

Riverside · Avondale · Ortega · Murray Hill

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Glitz and glamour took second place to the mission of the Women's Board

Dazzling in gowns and tuxedos reminiscent of Old Palm Beach, the 2018 Art and Antiques Show Chairs and their husbands – Holland and Charles Gibbs II, Marleigh and Tripp Gulliford, Liza Barnett Emmet and Patrick Emmet, and Claudia and William Adams Jr. – highlight the elegance of a time gone by at the opening night gala. [READ MORE, PAGE 26](#)



Nancy Cusimano, Kelley Kunz, Annie Pajcic, Holly Upchurch, Heather Stoll and Ann McCarthy

Avondale author speaks at sold-out event

Annie Pajcic, founder of Thou Art Exalted Ministries, Inc., was guest speaker at the annual Women's Christmas Brunch at Southside United Methodist Church. The Christian author and creator has ministered to girls and women for 12 years by using art as a teaching tool.

[READ MORE, PAGE 31](#)

NFL pros come out for benefit to tackle hunger

Fans of the Jacksonville Jaguars were in heaven at the annual Taste of the NFL, rubbing elbows with current and former players, such as Tony Boselli, the team's first-ever draft pick in 1995.

[READ MORE, PAGE 27](#)



Gary Chartrand, Tony Boselli and Christopher Cooper

Ortega boy wins school spelling bee

Andrew Sharkey of Ortega was named the Riverside Presbyterian Day School 2018 Spelling Bee winner after correctly spelling the word "faction" in the final. The sixth-grader will take a written test to qualify for the Duval County oral spelling bee in January. Fifth-grader Roman Davis was runner-up in the annual school competition.



Andrew Sharkey and Roman Davis



Next generation leaders celebrate graduation

Ed Burr, Peter Rummell, Tim Cost, Betsy Lovett, Mike Hightower and Daniel Davis were the guest speakers at the closing reception for the 17 members of the Jax Chamber's Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Class of 2018.

[READ MORE, PAGE 31](#)

Crowning the King

David Stein is crowned "King of Burgers" as his wife, Linda, looks on in laughter during his surprise 80th birthday party. Stein successfully operated many Burger King franchises and went on to become a provisions provider throughout the Southeast for the fast-food chain. [READ MORE, PAGE 23](#)



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Editor's Note

Welcome to 2019! It's always exciting to begin a new year with good news to share and, as The Resident Community News Group kicks off its 13th year of publication, we're happy to report this issue is full of good news.

Foremost in the January 2019 issue are the stories readers share about personal goals, triumphs, milestones and celebrations. Flip through the pages to learn about residents who run marathons, hike mountains, celebrate centennial birthdays and volunteer for more than five decades in one nonprofit sector.

Then, for a little inspiration about what you can do to keep the community strong, vibrant and relevant for all its residents, turn to page 40 for a list of ways you can put your own passion to work as a volunteer.

Residents also share their most important goals in these pages, as do our City Council representatives who enter the last stretch of their final term. Find out what they hope to accomplish in the next six months.

If you've got news of your own to share, let us know! Email editor@residentnews.net and tell us about the good that's happening in your neighborhood or sound off about concerns that may affect the community.

Happy New Year!

Kate A. Hallock
Managing Editor

Committee on planned unit development zoning roll out first draft legislation

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

Hoping to usher in the new year with an ordinance that will tighten applications for rezoning to planned unit developments (PUD), John Crescimbeni (Councilmember At-Large), Lori Boyer (District 5) and Bill Gulliford (District 13) discussed a draft of Ordinance 2018-855 at the special committee's fourth meeting Dec. 7 at City Hall.

The impetus of the bill stems from the large number of PUD rezonings in Jacksonville and the processes by which PUDs are modified and their conditions enforced. One of the reasons identified for the frequent use of PUD zoning is the ability to impose conditions, particularly with regard to buffers, screening, landscaping, compatibility with adjoining uses, and location of entrances and driveways.

The bill would amend Chapter 656 (Zoning Code) of the Municipal Code in Part 3, Subpart F – Planned Unit Development – to add a requirement that PUD written descriptions must contain full explanations of any proposed deviation or waiver of Zoning Code requirement, zoning overlay, subdivision regulation, design standard or other requirement in a separate enumerated section.

The councilmembers heard input from the building industry as well as attorneys, who debated some aspects of the ordinance and suggested changes to the language. T.R. Hainline, a shareholder with Rogers Towers, and Staci Rewis, a shareholder at Gunster, both objected to language that would require the applicant to form a legal entity to maintain common infrastructure within a PUD prior to completion of any phase of development, certificate of occupancy and prior to any modification requested.

Although the two attorneys focused on the latter part of the statement, "and prior to any modification requested," they came

at it from different angles. Hainline's proposed change in the language would focus on shared or common areas, resulting in the statement "The establishment of the legal entity shall be made prior to the completion of any phase of development, certificate of occupancy and prior to any modification related to such common or shared areas requested of the Planned Unit Development."

Rewis requested that formation of the legal entity not be triggered by a PUD modification at all, citing concerns a market downturn could jeopardize the application for a PUD created to market a property, thus prematurely requiring the legal entity to be created until the PUD modification and potential closing occur. Sometimes properties are rezoned to PUDs to enhance their market value, lessening perceived restrictions under other zoning categories or providing as many permissible uses as possible for the property.

Other concerns the attorneys expressed included the need to seek deviations from Subdivision Regulations, which are addressed in a different portion of the Municipal Code; changes in entrances and driveways which would not be permitted through minor modifications; the use of "lot size" as an ambiguous term, and grandfathering of PUDs approved prior to the enactment of the bill, among others.

Crescimbeni, the chair for the committee, requested Hainline and Boyer work together to modify language in the draft regarding some of the concerns. The committee will meet next on Friday, Jan. 4. The bill's first stop will be a hearing at the Planning Commission, then it will be heard by City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee before a final hearing by City Council. Since all three members, Boyer, Crescimbeni and Gulliford, will finish their second terms on City Council June 30, 2019, they are seeking to see the bill adopted before that date.

To read the bill in its entirety, go to residentnews.net and search for "PUD."

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What is the single most important goal you plan to set and achieve in 2019?

By **Marcia Hodgson**, Resident Community News



"It's going to be work related. As CEO, to grow St. Vincent's as an integral part and partner with our broader community and to open our heart and vascular pavilion to serve our friends and neighbors."

- **Tom Van Osdol**, Avondale



"To work really hard and make time for family and friends and travel more."

- **Alex Klempf**, Riverside



"Make the honor roll for the whole year at St. Paul's Catholic School in Riverside, the best school ever."

- **Gabriella Rogers**, Fairfax



"Deciding between working still for a large corporation or going into business for myself"

- **Rachel Stillwell**, Lakeshore



"To appreciate and live out a better balance of time, balance, and perspective as far as being able to serve others and keep the perspective of what a joy it is to be able to help other people and really be able to appreciate the little things of everyday life."

- **Carisa Champion**, Ortega



"I want to explore more of crafting my culinary skills, and I want to complete a writing session for myself. I want to complete something, but not necessarily get it published. I have many things started but nothing to completion."

- **Mandie Dean**, Riverside



"I teach high school science at Terry Parker, and I'd like to improve on my teaching."

- **Dwayne Rogers**, Fairfax



"For the continued growth of my personal business, my relationship with my wife, and overall happiness."

- **Casey Smith**, Avondale



"To become a bigger part of the community with volunteering more and helping out how I can."

- **Lianne Stricklen**, Murray Hill



"We just did the Alzheimer's walk, and we raised over \$4,000. I think I would like to raise \$10,000 for Alzheimer's research."

- **Casey Rogers**, Fairfax



"To stop waiting for things and start making things happen. To start moving forward, whether it means starting a new career or advancing my current career. Just moving forward. I've applied for some jobs at the place I currently work. I want to make a forward step within the organization."

- **Tucker Holland**, Avondale



"It is so funny that you are coming up to us today because this is something we have been thinking about hard for the past couple of days. My husband and I want to continue our growth. We plan to spread our business to a couple of cities in 2019, and we also want to obtain a house for us to live and another to potentially rent out and build a rental portfolio for our business as well. In 2019, we plan for a lot of love and happiness and growth."

- **Emily Smith**, Avondale



"I would like to participate in at least five philanthropic events as a volunteer, walker, or whatever for multiple organizations in 2019. I would like to go out and help these organizations in general to raise awareness for their efforts. The organizations I want to support are the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Alzheimer's Awareness Society, the Lauren Books Kids Society, which is for children victims of sexual abuse, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and Angels for Allison."

