning about local government and assisting with mayoral duties that included signing a proclamation, and participating in two quarterly ceremonies that recognize citizens, organizations, observances, and employees.

Earlier in the school year, Hall spoke before the Duval County Public School Board protesting the budget cuts to art, music and physical education resources, and last year spoke up when DCPS decided to cancel a math competition.



Kid Mayor Micah Hall offered a proclamation about the 50th anniversary of the city-county consolidation; with him are Joe Carlucci, Earl Johnson, Jr., Mayor Lenny Curry, Alan Bliss and Matt Carlucci, Jr. (Photo courtesy of Wesley H. Lester, City of Jacksonville)




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Gowdy runs well in cross-country race

Riverside resident Lucrezia Gowdy was one of 324 girls and 407 boys participating in the State Cross Country Championships Oct 27 in Lakeland, Florida, the largest fields ever for the state race. Gowdy, a middle school student at Assumption Catholic School, went out with the fast pack for the 3K to finish fifth place overall.



Girls pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child



The American Heritage Girls Troop of Avondale continues its tradition of giving back. For the fifth year, the girls packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse. The girls joined their host church, Holy Trinity Anglican, to pack many shoeboxes, which will be shipped overseas as Christmas presents for some of the world's most vulnerable children. The girls enjoyed hot chocolate, popcorn and holiday music as they packed.

Student-athletes commit to colleges



Hunter Barco, Patrick Libby, Ben Foltz, Alex Hastings, Charles Hicks, Dylan Lageman, Chase Rivera, Cade Black, Paul DeGrado and Cobi López Miró

Ten student-athletes were honored Nov. 14 at The Bolles School for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers.

Committing for baseball were Hunter Barco of Ortega to the University of Florida and Patrick Libby of Goodby's Creek to Furman University. For men's cross country/track and field, Ben Foltz committed to George Washington University; Alex Hastings to the University of Chicago; Ortega resident Charles Hicks to Stanford University; Dylan Lageman of Beauclerc

to Davidson College, and Lakewood resident Chase Rivera to the United States Naval Academy. Cade Black committed to Trinity University for men's golf, and for men's swimming Epping Forest resident Paul DeGrado committed to the University of Texas while San Jose resident Cobi López Miró chose Virginia Tech.

Two more college commitment ceremonies will be held at Bolles this school year – February and April 2019 – to recognize additional student-athletes as they commit to colleges.

Budding gardeners get hands dirty in creative planting class



Ian Peppers plants Adagio Maiden Grass in a class on propagation methods.

Young boys and girls in grades 1 to 6 gathered at the Garden Club of Jacksonville Nov. 3 for a class on how to create new plants from old. About 20 members of the Budding Gardeners Club, sponsored by the Wildflower Circle and the Garden Club, learned how to use different propagation methods (by division, by cuttings and by seed) to create new plants. They also painted rocks for their gardens.

The next class, Make a Seed Bomb, will be held Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon, and will be sponsored by the Late Bloomers Club. Limited spaces are available, so pre-registration is required; call the Garden Club at (904) 355-4224.

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Tournament Champs Lauren Fant, Avery Jenkins, Maggie Riggs, Lily Simmons, Agnes Hughes, Eve Surface, Emily Gunnlaugsson, Aidan Pajcic and Coach Mike Sullivan

All four fifth- and sixth-grade Boys Basketball teams at Riverside Presbyterian Day School played in the semifinals of the North Florida Independent Schools Athletic Conference tournament in November, then became the only teams that were in the final four. Both games were close in score and fun to watch as Boys Team 2 and Team 4

advanced to the Championship Game played on Nov. 10, hosted by Jacksonville Country Day School. Team 4 won the game by a score of 50-49. It was a great end to an awesome season for the 36 boys who participated. All three fifth- and sixth-grade Riverside Presbyterian Day School Girls Basketball teams, comprised of 26 players, played in

the semifinals of the North Florida Independent Schools Athletic Conference tournament in November, with the St. Mark's Episcopal Day School team taking the remaining spot. Girls Teams 1 and 2 advanced to the Championship game played Nov. 10, hosted by Jacksonville Country Day School. Team 2 won the game by a score of 18-13.



