

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Dr. Carolina Ceron and her husband, Dr. Atilio Canas, with Nemours Vice President and Physician in Chief, Florida Operations, Dr. Michael Erhard.

READ MORE, PAGE 27

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

WWW.RESIDENTNEWS.NET | SEPTEMBER 2018, VOL. 12, ISSUE 09



CLEAN WATER ADVOCACY BIGGER THAN ONE PERSON

Michael Stowers, David Barton, St. Johns Riverkeeper Executive Director Jimmy Orth and St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman with Margaret Barton and Susanna Barton. READ MORE, PAGE 29

REAL ESTATE ON THE RISE

PROFESSIONALS SHARE INSIGHTS, TRENDS IN THE LOCAL MARKET

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

The desirable nature of the older, established neighborhoods continues to attract buyers, those who are new to Jacksonville and those settling in the neighborhood they've always desired. Higher prices and less inventory are the common denominators, begging the questions "Do we sell? Do we settle in and renovate? Do we wait to buy? What will we buy on the other side of a sale as prices rise?"

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

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

READ MORE, PAGE 32

FDOT crews work on land, water for highway improvements

By Kelly Kelly, Resident Community News

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

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

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

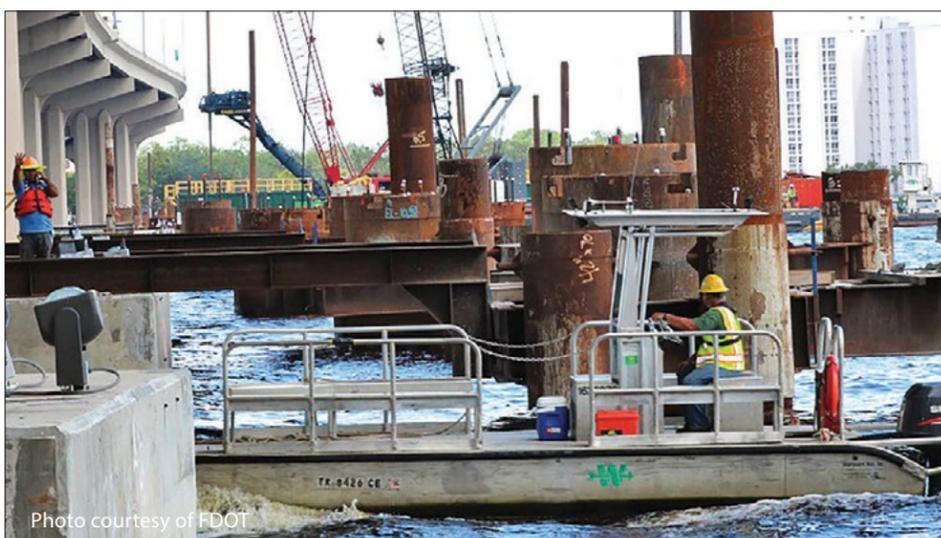


Photo courtesy of FDOT



Resident News travels the globe

Florida State University senior and English major Sara Parsons brought a copy of *The Resident* with her on a trip through Europe, including Florence, Italy, Greece and Germany. She traveled with the school's study abroad program for two months, stopping along the way to snap photos with her local hometown paper. Parsons grew up in Ortega Forest and has a passion for media and journalism. Her proud parents are Sally Parsons and Phillip Parsons.



PTA helps ease parents into first day back at school

The Fishweir Elementary School PTA hosted a "Tears & Cheers Breakfast" for parents dropping their children off at school Aug. 13. Lara McFall, Brandice Moore, Tanya Hardaker, Sarah Lynch, Donya Marshall, Stef Jorgensen and Missy Jackson served fresh coffee and biscuits donated by Fishweir business partner Maple Street Biscuit Co.

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Publisher's Note

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

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

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

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



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

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

Pamela Bradford Williams

Letter TO THE Editor



Carita Doggett Corse

Thank you for printing the photo of the Concordia basketball team in the August 2018 issue. I had known that my mother, Carita Doggett Corse, had taught there after getting her master's degree at Columbia but never knew where the school was located. My grandmothers were founding members of what was then known as "The Ladies Friday Musicales" and never mentioned the building formerly housed Concordia School. I remember attending many performances there when my daughter, also named Carita Doggett Corse, was a young piano student. Happy memories!

John Corse
Avondale




Jacksonville, Florida

Real Men Wear Pink is a distinguished group of community leaders raising awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Co-Chairs: Charlene Shirk and John Phillips

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2018

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HISTORICAL MARKET KNOWLEDGE = PROVEN RESULTS

RECENTLY LISTED & SOLD | \$3,300,000



4602 MUNDY DR, RIVERFRONT – SAN MARCO
5BR · 8BA · 8,848 sq ft

<p>JUST SOLD</p>  <p>4548 MUNDY DR RIVERFRONT – SAN MARCO Riverfront · 4BR · 4BA 5,821 sq ft · \$2,050,000</p>	<p>JUST LISTED</p>  <p>3222 ST JOHNS AVE AVONDALE Built 1904 · 4BR · 2BA · 3 Partial BA 5,565 sq ft · \$1,250,000</p>	<p>JUST LISTED</p>  <p>4570 ORTEGA ISLAND DR N RIVERFRONT – ORTEGA 6BR · 5BA · 2 Partial BA 7,341 sq ft · \$1,825,000</p>	<p>JUST REDUCED</p>  <p>3333 RIVERSIDE AVE AVONDALE 4 BR · 2 BA · 1 Partial BA 3,124 sq ft · \$665,000</p>
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ST JOHNS SUNRISES

930 RIVER ROAD - \$495,000
Riverfront in Orange Park,
new dock, cool historic property -
must see!



SOLD

1754 MAYVIEW ROAD
Under contract
in 12 days!



REDUCED

4936 APACHE AVENUE - \$799,000
Charming cottage style home
4/3.5 + bonus/5th BR, 4074sf,
fully renovated!



SOLD

4981 ORTEGA BLVD
Under Contract
in 1 day!



RIVERFRONT

3030 LAKE SHORE BLVD - \$899,900
\$10K Buyer closing cost incentive!
Waterfront entertainer's dream,
5/3.5, 3700sf



SOLD

4929 KING RICHARD RD
Under Contract
in 3 days!



OLD ORTEGA

2954 IROQUOIS AVENUE - \$329,000
Charming 3/2, 1923sf with split
bedrooms and an oversized 2-car
garage. Updated & move-in ready!



UNDER CONTRACT

6055 WAR ADMIRAL - \$819,000
Bring your horses! 5/3.5, 4888sf with
50-foot pool, horse paddock,
backs up to Jennings State Forest



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The porch alone is over 2,000sf



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2829 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD - \$775,000
Beach cottage with strong rental
history, updates, and newer sea wall.
3/2, 976sf



MURRAY HILL

4528 ROYAL AVENUE - \$190,000
Cute bungalow near 4 Corners Park,
3/1, 1286sf,
great front porch



SOLD

4531 SUSSEX AVE #2
Under Contract
in 8 days!



WATERFRONT

4730 PRINCE EDWARD RD - \$1,250,000
Gorgeous 2-story 4/4.5, 4847sf,
saltwater pool, two 2-car garages,
guest house, dock and lift



CUTE CAPE COD

4022 ORTEGA BLVD - \$369,900
3/2.5, 2650sf, precious Cape Cod
close to schools, open kitchen,
family room, great backyard



SALE PENDING

4617 ORTEGA FOREST DR - \$539,000
Amazing kitchen + master bath
remodel, 4/3, 2864sf, open floorplan,
bonus room w/ full bath



SOLD

4034 BALTIC ST
Under Contract
in 3 days!



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ORTEGA FOREST

4321 SHERWOOD RD - \$339,900
Picture-perfect 3/2 in Stockton School
district, updated kitchen, big family
room opens to great backyard



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2777 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD - \$425,000
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53 WILLOW FALLS TRAIL - \$279,000
Under Contract in 10 days!
Picture-perfect 3/2.5 builder model
townhome in Willowcove.



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931 MAPLETON TERR
Under Contract
in 4 days!



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Emergency sewer repair project underway in Ortega Forest

For the next two weeks, Jacksonville Energy Authority crews will be finishing a month-long sewer line repair project which began Aug. 14.

JEA is replacing a portion of a failing sanitary sewer trunk line on Ortega Forest Drive between Verona Avenue and Eton Lane. Since failures to sewer trunk lines can potentially cause major sewer back-ups and roadway issues, JEA crews are working as quickly and safely as possible to make the necessary repairs, according to JEA.

Construction is occurring in the City's streets, rights-of-way and easements Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

but in some circumstances weekend and extended hours may be necessary.

To safely perform the necessary repairs, JEA removed ground water with pump systems prior to construction. These pump systems are operating continuously during the repairs.

Restoration of the project area will begin after the new sewer trunk line has been installed, tested and cleared for use. Upon completion of the project, any existing pavement, grass, curb, gutter, driveways or sidewalks affected during construction will be returned to pre-construction condition.



Detour route for closed portion of Ortega Forest Drive while a sanitary sewer line is being repaired.

Season opener a 'bubbly' affair

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

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

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

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

During this extended closure, motorists on Interstate 95 southbound will be able to take the Forest Street/Riverside Avenue exit ramp 352A, which will not be affected. Interstate 95 southbound exit ramp 351B to Interstate 10 westbound will remain open.

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



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

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

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

New cancer center to hold open house

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

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

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

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What Everyone Should Know About Breast Health

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FREE ADMISSION – DINNER WILL BE SERVED
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As part of our commitment to enhance breast health education, UF Health invites you to participate in a free question-and-answer session about the latest information on breast cancer led by a panel of health care experts.

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Directed by Shahla Masood, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville
Medical Director, UF Health Breast Center – Jacksonville
Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine,
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Psychiatry

Shahla Masood, MD
Professor and Chair
Pathology

Smita Sharma, MD
Assistant Professor
Radiology

Bharti Jasra, MD
Assistant Professor
Surgery

John D. Murray, MD
Assistant Professor
Plastic Surgery

Gladys P. Velarde, MD
Associate Professor
Cardiology

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

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

For more information or to RSVP, call 904.244.6069 or email karen.earick@jax.ufl.edu by Oct. 8. Seating is limited. This event is open only to adults 18 and older.



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Riverside dog park to undergo reconfiguration

FDOT needs space under bridge for construction zone

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

Beginning this month, dog owners who visit the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park will notice changes in both the large and small dog areas.

The changes – which include decreasing the size of the small dog area – are necessary to accommodate a construction zone in the portion of the large dog area which extends under the Fuller Warren Bridge. The Florida Department of Transportation will use the area for the next two years to stage equipment during the I-10/I-95 improvements, which includes adding a bicycle/pedestrian path on the bridge from Riverside to San Marco.



Brooks Andrews shares plans to reconfigure the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park with dog owners.

In coordination with the City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department and Riverside Avondale Preservation, the Friends of the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park presented a reconfiguration of the dog park to dog owners on Aug. 11, requesting feedback.

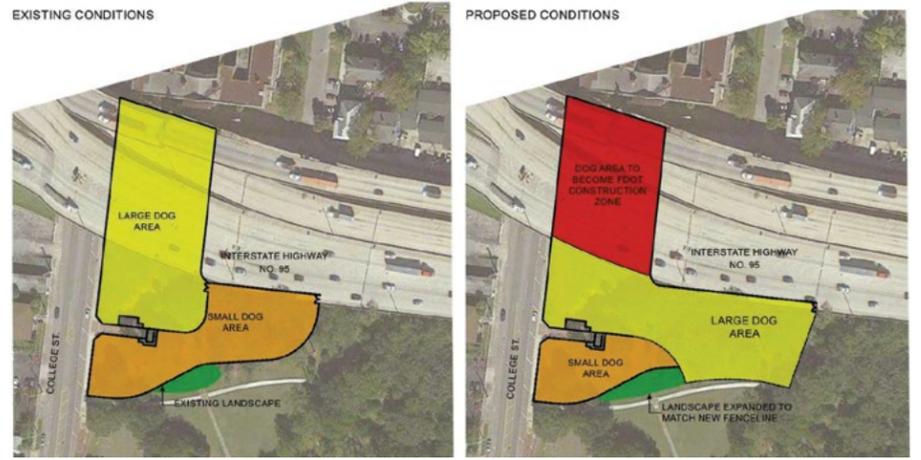
About two dozen residents attended the meeting, which was followed by the monthly park clean-up.

“Because the park is so well used, it gets a lot of pressure,” said Brooks Andrews, who leads the Friends group. “We’re missing grass on the large dog side and it’s hard to maintain the cleanliness of the park because it is used so much.”

The FDOT owns the property under I-95 and gave it to the City of Jacksonville and the John Gorrie Dog Park in hopes it would be part of the park. “It’s been great,” said Andrews, “but it’s also problematic. We’ve had some erosion problems and the ground granite hasn’t composted like it was supposed to and so a lot of people go home with a lot of dirty dogs, unfortunately.”

Andrews said the City brought in six inches of mulch, which will be replenished as needed, and the Parks Department plans to add a gravel area around the water fountains to prevent muddy ground. Andrews has also requested more trash cans and dog waste stations. Also, RAP’s ReLEAF tree committee has reviewed the park to see where they can add new shade trees.

The back (or northernmost) fence line of the large dog area, which is adjacent to the Annie Lytle Elementary School property, will be moved about 40 to 50 feet closer to the dog park entrance on College Street – essentially removing the 35,000-square-foot portion of the large dog area which extends



The proposed reconfiguration of John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park decreases the size of the small dog area and rotates the large dog area 90 degrees to allow FDOT to use the area under the Fuller Warren Bridge as a construction zone.

under the Fuller Warren Bridge. The large dog area, currently 50,000 square feet, will become 45,000 square feet.

The east fence line of the small dog area will be moved farther east toward Park Street to accommodate large dogs, thereby decreasing the size of the small dog area from 30,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet. “Most small dog parks are smaller than what we currently have,” said Andrews.

According to Nancy Powell, board chair for Riverside Avondale Preservation, the re-design of the park provides a line of sight to enable dog owners to keep an eye on their pets. The reconfiguration, designed by Jill Enz, a landscape architect with the Parks and Recreation Department, will not cut into Riverside Park.

“The Parks Department has been very generous in lending their time and expertise to redesign the park,” said Powell. “Jill was very thoughtful about what she is proposing.

It will give the large dogs more space, shade and grass, while maintaining the needs of the small dog park.”

Powell said by re-using existing fencing, including the decorative fencing, it will be very cost-effective for the City.

After FDOT has moved the fence line, the City will begin to reconfigure the dog park and will minimize down-time by only shutting down one area at a time. In two years, after FDOT has finished its improvements to I-95 and the Fuller Warren Bridge, the space under the bridge will be returned to the City, but it may or may not be re-used for the dog park, said Andrews. It may become part of the Emerald Necklace bicycle/pedestrian trail or be used for other purposes.

Dog park clean-up days are held the second Saturday of each month, 9-11 a.m. The Friends group also plans to offer a dog etiquette workshop as there have been issues with dogs that appear not to be “socialized,” said Andrews.