- **Emily Corrigan**, Ortega



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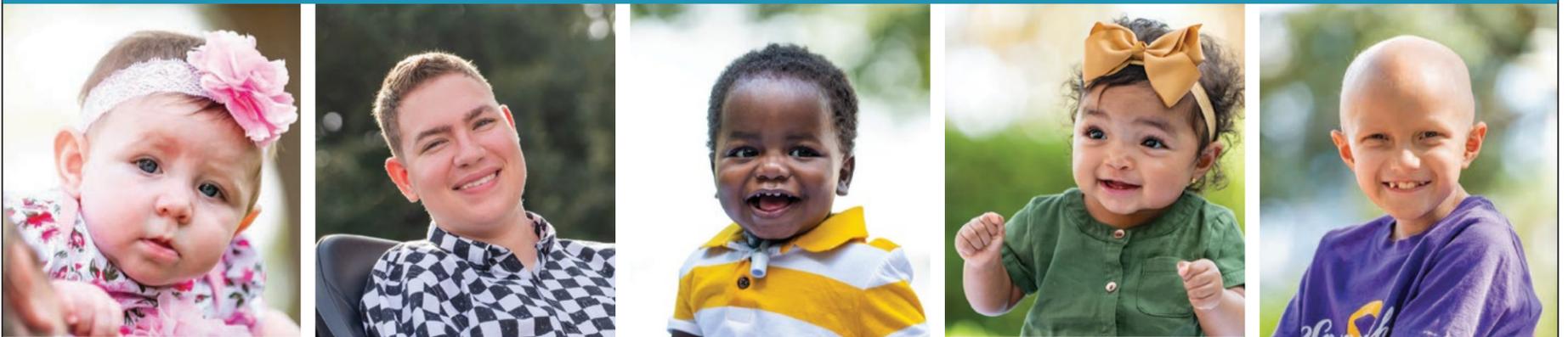
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Short-term rentals committee finishes findings meetings

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

The special committee on short-term vacation rentals met for the fourth time Dec. 6, but this time there was a new person in the chairman's seat and a new councilman on board. Jim Love, District 14 Councilman, was appointed the new chair after District 11 Councilman Danny Becton abruptly resigned from the committee.

Taking Becton's place as the third member was Council President Aaron Bowman, who represents District 3. Ju'Coby Pittman, District 8, is also on the committee which was tasked last fall to move Duval County forward with a plan to begin collecting the 6 percent bed tax from owners of short-stay vacation rental properties. A report in July from Kyle Billy, Jacksonville City Council Auditor, indicated the county is failing to collect \$366,000 per year from vacation rental companies such as Airbnb. At the Dec. 6 meeting, Bowman noted the City probably missed between \$35,000 and \$40,000 in bed taxes just during the Florida-Georgia football game weekend.

Since the committee convened its first meeting Oct. 11, there has been a lot of public interest on the matter. In addition to vacation rental industry representatives, citizens on both sides of the issue have attended the meetings to voice their opinions. One stalwart attendee is Terry Moore, a real estate attorney who served for seven years on the City's Housing Commission and the Duval County Housing Authority under two mayors. He spoke again at the committee's fourth meeting, requesting that the legislation require

rental homes in the historic neighborhoods be mandated as owner-occupied.

"Create the legislation in the context of defined limited zoning overlay districts," he said. "Short term rentals compete with hotels and divert tourists out of the hotels and into the neighborhoods."

Property owners choosing to rent a room or two, or a whole house, are doing so illegally in certain zoning districts, so the committee is trying to draft legislation which would permit certain types of rentals in specific areas.

But it's not just a matter of turning a wrong into a right and then collecting taxes. At issue are the property rights of single-family homeowners living adjacent to or in the same block as a home which is available for rent. "One house violating the law affects five or six neighbors," said Moore, whose daughter's family is currently at odds with such a neighbor.

Nancy Powell, board chair for Riverside Avondale Preservation, also spoke at the latest meeting but made it clear she did so as a private citizen, not on behalf of RAP. "A distinction can and should be made with owner-occupied vs. non-occupied rentals because most of the problems come with the non-owner-occupied houses," she said, noting Nashville has two sets of laws, with non-owner-occupied rentals not allowed in certain low-density and residential districts.

Jason Teal, Deputy General Counsel for the City, who was charged by the committee with drafting legislation, cautioned that if they make the regulations too stringent, "people will ignore them and hope they don't get caught."

Among the items discussed for the legislation were a registration process; compliance and enforcement of the laws; operational restrictions; an appeal mechanism for revocation of license; neighborhood notices upon application; penalties for violations, and other issues.

The committee is hoping to meet again toward the end of January to review the first draft of the bill.

Another point of view

Connie Jo Gandy and her husband, Leslie, own a 1921 home in Riverside, which they are restoring. The house next door and the one behind them are fully operational short-term rental properties, but Gandy said the property owners are "more attentive than ever before." The Gandys also own a 1941 duplex in San Marco, which they bought in 2001 and had rented to long-term tenants until 2014, when they signed on with Airbnb.

Gandy's perspective on short-term rentals is positive from several aspects.

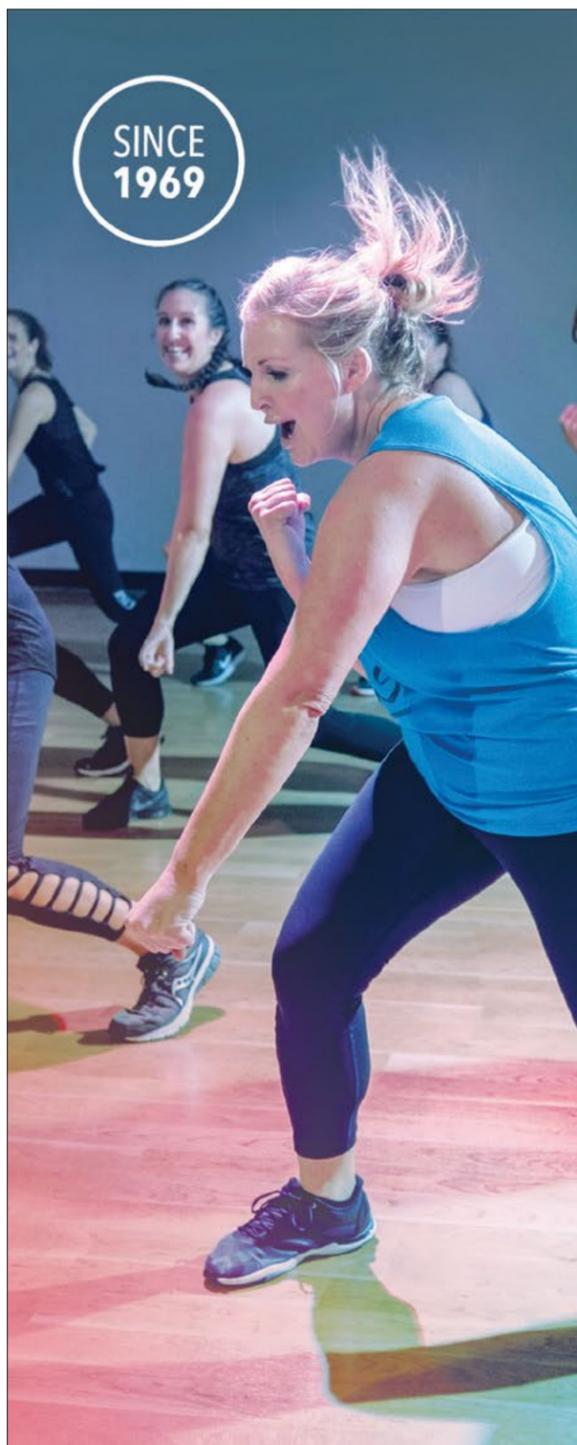
"Over the nearly 18 years we have owned the rental property [in San Marco], there have been ongoing issues with the long-term tenants surrounding my rental property. I actually see this as a landlord issue as they could easily require/ask their tenants to keep the property up, or make sure of it themselves," she said. "This disarray was hard for my long-term tenants to bear. The short-term guests are usually not here long enough and are focused on other activities, so that the bits of mayhem that bother me, they [the long-term tenants] seem to not notice or are able to overlook as it is temporary."