Lily Hocker, Class of '22, and her grandmother, Val Hocker, who taught art at Bishop Snyder 2006-2011

Bishop Snyder students give thanks for grandparents

Bishop Snyder High School purposefully coincided celebrating Grandparents Day with its Thanksgiving Mass to show appreciation and gratitude for those special relatives. The Mass was celebrated Nov. 16 by Fr. George Vaniyapurackal from St. Paul's Catholic Church in Riverside. His homily was based on the influence grandparents have on the lives of their families. Grandparents were met in the Tierney Media Center and escorted by their grandchildren to Mass, after which a reception was held, and tours of the school offered for those who were interested.



Fishweir Elementary answers need for school books in Florida Panhandle

Following the devastation wrought on the Florida Panhandle by Hurricane Michael in October, students and teachers at Fishweir Elementary School sprang into action, collecting more than 200 books on the Accelerated Reader list for uprooted classrooms in the Blountstown School District, along with school supplies, hygiene items, and cleaning products. The effort was spearheaded by Kelly Knight, wife of the school's physical education coach, Michael Knight, and the items were delivered by Varying Exceptionalities Teacher, Dawn Jansson and her husband, Peter. Some of the teachers at Fishweir have family ties to the Blountstown area so the project was personally meaningful to the Fishweir school community.



Downing Nightingale with granddaughter Nadia Nightingale, Class of '20



Madison Hayes, Class of '22, and her grandmother, Susan Keane

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Chilly morning makes for a good ‘running’ start

On the first really chilly day of autumn, Ortega United Methodist Church hosted the 6th Annual Ryan’s Run – a 5K Run/Walk, in memory of Ryan Perry. All proceeds from the Nov. 3 event directly benefit the Ryan D. Perry Endowment at OUMC, and the church’s goal of growing children’s ministries in the community.

A contingent of runners from Riverside Presbyterian Day School ran in the one-mile fun run through the tree-line streets of Old Ortega. Following the 5K, 127 participants plus family and supporters gathered for the post-race celebration, including food, refreshments, and family-friendly games and bounce houses.

The first run, held in 2012 two months after the 10-year-old Ryan’s death in a playground accident, was part of McKenzie’s Run but the next year Ryan’s Run was established as its own race. Thus far the endowment has funded the church’s Life Center, where a variety of exercise and fitness classes are held and open to the public.



Katherine and Abigail Naugle



Dean Krueger placed first in Male 50-54 and 10th in order of finish, with Reed and Stella, who placed first in the Female 10 & Under and 16th in order of finish



Peyton and Allie Martin



Delaney and Erika Glas, who placed second in top three female overall and 11th in order of finish

Florida Ballet dancers raise awareness for shelter pets

Taking advantage of a social media trend, dancers of the Florida Ballet Conservatory took time from their rigorous schedule to visit the City of Jacksonville’s Animal Care and Protective Service facility on Forest Avenue to pose with shelter dogs and kittens.

Many dancers post photos of themselves in pose with their own pets, but Riverside resident Amina Kolenc, a senior at the Florida Ballet Conservatory and co-president of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts with San Marco resident Clio Chazan-Gabbard, decided to add a charity twist to the trend.

Kolenc coordinated with nine other dancers, a photographer who is also a dancer, and the shelter for late afternoon photo session on Nov. 16. “Dancers being photographed with their pets has become a trend on social media, mostly Facebook and Instagram,” said Kolenc’s mother, Alisa. “It was a chance to see a personal and fun side to the dancers, who usually are photographed in such a serious and professional-style fashion.”

The Florida Ballet will be able to use the photos to recognize the work of their



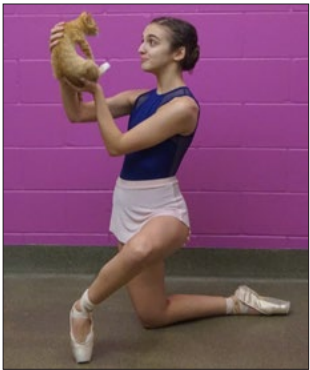
Clio Chazan-Gabbard and Amina Kolenc pose with Capella, available for adoption at Animal Care and Protective Services.

Honor Society. The dancers will be able to use the photos in their own social medias. And, most importantly, the ACPS will be able to use the photos to promote adoptions from their shelter and to bring awareness to the work they do there, said Alisa Kolenc.

Prior to a mega-adoption event Nov. 29-Dec. 1, there were 592 animals at ACPS, 305 dogs and 287 cats and kittens.