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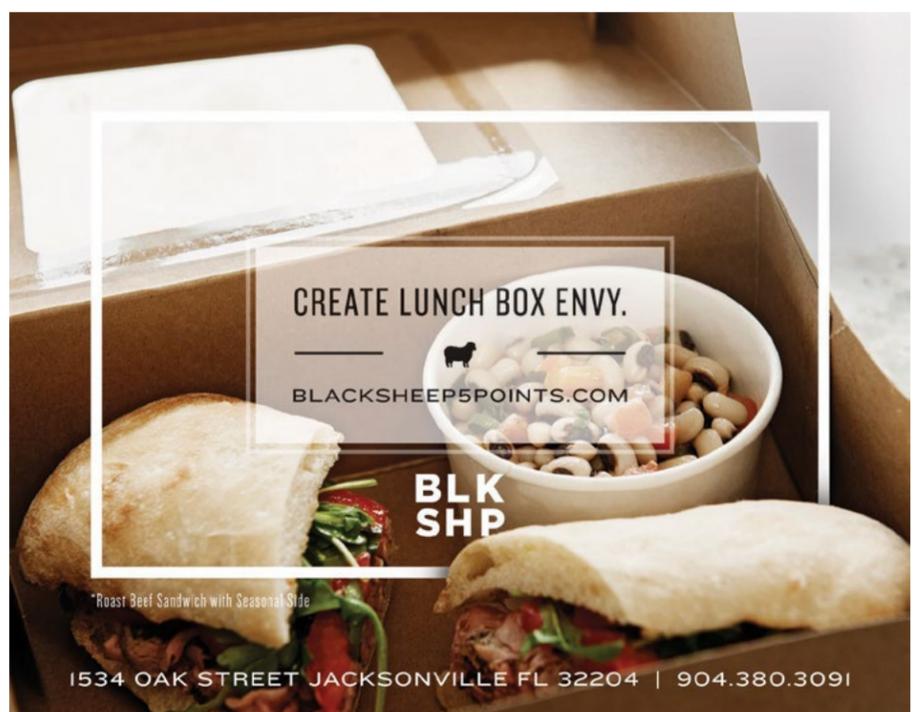
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3222 ST JOHNS AVENUE

This incredible home was built in 1904 as a waterfront mansion years before the neighborhood of Avondale was even conceived. In 1914, oxen were used to move the house one block over to its present location. It has been meticulously updated over the past 13 years. This 5,313 sq ft home is located on a double lot and has a 3-car garage with a charming 1BR/1BA apartment above. Only 3 families have owned it and now you can become a part of history as well.

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CURTIS WILLIS III
505-0506

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED LISTINGS



2912 ST JOHNS AVENUE
2/2, 1,159 square feet
LISTED BY DULCE LAKE
\$149,500



1288 AZALEA DRIVE
2/1, 1,566 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$229,000



1213 DANCY STREET
2/1, 902 square feet
LISTED BY ERICA DAVIS
\$195,000



2874 SELMA STREET
3/1, 1,325 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$267,000



2878 REMINGTON STREET
3/2, 1,369 square feet
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTRES
\$299,000



REDUCED

4227 ROBIN HOOD ROAD
5/3.5, 3,319 square feet
LISTED BY CATHERINE TAPPOUNI
\$425,000



5917 CREED COURT
3/1.5, 1,120 square feet
LISTED BY SETH KIMBALL
\$149,900



2646 FORBES STREET
4/3, 2,243 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$390,000



1334 SUNSET VIEW LANE
4/3, 3,463 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$769,000



327 5TH STREET
3/2.5, 2,080 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$330,000



7647 FANNING DRIVE
3/2, 1,864 square feet
LISTED BY SHERRY FAIRCLOTH
\$239,900



2645 OAKGROVE AVENUE
5/5, 5,069 square feet
LISTED BY SHARON FRIELES
\$925,000

**Introducing...Mona Gardella,
Director of Market Development**

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



MONA GARDELLA
Director of
Market Development
(904) 803-8739

IBERIABANK closes Ortega branch; two remain in Northeast Florida

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



IBERIABANK on San Juan Avenue and Herschel Street closed Aug. 28.

A bank building constructed for Florida Bank in 2008 at the onset of the last economic recession, then acquired by Iberiabank Corp. in 2015, has closed its doors to customers at 4211 San Juan Ave. as of Aug. 28.

“Like many banks, IBERIABANK continues to adjust its model as we work to meet the changing needs of our client base,” said Abel Harding, executive vice president and North Florida Market president, via email. “Branch closures are occasionally part of that evolution as we work to provide more services via online banking and apps.”

The Ortega branch was one of three Iberiabank Corp. offices in Northeast Florida after the Lafayette, Louisiana-based financial institution acquired and merged with Florida Bank Group in 2015.

Customers were directed to the remaining two locations in downtown Jacksonville and in Ponte Vedra Beach, however, Harding noted the bank is working with its clients to offer solutions that best fit their needs. “With some of our commercial and business clients, we’ve introduced solutions that allow them to handle all of their banking needs through our online offerings. With others, we’ve offered a courier service. We are also exploring options that would allow us to continue to offer a full-service

ATM in the neighborhood for our consumer clients,” he said.

“Our commercial and business banking clients are important to our continued growth, but we view consumer and private banking as a vital part of the equation as well,” Harding said. “We value our diverse client base and plan to continue to grow it throughout Jacksonville.”

Shortly before the onset of the economic recession in 2007, Florida Bank Group, Inc. bought the corner property for \$1 million from Alfred and Martha Davis in September 2007. The 2,800-square-foot building and property has an assessed value of \$949,800, according to the Property Appraiser’s website.

“Commercial space in the Ortega neighborhood is in high demand and we’ve been approached by a number of folks who recognize the unique value of our existing San Juan location, but it’s too early in the process to share any future plans for the site,” said Harding.

Regarding branch staff, Harding said the bank has worked with each of them to find other opportunities both inside and outside our organization. “We are thrilled that Tanya Guydos, who has managed the Ortega office for a number of years, has agreed to lead our Downtown team,” he said.

RAP ReLEAF project underway

Replenishing the tree canopy in Riverside, Avondale and other neighborhoods in District 14 is underway, thanks to a coordinated effort by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) and 25 volunteers.

From mid-May through early July, the volunteers and 200 survey respondents identified over 500 potential locations where residents want new trees in residential public right of way areas, parks and medians in the historic district, according to Nancy Powell, RAP board chair.

In July, the RAP tree committee submitted the collected data to Kathleen McGovern, Jacksonville’s arborist, and Richard Leon, urban forester, then met to review the project. They are currently planning site visits to each location to confirm the appropriate tree can be planted in the designated location.

Once McGovern and Leon verify the locations, targeted for completion by the end of September, they will prepare a total cost estimate. After funding is approved through City Council, tree planting is

targeted to begin in early December and run through the winter months.

“Some homeowners requested specific species, and the plan is to make every effort to honor those requests, however if the location cannot accommodate that species, another species will be substituted, or the homeowner can opt not to have a tree planted,” said Powell.

RAP’s volunteers and tree committee members will convene to determine how to best communicate to homeowners regarding such requests, once the site visit analysis has occurred, most likely in the October-November timeframe.

There will also be coordination with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department for trees identified for the parks, so that effort may have a separate timeline, yet to be determined.

Additional individual tree requests, including assessment of diseased or damaged trees in the right of way, can be made by contacting 630city.coj.net.

Willowbranch Library offering honor system book sale

The Friends of Willowbranch have recently created an honor system book sale section near the DVD collection at the Willowbranch Library, 2875 Park St., according to Roxanne Henkle, president of the library friends’ group.

After a number of successful pop-up book sales, selling children’s books and mystery and thrillers, a great idea came from the Friends of South Mandarin Library – to have an ongoing book sale, with dedicated bookshelves full of donated books for patrons to purchase.

Henkle started a coordinated effort with Willowbranch Library Manager Margaret Morford and Regional Manager Marshelle Berry to look at the possibility of having dedicated shelves for an honor system book sale.

The work was completed with help from Juanita Ludford and Carol Smith, who will also oversee the collection of children’s and adults’ books, including sorting, labeling, and shelving donated books. Library patrons will not be required to take the



Juanita Ludford and retired librarian Carol Smith curate the Willowbranch Honor System Book Sale.

specially-labeled books to the circulation desk; just place the money in a collection box.

“The Friends of Willowbranch would like to extend a special heartfelt thank-you to our Riverside Avondale book-loving community who consistently donate books to the library,” said Henkle. “Your generous book donation allows us to make this project happen. We would also like to thank our early reader patrons of the honor system book sale who found out about the ongoing sale via NextDoor and our Friends of Willowbranch Facebook page.”

The Jacksonville Public Library System’s budget is very tight, said Henkle. “All the money we raised over the years assists Willowbranch Library with additional support for materials, funding for projects and upcoming programming.”

Fall Art Fest at Willowbranch Library

The Willowbranch Library, 2875 Park St., will celebrate art from acclaimed local artists at a Fall Art Fest, Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to displays by a dozen artists, the event will include guest speakers on film production and on art in the Main Library’s Makerspace, as well as hands-on art projects for all ages.

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Highway improvements FROM PAGE 1

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

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

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

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

Construction will also begin on the foundation work to widen the overpass from I-95 northbound to I-10 westbound in mid-September. In preparation for the



View of construction activity from Fuller Warren Bridge (Photo courtesy of FDOT)

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

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

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

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

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

“People are all in a rush, but we all want to get home safely,” she said. “We have



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

construction crews right there on the shoulder working at night. And it’s a bridge, too, so you can imagine with the winds and speeding traffic it makes for an unsafe situation for our crews.”

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

“It’s so important that people realize it’s a construction zone,” she said.

The project, which started at the end of February 2017, will help ease and manage the flow of traffic along the I-95 and I-10 interchange. “About 250,000 vehicles use the interchange daily and that’s expected to rise to approximately 290,000 by 2040,”

Struys said. “To accommodate that increase an expansion of lanes is now needed.”

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

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

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Navy conducting water testing in Venetia area wells for possible contamination

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Residents in the Venetia neighborhood and the Timuquana Country Club were put on alert by the U.S. Navy after Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense (DOD) issued a report that NAS Jacksonville has groundwater polluted from decades of chemicals used during firefighting training on the base.

Two years ago, the DOD tested 17 shallow groundwater-monitoring wells on the base and found a chemical called perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) at 19,000 times higher than the recommended level. The manmade chemical is not absorbed well in soil and could migrate to groundwater, stated a press release issued by the Public Affairs Office at NAS Jacksonville Aug. 7.

In March, the DOD put the base on a national list of 36 contaminated military installations and began to check the surrounding community.

So far, they have identified more than 20 private wells which may be contaminated and has begun testing the wells. The Timuquana Country Club's golf course was also scheduled to be tested because,

as it turns out, the base has been providing filtered water from a holding pond, which has a concentration of the chemicals, to the club to irrigate its golf course.

Greg Sheara, general manager for the club, said he didn't know how long the club has accessed the pond for its course irrigation, but did state the Navy was proactive and tested the drinking water in cooperation with the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA). "There is no impact on the facility or on the drinking water," said Sheara, noting they are working closely with the Navy on tests of the golf course. "Results for that won't be back until later in September."

The Navy also sent letters to about 3,000 area residents asking them for permission to sample their drinking water if their source is not from the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA) water lines.

"If your private drinking water well is found to contain PFOS and/or PFOA at or above the U.S. EPA lifetime health advisory level, the Navy will provide bottled drinking water or an alternate drinking water supply. We will continue to provide alternate drinking water until a long-term solution is in place," stated the letter from the base's commanding officer, Captain M. P. Connor.

"If your private drinking water well is found to contain PFOS and/or PFOA at or above the U.S. EPA lifetime health advisory level, the Navy will provide bottled drinking water or an alternate drinking water supply. We will continue to provide alternate drinking water until a long-term solution is in place."

— Captain M. P. Connor, NAS Commanding Officer



The "area of interest" regarding potentially contaminated groundwater includes Venetia, the Timuquana Country Club and Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park.

The "long-term solution" would most likely be connecting those properties to the JEA water lines, at the Navy's expense, said Kaylee LaRocque, NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer.

The two chemicals, together called polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are used in the manufacture of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) used during firefighting operations. The Environmental Protection Agency has classified PFAS as an unregulated or "emerging" contaminant which are not subject to Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements.

While there is no legal requirement to perform the testing, the Navy is doing the

testing out of a desire to be proactive and to ensure the safety and well-being of its neighbors, according to a statement on its website.

The Navy also held an open house Aug. 16 to allow residents to voice concerns. Pete Dao, EPA project manager, said the agency doesn't dispute the chemicals could present a very real health risk, but little amounts of the chemical would need to be regularly ingested over a long period of time or a high level be present all at once for people to be endangered.

For technical information about the investigation, visit cnic.navy.mil and enter "Jacksonville FL drinking water investigation" in the search bar.

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Pelican Water Systems brings mobile showroom to your front door

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pelican Water Systems' Mobile Retail Centers can be at your home for a free consultation within three days of making an appointment. Appointments are set Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and can be made on Saturdays. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (904) 404-7199, visit PelicanJacksonville.com or see the ad on page 35

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Historic tree canopies in danger from over-reactive property owners

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

There is perhaps nothing that symbolizes the South – and the historic neighborhoods in Jacksonville – more than live oak trees. Many have survived for centuries; consider Treaty Oak in Jessie Ball duPont Park on the Southbank.

Unfortunately, some live oaks that have provided significant tree canopy for decades are being removed because property owners are fearful of potential damage to their homes from trees because of hurricanes. That preemptive strike doesn't sit well with one Avondale resident.

"The old growth tree canopy is the very essence of the neighborhood. My concern is that as hurricanes increase and intensify (as a result of global change) the canopy could be destroyed by our residents," said Pamela Telis, founder of Friends of Boone Park South.

The right tree planted in the right place can add value to property, provide much needed shade and comfort, promote walkability, filter pollution, absorb storm water runoff, and a single live oak can add up to \$30,000 value to a property, according to Francis Putz, a botanist at the University of Florida.

Putz also states a live oak planted near a house can act as a windbreak during a hurricane because they are extremely wind-resistant, but Early Piety, a tree specialist who cares for Treaty Oak, said it's more likely the building will serve to protect the tree. "Live oaks are notoriously tough trees,

resilient and handle the wind well, but they are not a windbreak," Piety said, noting the tall buildings behind Treaty Oak protected it from Hurricane Irma.

For homeowners who are concerned about damage from falling trees, Piety said the more brittle trees, such as sweet gums and maples, are more likely to lose limbs during a storm than a live oak.

For Telis, it's ironic that property owners are taking such drastic measures at the same time Riverside Avondale Preservation has been conducting a survey to add more trees to the historic district to replenish the canopy by tapping into the \$20 million Tree Mitigation Fund.

"Here we are at RAP [and the] City working hard to support and maintain our tree canopy and we have uninformed owners who move into our neighborhood for the tree canopy then get 'scared' by tree companies that know little about trees," said Telis, who wants RAP to review the municipal code and then determine if it meets the goals as a neighborhood and city.

Although the City of Jacksonville does have a permit process for the removal of trees, when properties are single family residences, no permit is required, according to Richard Leon, the City's Urban Forest Manager.