Gandy has a strict house rules in her short-term rental agreement, permitting no parties, no extra guests or outside voices after 9 p.m., no smoking inside or outside, no scented candles or air fresheners (she is highly allergic), no shoes in the house, and parking is off-street. "These rules are stated right up front and agreed to by the guest at booking," she said. "If they break these rules, they risk being made to leave without a refund, being charged additional fees, and/or an unfavorable review."

Perhaps because Gandy is a conscientious rental host, she hopes the new rules are not onerous for the short-term rental business in Jacksonville. "I am all for clarity. We hosts talk to one another and have learned we have not received consistent direction by the City of Jacksonville as to how we are to properly operate," Gandy said. "The current 'guidelines' are vague at best."

She is licensed with the State, collects and submits local taxes, but does not feel an owner-occupied house host should have to go all the licensing if taxes are collected by the platform, as Airbnb does currently with State sales tax, and proposes to do for the county's bed tax.

"I love the idea of a simple, affordable registry with a valid point of contact for each property listed. I feel hosts would like this as we want every stay to be a success all around," she said. "The vast majority of hosts and guests want the stay to go well for all. And on Airbnb, the mutual reviews are extremely helpful in keeping the trust and transparency front and center."



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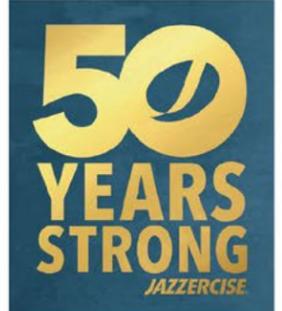
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LISTED BY CINDY COREY
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1864 CHALLEN AVENUE
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4726 NOTTINGHAM ROAD
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LISTED BY ROBERT VAN CLEVE
\$323,000



4570 ORTEGA ISLAND DRIVE
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LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$1,825,000



1484 DUNNS LAKE DRIVE
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1668 CHARON ROAD
3/1, 1,302 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$264,000



8787 HAMPTON LANDING
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Cecil Field chapel receives landmark designation

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

There's a new historic landmark that will soon be added to the record books. With the City of Jacksonville Council's approval of Ordinance 2018-677 on Nov. 13, 2018, the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass at the POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field will be recorded in the official records of Duval County with local landmark status.

"The City now has a new historical landmark to be proud of that will serve as a destination site for the nation. This historic Chapel of the High-Speed Pass has a lot of history and memories associated with the former Master Jet Base, NAS Cecil Field," said Michael Cassata, executive director, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. "The Chapel is very important to our overall mission and vision of establishing a National POW/MIA Memorial. It is the centerpiece and will honor our former Prisoners of War and Missing in Action service members."

The building, formerly called the NAS Cecil Field Chapel, is recognized as the physical embodiment of the "Spirit of Cecil Field," defined by service, honor, sacrifice and patriotism, according to a statement in the bill. Since 1966, the chapel has hosted hundreds of baptisms, weddings, memorial and funeral services, as well as Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.

The Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval of the local landmark designation Sept. 26, 2018, finding that it had met three of seven criteria required for the designation. Those criteria

found to be met include 1) its value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state or nation; 2) it has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials, and 3) its suitability for preservation or restoration.

The 14,744-square-foot chapel was designed in a distinctive A-frame style by Jacksonville architectural firm KBJ Architects, a style popular in church architecture during the 1960s and 1970s. The firm, Kemp, Bunch and Jackson, has been identified as the oldest architectural firm in Florida, by virtue of having purchased in 1946 a firm that was established shortly after the Great Fire of 1901. KBJ designed 17 of the city's 30 tallest buildings, including the first high-rise, the 22-story Aetna Building, which opened in 1955.

The Cecil Field chapel was the venue for an event in 1973 to welcome John McCain back after his release from prison in Hanoi, North Vietnam. McCain became Commanding Officer of a training squadron at Cecil Field in 1976 and won the squadron its first Meritorious Unit Commendation. In early 2017, McCain sent a letter to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial board of directors endorsing their work.

When Cecil Field was closed in 1999, the chapel was vacated and used for storage, with the wings of the building used as office space for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Florida Division of Forestry. Due to issues with asbestos and lead, the chapel



The Chapel of the High-Speed Pass at the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial (Photo by Kram Kran Photo)

"The Chapel is very important to our overall mission and vision of establishing a National POW/MIA Memorial. It is the centerpiece and will honor our former Prisoners of War and Missing in Action service members."

— **Michael Cassata**, executive director, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.

was scheduled for demolition, but strong public opposition resulted in removing it from the demolition list in 2001.

After Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. was founded in 2016, the nonprofit began cleaning the chapel with plans to renovate it for use as part of a national memorial for prisoners of war and those missing in action.

To date, restoration efforts include restoring the exterior and interior doors of the chapel, replacing the roof, resealing some of the windows and repainting the interior. Yet to be completed are the installation of new pews and carpeting, and work on the A/C system.

"One great addition to be on display is a Chair of Honor Pew. This is a single-seat

pew to symbolize to our Missing in Action there will always be a seat and 'You Are Not Forgotten.' We believe this will be one of a kind!" said Cassata.

"We are expecting to be opened and fully operational in early 2019. The Chapel's usage will be used for military weddings, funerals and ceremonies. The general public will also have access to it," he said.

As a designated landmark, any activity affecting the exterior of the NAS Cecil Field Chapel, including additions, replacements, relocations, restorations or demolitions, will require a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

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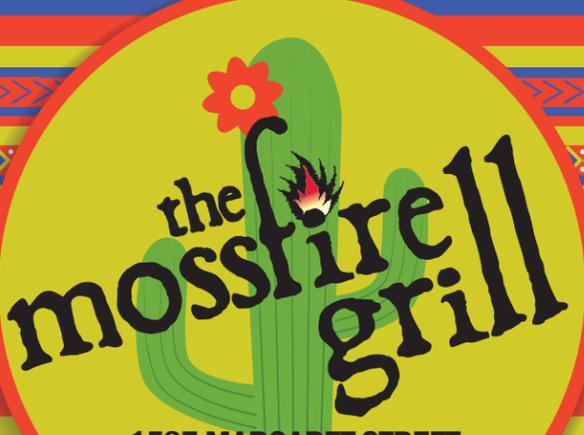


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Developer withdraws from multi-family project on King Street

Opportunity available for ‘appropriately-scaled’ project

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

Less than a month after approximately four dozen nearby property owners had gathered at Riverside Baptist Church Nov. 29 to learn about redevelopment plans for a site that Riverside Avondale Preservation calls “the heart of the Riverside Avondale historic district,” the developer announced to RAP it would withdraw from the project.

J.B. Ritz, a Jacksonville Beach developer, was planning to file an application for a planned unit development (PUD) zoning designation to redevelop the 3-acre property where CenterState Bank is located on King Street. Slightly more than half the property is zoned Commercial Office (CO) and the remainder as Commercial Community General (CCG-1).

On Dec. 21, RAP released a statement that J.B. Ritz representatives had informed the preservation group it had decided to withdraw plans for the proposed 118-unit, multi-family mixed-use project.

“We respect that the bank and the developer were open to feedback as they worked towards seeing if they could make a project work in this location,” said Nancy Powell, chair of RAP’s board of directors. “Scott [Gay] and the J.B. Ritz team have been very cooperative and professional throughout the process, and we thank them for engaging RAP and the community to listen and learn.”

J.B. Ritz’s proposed mixed-used development would have consisted of a three- to four-story residential structure with 118 one- and two-bedroom apartments; a 190-space three-story parking garage; a clubhouse, and a 2,500-square-foot space for some type of retail. Additionally, the plans included a new, smaller bank building with drive-thru lanes and 20 parking spaces on the corner of King and Lydia Streets, and a dog park on the corner of Lydia Street and Frederica Place. There were also 16 surface parking spaces planned between the dog park and the bank.

More than 70 people had attended the November meeting, where primary concerns centered around mass (too many units), scale (building height) and lack of retail on the King Street side. “I want to see more



Aerial view of the properties which surround the CenterState Bank property on King Street.

retail. No one expects to see an apartment complex in the middle of a business district,” said David Joudi, owner of Riverside Liquors on King Street.

After the meeting, RAP’s Zoning Committee issued a statement, indicating the project as presented did not comply with the Riverside-Avondale Zoning Overlay. “It is also not compatible with the commercial/storefront character on King St. and the residential character on Frederica St. This compatibility is required by the City’s historic preservation ordinance and guidelines. These guidelines address issues of scale, massing and design and require projects to be compatible with the streetscape and neighboring structures,” read the statement.