Members of the Florida Ballet Conservatory at Animal Care and Protective Services (Photo by Samantha Barcia, a Florida Ballet student)



Susannah Goodwin strikes a pose with a kitten. (Photo by Samantha Barcia, a Florida Ballet student)

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Students share school day with grandparents, special friends

The Riverside Presbyterian Day School campus was full of excitement Oct. 25 with one of its longest standing traditions – Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Guests were treated to a special chapel service with musical performances by several grade levels. They also visited with their grandchildren in their classrooms to read books, play, and check out many of their projects and assignments.



Michael Ziegler with Gramps, Jack Ziegler



Patty Naugle with her granddaughter Abigail Naugle



Frank, Bennett and Sally Surface



Alayna Bryant with her grandmother, Shirley Williams



Bill and Mitzi Kuntz with Clementine Kuntz

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www.stmarksdayschool.org

Student body work together for good of community

After launching a chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s Mini Vinnies in 2017, the service club at St. Paul’s Catholic School was opened to include the entire student body this year.

Dedicated to helping the needy in the local community, the Mini Vinnies hold their meetings during lunch and brainstorm ideas for different service projects in which students of any age can participate.

The first Thursday of every month is Mini Vinnie Day. The students wear a blue shirt that lists the Corporal Works of Mercy to remind them of their duty to help out brothers and sisters in need. In October, students collected \$1,900 in baby bottles full of change to go to the Women’s Help Center in Jacksonville. They also collected food to help supply approximately 60 families with food for six months.



Front: Caden Baker, Charleigh Kahler, McKenzie Taylor, Ellie Cardoza, Leanna Thomas and Xavier Silba; back: Robin Bell, Caroline Rinaman, River Neri and Jayden Register



Mini Vinnie T-shirts share the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Place setting for one, table for all



Jordyn Simon, Noah Lewis, Jady Kurtzk, Hayley Kwasniewski, Astrid Henry, Claire Boales

Students from Ruth N. Upson Elementary School performed the historic and emotional White Table ceremony, commemorating Veterans Day, last month at Murray Hill Methodist Church for their Young at Heart group and at the school. Clare Dubas is the Ruth N. Upson patrol sponsor/media specialist, and the students were introduced at the church by Nancy Beecher.

Jordyn Simon, Noah Lewis, Jady Kurtzk, Hayley Kwasniewski, Astrid Henry and Claire Boales did the honors, introducing the small, round table that is always set but never occupied.

The tradition of setting a separate table has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember brothers and sisters in arms.

The white tablecloth draped over the table represents the purity of their response to our country’s call to arms.

The empty chair depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine, but all who are not here with us. The table itself is round to show that our concern for them is never ending.

The black napkin stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends. A Purple Heart medal can be pinned to the napkin.

The single red rose reminds us of their families and loved ones. The red ribbon represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation’s call.

The yellow candle and its yellow ribbon symbolize the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet accounted for. The slices of lemon on the bread plate remind us of their fate. The salt upon the bread plate represent the tears of their families.

The wine glass, turned upside down, reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities of the evening.



Alumni David Barksdale and Arnie Tritt

Episcopal alumni flock to homecoming

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville welcomed nearly 300 alumni and their families back to campus for Homecoming on Nov. 2. Despite the rain, alumni enjoyed a barbeque and reception. The dinner was catered by The Bearded Pig, owned by Michael Schmidt, Episcopal Class of 1996. Episcopal hosted Bishop Kenny at Jangro Stadium but was not victorious.

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE



Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
Fri., Jan. 11, 9-11 a.m.

Whitehurst Campus
Tue., Jan. 15, 9-11 a.m.

Bartram Campus
Thu., Jan. 17, 9-11 a.m.

San Jose Campus
Fri., Dec. 7, 8 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 18, 8 a.m.

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Flashbacks



Santa Claus at Christmas time with children and adults in Downtown Jacksonville during the depression, December 1933.

Photographs of various holiday activities in the 1940s and 1950s taken by commercial photographer Robert E. Fisher, who worked for various agencies and newspapers in Jacksonville between 1941 and 1961.

Courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society Archives. To see more of the amazing historical photos from the Jacksonville Historical Archives, visit www.jaxhistory.org/research

We are proud residents,

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Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings

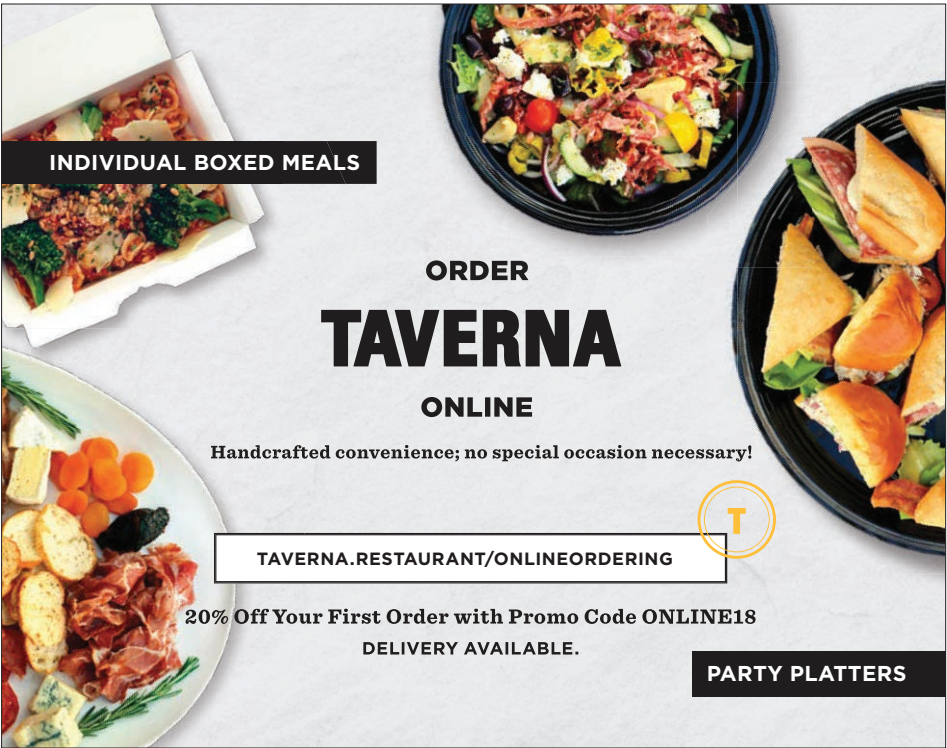


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Enjoy dining and boutique shopping
 - 4 King St. District
 - 5 Stockton Street District
 - 6 Avondale United Methodist Church
Bells & Bluegrass with choir, 7pm
 - 7 Riverside Ave. Christian
Live nativity scene
 - 8 Grace Church of Avondale
Caroling
- 9 Riverside Park United Methodist
Hot Chocolate, Christmas Card Crafting
 - 10 Boone Park
Horse & Carriage Rides
 - 11 Memorial Park
 - 12 Community Garden
Selling sausages and hot spiced cider
 - Riverside United Church of Christ
2858 Post St.
Caroling, 6:30pm



RIVERSIDE AVONDALE
PRESERVATION'S
34TH ANNUAL
Luminaria
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
BEGINNING AT DUSK

Photo by Mark Krancer

HISTORY OF LUMINARIA

Luminaria was started in the Riverside Avondale area by Jerry Spinks, neighbor and member of Riverside Avondale Preservation, years before the area was declared a historic district.

It has since become one of the premier holiday events in Jacksonville and a legacy for the Riverside Avondale neighborhood. Luminaria is a wonderful example of community pride and dedication to our neighborhood.

The event is community driven. involving many volunteers, and includes events planned and coordinated throughout the Historic District. Luminaria continues to be one of RAP's biggest fundraisers, the Historic District's signature holiday event. and a family-friendly way to celebrate the season.

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HOW TO BUILD A BAG

1. Open the paper bag, fold down the top inch to create a lip at the top of the bag. Fold over again.
 2. Put enough sand or dirt in the bottom of the bag to keep a votive candle upright, about 1/2 -1" deep.
 3. Place a votive candle in the bottom center of each bag.
4. Take the filled bags you have made and place them every 18-36 inches along your chosen driveways, sidewalks and curbs around your home.
 5. Light and enjoy your neighborhood!

Purchase official Luminaria bags from the RAP office or vouchers at RAM

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You value and support our institutions, embrace architectural and cultural diversity and appreciate the quality of life in the neighborhood. For over 40 years, our members and volunteers have worked to enrich and revitalize our historic community.

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