Since no permit is required, neither is engaging a tree specialist to determine if disease is a reason to take down a shade tree. Property owners can hire a tree removal company, which may or may not have an arborist on staff, to cut down a healthy tree, regardless of its age.



Trees in the right-of-way, like these along Challen Avenue in Avondale, are protected from removal unless an arborist has determined they are diseased, or they are in the way of a property under development, in which case they must be mitigated for.

Piety, who owns Specialty Tree Surgeons and is a certified arborist, said it's hard to tell simply by looking at a tree if it is diseased. "Live oaks are susceptible to a heart rot fungus which makes the limbs hollow, but you don't know unless you saw it off," he said.

Some tree specialists will drill into a tree to measure decay with a tool called a resistograph, but Piety prefers to knock on the trunk and listen to determine if it's become hollow.

Some trees are, however, protected from removal and, in some cases, permits are required.

The "Citizen's Guide to the City of Jacksonville's Tree Permit Application Process" indicates permits are required to remove protected trees as well as trees

exempt from mitigation fees, which must have evidence of entitlement to exempt the property owner from paying into the Tree Trust Fund.

According to the guidelines, trees located on property which includes a single-family home are exempt from mitigation and can be legally removed. Protected trees on private or public property include those which have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of six inches or more and are located within 20 feet of a street right-of-way; a DBH of eight inches or more located within 10 feet of any other property line, and a DBH of 11.5 inches or more located elsewhere on the property.

To read the tree removal permit guide, visit residentnews.net and enter Tree in the search bar.

Riverside Avondale Preservation offers workshop on zoning

Riverside Avondale Preservation is offering a community information session on the basics of land use and zoning, with a focus on the Riverside Avondale Historic District and Riverside Avondale Zoning Overlay.

The workshop, Zoning 101 – How Decisions Are Made and Why It Matters, will be held Monday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., at Riverside Presbyterian Church, 849 Park St.

The session, which will be led by the City of Jacksonville's Folks Huxford, Chief of Current Planning Division, and Kristen Reed, Chief of Community Planning Division, will provide answers to questions about zoning in general and in the historic districts; how land use differs from zoning; what the Zoning Overlay is about and how it affects residents; who makes the decisions and does the public's voice matter.

Army Corps sets Fishweir Creek dredging meeting

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville District) will hold a public meeting to discuss the plans of the proposed dredging of Big Fishweir Creek. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 20, 6-8 p.m. at the Willowbranch Library, 2875 Park Street.

RE-SAVE THE DATE!

The Timucuan River Race was rescheduled to Saturday, Oct. 13, starting at 9 a.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 5042 Timuquana Rd. For details about the fundraising event, visit timucuan.net.



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GEM LAPIDARY

To my valued customers and friends,

After over 40 years in the jewelry business, the time has come for me to scale back some of my responsibilities. My intentions are to close Gem Lapidary Jewelers on December 24, 2018 and to transfer my remaining supplies and inventory to Elements Jewelry Studio, located at 1631 University Blvd., W in the Lakewood shopping area.

Aaron and Jennifer Ramoutar, the owners of Elements Jewelry Studio are both incredibly talented jewelers and have offered me a position to continue my hand engraving business in their store.

It is my hope that my loyal customers will give Aaron and Jennifer the opportunity to take care of their jewelry needs.

In order to facilitate my move in an orderly manner I will not accept any jewelry for repair after September 30, 2018. I will accept hand engraving only, after that date.

My contact numbers should remain the same at 904-388-1200 and C-904-704-9816.

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

Text "flight" to 515-55 to subscribe.

Residents split on where to put tax dollars

By Patricia Larkin, Resident Community News

While Jacksonville's City Council and Finance Committee review Mayor Lenny Curry's proposed 2018-2019 budget of \$1.2 billion, *The Resident* wanted to know where residents feel the funds would best serve the community: law enforcement/

fire and rescue; arts and culture; education (including schools, museums and libraries); infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, etc.), downtown development, or other.

Following are some residents' thoughts to the questions "Where do you think your tax dollars should be applied to do the most good for the City of Jacksonville? And why?"



John Paul, Avondale

"Our tax dollars should ultimately go to roads, schools, public works like libraries and parks. Anything that is going to make our lives easier and our neighborhoods better."



Genevieve Bell, Riverside

"Probably the LaVilla area. Downtown and Historic LaVilla has a lot of historic value there. We can preserve its history but also develop it."



Angie Weakland, Ortega

"More tax dollars need to go to education, since most middle schools took away one class elective this year. As a mother of middle schoolers, I think that's important."



Casey Shroyer, Murray Hill

"Arts and education. I just think it's important to be creative for students and education is obviously important for people to be moving forward."



Joseph Morris, Riverside

"I think most of our dollars should be put to the shipyards to improve our tourist image and revitalize our downtown scene. I also wouldn't mind seeing our dollars go to the skyway to connect Riverside to the downtown experience."



Sarah Griffin, Murray Hill

"Arts and culture, and education 100 percent. I have a 10-year-old son and run a business, so for me building up the urban core, any arts and culture we can bring to the neighborhood is beneficial to the city overall."

Bridge replacement, new sidewalks coming to Lakeside



Safety cones on the small bridge over an inlet behind the Roosevelt Square Mall alert motorists to a hole in the pavement.

Early in August, safety cones and barricades were placed on the pavement over the box culvert on Lakeside Drive behind the Roosevelt Square Mall, diverting motorists around a hole adjacent to the center line. The Florida Department of Transportation inspected the bridge in February 2018 and stated it is safe for vehicular traffic.

Earlier in the summer, the bridge plans and specifications were revised by a City of Jacksonville engineering consultant to include the sidewalks along Lakeside Drive in the same bid package. Public Works advised that, if funding allows, they plan to install a sidewalk on both sides of Lakeside Drive, such that there is a pathway, from the parking area under U.S. 17/Roosevelt Boulevard to Herschel Street, according to a City spokesperson. The City's Public Works Department will begin to advertise for construction bids, with an expectation that construction will begin before the end of the year.

Annual river race selected as first global marathon swim in Jacksonville

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

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

swimming and a healthy, active and adventurous lifestyle.

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

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

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

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

Swimmers will be escorted by support watercraft, including kayaks for close

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

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

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Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center serves all ages, income levels

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



SLP Ciara Johnson works with speech patient.

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

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

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

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

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Dog lovers have new boutique to visit in Avondale

A Fernandina Beach family so taken with the historic district decided to open a new business in Avondale and are also in the process of looking for a home in the area.

Mike and Kimberly Thomas, along with their daughter, Stacy Bretz, opened Woof Gang Bakery Aug. 18 at the former J. Ashley Boutique location at 3590 St. Johns Ave.

“We took a stroll down St. Johns in Avondale. By the time we made it to the end of the row of shops there was no question – Avondale was a pet community,” said Kimberly Thomas. “We decided that Avondale was perfect for our store and we will strive to be perfect for the pets of Avondale and surrounding areas.”

Woof Gang Bakery is the family’s first retail endeavor, but they are very familiar

with the franchise as Mike is a corporate employee. Kimberly and Stacy have backgrounds in the medical field, but are in training to become certified pet nutrition specialists.

The new business offers full-service grooming, dog training, quality foods, raw food, chews, treats and, of course, toys. They have a social room for birthday parties and other special events such as dental cleaning, ice cream socials, pet photography and more.

Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Woof Gang Bakery does not offer day care or boarding, but the owners plan to add short-term dog sitting so customers can enjoy their favorite Avondale restaurant when it’s too warm to sit outside.



Stacy Bretz and Kimberly Thomas

Sean Cronin named to 2019 Best Lawyers list



Attorney Sean B. Cronin, a partner at Cronin & Maxwell, PL was included for the eighth year in “The Best Lawyers in America.” He was selected in the practice area of Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs for the 2019 listing in the oldest attorney ranking service in the world.

Prior to practicing law, Cronin served as a pilot in the U.S. Navy as a P-3C Mission Commander, Patrol Plane Commander and Naval Aviation Safety Officer. He is an FAA-certified commercial pilot with multiple and single engine instrument ratings. He represents victims of medical malpractice – including navy and military malpractice, aviation accidents and defective products.

Cronin graduated from Jacksonville University and Florida State University College of Law and is a Commander in the United States Navy Reserves-Retired.

United Way provides school supplies for students, teachers

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

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

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



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



Hundreds of Northeast Florida residents donated school supplies for Stuff the Bus during the community-wide drop-off day Aug. 3 at The Markets at Town Center. (Photo Credit: United Way of Northeast Florida)



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Venetia resident takes gavel as new West Jacksonville Rotary president

James “Jimmy” Kelly, a Venetia resident and alumnus of Robert E. Lee High School, is the new president for the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville. A member of the organization since 1994, Kelly said he is humbled and honored to serve the Rotary in leadership.



Jimmy Kelly

“When you look at the list of past presidents, it reads like a Who’s Who – Bill Gay, Bob Shircliff, Jim Overton and Michael Corrigan, Jr. – just to name a few,” he said. “For my name to be included is one of the highlights of my life. I am humbled and grateful for this opportunity. Together we will continue to ‘be the inspiration,’” said Kelly, referring to this year’s theme.

Kelly, a graduate of the University of Florida, spent his career in sales, marketing and public relations, but said he found his passion in 2006 in nonprofit management. He served as director of development for the Daniel Memorial Foundation and was CEO and executive director for Dreams Come True. “I developed a passion for helping children,” he said.

Kelly and his wife, Cindy, attended the Rotary International Conference in Toronto in June, where nearly 35,000 members come from more than 180 countries around the world. “It’s four days of learning, sharing ideas and fellowship for incoming presidents and their spouses,” he said.

“I believe and live by the Rotary motto ‘Service above self,’” said Kelly, who has served on the board for 10 years in a variety of positions. The West Jacksonville club has 135 members and meets every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Florida Yacht Club.

Artists awarded microgrants to assist entrepreneurship



Manila Clough



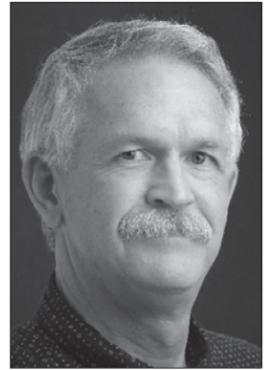
Crystal Floyd



Boja Kragul



Mark Krancer



Bob Self

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

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

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

DIA head takes on new role with JAXUSA

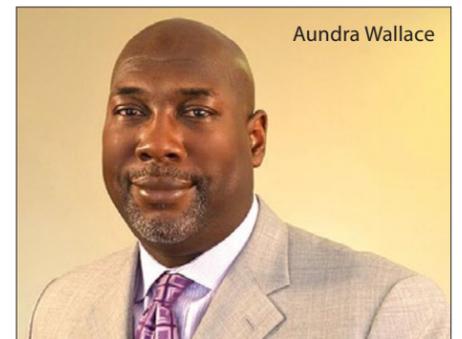
After five years serving as chief executive officer for the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), Aundra Wallace will be the next president of JAXUSA Partnership, the economic development arm of JAX Chamber, effective Oct. 1. Earlier this year, longtime JAXUSA President Jerry Mallot announced he would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

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

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

“Through a very competitive process, Aundra emerged as the right person at the right time to lead our economic development at JAXUSA Partnership,” Davis said. “We have incredible momentum right now and Aundra will use his skills and relationships, both within Jacksonville and around the globe, to keep the momentum going and attract jobs to our region.”

Wallace, 50, has helped finalize and move forward deals which had struggled to take off over the years, such as the Barnett Building and the Laura Street Trio and the former JEA Southside Generating Station on the Southbank, which will be a mixed-use development known as The District.



Aundra Wallace

Wallace also structured the financial incentive package to assist One Call Management with its business expansion on the Southbank and participated in and helped facilitate the VyStar headquarters relocation to downtown Jacksonville.

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



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Family-owned market celebrates 50 years in community

For decades, families in Riverside and Avondale and other nearby neighborhoods, have dined at home on quality meats and steaks hand-cut at the Pinegrove Market, which celebrated its 50th anniversary under the Bajalia family ownership with a celebration Aug. 12.

When the market opened at 10 a.m. that Sunday morning, Sherri and Marshall Crews were the first in the doors, to select some steaks for dinner later that day. The Riverside couple has been patrons of Pinegrove for more than 10 years.

"I heard about it from my colleagues at Black Knight," said Marshall, who is now retired. "The food is what drives us here, the fresh meats." Sherri, who still works at Black Knight, said she saw an ad years ago for the market in *The Resident*. "It feels like a family here, homey, with lots of locals. The sandwiches are fantastic."



Bajalia brothers Nader, Sal and Roger

Bader "Bud" Bajalia bought the Pinegrove Meat Market in 1968, and for many decades it served the community as a butcher shop. Around 2000 his sons added salads and other deli items to the menu. The additional offerings were so popular Bajalia suggested staying later in the evening, and they applied for re-zoning to function as a restaurant. In July, the family debuted the Pinegrove Burger Bar food truck at Riverside Arts Market.

"We've put a of time and effort into building up what we have now, and we take pride in that," said Nader. "Anything that goes out of this shop has been approved by me or

my brothers. All of us have the knowledge to provide continuity of quality. We try to take what our mom and dad gave us over the years, hard work, a little bit of sweat and tears, that will help you achieve what you want to do."

From time to time, Bajalia, and his wife, Jeanette, come in to help out the boys – Nader and his twin brothers, Roger and Sal, who run the market and restaurant. The elder Bajalias, who had immigrated separately to the United States from Jerusalem in the 1950s and '60s, celebrated their own 50th wedding anniversary April 24, 2016.



Bud and Jeanette Bajalia

Junior League announces new officers

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



Anne Detlefsen

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

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

Co-op offers chemical-free products

A retail co-operative formed by six master herbalists, King Street Co-op held its grand opening party Aug. 4, although the business had officially opened July 1 at 1508 King St.

Many of the store's natural, chemical-free products have been developed as a joint effort by co-op owners Stacy Bowen, Amy Norton, Bethany Sutherland, Angela Assante, Kelli Jones, and Alexi Potignano. The women are graduates of Donna McGee's Florida School of Holistic Health, which has a studio next door at 1506 King St. They are also working on completing certification as medical/clinical herbalists.

In addition to the products such as deodorants, sunscreens, insect repellents, dry shampoos, toothpastes and mouthwashes developed jointly, the shop offers teas, lotions, salves, balms, oils, candles, jewelry and other items from local craftsmen and artisans.

Stacy Bowen, Amy Norton, Bethany Sutherland, Angela Assante, Kelli Jones, Alexi Potignano and Donna McGee



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Betsy and David Leavitt

Miramar couple ties knot in Nashville

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

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

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



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

Annual backpack challenge results in nearly 800 collected

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

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

"We are truly grateful that our Realtors, employees, clients and community joined together and contributed the supplies many local children need to begin the school year, setting the foundation for a student's confidence and academic success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "Our team looks

forward to participating in the Backpack Challenge every year and we are very proud of their efforts."

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

"Words cannot express how much we appreciate the numerous donations and generous support we received during the Backpack Challenge," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "Our team loves to support events that provide opportunities to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our communities. We are thankful for the donations we received and for our dedicated team who helped make the event a tremendous success."