According to historic preservation guidelines developed in 1992 for new construction and renovations within the Historic District, since most buildings, with the exception of bungalows and some commercial buildings, are 2 to 2.5 stories high, the height of new construction should be compatible with surrounding historic buildings. The tallest

structures in the area immediately adjacent to CenterState Bank’s property include Riverside Baptist Church, Walgreens and the Whiteway Building – none of which are higher than 2.5 stories.

“As a homeowner living down the street from the proposed development, I am greatly concerned that the apartment complex would greatly increase traffic congestion, noise/disruption, and overall crime levels in our neighborhood and the surrounding area,” said Lindsay Jackson. “I feel that a large-scale apartment complex is completely out of keeping with this quaint historic district and the small businesses adjacent to the commercially-zoned property.”

Eric Davidson, a Frederica Place homeowner, was also not impressed with the plan, stating he would like to see more commercial/retail and less residential. “I do not like the idea of people on the third floor of the building looking down in to my home across the street,” he said, also noting the planned amenities will be great for the renters but will have no value for the neighborhood.

“Usually, when a developer comes to showcase a new project to members of the community, they address aspects that would show it was a benefit to the surrounding area. These are things like placemaking, quality of life enhancements, road enhancements, ‘fitting in’ with the surrounding area, and economic factors. From what we saw, the only benefits that were addressed were

for the developer, and whatever tenants they were proposing to be living in the area,” Davidson said in a subsequent statement.

Three weeks after the public meeting, J.B. Ritz representative Tim Lambert and Scott Gay met with RAP to indicate they would withdraw from the project.

“There are no hard feelings. We wanted to do something the community would welcome and also meets our criteria for success. Unfortunately, that does not appear to be possible without relief from the Overlay height restrictions allowing the density we need,” said Lambert.

Gay added, “We were working collaboratively with RAP, CenterState Bank and the community, and we appreciate everyone’s participation and input. We have many projects in other areas that we will turn our attention to, but if something comes up in the future, we’d like to keep the door open.”

RAP leadership believes there is opportunity for an appropriately-scaled, well-designed mixed-use project on the site that would take into consideration the community needs “RAP’s mission is to preserve the historic fabric of our unique neighborhood, and one of our core principles is to advocate for balance and compatible scale which fit and compliment the neighborhood. We will continue to work with CenterState Bank and any future developer on projects that will fit and thrive in this community,” said Warren Jones, executive director.

“We wanted to do something the community would welcome and also meets our criteria for success. Unfortunately, that does not appear to be possible without relief from the Overlay height restrictions allowing the density we need.”

— **Tim Lambert**, J.B. Ritz representative

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RANDY DEFOOR DISTRICT FOURTEEN
for Jacksonville City Council

Winding up their term, district council representatives reflect on accomplishments

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

As Lori Boyer and Jim Love run the home stretch of serving two terms on City Council, they recollect the triumphs and the trials of being in office, talk about what they would like to achieve during their final six months of service, and impart some words of wisdom to those who will follow in their footsteps.

During the past seven and a half years, Boyer and Love have been at the helm of much growth and many changes in their respective districts – 5 and 14. Additionally, they have both served on numerous committees and special assignments that wielded influence well beyond their districts.

Their early days of service were not without challenges. When Boyer came into office in 2011, the very first thing she encountered was backlash from constituents who were not happy about a tree planting project on Hendricks Avenue.

“I got a lot of angry emails,” Boyer said. “I had to develop a thick skin about things I wasn’t responsible for but had to take the heat for.”

Also, learning the budget was a process that took a couple of years to fully understand, and there was a learning curve when it came to constituent issues and being prepared for how to vote on upcoming bills.

“There were a large number of constituent issues, and I had to learn who to go to in order to get those issues addressed,” she said. “When it comes to bills, there are lots of nuances to the specific bills that need to be voted on. You have to keep the constituents informed and explain why you voted the way you did, and you need to have a good reason for it.”

Sometimes constituents are not clear on the roles and responsibilities of a council member, and they become exasperated when they feel as if they aren’t being heard and actions are not being taken to resolve their issues.



Lori Boyer



Jim Love

“One of the greatest challenges is that, in general, our constituents do not understand our job. There is a lot of frustration around what we can and can’t do and what they want us to do,” Boyer said.

She explained that City Council is a legislative branch, and while members can pass bills on different issues, they can’t always make things happen for people immediately – they have to funnel issues to the appropriate person or department, who in turn would take action on the issue.

“I really do try to help address their concerns, but so many of them are out of my control,” said Boyer. “There are pros and cons to consolidation – it’s a big, bureaucratic government. When you call 630-CITY you are given a number and the issue is sent to the right person. It’s impersonal, and it can make you feel like you are disappointing people when you are trying to help them.”

Love came in second in his first election in March 2011, but he made the runoff. He won the May general election by just 134 votes.

“It was very exhilarating to be elected but also very daunting,” he said.

Love was appointed by the council president to be a member of the Land Use and Zoning Committee as well as the Transportation Energy and Utility Committee.

“I did not know at that time the Land Use and Zoning Committee would be one of the most time-intensive committees on the council,” he said. “This would become most apparent when the Avondale Mellow Mushroom bill was introduced in June 2012, which would involve dozens of

meetings as well as several contentious townhall meetings.”

When Love entered office, the challenges were already in place. The country and the city had been in a recession for a number of years. The unemployment rate was high and real estate values were dropping. By 2012, the city revenue dropped 14 percent. The council, in a move to prevent losing more police officers, fire stations, libraries and city personnel decided to raise the millage by approximately 14 percent to cover the lost revenue.

“So many of us did not want to raise taxes but the alternative was even more dire,” Love said. “Since many of our residents had seen decreasing real estate taxes over the last three years the increase was not as objectionable considering the other option was to lay off 300-plus police officers and close several fire stations and libraries, and almost nobody wanted to do that.”

Since that time, city employees have received raises, police officers have been added, library hours are being restored, and several more fire stations have been approved in growing areas of the city.

Another challenge Love faced, and one that is a work in progress, is gun and gang violence.

“This hit home with me with the shooting in February 2014 at the Fat Kat Night Club in Murray Hill and in July 2015 with the shooting death of an employee at the Blind Rabbit Restaurant on King Street,” said Love. “In the Fat Kat Nightclub shooting three people were injured and one was killed. Eventually both shooters were brought to justice, thanks to the good work of the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO). Unfortunately, we continue to see shootings around the city, including the recent shooting at the Landing and on A. Philip Randolph [Boulevard].”

Though the City Council has authorized more police officers and equipment, such as shot spotter and a bullet casing identification system, and senior leaders in the JSO have attended a seminar from the prestigious John Jay College of Criminal Justice to help with gang violence, it’s still not enough, according to Love. The problem persists.

Savoring the wins

Along with the various challenges of being in office, there were also victories for the council members.

One of Boyer’s biggest accomplishments was helping to bring clean drinking water to residents in the Larsen Acres neighborhood, which is located off Philips Highway, near the Walmart. When she saw a sign on the fence at a neighborhood church

offering free drinking water for residents, she knew she had to do something about it. She was instrumental in getting the neighborhood hooked up to municipal water in 2015.

“I was appalled that there were places in our city – in my district – where people couldn’t drink the tap water,” she said. “It was unacceptable.”

Boyer also served as City Council president and chaired the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) special committee, which introduced numerous bills; closed the books on over 1,200 projects – some that were completed over a decade ago; identified more than \$50 million dollars available for future capital projects; transferred or appropriated \$25 million to ongoing projects to allow them to move forward without borrowing; and cleaned up years of accounting errors and discrepancies that totaled well over a hundred million dollars.

“Locating those tens of millions of dollars to use for new projects and getting debt off our books benefitted the city and the taxpayers,” Boyer said.

Love has also had many high points during his time on the City Council.

“When I was first elected to City Council one of the main platforms I ran on was to improve the economy. The unemployment rate in 2011 was 11.2 percent, and this was substantiated when I knocked on doors and met many good people who were unemployed. The unemployment right now is about 3.5 percent, thanks to the many businesses that have called Jacksonville home, including Amazon, Deutsche Bank, a second Costco (in District 14) and FIS.”

On a district level, he helped the Westside’s Ringhaver Park get new field lights, Ortega a new sidewalk, Riverside a dog park and a community garden, Murray Hill a new playground, and in Avondale a renovated playground in Boone Park.

“Several future plans are funded and are in the works to include a much-needed third exit for Ortega Hills, a multi-use path across the Fuller Warren Bridge, an extension to the Riverside Arts Market, renovations to Edgewood Avenue South and renovating the Five Points intersection,” he said.