Naugle named Super Lawyer for third year

Katherine Schnauss Naugle, of Ortega Forest, has been selected to the 2018 Florida Super Lawyers list. No more than five percent of the lawyers in the state are selected by Super Lawyers. Chosen for the third time by Super Lawyers, Naugle is a Jacksonville native who practices in the areas of Probate, Estate Planning and Elder Law in the Riverside area.

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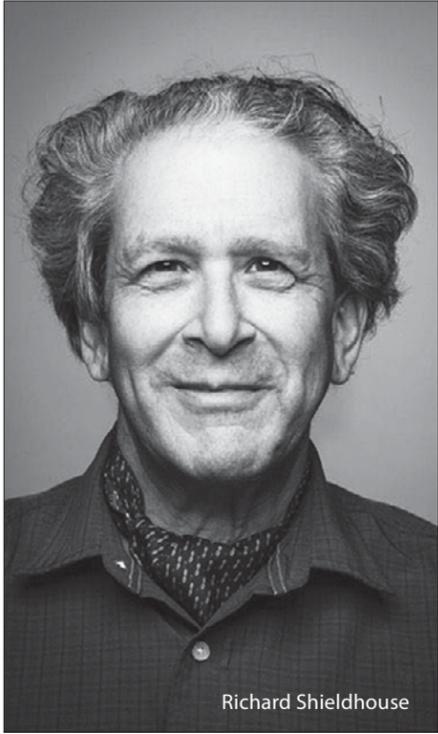
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Richard Shieldhouse

Avondale man authors book on contemporary Jacksonville architect

The University Press of Florida released a new book, "William Morgan: Evolution of an Architect," written by Avondale resident Richard Shieldhouse. The book offers readers a glimpse into the development of Morgan into "arguably the most important architect to emerge from Jacksonville," said the catalog description. Many of Morgan's important projects include the Police Administration Building and the Museum of Science and History, and the famous Dunehouses in Atlantic Beach.

Morgan (1930–2016) was a bold, innovative, and highly imaginative architect known internationally for fusing ancient and modern styles and for his early championing of green design principles. This extensively illustrated book traces

Morgan's life story and the development of his singular design vision.

Shieldhouse is a city planner, preservationist, and transportation planning specialist with more than 30 years in transportation systems. He has a Ph.D. in Design, Construction and planning from the University of Florida and a master's in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University's Kennedy School.

An expert on the economics of tourism and fluent in French and Spanish, Shieldhouse has spoken on the subject to numerous academic gatherings in France, Mexico, Spain, Canada and the United States. As vice president of the Jacksonville Sister Cities Association, Shieldhouse frequently travels to France to promote cultural and commercial exchanges.

Dry cleaner celebrates 20 years serving community



Steve Antzaklis

When the Antzaklis family moved to Jacksonville from Miami Beach in 1982, they stuck with what they knew to be a successful business and purchased Herman Jackson's Cleaners in San Marco. In 1998, Steve Antzaklis followed in his father Bill's footsteps and opened American Drive-In Cleaners at 4178 Herschel St.

Two decades later, Antzaklis said his customers are so loyal they bring him new customers. "I've never had business cards and I've never advertised," he said. "I've watched my customers' children grow up in this neighborhood."

Much of the loyalty comes from the way Antzaklis cleans garments – the old-fashioned way, he said. "We do it all, we don't send it out."

American Drive-In Cleaners handles specialty items such as wedding gowns, leathers and furs, and Antzaklis likes the face-to-face aspect of his business, preferring to chat with his customers about areas of concern, saying it's one reason he doesn't have a delivery service.

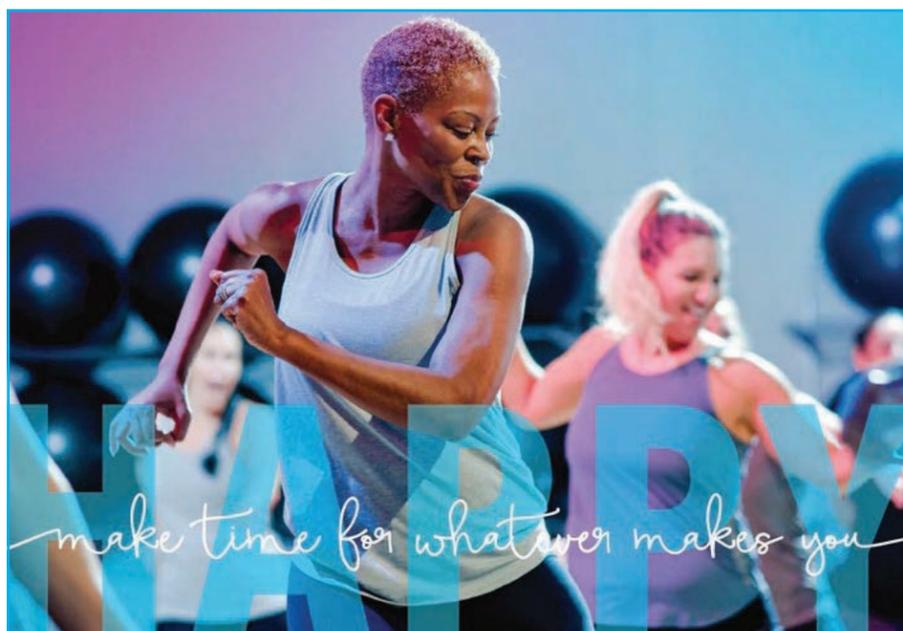
Ortega law firm throws back-to-school party for underprivileged children

For the third year in a row, the Law Offices of John M. Phillips threw a back-to-school party for children living at Eureka Gardens, a Westside low-income apartment complex prone to violence and afflicted with neglect.

"The tragedies at Eureka Gardens far outnumber any other region on the First Coast – mold, rust, bullets and carnage. The last two years have been a great success and saw outstanding achievement for those kids," said John Phillips, whose firm donated 100 backpacks and school supplies at the Aug. 6 event, which included the company's boombox trailer and an ice cream truck.



Attorneys and staff from the Law Offices of John M. Phillips give out school supplies to young residents of Eureka Gardens, a subsidized Westside housing complex.



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Bruce Musser



Pam Prier



Tim Hedrick

DESC welcomes three to board of directors

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

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

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

College, among many other community activities.

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

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

Murray Hill resident joins Avondale realty firm

Blake Meacham has joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty as an agent with four years' experience working in the local real estate market.

A graduate of Frank H. Peterson High School, Meacham worked in the service industry while attending Florida State College Jacksonville and the University of North Florida. Someday he hopes to pursue a law degree.

Meacham lives in Murray Hill with his wife, Megan, and a new Pomeranian puppy, Munch-Munch.



Blake Meacham

Family pets were motivating reason for new Riverside business



Daniel Moffatt and Dustin Fries

Dustin Fries and Daniel Moffatt share more than a common interest in their new business venture, Kanine Social.

Both men had corporate jobs and dropped them to pursue the opportunity to start a one-of-a-kind business. Both of their wives are Emergency Room physician's assistants. Both have babies under a year old. And both are dog lovers.

Together with their canine co-founders, Mason, Maverick and Murphy, two years ago Fries and Moffatt came up with the concept of a club for dog owners and their pets. "They are the reason we decided to create Kanine Social," said Moffatt.

Kanine Social, which opened Aug. 15, offers a private indoor/outdoor dog park, dog daycare, and a craft beer/coffee bar.

"We employ 10 people who share the same enthusiasm for dogs as we do," said Moffatt.

After contracts for other locations didn't pan out, the men closed on a former warehouse at 580 College St. last November, then spent the past nine months renovating the Brooklyn property.

"The Riverside area is ideal given the demographics of younger, dog owning families," said Moffatt, who said he and Fries also hope to be residents of the area in the future.

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Denim and Diamonds Gala has riverfront view

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

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



Lisé Everly with Katie Jeffries and Chris James



Walter and Sally Suslak with Margaret Purcell and Richard Faulkner



Trish Meili and Jim Schwarz



Gillian Ticehurst with Teresa Miles



Marcus and Alma Ballard with John Levalts

Environmental awards to be given Sept. 14 at symposium

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

Receiving the two major awards are John Crescimbeni, who will be honored with the Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award for his longtime commitment to scenic beauty and the environment, and Jimmy Orth, who will be honored with

the Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award for his longtime education and advocacy about sustainable living and protection of the natural environment.

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

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

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

fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation can have on the environment.

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

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

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5247 Alpha Avenue
3 BD/2 BA house boasts tile, new carpet and paint with a huge fenced yard. Conveniently located in the popular Murray Hill neighborhood with easy access to nearby Riverside/Avondale. \$113,500



4736 Astral Street
2BR/2BA with open floor plan in the living – dining area with fireplace, office, updated kitchen and baths, and covered parking. Conveniently located to FSCJ, neighbor shops, and cafes. 1,595 sq. ft. \$213,000



COMING SOON
1817 Willowbranch Terrace
Beautiful Avondale Tudor on the water. Each unit in the duplex features 3BR/2BA. Garage apartment is 500 sq. ft. with 1BR/1BA. Located near The Shops of Avondale, St Vincent's Hospital and Downtown. \$675,000



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



3022 St. Johns Avenue
This previous RAP tour of homes (showcase property) offers a large chefs kitchen, 3BR/3BA, charming dining room, large light & bright living room with fire place. Huge master includes a renovated en suite bathroom. 3,186 sq. ft. \$699,000



2847 Selma Street
Charming updated two story, 3BR/2BA bungalow offers a large kitchen with new cabinets, quartz counter tops, original refinished hardwood floors, 16'x12' deck over looking a beautiful back yard, detached extra large garage, and more. 1,608 sq. ft. \$325,000



1551 N. Alexandria Place
Beautiful 3BR/2.5BA with a welcoming front porch and view of Whatley Park. Filled with designer details, including a gourmand's kitchen with a gas stove, stainless steel counters and appliances 2,232 sq ft. \$691,000.



COMING SOON
2317 Ernest Street
Beautiful 3BR/1BA with living room, dining room, hardwood floors, office, updated kitchen and porch. The home is located in the exciting Riverside neighborhood and is conveniently located to the Historic 5 Points area. 1,100 sq ft. \$229,000.



2101 College Street
3BR/2BA gem with formal entry, separate living, dining, office, parlor and breakfast nook, built in 1912 has all the special architectural details of the period along with all the custom modern updates of today's times. 2,969 sq. ft. \$569,000



2732 Oak Street
8BR/8BA CRO-zoned 8-plex multi-family brings in more than \$5,000 per month in rents. Workshop, and significant owner storage. 1921 sq ft. \$550,000



5328 Poppy Drive
3BR/1BA brick home built in 1955. 1-car carport. Nice kitchen includes range, dishwasher, and refrigerator. Home includes hardwood floors, ceiling fans, updated HVAC, and fenced-in back yard. 1,040 sq. ft. \$100,000



5223 Freemont Street
2BR/1BA. The kitchen has granite countertops, subway tile backsplash, and updated stainless steel appliances. Each room is spacious and welcoming. Hardwood floors and plenty of storage make this house very livable. 1,176 sq. ft. \$145,000



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



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



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



3560 Boone Park Avenue
Refurbished duplex, each is 2BR/1BA. Hardwood and vinyl floors, new electric, open front porch, 2 covered carports. Walk to Boone Park and Shoppes of Avondale. 2,261 sq. ft. \$385,000

Rethreaded throws annual party for 7th birthday

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

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

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

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



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



Jennifer Wolfe with Rethreaded Executive Director Kristin Keen



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



Ann Marie McAree, Kevin McAree, and Angela McAree with David King, Ben and Stephanie Smith



Starletha Cherry, Megan Lentz, Patricia Larkin and Yhang Quintero



Ansley Busch with son Arlen



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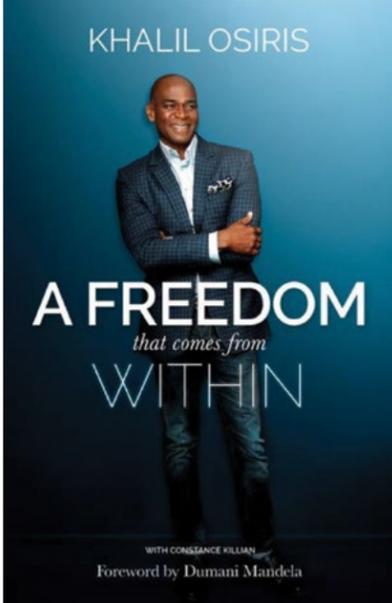
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Much of our contribution went to the Ken Knight Drive area, where the Ribault River caused disastrous flooding to so many homes. It did not take long for the water damage to ruin flooring, appliances and cause mold and mildew.

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



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

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



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Michael and Elizabeth Lahaie, Nikki Todd, Cassie Wanek, Brittany King with Allison and Marco Ferrara

Splash of color brightens Angelwood Gala

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

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

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



Angelwood Executive Director Diane Tuttle with Hoda and Dr. Rabih Tawk



Nathan Wagner and Sara Rieger with Jacqueline Turner



Florida Theatre Board Members Missy Peters and Troy Spurling



Drew and Jen Glassman



Cathy Curtis with Leslie Kincart



Florida Theatre Board Member Michael Greene with Numa Saisselin, Executive Director



Scott Redfield with Tracye Polson and Kevin Clair



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

Downtown's biggest, best indoor picnic draws crowds

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

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

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

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



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Maxine Kelley
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Zack Flinn with Travis Smyth, Mary Flinn, AJ Souto, Corey and David Hacker



Patricia and Dr. Gary Josephson with Bernie and Abby Rice



Terry and Kim Parker



Stephen and Caren Jones with Elizabeth and Scott Brannock

A tremendous show of support, promise to children

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

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



Annie Longenecker Roberts with Dr. Stan and Susie Longenecker



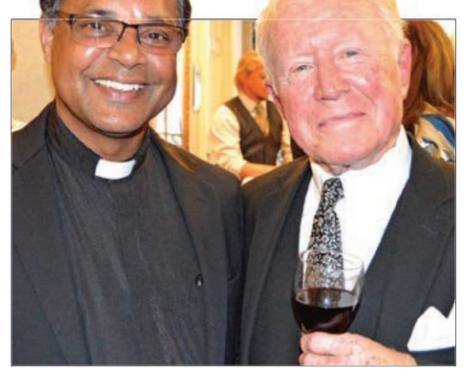
Deborah DeAngelo, Cheryl Dolan, Dr. Jeffrey Harris, with Kim Kristoff and Joe Malzacher



Cynthia Athey with Sarah and Adam Longenecker and Charley Athey



Ann and Dr. George Trotter with We Care Executive Director Susan King



Fr. Jose Kulathinal with Dr. George Trotter

Caring physicians honored as We Care celebrates 25 years

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

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

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

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



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UNDER CONTRACT
7815 Lenox Ave.
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UNDER CONTRACT
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SOLD
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2973 Collier Ave.
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4342 Dazet Ct.
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UNDER CONTRACT
6239 Sage Dr.
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4729 Kingsbury St.
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NEW LISTING
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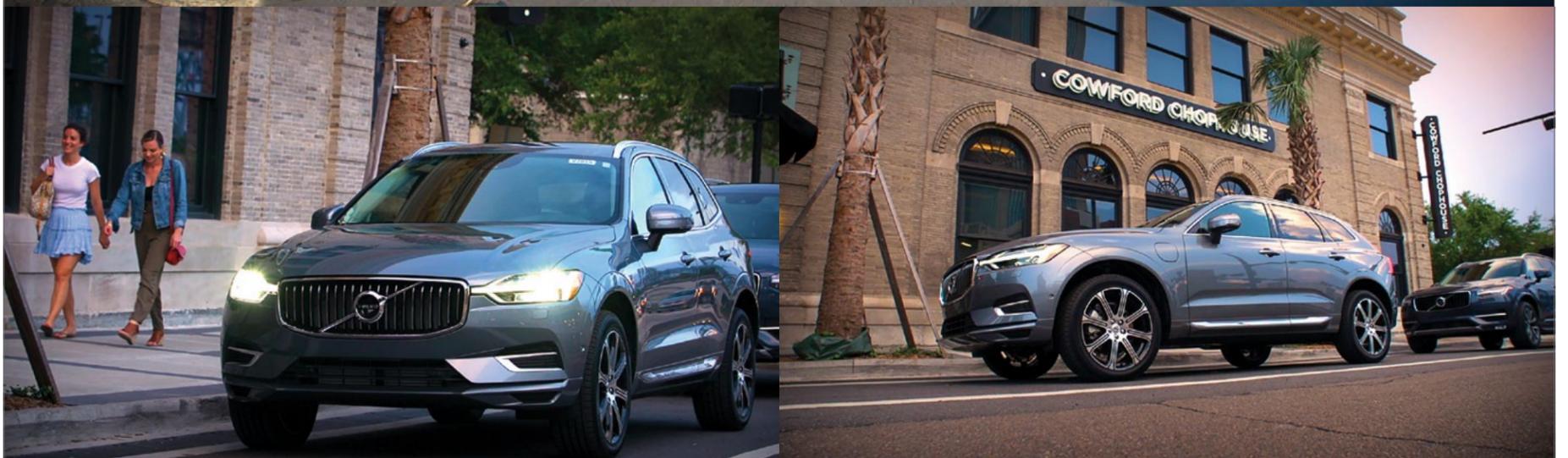
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Crowd-pleasing low country boil raises funds for Riverkeeper

The St. Johns Riverkeeper's annual Save Our Water Low Country Boil is always a crowd-pleaser and this year's event at Sadler Point Marina was no different. With a variety of watercraft small and large as background, guests mixed and mingled with Riverkeeper staff and enjoyed fresh seafood from Fisherman's Dock Seafood, local produce provided by Satoriwa Trading Co., craft beer from SweetWater Brewing Co., and live music from the Ouija Brothers. "We're here to celebrate the St. Johns River and to celebrate you," said Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman to the crowd of over 275 supporters. The Aug. 3 event raised over \$6,000.

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



St. Johns Riverkeeper Board Chair Jim Schwarz with Mike Villano, Trish Meili, Lylah and Jim Seaton



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Lori Berkey with Paul Donohue



Gillian Ticehurst with daughter Clare Aronow and grandsons Theo and Ray Bonneau



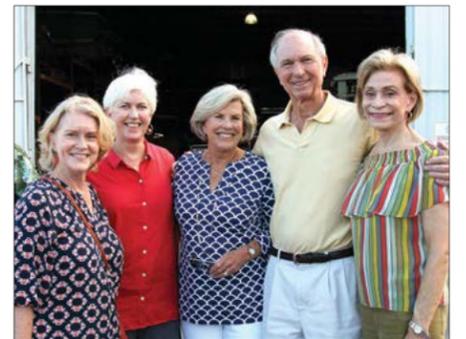
Tripp Means with Jessica Andes; back: Rick Fitzgerald with Kathy Stark



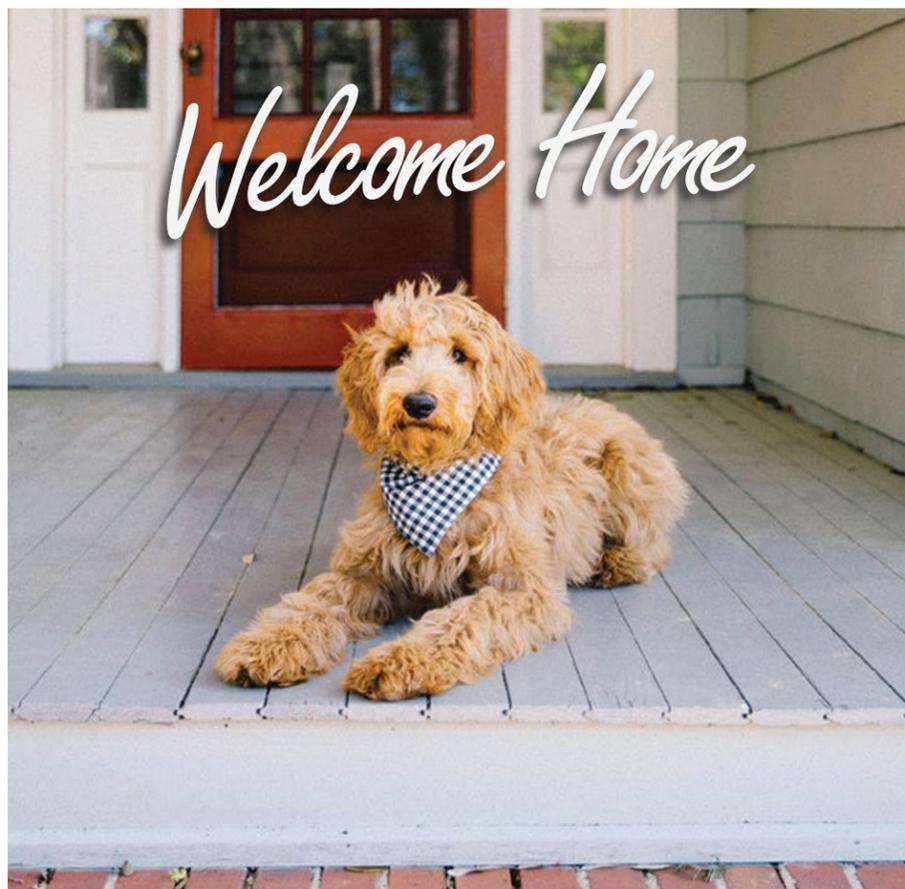
St. Johns Riverkeeper Advocacy Director Shannon Blankinship with son, William Shaffer



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Cummer disguises construction fence, piques interest in permanent collections

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

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

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

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

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



Yuki and Dustin Harewood, mural artist, with Hinata and Mei

Over the course of 2.5 months, the artists spray painted the mural on the 185-foot-long by 8-foot-high wooden fence, which will be varnished with a protective washable, clear coat that will protect the mural from fading, scratching and chipping.

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

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



Mural artists Mark "Cent" Ferreira and Shaun Thurston



Gillian Ticehurst with Shirley Webb and Sharón Simmons



Jackie Jones, Barbara Barsh and Dawn Zattau



Marlene Goodwin and Toy Scott



Mary Coleman with Allison Watson and Pablo Rivera

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1838 MC INTOSH PL
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SOLD by Julia Fattahi and Elizabeth Loftin! Fairfax Manor is a peaceful treasured neighborhood nestled between Avondale and Ortega- and the residents like it that way! Living in a beautiful historic home with all the features and conveniences of a brand new home make this perfect for your family.



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2970 ST JOHNS AVE # 12C
3/2-1,900 sqft.

SOLD by Josh Nugent, Dee Burnett, Elizabeth Loftin, and Jane Slater! Top floor estate condition unit sold BEFORE it even went on market! If you are not working with #1 in the neighborhood you will miss out!



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4651 ALGONQUIN AVE
4/3-3,101 sqft.

Welcome home! This all brick, pool home sits in the middle of one of the most beautiful oak lined streets in Ortega. It has that 4th bedroom you've been wanting which could be a Teen-room, guest retreat or Mother-in-law suite, hardwood floors, a HUGE Master bedroom, and a gourmet kitchen.



SOLD

505 LANCASTER ST # 9C
2/2-1,900 sqft.

Sweeping views of the St. Johns River and downtown skyline from this high-floor condo in the sky! Located in sought-after Park Plaza the premier condo building in Riverside, and steps away from popular restaurants like BlackSheep, River & Post, Mossfire and more!



SOLD

2523 HERSCHEL ST
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4750 PIRATES BAY DR
3/2-2,030 sqft.

SOLD by Beverly Brooke! Beautiful brick home in cul-de-sac with river view. Enjoy the river breezes as you sit on your patio surrounded by gorgeous roses. Cathedral ceiling in family room. Open floor plan with hardwood floors. Double vanity in master bedroom bath.



SOLD

4617 COLLEGE ST
3/2-1,268 sqft.

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4521 SUSSEX AVE # 1
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SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Built in 1926, this property is coming up on its 100-year anniversary. Anyone that remembers the 80s or 90s with the TV shows set in condos or apartments remembers the gorgeous courtyards, the open floor plans, the windows able to see all that goes on outside.



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LOW INVENTORY CREATES SELLER'S MARKET IN HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Housing prices back up 10 years after economic recession

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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

— Barbara Swindell, River Point Real Estate



Buyers’ woes, sellers’ joys

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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

— Sally Suslak, broker/owner, Traditions Realty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

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

Renovating makes good sense

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What recession?

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

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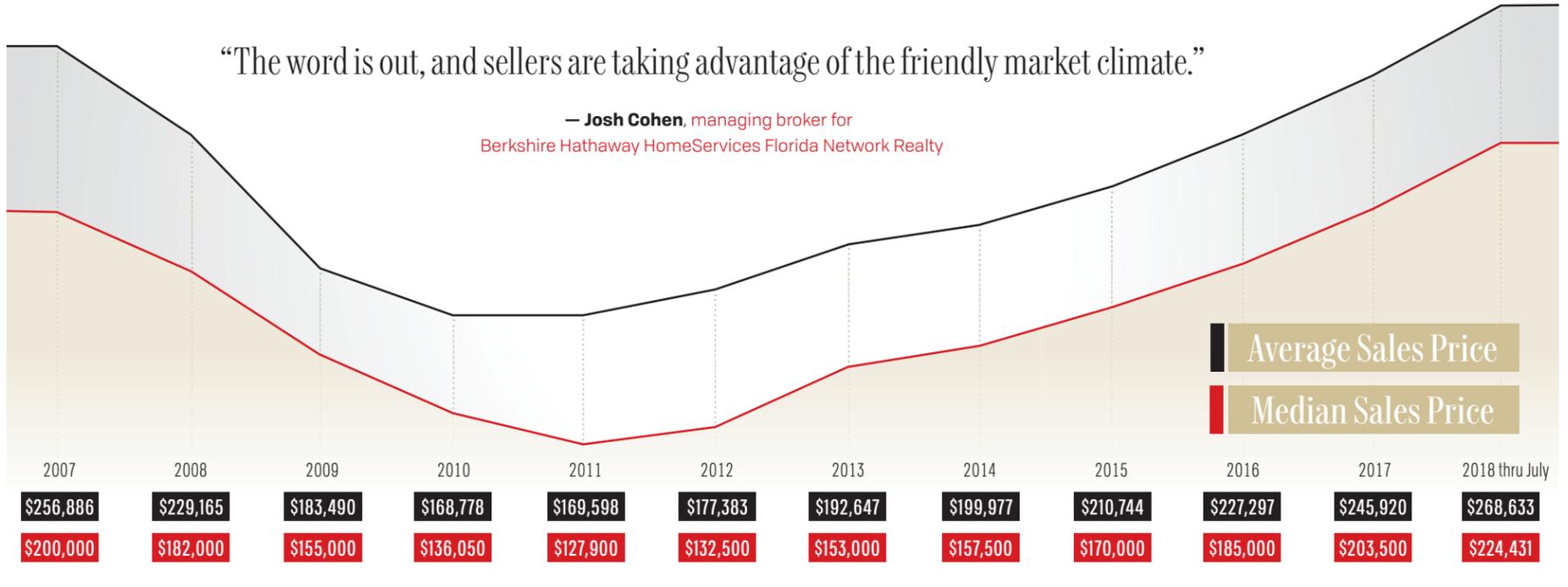
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impact of the recession wasn't as severe in the historic neighborhoods.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Jacksonville ‘newcomer’ plans first Hispanic film festival

By Patricia Larkin
Resident Community News

Riverside resident Eugenio Maslowski has biked over 20,000 miles in the past two years since moving to Jacksonville. He’s quickly becoming a fixture in the community, frequently seen around town on his motorcycle or bicycle.

“Motorcycling and bicycling allows me to touch experiences,” explained Maslowski.

His dream is to travel through Europe on motorcycle, writing about art galleries, artists’ lives and urban murals.

For now Maslowski is focusing on Jacksonville, planning the nation’s first Hispanic Film Festival to debut downtown later this month.

It’s been an interesting road to get here, he shared. From his birthplace in Venezuela, Maslowski’s life unfolded in unexpected ways, including living in the Soviet Union and then in Miami for many years before claiming Jacksonville as his hometown in 2017.

Back in the 1980s, his first career at Monsanto transferred him to the Soviet Union.

“I was there at the beginning of the Gorbachev era. It was an interesting time,” said Maslowski.

After experiencing communism firsthand, back in Venezuela when he had the chance to speak to Hugo Chavez in 1998, alarm bells went off. He realized Chavez had similar goals attempted by the Soviet Union and decided to immigrate to the U.S. immediately.

Maslowski and his wife settled in Miami. Being a native Spanish speaker, the

predominant Hispanic culture there reminded him of his roots.

In 2017 when they decided Miami was getting too crowded, Maslowski traveled around looking for a new place to settle in Florida.

“When I arrived here, and I saw the river and I saw the beaches, my wife and I fell in love with Jacksonville. This is a great quality of life,” Maslowski explained.