He also played a part in passing the Human Rights Ordinance and helping pass new pension legislation for city employees, which included as part of the package pay increases, which had not been given for over seven years.

In other areas he worked with the Jacksonville military veterans and the Mayor’s Office to help move the Vietnam

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 13**

“You have to keep the constituents informed and explain why you voted the way you did, and you need to have a good reason for it.”

– **Lori Boyer**, District 5 Councilwoman

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“My advice to my successor is to listen to the people – their issues and ideas. Almost all of the good ideas and projects have come from the dreams and hopes of the good people of District 14.”

– Jim Love, District 14 Councilman

Memorial marker to the arena and worked with Councilman Bill Gulliford in the fight against the opioid crisis.

Heading into the final stretch

During the next six months, both Love and Boyer are working on crowning achievements that they hope to see come to fruition before they leave office.

“For me, there are three big areas,” Boyer said. “They are big and have lots of implications.”

First, there are the Downtown Design Standards, which includes zoning for downtown – what’s in the code is outdated – and riverfront design standards. Second are Planned Unit Development (PUD) revisions.

“We use way too many PUDs to solve other issues,” said Boyer. “One problem is our buffers are not adequate and well defined. We need more objective and more robust buffer language, and then we can eliminate some of the PUDs. I’m going to work between now and June to try to get all the issues addressed, one way or another, in the PUD project.”

Lastly is drainage and flood planning. “We have to do something, to the extent we can, to regulate how wetlands are filled and impacts on associated property,” said Boyer.

Love is currently working on a bill with other council members that would regulate short-term rentals like Airbnb and VRBO. “Most of the other counties have worked out the regulations but they have not all been done well,” he said. “It is so important to get this right and we may have to ask the legislature in Tallahassee to rewrite some laws to help us.”

Additionally, Love just finished working on a bill concerning safe parking on Ortega Boulevard for a proposed restaurant called Edley’s Bar-B-Que. The bill, passed unanimously in November, should allow the restaurant owners to start on an old gas station location at the corner of Roosevelt Boulevard and Ortega Boulevard.

Listen to the constituents

Based on their many years of experience, both council members have some parting advice for their successors.

“Generally, District 5 is well-informed as a group, but has high expectations. There are a lot of old areas that tend not to have gated communities and master associations that handle issues, so they all become city issues – roads, parks, etc. all managed by the city. There is a much higher demand on services and more people needing a response than in some of the other districts,” Boyer said.

She advises her successor to do as much as possible to educate constituents on what the role of a council member is – what a council member has the ability to do and what they cannot do. She also said those same people, who are well informed and engaged, can help with solutions to problems and their voices should be heard and their ideas well considered.

Love’s top advice was also to pay attention to the constituents.

“My advice to my successor is to listen to the people – their issues and ideas. Almost all of the good ideas and projects have come from the dreams and hopes of the good people of District 14 and my job was just to help find a way to get them done,” he said.

He also suggested that his successor should meet with the future president of the City Council to discuss committees they would like to be on and the future goals and projects for District 14; he recommends they should not give up their outside activities – particularly with service clubs or nonprofits as they can be a good source of information and ideas. Love further suggests they should consider visiting with all the department heads of the City as well as the CEOs of the independent authorities, rely heavily on the Office of General Counsel when trying to get a project done, and hire the finest executive assistant possible with outstanding people skills.

How to work productively with your city council representative

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

Reaching out to City Councilmembers is one of the best ways to communicate ideas and issues to people that represent the community. While it can sometimes seem difficult to weave your way through the engine of bureaucracy, there are several productive, effective ways to make contact.

Before reaching out, make sure you are ready to present your issue in such a way that it can be addressed. Provide succinct information – photographs, facts and examples. Focus on the problem and gather as much information as you can to help get the problem solved. Be professional and courteous; avoid approaching your council representative with a confrontational attitude.

Below is a compilation of suggestions that should make the communication process easier. If you try one method and it is not successful, try another. Don’t give up – your council representative is there to help you.

Write, call, meet

First communicate with your City Councilmember by sending an email to 630city@COJ.net and copy your district’s councilmember, his or her executive assistant, all five at-large council members and, if the issue is something that will eventually be heard and voted on by the full Council, the entire group. Their contact information can be found at coj.net/city-council.aspx. When you send the email, include precise addresses and photos if needed. Remember, all government correspondence is considered public record and will be kept on file.

If your community has a Nextdoor profile, you may email your Councilmember with

any issues, and once you receive a response, you may post that response into Nextdoor to share with other users, but social media is not the best way to communicate directly with City Councilmembers.

Next, call your councilmember’s office. All phone numbers can be found on the City’s website, as listed above, and on their Council webpages. If you have a particularly tough issue, ask for an appointment. When you meet with them, leave copies of the information related to your issue.

A high-tech way to report city issues is to download the MyJax app for your smartphone. The added benefit to this app is that it has a GPS locator, so it will know precisely the location of the pothole, sinking sidewalk, downed tree or any other issue you are reporting.

Finally, attend City Council, Noticed or Committee meetings, which are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are listed at coj.net/city-council/events/calendar.aspx. Additionally, under Florida’s Sunshine Law, the public has the right to attend any gathering of two or more elected officials at which they will discuss a matter that may come before a committee or the Council for action.

Participate in organized neighborhood groups, such as the Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC). Jacksonville’s more than 200 neighborhoods are divided into six planning districts, each with a CPAC. The primary purpose of the CPAC is to maintain open and effective communication between Jacksonville residents, businesses, neighborhoods, community organizations, educational institutions and city government.

For more information, go to coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/neighborhood-services-office/citizen-planning-advisory-committees-cpacs.

Kick off new year with books

The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library (FJPL) will hold a “Big Bag Sale” January 17-19 at the book warehouse, 3435 University Blvd. N., where books, DVDs and CDs will be available for purchase.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, 4-8 p.m., FJPL members can enjoy a BOGO – buy one bag, get a second free plus a 25 percent discount off the \$15 cost of the first bag. Not a member? You can join at the door for just \$10. Non-members can enjoy a BOGO on Friday, Jan. 18 4-8 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Note, 7 percent sales tax will be added to all purchases.

For more information, call (904) 630-2304 or visit fjpl.org.

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Working together to preserve neighborhood histories for the future

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

As many Jacksonville neighborhoods continue to grow and change, there are some communities that strive to protect their rich histories – embracing the future while preserving the past. Although each of the communities is distinctively different, they share the common goal of preservation, planning, and sustainability.

Through the creation of Jacksonville Urban Neighborhood Coalition (JUNC), the entities can come together as one to collectively discuss their most pressing needs. Though many of their needs are specific to their individual communities, common threads tie together a group comprised of historic districts and other community support agencies. There are approximately 25 different organizations represented.

Five of the organizations shared what they do to conserve the character of the areas where they work, live and play.

Riverside Avondale Preservation

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), established in 1974, conducted a survey in 2017 as the basis for a new strategic plan designed to guide the organization in the future. The board of directors used input from residents and business owners to develop a vision, mission and set of core principles.

RAP’s vision is to be the lead advocate and facilitator for Riverside Avondale’s historic neighborhoods, vibrant local commercial districts, public spaces and welcoming community. They aim to achieve this vision by preserving the historic fabric and unique character, promoting local businesses, arts, and culture and advocating for and celebrating their community.

“As we learned from our neighborhood survey, our residents and business owners are concerned about preservation and the enhancement of our quality of life. At our core we will continue our work advocating for appropriate land use, zoning and adherence to historic regulations,” said Warren Jones, executive director of RAP. “Other projects to achieve these goals include advocating for drainage and flood control, pedestrian and bike-friendly improvements, public transportation and more cultural and family-centric programs.”

To achieve those goals, RAP relies on volunteers in the community who wish to work together to make these efforts a reality. Their board of directors is actively seeking people who want to engage to build on the legacy of those volunteers who in the early 1970s created RAP to save their historic buildings and unique character.

“Ultimately, Riverside Avondale Preservation and our community are strengthened through the imagination and determination of our volunteers who do great things,” Jones said.

RAP uses City of Jacksonville historic preservation guidelines and zoning regulations to provide a framework for their preservation efforts. Many people erroneously believe that Riverside Avondale Preservation makes the final determination if a proposed project meets the historic guidelines, but it is actually the City of Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission that has final approval.