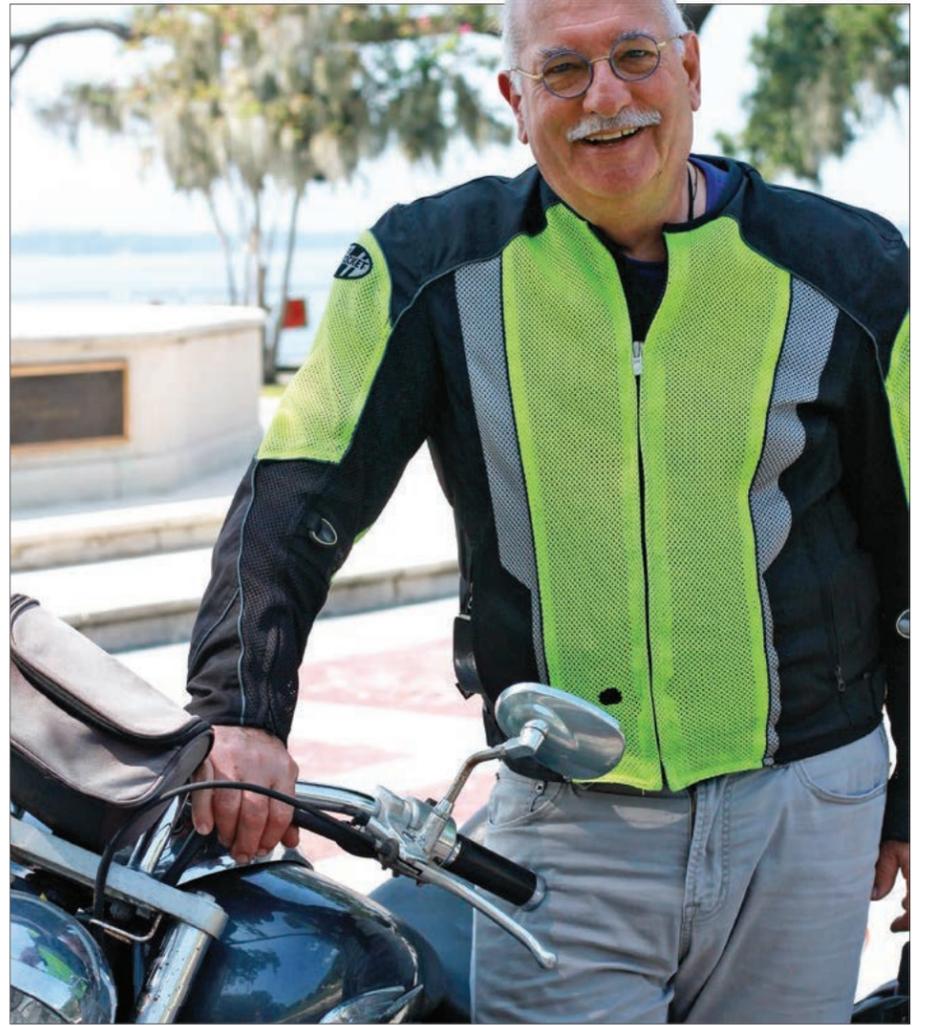
He began working in real estate in town and got a good view of where the city is headed. When he saw the Downtown Investment Authority’s plan for 2020 he decided to do his part to contribute to making downtown more vibrant.

After living here a few months, he brought the Afro-Venezuelan drum group Betsayda Machado to Hemming Park. The after-party lasted until midnight, with about 150 people dancing in the park. “It was really a ball,” he said.

For his next project, Maslowski was inspired by the history of Jacksonville as the original Hollywood during the silent film era. Over 20 major film companies had settled here, but in the 1930s they all ended up moving out West.

Combined with the fact there is no official Hispanic film festival in the U.S. Maslowski created the Hispanic Culture Film Festival, which will be held Sept. 21-23 and 27-30 at the Jacksonville Main Library downtown.

Maslowski’s goal is to educate residents about the individual cultural beauty of each of the 20 different countries that fall under the definition of Hispanic. “Just



think of the music. For example, there is tango, salsa, merengue, mariachi – when you start to consider that variety, you have such a source of talent that makes the Hispanic community a really valuable resource in the U.S.,” said Maslowski. “The important thing is to establish the links that join the people.”

This year is just the launch. In 2019 he plans to have a panel of judges select films for a real festival with awards. Similar to

Sundance or SXSW, Jacksonville will have a premier film festival to boast and bring tourism and filmmakers to Northeast Florida, Maslowski hopes.

“Jacksonville is the crossroads of Florida. Here we really are a melting pot, I love it,” said Maslowski, noting in the past year about 50,000 Hispanic people have chosen to move to Jacksonville. “When you consider that, you start to say, ‘Something is happening.’”

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Murray Hill artist enters Guinness World Records

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

Ironically, it's not a site in Murray Hill which contributed to Murray Hill resident and artist Jason Tetlak's acceptance into the Guinness World Records for the largest hand painted 3D painting. His mural, an homage to the band Beastie Boys was painted on the side of a building in Brooklyn, north of Riverside.

"After finding a wall big enough to set the record, I was trying to decide what exactly



Jason Tetlak points a thumb at his world record-setting 3D mural.

to paint, and the idea of using the location in Brooklyn naturally led to featuring the Beastie Boys," said Tetlak. The band's song, "No Sleep till Brooklyn," is itself an homage to the New York City borough after which the Jacksonville community was named.

Using five gallons of red, blue, light gray and dark gray paint from nearby Brinton's Paint Company, Tetlak painted the 1,930-square-foot mural on the side of Jacksonville Production Studio's office at 250 Park Street. He said after first creating it digitally it took him 50 hours to paint over the course of a week in early March.

Tetlak explained what gives the 90-foot-wide by 21.5-foot-high mural the three-dimensional effect.

"Our eyes each see a slightly different image and our brains use that information to create a 3D view of the world around us. My 3D pieces use red and blue glasses to force the viewer's eyes to each see a slightly different picture that gets interpreted as 3D, and so parts of the image appear to pop out from the wall," he said.

Although he created the 3D mural this year, Tetlak said he started the process of setting the record a year ago after painting a smaller 3D mural at 4560 Lenox Ave.



This painting in Brooklyn holds a world record for largest hand painted 3D mural.

"First I had to get the concept for a record approved, then I created the mural, which then needed to be measured by a certified surveyor," said Tetlak. "He created a report on his measurements, which I submitted to Guinness, along with statements from a number of witnesses who were on hand. Guinness then had to review all of that information to determine if I had succeeded."

Tetlak found out he did, indeed succeed, when he was notified July 24 by Guinness

World Records, who will send him an official certificate.

President of the Murray Hill Preservation Association, Tetlak has been on a mission to turn the century-old historic neighborhood into an art enclave. He was instrumental in getting a public mural project off the ground two years ago, which has resulted in nearly two dozen murals that have sprouted up throughout the community.

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Genealogy research still painstaking stroll through paper records

Local society invites visitors, members, volunteers

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

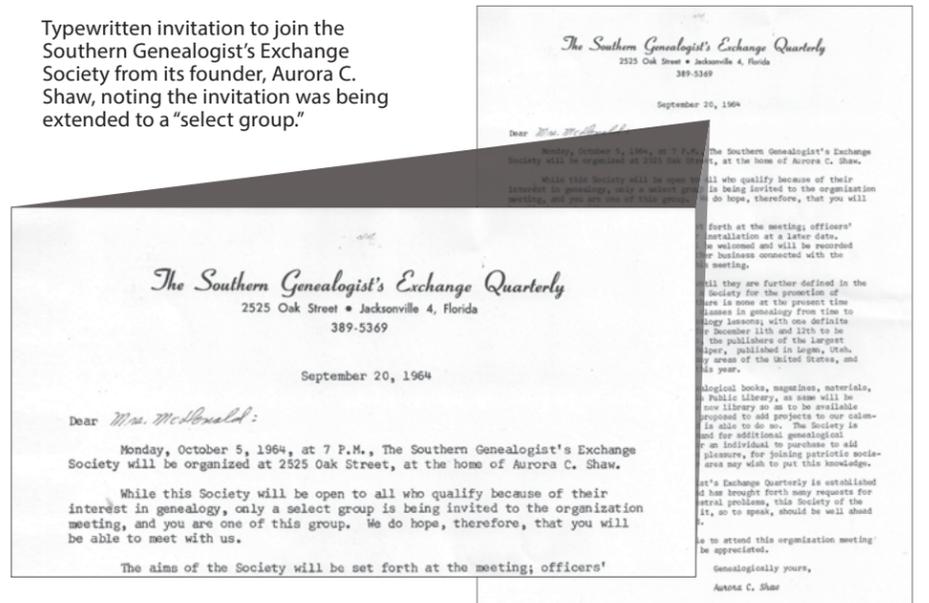
Volunteer Barry Sweetman has been doing ancestry research for the past 30 years, tracing his wife's family of Baker County, Florida from Virginia in 1640, and has advice for beginners.

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



Carol Clay, Barry Sweetman, Liz DuClose and Alana Masters

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Residents start grass-roots campaign to honor Maple Leaf

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Two Ortega Forest residents have started a grass-roots effort to recover artifacts from a Civil War ship in the St. Johns River.

Dr. Keith Holland, who located the Maple Leaf 120 years after it hit an underground mine and sank near Mandarin Point on April 1, 1864, had assembled a team in 1984 to recover the Army transport ship's artifacts, but said they were only able to bring up a very small portion.

In addition to military equipment from three U.S. Army Infantry regiments, the Maple Leaf wreckage contained thousands of personal possessions of its soldiers, including eyeglasses, pocket watches, smoking pipes, musical instruments and personal care items like toothbrushes and combs. Also found on board were a variety of household items such as dishes and candlestick holders believed to have been looted from Confederate homes.



Dr. Keith Holland with Mandarin Middle School History Teacher Khaki Hager and Mandarin Middle School Principal Moses Williams

Katherine "Khaki" Hager, an eighth-grade U.S. history teacher at Mandarin Middle School, has also become passionate about the Maple Leaf and, together with Holland, is leading a charge with local and state officials to incorporate the ship and its artifacts in a museum.

"Dr. Holland and I met with Congressman John Rutherford's office this summer in Washington, D.C., to see how Maple Leaf might 'fit in' with the Jacksonville Naval Historic Ship Association, the group responsible for bringing the USS Adams to Jacksonville," she said. "We will be meeting with Congressman Rutherford this fall in Jacksonville. We have also sent out many letters, hoping to revitalize the ship's memory and its National Historic Landmark designation. We started with Shad Khan and the Jacksonville Jaguars, because we believe a Maple Leaf Maritime Museum would fit in nicely with Mr. Khan's Iguana Company development on the St. Johns River.

Hager is getting youth involved as well. She invited Holland to the Mandarin Middle School's "Welcome Back to School Assembly" on Aug. 17 and he presented facts about the Civil War, the history and purpose of Maple Leaf, how the ship sank, and his dive team's efforts to recover the

ship's artifacts. "The students learned how Dr. Holland used math, science, history, research, and perseverance to locate the 1864 Civil War Maple Leaf shipwreck in the St. Johns River off Mandarin Point," said Hager.

The next day, Aug. 18, Mandarin Middle School students and their families visited the Mandarin Museum for extra credit to meet the Maple Leaf divers and view some of the recovered artifacts on display.

"While some Mandarin residents knew about the famous shipwreck, a 1994 Dept. of Interior National Historic Landmark, others 'confessed' they had lived in Mandarin all their lives and never heard of it," said Hager. "They were so enthusiastic and thanked us for enlightening them." Several students expressed that they would like to be a part of the generation that finds a way to recover the remaining 99.9 percent of Maple Leaf's Civil War artifacts, still sitting in the St. Johns River, only 20 feet down, in excellent condition, she said.

Women's leadership panel shares what it takes to get ahead

Submitted by **Mike Bonts**

Local female leaders talked about how they found success in male-dominated professions during a "Women in Leadership" panel discussion, held at the Junior League of Jacksonville's Riverside House on Park Street.

The Aug. 2 event was sponsored by the AIA Jacksonville Chapter's Women in Architecture Committee.

Sherry Magill, former president of Jessie Ball duPont Fund, moderated a conversation that covered everything from commanding respect to finding mentors to navigating their career as a minority. They advised a largely female audience to speak up for equal pay and promotions, form a network of peers when mentors are scarce, and to be oneself.

"Remember, expressing femininity does not make you weak," one of the panelists said.

The five panelists represented widely diverse careers, and included Michelle Tappouni, property development director for Ability Housing; Commander Kim DaCosta-Azar, U.S. Navy pilot; Jennifer Shoaf Richardson, lawyer for Jackson Lewis P.C.; Jennifer Suharmadji, senior architect at Haskell; and Katie Parks, national vice president of Broker and Consulting Relations for UnitedHealthcare.

Women in Architecture chair Julia Epstein said she wanted to show there are women doing great things in Jacksonville, and to let people know about women in the field of architecture.

"We did a similar program last year with women business owners from the building industry that was well received," Epstein said.



Six women at the top of their professions talked about what it takes to succeed in male-dominated industries at an event sponsored by AIA Jacksonville's Women in Architecture. From left are moderator Sherry Magill with Michelle Tappouni, Kim DaCosta-Azar, Jennifer Shoaf Richardson, Jennifer Suharmadji and Katie Parks.

"We realized there are a lot of other women's groups out there who don't necessarily know each other. There are women in other fields who are going through the same things."

Epstein started AIA Jacksonville's WIA committee two years ago after she noticed a lot of women were leaving the field. Fifty percent of college architecture students are women, but still only 20 percent of architecture professionals are women.

"The women don't have the mentors and the camaraderie to help them when things

get hard. We're hoping our committee can be that missing piece for women in the field," Epstein said.

AIA Jacksonville's WIA Committee promotes the professional development, advancement and visibility of women in the field of architecture.

The American Institute of Architects provides professional development opportunities for architects and raises public awareness of the value of architecture and the importance of good design.

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In Memoriam

Vincent J. Kerr, DVM

December 2, 1937 to August 6, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

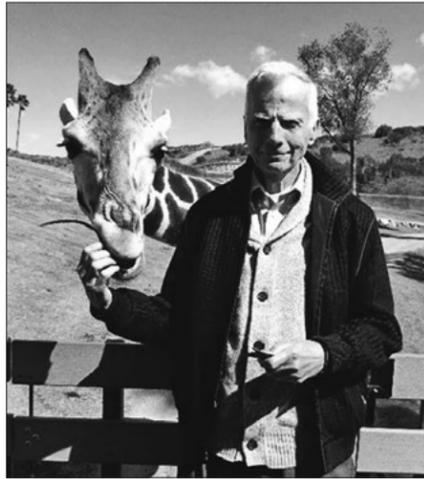
"In all those years, up until January 3, 2013 when he suffered a serious fall and had to retire, he worked fulltime, never turned down a patient, treated thousands of pets and helped several generations of pet owners," said his wife. "A vet may have an incredible facility, but what matters, what builds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

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

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

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

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



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

— Tarryn Bradford Poling



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

— Vincent A. Kerr



Riverside resident serves community for love of history

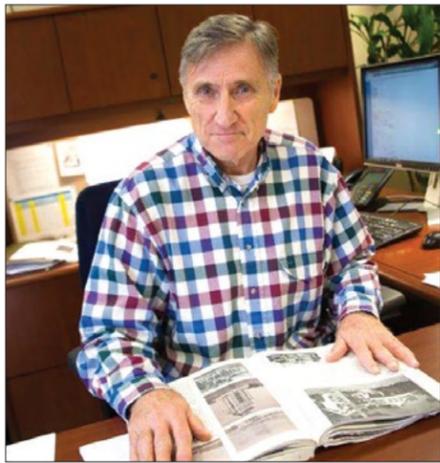
By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Not a lot of people can say they've spent their entire career in one specific industry or at one place of business, but for Joel McEachin his career could truly be called a labor of love.

Armed with bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in anthropology, archaeology, education and history, McEachin spent 30 years with the City of Jacksonville digging into and preserving history. Overall, his career spanned more than 40 years, beginning as assistant director of the Tallahassee Junior Museum (Tallahassee Museum of Science and History) in 1977.

He moved to Jacksonville in 1984 to take a position as executive director of the Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission and served as a research assistant for Wayne Wood on "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage, Landmark for the Future," which was published in 1989.



Joel McEachin spent his career steeped in and surrounded by history.

Still in college when Wood formed Riverside Avondale Preservation in 1974, not long after McEachin moved to Riverside, he became the nonprofit's eighth executive director (1986-1988), then continued to work closely with the next five directors until his retirement in May shortly before RAP's 14th executive director was hired.

"Joel has such a knack for research and really dives into learning everything he can about a particular subject," said Carmen Godwin, RAP executive director, 2008-2016. "I love to read his reports on a building or historic area because they capture not only the structures but the history of those who brought those buildings to life, the history of everyday people who lived and worked and made up our diverse City. He has an encyclopedia in his head and he is always available to talk or help with some question."

In 1988, McEachin joined the City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department, specifically to supervise the historic planning section, which grew from a staff of one to five historic preservation planners, a secretary and a historic preservation code enforcement officer. One of those early hires was Lisa Sheppard, who joined McEachin 20 years ago in the newly established section.

"I feel very fortunate to have worked with Joel McEachin in the City's Historic Preservation Section for 20 years. He was the type of supervisor that identified the individual strengths and interests of his staff and accordingly assigned us activities that motivated us professionally," said Sheppard. "Everyone who worked with him gained something of value, whether it was learning how to research a subject, a passion for the neighborhoods who he served, or just a deeper appreciation of local history."



Joel McEachin in front of the Duval County Public Schools Board sometime in the late 1980s/early 1990s when the board included Jack Nooney, Wendell (Billy) Parker, Donald Buckley and Wendell P. Holmes, Jr.

Much of McEachin's time was spent with his nose buried in paperwork – including reviewing and processing thousands of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for alterations, additions, new construction, relocation and demolition which would impact landmarks and properties in the historic districts.

He also researched, drafted and administered the establishment of three local historic districts – Riverside/Avondale, Springfield and the St. Johns Quarter – as well as 150 or so individual landmarks or landmark sites, all of which put more than 8,000 properties under the protection of the design review process.

"I spent many years on the Historic Preservation Commission providing oversight on construction in the city's historic districts," said Angela Schifanella, who now sits on the Riverside Avondale Preservation board. "The meetings could be long and tedious, but the highlight was always the opportunity to hear Joel report to the Commission on potential historic

landmark properties. Joel was able to unearth the history, the stories and the connections between our historic structures and the people that inhabited them."

Schifanella said she learned much from McEachin during those presentations and developed a much fuller understanding of the value of Jacksonville history. "I was amazed at how he could bring a seemingly modest structure to life by telling the story of its inhabitants and its times. I learned from Joel that history is all around us and sharing it enriches us all."

During McEachin's last few months working for the City of Jacksonville, he was honored twice. Riverside Avondale Preservation acknowledged his service with the Neighborhood Advocate Award in February at its annual meeting, and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation presented him with the Individual Distinguished Service Award in May.

"The breadth of his knowledge of our city is immense and I hope he will continue to share his research with our community for many years to come," said Schifanella. Sheppard echoed those sentiments. "His knowledge and ability to connect all the miscellaneous puzzle pieces together to provide a historic basis for why a site or structure is important and how it relates to the greater context of our City's history is irreplaceable."

Although McEachin officially retired May 4, the Historic Preservation Commission can't quite let go of McEachin; he is working part-time on special projects.

"There are few days that go by that a citizen or colleague doesn't ask about him or a topic comes up that would not benefit from his expertise and institutional knowledge," said Sheppard.



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WAY WE WERE: JOHN & SHEILA HAMILTON

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Sheila and John Hamilton describe the Venetia neighborhood in which they lived for 57 years as a “compound.” Its residents live there a long time, so long, in fact, many have owned two homes there – a starter home and then a family home. “They don’t move out, and now their children are moving back into the neighborhood,” John said.

Sheila and John grew up together in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and started dating in 1958. They became engaged when Sheila was 23 and John was 26 years old. They put a deposit down on a home in Grosse Pointe with full intentions of continuing to live where they grew up.

But, fate intervened when Sheila attended a medical convention in Chicago. There she met Dr. Jerry Knauer, a second-generation Jacksonville ophthalmologist with a national reputation for helping the visually impaired. He was looking for an orthoptist – a health professional trained to evaluation and manage childhood and adult eye movement abnormalities – and Sheila fit the bill. He offered Sheila a job, and she accepted. In 1959, Sheila moved to Jacksonville with a girlfriend who was also hired by Dr. Knauer. The two young women rented an apartment on Lakeshore Drive.



Sheila and John with their daughter, Martha, and Nipper the dog in 1962

During one of John’s trips to Jacksonville to visit Sheila, he was offered a job with a Jacksonville bank’s trust department, Florida National Bank, which was the second largest commercial bank in Florida when it was acquired by First Union Corporation in 1990 and was renamed Wachovia in 2001. That helped the couple decide to make Jacksonville their home.

Before visiting Sheila, John had never been to Jacksonville. “I couldn’t believe how hot it was here!” John said. Sheila was a member of the Detroit Junior League and transferred her membership to the Jacksonville Junior League when she moved here, so she had some connections when she arrived.

“We moved to Jacksonville on the same day we were married, Sept. 12, 1959,” John recalled. After a one-week honeymoon, the newlyweds rented a house for about six months and then purchased the home at 4247 Genoa Avenue in Venetia in early 1960. “We already knew a couple of people who lived there,” Sheila said. “We loved that the neighborhood had sidewalks, a good neighborhood school and less traffic than some



Thanksgiving camping trip

parts of Jacksonville.” It seemed like the perfect place to start a family, they thought.

Eight years and four children later, Sheila, who was pregnant with her last child, Andy, and John decided they needed a bigger house. “We never even considered leaving Venetia, though,” Sheila said. In fact, they didn’t even leave the street, deciding to buy a two-story home in the next block at 4305 Genoa Avenue. The home was built in 1927 and is one of the original houses in Venetia. It housed their growing family for the next 42 years.

The Hamiltons’ oldest daughter, Martha, was born in 1961. John Jr. was born in 1962, Frank in 1964 and Claire in 1967. Andy was born in 1968, shortly after they moved to the bigger house on Oct. 1, 1968, “the same

day that the city-county consolidation of the governments of the City of Jacksonville and Duval County officially occurred,” John said. All of their children attended Venetia Elementary School.

Both Sheila and John had interesting careers and hobbies, in addition to rearing five children. John left the bank and took a job with Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1963, when he was 30. Now 85 years old, he is still affiliated with Mass Mutual and is licensed, although now he focuses on taking care of longtime clients primarily. “I’m not retired,” John said. “I think of myself as restructured.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43



Hamilton home in Venetia

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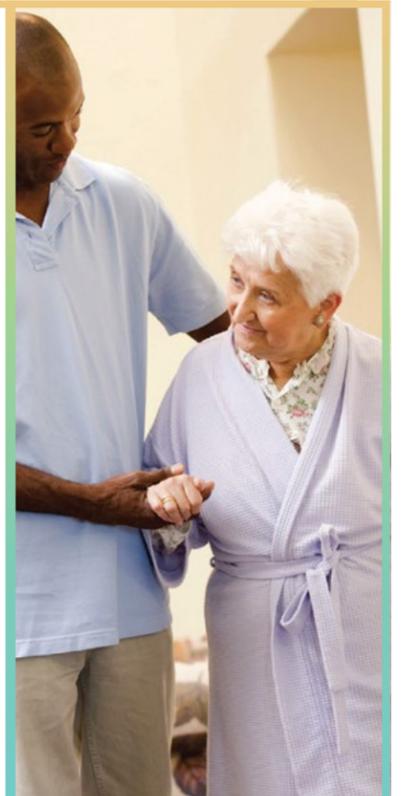
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John played tennis at the Florida Yacht Club where he is a member. He has also made toys with the Jax Woodworkers Club for many years.

The club meets monthly to share wood-working ideas and projects, to encourage and support its members and to work together in its annual community outreach, The Christmas Toy Project. Throughout the year, John and the club's other members build toys that are donated in November to different charities, hospitals and other organizations that help children.

Sheila worked full-time until she had their first child. After that she worked part-time for Baptist Hospital and with other ophthalmologists in the city.

After she turned 60, Sheila decided to pursue her real interest, which was cooking. She enrolled in Florida Community College at Jacksonville (now called Florida State College at Jacksonville) in its Culinary School and earned a two-year degree. "Unlike my first degree, which was in a field that I knew would pay well, I decided to get a second degree in something I loved," Sheila said.

She opened a culinary catering company, which she named Cornucopia, on Edgewood Avenue. Sheila recalls catering a large event for a Ponte Vedra family each Christmas and



Martha and Claire, Andy, Frank and John, Jr.

events for the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. Her largest catering event was for The Florida Theatre in downtown Jacksonville.

Sheila operated Cornucopia for three years until her business partner became pregnant and didn't want to do catering any longer. "I just didn't think I could run the business by myself at my age," Sheila said.

In her late 60s, Sheila took up Jazzercise. For two years in a row, she even performed in a Jaguars halftime show with other Jazzercisers.

John is a member of the Florida Yacht Club, and the family enjoyed their proximity to its amenities. Sheila and John also took their family camping for several years with other families at Thanksgiving. "We enjoyed going to Ginnie Springs on the Santa Fe River in High Springs until finally the noise from increasing numbers of motorcycles bothered us too much," Sheila said.

The Hamiltons took their children to Detroit and Flint, Mich., to visit family. "And, of course, with five children we made numerous trips to Disneyworld," Sheila laughed.

But, mostly they enjoyed close-knit relationships with Venetia neighbors. Their family is the epitome of Venetia's multi-generational appeal. Son Frank and his wife used to live across the street from where he grew up. Now they live in a house right next door. Daughter Martha lives on the same

street as her homeplace and Claire lives around the corner. John lives just a couple of miles away in Cedar Hills. Andy ventured further because of his job; he is a Jacksonville firefighter in St. Johns County where his wife is a school teacher.

Sheila and John have 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all of whom have moved here except for one granddaughter who lives in New York.

That strong sense of family in Venetia is what made leaving their home difficult. But, the time had come for them to find a smaller, one-story house that would be easier for Sheila, who is 82, to manage.

"We didn't even think about moving to another part of town, however," Sheila said. They wanted to be near their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In May 2017 they into Ortega Bay Condominiums on Lakeside Drive.

The move was not without its challenges, however. When it became clear that Hurricane Irma was going to hit Florida, Sheila and John evacuated to a motel in Lake City, thinking they would be out of harm's way. But the hurricane followed them to Lake City and then to Jacksonville.

They, like most of Jacksonville, didn't anticipate the flooding. The condominiums had never had a problem with flooding in its 18-year history. But when Sheila and John returned to Jacksonville four days after they evacuated, they discovered that the Ortega River had come all the way up the bank and flooded their condo. That was in mid-September.

"All of the floors and part of the walls had to be replaced," John said. "Thankfully we had very little damage to personal stuff, but we did have water on some furniture."

They were supposed to be back in the condo by January 2018 but couldn't return until April. "Thank goodness our son, John, offered for us to live in his house in Cedar



Toys made by Jax Woodworkers Club for local nonprofits

Hills," John said. John Jr. moved into a mobile home at his business, Hamilton Tree Service, to give his parents some privacy.

Sheila and John continue to stay close to their neighbors in Venetia. John built a Little Free Library with his former neighbor, Linda Hunter, and they installed it in front of Venetia Elementary School. "I can tell that books have been changed since we installed it, so I'm happy that it is getting some use," he said.

And, he continues to make toys with the Jax Woodworkers Club. While he used to make the toys in his Venetia garage, he now uses a corner of Linda's garage that she offered him. He cuts the toys with a scroll saw at Linda's and then assembles the toys in his garage at the condominiums.

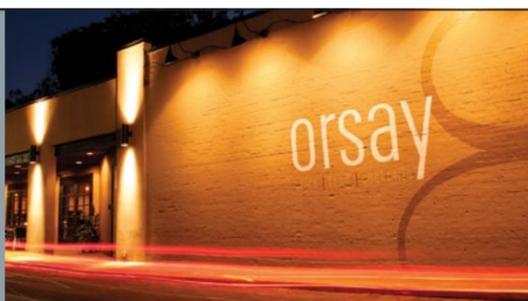
Even well into their 80s and no longer living in the neighborhood, Sheila and John continue to care for their neighborhood and model the importance of place to future generations.



John and Sheila

NIGHT CAP

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First day of school annual rite of passage

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

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



Batman takes a minute for a photo op with Latoya Bell, assistant principal, and Kimberly Dennis, principal at Fishweir Elementary School.



Blythe Stanley and Julia Fannin, freshman at Bishop John Snyder High School



Jason Cumming was so excited to meet a superhero on the first day of school at Fishweir Elementary that he jumped right into Batman’s arms.



Kindergarten students at Central Riverside Elementary School leave looking tired after their first day of school Aug. 13.



Madison Livingston celebrates the first day of school at St. Johns Country Day School with a Senior Crown and two good friends, Sydney Morris and Meredith Maierhoffer.

St. Paul’s Catholic School celebrated the end of summer with a Back to School Bash Aug. 12, including bounce houses, barbecue, and fellowship. St. Paul’s Catholic Church pastor, Father George Vaniyapurackal, blessed students’ backpacks and then they toured the campus and met the teachers before school started on Aug. 13.



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Four-year-old Max Csar, front, holds his brother's First Day of School sign. Cort, 6, entered Jennifer Saxton's second grade class at West Riverside Elementary School. Cort, whose favorite color is orange, wants to be a sports player when he grows up.



Harrison and Madi M. at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School



Keith and his mother Yashica Fowler, headed off to Robert E. Lee High School together. Fowler, who has been a teacher for 12 years, began her third year as a ninth-grade world history teacher at Lee, while Keith began his sophomore year at the Riverside-based school.



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School Patrol – Front: Payton M., Sarah Frances M.; back: Sam P., Carter T., Charlie P., and Dillan M.



Vaden Hughes, Meagan Donovan and Caulder McGriff at The Bolles School



Rob Zinn and his daughter Ellsa at Riverside Presbyterian Day School



St. John's Country Day School Senior Crystian DeMonbreun



The Reverend Canon Nancy Suellau blessing an Early Learning Program I classroom at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School



Landon Lopes, Emma Knight, Cheyenne Knight, Gabriel Cruz, Caitlin Spinner show off their new Ruth N. Upson Elementary School T-shirts.



Satvik Kuravi, Connor Donovan and Jacob Saperstein with Joseph Nemetz, Akhil Patel and Adarsh Aratikatla at The Bolles School

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Boys baseball team wins 2018 championship

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



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

Elementary school teacher speaks at international tech conferences

William Jackson, a physical education teacher at Venetia Elementary School, was one of several speakers at two international technology and blogging conferences this year, including WordCamp San Jose, Costa Rica in July, and WordCamp Calgary, Canada, last May.

WordCamp are conferences that teach web development on the WordPress platform.

Speaking to over 500 bloggers, web developers, coders and business owners about the integration and implementation of diverse technologies and social media platforms during the conferences, Jackson's presentations focus on developing brands, improving personal and business search engine optimization (SEO) and developing proper online marketing strategies.