“That is why two words – ‘advocate’ and ‘facilitate’ – in our vision are so important,” said Jones. “We advocate for improvements and adherence to preservation guidelines. We also facilitate mutually beneficial relationships and programming, so we can work together to preserve what we love about where we live.”

One of the first meetings Jones attended as the new executive director was with JUNC. “That day’s presentation was about transportation issues and the future of transportation. It was a great discussion. In the future our scheduled meetings will cover such topics as disaster relief, economic development, homelessness, small business support and housing issues,” he said.

San Marco Preservation Society

After eight years in the making, the Neighborhood Action Plan developed by the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) to serve as a blueprint for development in San Marco was adopted as an ordinance by City Council in December 2018. San Marco By Design was created in response to the community’s concern about future development proposals transportation and safety efficiency zoning regulations and approval processes.

“We know that growth is coming, and we wanted to have guidelines for what type of development we’d like in San Marco,” said Bryan Mickler, SMPS president. “We hope developers will look at it and stick to those guidelines. They will have to at least discuss why they would want to deviate from the plan.”

One of the big things SMPS just completed is a \$60,000 renovation to Preservation Hall in Fletcher Park. The project entailed hiring a roofing contractor who had

expertise in the gothic style of the building to replace the roof. About \$50,000 of that expense came directly out of the coffers of SMPS. Other projects include the painting of the Stockton sales office – the building that served as the sales office for most of the old homes in San Marco – and working on the old South Jacksonville City Hall.

“We are design consultant for a number of things happening in San Marco,” Mickler said. “There is new KOMPAN playground equipment at Landon Park; it’s absolutely gorgeous. It was a very expensive project and the kids love it.”

Additionally, SMPS helped to design the “Welcome to San Marco” sign that was paid for by Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, and they are also in consultation with Councilwoman Lori Boyer on the Overland Bridge, Fuller Warren pedestrian bridge, all of the parks and the new bulkhead along River Road.

“We contribute to maintenance fund for the landscaping of all the areas around San Marco Square, and we participate in community outreach,” said Mickler. “We did a store front depiction of old San Marco in City Hall downtown, and we conduct speaker series where the speakers talk about the San Marco area.”

Also, SMPS oversaw an approximately \$75,000 renovation to Brown L. Whatley Park, installed trees in Alexandria Oaks Park, and they work with Greenscape and the City to plant trees where they are needed.

“We consulted with the Department of Transportation on the widening of San Jose Boulevard and how it will impact the neighborhood – we advocate for good development,” said Mickler. “We look at people’s plans and make sure there are enough trees and sidewalks – a lot of different things.”

The members of SMPS are excited about the formation of JUNC where the different organizations come together.

“The goal is to find ways we can help each other. If one community has a certain insight on how to get something done with the City, or if they have a better way of doing things, they can share that with the rest of us,” said

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 15**

“The goal is to find ways we can help each other.”

— Bryan Mickler, SMPS president



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Mickler. “We did a charrette and focused on issues that touch us all. Things like transportation, safety issues and drainage and flooding – things that are too big for one neighborhood.”

St. Nicholas Area Preservation

After about a 10-year hiatus, St. Nicholas Area Preservation (SNAP) has regrouped to build community and preserve the beautiful historic St. Nicholas neighborhood. The group was revived when St. Nicholas resident Alex Varkonda sent emails to residents and got some conversations going about restarting the group. Several residents were interested, so a meeting was held in May to discuss the reorganization of SNAP.

“We decided to reinvigorate SNAP, elect board members and launch it. We are just getting ourselves off the ground and are starting again – we are taking the first steps to get ourselves established,” said Erik Kaldor, president of SNAP.

The organization has held some events in the neighborhood and they have a regular happy hour at The Mudville Grille. In December they sold luminary kits and had a membership drive; they had the SNAP sign updated, are still spreading the word and trying to get residents interested in joining.

Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council

Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council (SPAR) hosts multiple programs that promote preservation and revitalization of Jacksonville’s oldest neighborhood.

One example is their Residential Revival Project. In 2017, SPAR worked with a senior resident to complete a small-scale exterior renovation that included maintenance and

repair needed due to the age of the home. With the help of volunteers and donations, SPAR was able to complete \$8,000 worth of repairs for \$1,000.

This year, the project started with a \$1,000 sponsorship, and grew to the equivalent of \$15,000 worth of preservation and renovation work for a senior Springfield couple who have lived in the neighborhood for 25 years. SPAR is looking at the third year of the project to take place in April 2019.

“Because of the success and continued need in the neighborhood for similar projects, SPAR will continue the program to assist a minimum of one low- to moderate-income resident each year with the costs of exterior maintenance and restoration of their historic homes,” said Kelly Rich, executive director of SPAR.

The Historic Springfield Tour of Homes, which showcases the unique character of the community, marked its 40th year in 2018. The event, a major fundraiser for programming and services provided by SPAR Council, allows local and regional attendees to view homes that are up to a century old, as well as new construction and the occasional renovated commercial space.

The largest event that SPAR hosts each year is Jacksonville PorchFest – 2018 was the fifth year of this annual event that brings important attention to Springfield’s historic architecture and ongoing revitalization and highlights the breadth of musical talent here in Jacksonville. Proceeds from the event are dedicated to SPAR’s arts programming and education fund.

Additionally, to promote revitalization of the area, SPAR hosts monthly community cleanups, several bike socials and community outings throughout the year.

SPAR hosts quarterly community meetings, where residents and business owners come

“There are many preservation efforts happening in the neighborhood right now. Investors and homeowners are continuing to preserve and restore historic homes.”

— Kelly Rich, executive director of SPAR

together to hear the latest updates on items the nonprofit is working on. If the City or another local entity like JTA or JEA is working on a project in the area at the time, they invite representatives to share updates with the community and give the community a chance to share their feedback.

SPAR is working with other local urban preservation and community nonprofits to engage their communities through socials and meet-ups, and by sharing resources,

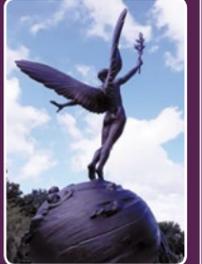
board and committee collaboration, and shared promotion of events.

“There are many preservation efforts happening in the neighborhood right now. Investors and homeowners are continuing to preserve and restore historic homes,” said Rich. “We are also seeing an increase in the revitalization of our commercial corridors, and we’re thrilled for all the small businesses who are choosing to make Springfield their home.”



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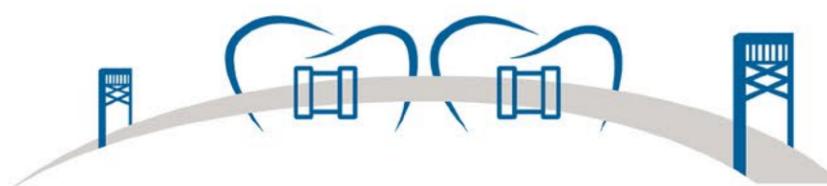
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Riverplace Capital bullish on future of firm

“The Lonely Bull” helps illustrate independence, strength

Jacksonville based Riverplace Capital Management is standing tall and proud, as it celebrated twenty years in business at a recent holiday soiree. Leadership at the firm rolled out an elegant evening of entertainment and an artful celebration for their staff and friends as well as loyal investors and institutional clients.

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Downtown Jacksonville showcased fine cuisine and libations, as well as a trio of stringed instruments, all while immersing guests in contemporary art. The evening was a direct reflection of the attention to detail that pervades the company’s unique approach to investing.

Riverplace Capital prides itself on client services; bringing performance, privacy, and personalization to the table. By way of a diverse and experienced investment management team, various specializations in the field have also afforded the company the ability to serve clients with a unique mix of expertise. Riverplace Capital has vice presidents versed in retirement issues, elder

care, estate construction, as well as financial and tax planning.

By way of additions to its management team, Riverplace Capital has become more able to partner and augment services with accountants, tax specialists, custodial services, healthcare and lifecare services – increasing its offerings – by way of trusted associates. This careful and steady growth has also enabled new team members to learn of the company methodologies, as careful guidance ensures the maintenance of its successful track record.

Mr. Peter Bower, founder of Riverplace Capital, is a veteran of the industry with 40 years of experience and an incalculable level of expertise. With a strong start to his career with Merrill Lynch, Bower’s strengths as investor, entrepreneur, financier, and financial manager have all laid a strong foundation. Under his leadership, his team has gleaned great insight into the market, movements in the market, and trends in the industry.*

Mr. Bower often refers to the moniker “The Lonely Bull” to reflect the independence of thought that is central to the investing spirit of Riverplace Capital. A regular blog and quarterly newsletter are produced for investors and interested parties seeking more about the philosophy of the company.