Jackson also volunteers with the Kids Camp, held during WordCamp, teaching youth 7 to 13 years old about creating

webpages on the WordPress platform and how to start an online business.

An educator for over 25 years, blogger for over 15 years and former technology professor with Edward Waters College, Jackson has participated in WordCamp conferences nationally and internationally since 2017. Typically the only speaker of color, Jackson engages the audience about the importance of diversity in technology fields and youth, teens and young adults must be mentored, engaged and involved in a business mind set as developers and producers not just as consumers of technology.

Jackson's career includes teaching with NASA as an internet and technology instructor, serving as a technology consultant with Florida Department of Education, and as the social media liaison for TEDxFSCJ and for the Jacksonville Sister Cities International Exchange.



Stockton enters new school year on a high note

"It takes a village" was never truer for John N.C. Stockton Elementary School, which made an 86-point gain on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in the 2017-2018 school year.

"Stockton was already an A-rated school but is now one of the highest ranking in the state, which is a major accomplishment for the administration," said Stephanie Freeman, whose children attend the Ortega Forest school.

Stockton's FSA scores put the school third highest in gains for Duval County Public Schools, and it wasn't just one thing that caused the gain. During preplanning last school year, Principal Stephanie Brannan challenged, motivated and encouraged teachers to establish a growth mindset schoolwide.

Staff and paraprofessionals all worked with targeted bottom-quartile reading tutoring groups to help close the gap throughout the year. Teachers and administration spent many hours looking at and analyzing data to pinpoint areas of growth in learning and then creating plans on how to strengthen those deficiencies.

Parent conferences were held to give strategies and help to parents know what could be done at home. The administration had one-on-one data chats with every third- to fifth-grade student about their previous FSA scores, iReady reading and math scores, and Achieve scores.

As a result of the "village effort," students were 86 percent proficient in reading, 92 percent proficient in math and 83 percent proficient in science, which is only taken in fifth grade. The impressive gain gave Stockton a new final score of 552 - 86 points higher than last year.

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New youth program involves parents to build bonds



Melissa Schmitt and her daughter, Neveen, string beads with the help of her son, Jude, at a Native Sons and Daughters recruiting event Aug. 21 in Ortega Forest.

While parents took time to learn about an “old” new program for youth, their children enjoyed time on a trampoline, crafts and roasting marshmallows during an informational gathering for Native Sons and Daughters.

Hosted by Cooper and Shelley Nightingale at their Ortega Forest home Aug. 21, the event provided residents with children age 5 to 12 an overview of the parent-child bonding activities offered by a program that has its roots in Indian Guides, a YMCA-based program from the 1920s.

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

Annual Riverside backpack giveaway adheres to new school safety measure

There’s a new requirement for students attending some Duval County Public Schools this year, so organizers of the 9th Annual Rockin’ Back to School event made sure they met it. Clear plastic or vinyl backpacks were given away for students at schools which have decided to adopt the new safety measure which requires backpacks must be see-through, all items must be visible at all times, and handbags cannot be larger than a letter-size sheet of paper.

“It’s sad,” said Emily Stomps who, with daughter Hannah, manned the high school backpack booth in Riverside Park Aug. 4. “School should be the one place kids can feel safe.”

Riverside Park United Methodist Church, which sponsored the community event, had

375 backpacks to give away this year for all grades, Pre-K to 12. In addition to the giveaway, participants could get free physicals from the St. Vincent’s Mobile Medical unit, or free haircuts from “Cut One, Teach One,” a nonprofit created by Dana Miller, a barber on the Eastside. This was Miller’s third year to offer free haircuts, saying it’s not hard to give up one day a year for the community.

Booths set up by Boy Scout Troop 7, chartered more than 100 years ago at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council encouraged students to join a local troop, while the Jacksonville Public Library helped children sign up for library cards. A bounce house, book giveaway and free sno-cones rounded out the event.



Jayce and Jadyn Bow attend Tiger Academy

“For the church, this event shows our willingness to support education in the community and to be present in the life of the neighborhood,” said Rev. Emily Knight, pastor at Riverside Park UMC. During the event, Knight strolled through the park, offering to say a prayer with students for a safe school year.



The Robinson children will take new backpacks to school at Hyde Park Elementary School, J.E.B. Stuart Middle School and the Wayman Academy of the Arts.



Courtney Horton, Community Engagement Specialist at the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, with daughters Jaidyn, a member of Brownie Troop 922, and Josalyn, a member of Girl Scout Troop 134.

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Bartram Campus

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

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Ortega Forest families form new tribes for parent-child bonding program

While there are many programs and activities available to children that promote individual growth and teach team building, not many have the specific goal to strengthen the parent-child relationship. Thanks to a resurging interest in a nearly 100-year-old program, families on the Westside have a new outlet for father-child bonding.

"I am excited about rekindling the tribal fire on the Westside of Jax. I firmly believe in the ideals of the organization and am committed to helping dads and their children create lifetime bonds," said Cooper "Soaring Falcon" Nightingale, leader of the Mohican tribe of the Native Sons.

Taking a page from the Native American culture, which cherishes the bond between parent and child, Native Sons and Daughters seeks to fortify the foundations for a positive lifelong relationship that is mutually beneficial and satisfying. Along with the mystique and visually exciting regalia and folklore, the Indian theme creates lifelong memories.

The program evolved out of a very successful YMCA program called Indian Guides established in the 1920s and thrived until political correctness concerns led the YMCA to drop funding in 2001. In 2002, Lighthouse, Inc. breathed new life into the program under the new name of Native Sons and Daughters.

Nightingale and his wife, Shelley, hosted a recruiting event at their Ortega Forest home Aug. 21 and many of the interested parents who attended were part of the Indian Guides program when they were young.



Joe "Big Red" Woodlief, the Federation chief for the Native Sons and Daughters of Jacksonville, kicked off a recruiting event at the home of Cooper and Shelley Nightingale Aug. 21. From left, Nightingale and his children, Recruitment Chief Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk, Woodlief and his son, Drew and Carolyn Snowden with their daughters.

Carolyn "Quiet Butterfly" Cantrell Snowden participated in Indian Princesses with her father, Heyward "Big Canoe" Cantrell when she was 5 years old and is excited about helping her husband, Drew "Chief Walking Man," start the Crow tribe for their daughters, Robin "Brave Horse" and Hallie "Shooting Star."

Federation Chief Joe "Chief Big Red" Woodlief was not an Indian Guide growing up but became interested in the group when a close friend and his daughter were part of the original Y program and Woodlief witnessed the positive effect it had on the pair.

"I've seen how it has affected both kids and dads. My wife had one guy's wife walk up to her twice and each time say, 'This has been really good for my son, but it's been much better for my husband getting out here and doing this,'" said Woodlief, who grew up in Ortega and is a San Marco resident.

Unlike other youth programs, both parent and child must enroll and can choose which fun activities they wish to attend, either monthly tribe events, campouts or citywide pow-wows. Woodlief's son, Travis "Little Big Red," said the best part of the program is spending time with his father and his favorite activity is camping.

For more information about Native Sons and Daughters, visit nsdjax.org or email info@nsdjax.org.



Paddling on the Suwannee is one of many fun outings enjoyed by Native Sons and Daughters.

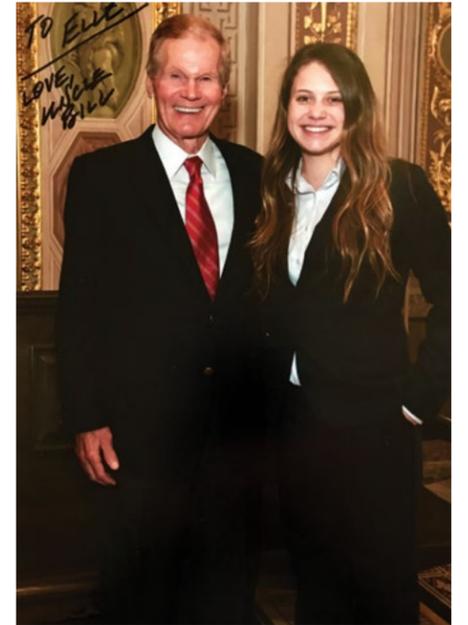
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Bolles students spend summer working in nation's capital

Two Bolles students spent three weeks this summer in Washington, D.C. as U.S. Senate pages. Elle Walters, Class of 2019, was a page for Florida Senator Bill Nelson and Hilton Ashby, Class of 2020 worked for Kentucky Senator Rand Paul. The students assisted their senators each day with everything from prepping "dailies" to making "amendment runs."

"An amendment run is where you print out 14 copies of an amendment and run each of them to a different room or office in the Capitol as fast as possible," Walters said, recalling the challenge of printing and running a 1,200-page amendment that required use of every single printer in the Hart Building. Walters said she has always wanted to be a page because she grew up in a very politically-centered family and was excited to garner firsthand knowledge about government. "I learned the government is this country's only hope at success and also how important checks and balances are," said Walters, who divides her time between the Riverside Avondale area and the beach.

The Senate page program began in 1829 when a 9-year-old boy named Grafton Hanson was appointed by Senator Daniel Webster. Today, pages must be at least 16



Sen. Bill Nelson with Elle Walters

years old and must be appointed and sponsored by a senator. They come from all 50 states and it is rare to have two students from one school participating. Senate page duties consist primarily of delivery of correspondence and legislative material within the Congressional complex. Other duties include preparing the chamber for Senate sessions and carrying bills and amendments to the desk.

Ashby, a Mandarin resident, thoroughly enjoyed the time he spent working for Senator Paul. He wanted to be a page to better understand how Senators represent the people and conduct business. In addition to making amendment runs and helping Senators prepare for their morning presentations, Ashby said a job highlight was being a "subway page."

"Subway page is where one page must go down to the subway and mark when senators are arriving and leaving during a vote," Ashby explained. He learned that senators are usually in the chamber for only a brief time during votes and often speak to just a few other senators and the presiding officer, he said.



Hilton Ashby with Sen. Rand Paul

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Pediatric patients envision healing world of their own

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

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

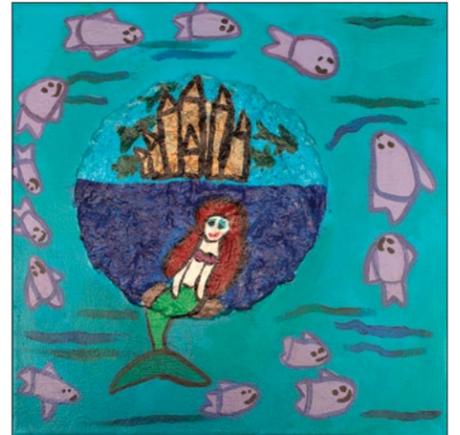
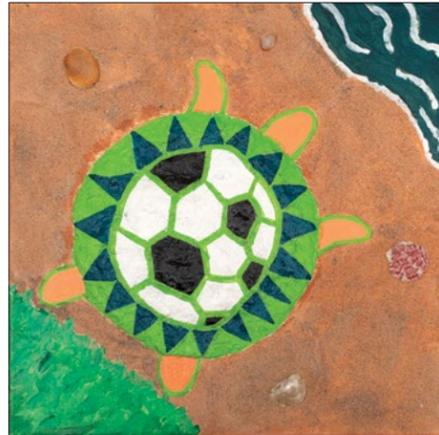
For the 2018 exhibition each artist was presented with a question, “If you could create your own world ... what

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

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GETTING TO KNOW WARREN JONES

New Riverside Avondale Preservation director welcomed by community

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

Although Riverside Avondale Preservation's new executive director officially began his duties June 12, Warren Jones was formally welcomed to the community at a reception Aug. 8 at the Riverside home of RAP Founder Wayne Wood and Lana Shuttleworth.

Wood kicked off the evening by welcoming Jones as the 14th executive director for RAP.

Past directors included Henry McCartney, 1974-76 (who was named executive director of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York, in January); Paul Kittas, 1977; Myrtice Craig, 1977-1980 (who passed away in September 2014); Loren Gannon, 1980-81; H.C. Carmichael, 1981-82; Barbara Bempohl, 1982-84; Leslee Keys, 1984-86 (an assistant professor in history at Flagler College); Joel McEachin, 1986-88 (recently retired from the City of Jacksonville Planning Department); Teresa Crusier, 1989-90; Carla Trautman, 1990-91; Bonnie Grissett, 1994-2007 (who passed away in December 2010); Carmen Godwin, executive director 2008-2016 (program manager at the Florida Association of Museums Foundation), and Adrienne Burke, 2016-2018.

Nancy Powell, RAP board chair, noted the board began a strategic planning process last year, the surveys and data gathering

was complete, and they are close to sharing the strategic plan with the community in the next few months.

"The last one that was done, Jeff Graf, Kay Ehas and Carmen [Godwin] were involved, was done in 2009," she said. "Almost 10 years later it's time to do it again. We've changed a lot as an organization, it's a vibrant community, more diverse than it was before, we love that we're part of a Downtown renaissance. Preservation is important, as is the historic fabric of the neighborhood."

"The research in the strategic plan showed what people want," said Jones. "It said RAP should focus on historic preservation, but for a question about what's important the first 13 items had to do with what was around people, such as the nature environment, access to bike and walking paths, and more."

Jones, an Avondale resident since 2016, moved to the area from Tallahassee to be closer to family. "We're in our perfect, ideal neighborhood," said Jones, who noted he and his wife, Faith, had planned to retire in Tallahassee until they were six months away from doing so. "I asked my wife if she wanted to stay in Tallahassee and she said, 'No, no!'"

Their daughter had moved to Jacksonville, so Faith came to visit, spent time in Avondale and knew it was where she wanted to live. "We do love it because we're able to walk to



Past and present Riverside Avondale Preservation leadership pose for a photo with new executive director, Warren Jones. Front: Sally Suslak, former board chair; Warren Jones; Sunny Gettinger, former board chair; back: Keith Holt immediate past board chair; Carmen Godwin, former executive director; Margaret Tocknell, former board chair; Nancy Powell, current board chair, and Wayne Wood, founder and first board chair.

incredible places and have different experiences every weekend," said Jones.

Jones introduced his staff, which includes Crystal Floyd, finance manager; John Silveira, Riverside Arts Market senior market manager, Liz Grebe, marketing manager, who was not present; and Sonya Maness-Turner, administrative coordinator.

RAP's office is located in The Buckland House, a 1913 American Foursquare style house built for George Buckland and his family. The house was donated to RAP by a cousin of Buckland's two daughters and became the RAP office in 1991. It is located at 2623 Herschel Street and was renovated from 2012 to 2015.



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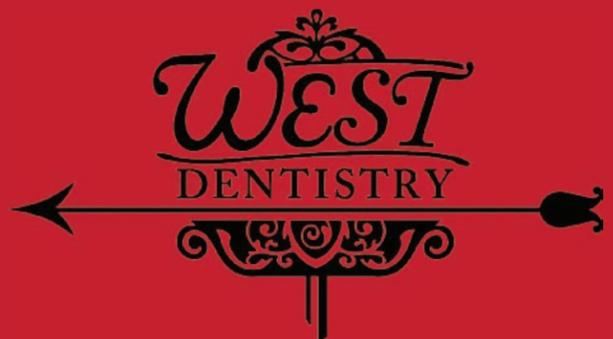
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