Legacy and beginnings of Riverplace Capital

The origins of the firm are the combination of Mr. Bower’s joining and subsequently buying the assets of Sears Thompson. The advisory assets of Sears Thompson were moved to the newly registered Riverplace



Peter Bower and Preston Haskell



Sharon and Michael Tackaberry with Mark Ross



Anna and Josh Henry



Paige and Matt Price with Matt Carlucci, Jr. and Lauren Carlucci, and Scott and Katherine Wohlers

Capital Management, as the broker-dealer assets remained in the original corporate entity. These were subsequently sold to Mrs. Sheila Collins, a long-time employee of Sears Thompson. This separation allows Riverplace Capital to focus exclusively on investment management without conflicts that could arise from both originating transactions and handling them as well. Outside, third party custodians are used exclusively. This ensures the safety of assets and allows Riverplace Capital to negotiate the best terms for the services on behalf of its clients.

There were several key employees that helped Riverplace Capital to develop into such a strong player in the market. At the founding, Chuck Thompson, the president of Sears Thompson, facilitated the smooth start and helped the firm takeoff. C. Ronald Belton partnered with Mr. Bower and served as Executive Vice President until he was tapped by Mayor Alvin Brown to be Jacksonville’s Chief Financial Officer under the former administration. Both former leaders are now retired.

Moving ahead, bullishly

Today Mark Ross and Scott Wohlers have been tapped to lead the firm into the future. Mark is also an alum of Merrill Lynch, with 24 years’ experience. Scott is a former banker most recently with Regions Bank in the San Marco area. Both bring a variety of abilities, expertise, and contacts to benefit the clients of the firm. “As we bring on new talent to compliment the current leadership team, we’re excited to see what the future delivers for Riverplace Capital,” said Bower of the next chapter, “Our “Lonely Bull” philosophy will continue to be instilled in the decision making and successful management of assets and services well into the future.”

Riverplace Capital focuses exclusively on its investing service – yet processes and methodologies are constantly honed and adapted to meet the realities of the ever-changing business environment. The objective is always to offer the best in class solutions dovetailed with excellent investment performance.



Karen and Peter Bower

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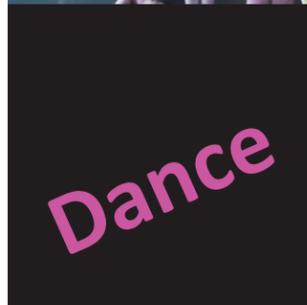
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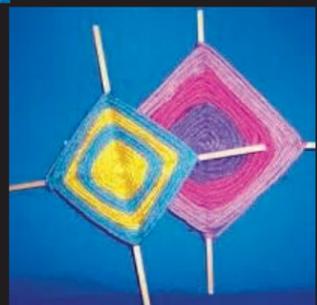
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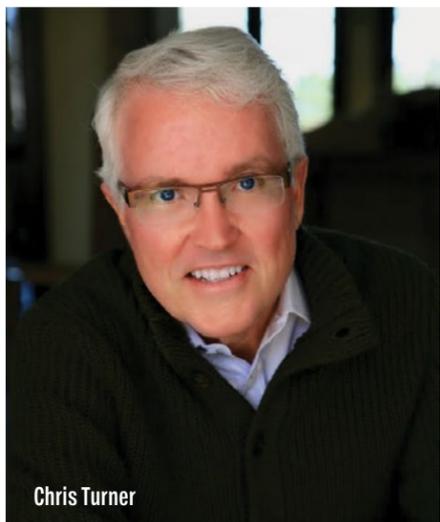
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Floors buckling? The problem isn't what you think it is

Call Turners Underseal before you replace the flooring

After a warm, wet summer, many homeowners with hardwood floors began to experience buckling, or cupping, of their floors. In early September, a post on the popular social media site Nextdoor resulted in nearly 40 replies in response to a Lake Shore resident's complaint.

Many advised the homeowner to check her crawlspace for ponding water and more than a few suggested sealing and dehumidifying the crawlspace, recommending Turners Underseal for the job. "Call Turners Underseal ASAP," said Aron Stefanides of Ortega. "Worth every penny. No more humidity and your floors will go back to normal."



Chris Turner

Most crawlspace problems occur because of one thing: moisture. And Jacksonville has had more than its fair share of hot temperatures and rainy days, resulting in the right conditions for subflooring moisture.

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

It's not just homeowners who turn to Turners Underseal to take care of problems with moisture; even the pros know who to call.

"We used Turners Underseal to take care of a client's moisture issue that was causing her hardwood floors to cup. Within a month of Chris doing the work, her floors had totally laid down. And did not have to be repaired or refinished. We would certainly use him again," said Speir Bryant, president of W. S. Builders.

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

"Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace year-round is to use a permanently installed, commercial-quality dehumidifier, and a liner system with



"Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace year-round is to use a permanently installed, commercial-quality dehumidifier, and a liner system with modifications."

— Chris Turner, Turners Underseal

modifications," said Turner, who is passionate about health – yours and your home's.

"Some companies in our area are doing so-called 'crawlspaces encapsulations.' These, however, are not sealed so they end up trapping water, mud and even sewage above the liner. I recommend never to encapsulate, but keep the crawlspace dry year-round," he said, adding that getting the crawlspace dry and keeping it that way will prevent it from becoming a nasty breeding ground while improving indoor air quality.

With over 30 years' experience as a certified indoor air quality professional, Turner knows his stuff when it comes to healthy, dry crawlspaces.

After Reggie and Rita Walden bought a 90-year-old home in Avondale two years ago, they discovered moisture in the crawlspace. "I have a very sensitive sense of smell," said Rita, "and the mustiness and mildew made me think that perhaps things weren't clean enough."

When a spray foam didn't fix the problem, the Waldens turned to Turners Underseal, who installed a dehumidifier system with modifications. "He came out and put in a dehumidifier and it has taken care of the problem. I haven't noticed musty odors or dampness since," said Rita Walden, who said she would recommend Turners Underseal to anyone.

In addition to the Turners Underseal Dry Crawlspace System, Turners Underseal also does sub-floor sanitizing, permanent wood sealing and home air quality inspections. For \$300 off installation services, contact Chris Turner at (904) 903-9569, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., or check out Turners Underseal at turnersunderseal.com



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Ray Ware Owner Ken Kuder (second from left) and Jason Kuder, President (third from left), with many of the Ray Ware team members.

Four generations in hardware celebrate 80th anniversary

Named for its founder in 1939, Ray Ware Hardware is celebrating 80 years this year as a provider of decorative cabinet hardware, door hardware and plumbing fixtures.

The company began selling hardware to Jacksonville building companies from a two-and-a-half story building at 562 Riverside Ave., where Florida Blue now stands. At that time, the focus of the business was on commercial contractors and architects, according to Kenneth Kuder, grandson of the founder. Ken joined his father, Dewitt, in the business in 1975 and his son, Jason, in 2008. Ray Ware shouldered through those recessions during those periods and now Jason manages the company as its president.

In 1968 Ray Ware moved to a location on Geraldine Drive across from its current address at 4808 Hershel Street, where it's been since 1983. The showroom and warehouse were originally an A&P grocery store, then a check printing company before becoming home to dozens of high-end plumbing and cabinetry fixture brands.

Although commercial sales, including door framing, are still the foundation of the business, Jason noted "We get everything from homeowners looking for a cabinet knob, to designers who come in with their clients, to general contractors."

Sour beer, smoked tacos unlikely pair for businesses' success

Coincidence may be why the Fishweir Brewery and its next-door neighbor, Murray's Taco Bodega, opened for business within days the last week in November, but astute business planning created a synergy that has foodies and beer aficionados heading to Murray Hill.

Broc Flores, a Fishweir Park resident, opened his sour beer brewery 11 months after applying for rezoning to convert a former nightclub at 1183 Edgewood Ave.

into a microbrewery and tap room. Working under a shorter timeframe, Mark Ballinger and Maple Street Biscuit Company owners, Scott Moore and Gus Evans, opened the new taco restaurant in the former B Street Eats location less than four months after it closed.

Fishweir Brewery does not have a kitchen, but customers can order food at the brewery's bar from Taco Bodega, which delivers it. Ballinger, who calls himself the Pit Master, said the restaurant's executive chef, Ryan Randolph, makes everything fresh daily, including their signature taco of smoked corned beef.

Both places are family-friendly. The brewery offers a sidewalk patio while the bodega has a backyard patio. Their hours do differ slightly. Taco Bodega is open Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 a.m., Friday-Saturday until 10 p.m., closed on Sunday. Fishweir Brewery is closed Monday-Tuesday for brewing, open Wednesday-Thursday, 3-10 p.m., Friday until 11 p.m., Saturday, noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday until 8 p.m.



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JCA executive director retires after 20 years

After 20 years as executive director of the Jewish Community Alliance, Myron Flagler retired the end of 2018. Flagler's tenure with the agency was marked with achievements that brought the JCA to the forefront of Jewish Community Centers across the nation.

A native of Massachusetts, Flagler earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts and his C.S.S. in Business Management from Harvard University. A former elementary school teacher and principal, he entered the nonprofit field as a Jewish Community Center day camp director before leading a Massachusetts Jewish Community Center. He came to the Jewish Community Alliance in 1998.

Under Flagler's stewardship, the JCA of Jacksonville has consistently been a leader in its annual Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA) benchmarking scores, which compare the effectiveness of Jewish Community Centers throughout North America in areas of financial stability, member and staff satisfaction and program innovation.

"It has been my pleasure to work in partnership with Myron during his time at the JCA. We have accomplished things that no

other federations and Jewish community centers have even attempted," said Alan Margolies, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville.

Some notable milestones over the past 20 years include securing the financial stability of the agency with the burning of the building mortgage in 1999. In 2000, the agency's preschool expanded to include kindergarten, which secured unparalleled excellence in early childhood education at the JCA. Adult programming was re-developed into the J Institute, a department which has grown to offer enrichment, education and socialization opportunities for adults of all ages and interests.

A capital campaign was established in 2006 to raise \$4.5 million toward the creation of a new and improved, state-of-the-art fitness center, art and ceramic studio, expansion of the JCA Dubow Adult Center and addition of new ECE classrooms. In 2014, in honor of 40 years of the early childhood program, the JCA raised \$1.3 million to further renovate Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool and Kindergarten.

Over the past 20 years, membership at the JCA has reached over 2,500, up from 800 when Flagler joined the agency. A recent



Myron Flagler

milestone comes in the establishment of the Sol and Hilda Goldman Memorial Endowment for Early Childhood and Camp Scholarships for \$4.8 million.

"Myron is the consummate professional educator. Professionals of Myron's caliber do not come along all that often, but when they do, they make all the difference in the world," said Martin Goetz, CEO of River Garden Senior Services.

Flagler was succeeded by Adam Chaskin, who assumed the role of JCA Chief Executive Officer on January 1, 2019.

Golf association announces annual award winners

The 65-year-old Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) announced its award winners for 2018. Honored for their contributions to JAGA and golf, in general, in North Florida were Greg Sheara, Timuquana Country Club, as Club Executive of the Year; Jeff Willoughby, The First Tee of North Florida, with the Community Service Award; Duke Butler III, TPC Sawgrass, as Director of the Year; Tom Dudley, Timuquana Country Club, with the Earl Kelly Longtime Service Award, and Ray Barr, Jr., Jacksonville Golf & Country Club, as Professional of the Year.

The honorees will be recognized at the "Celebration of Golf" banquet in February, which is co-sponsored by JAGA and the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA.

"As JAGA winds down its 65th year, it is a privilege to spotlight these five individuals who have made many valuable contributions to JAGA over the last 12 months," said JAGA president Don Gilmore. "Each has helped make 2018 a year of growth and progress for our organization. We can't thank them enough for all they've done. We look forward to publicly honoring them at the banquet in February."

New leadership in public education

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune, who had been serving as interim president of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund since July 1, 2018, was appointed by the fund's board of directors to step into the role permanently. Tutwiler Fortune had been the nonprofit's executive vice president since 2017, when she returned to her hometown after working at the U.S. Department of Education and at America's Promise Alliance, a national high school graduation nonprofit, in Washington, D.C.



Rachael Tutwiler Fortune



Judge Brian Davis

The fund's board also elected Judge Brian Davis as its new chair, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Davis was a founding member of the JPEF board in 2009. Over the years, Davis has supported youth-oriented groups like the Urban Scouting program, PACE Center for Girls, and the EVAC Movement, a youth leadership group at Robert E. Lee High School.

Tutwiler Fortune is an alumna of Andrew Jackson High School, and after graduating from the University of North Florida with a degree in political science taught at S.P. Livingston Elementary School for two years before joining JPEF in 2009. She left Jacksonville briefly to earn a master's degree in education policy and leadership at Stanford University, then worked in education policy in California before moving to Washington, D.C.

In other public education news, the Duval County Public School Board elected a new



Duval County Public School Board: Cheryl Grymes, District 1; Elizabeth Andersen, District 2; Ashley Smith-Juarez, District 3; Darryl Willie, District 4; Dr. Diana Greene, superintendent; Warren Jones, District 5; Charlotte Joyce, District 6, and Lori Hershey, District 7

chairwoman and vice chairman and swore in three new board members.

Lori Hershey, who serves the Southside in School District 7 and lives in Mandarin, will be the new board chair, succeeding Paula Wright. Hershey is a former middle school teacher and currently works as a real estate agent. She holds a master's degree in public administration and is pursuing a doctoral degree.

The new vice chair is Warren Jones, a longtime former city councilman who

represents School District 5, which includes downtown and parts of North Jacksonville.

The newest board members elected for four-year terms include Charlotte Joyce, who will serve School District 6, which includes Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill and other Westside neighborhoods; Elizabeth Andersen, School District 2, which includes the Beaches communities and neighborhoods east of I-295, and Darryl Willie, School District 4, which includes North and Northwest Jacksonville.

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Board of trial advocates names Pajcic 'Trial Lawyer of Year'

Curry Pajcic, of Ortega, was named 2018 "Trial Lawyer of the Year," Nov. 30 by the Jacksonville Chapter of The American Board of Trial Advocates. Pajcic, who serves as the president of the Jacksonville chapter, said he was honored and humbled to receive this recognition.

The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), founded in 1958, is an organization dedicated to defending the American civil justice system. The Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates

(more commonly known as FLABOTA), was formed in 1992, and is one of four regional chapters chartered by the National Board. Jacksonville is one of 11 ABOTA chapters in Florida.

Since 1992, eight Jacksonville attorneys have received the FLABOTA award: George "Buddy" Schulz (2017), Rutledge Liles (2014), Robert A. Cole (2008), Howard C. Coker (2007), Wayne Hogan (2003), Joe Milton (2000), Frank Perritt (1998), and Raymond Ehrlich (1993).



Slattery joins Cummer Museum staff

Kerrie Slattery has been added to the staff at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens as its Chief Advancement Officer.

With a strong background in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors, Slattery comes to the museum from Baptist Health where, over the course of 13 years, she moved from executive director of Art with a Heart in Healthcare to Baptist Health's Chief Development Officer/Vice President. Slattery also worked as a business development manager for Barnett Bank for 10 years.

Most recently, Slattery led advancement for Wolfson Children's Hospital, Adult Neurosurgery, and Baptist MD Anderson, including leadership of the team that



raised more than \$100 million in a comprehensive campaign.

Slattery holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Florida and a master's degree in Public Administration from American University, Washington, D.C. She is a 34-year resident of Jacksonville, where she has been engaged as a volunteer and board member with numerous nonprofit organizations.

Nine amateur dancers chosen for Dancing with the Stars benefit

An Avondale resident and an Ortega resident are two of nine chosen to raise funds for the Jacksonville Children's Chorus through its annual Dancing with the Stars event.

Partnering with professional dancers from A Social Affair Dance Studio, Jeanne Miller and Patty Otterson will compete against seven other amateur dancers to win the trophy and bragging rights as Jacksonville's favorite dancer.

Miller, of Avondale, is president and CEO of the Jacksonville Civic Council, moving into that position in 2013 after serving as general counsel and vice president of strategic initiatives at Florida State College Jacksonville. She is a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville, Leadership Florida, and was a finalist for the 2018 EVE Award. Miller will be partnered with Samuel Penalba in the competition.

Otterson, an Ortega resident, is senior vice president of investments with the Otterson Allison Wealth Management Group of Raymond James. Before beginning her 35-year career in investments, Otterson was a CPA for a large national accounting firm. She was a board member of Metro Kids Konnection, has worked with the St. Vincent's Foundation, and loves ballroom and country dancing. She will partner with William Brand.



Jeanne Miller



Patty Otterson

Other celebrities include Dr. Aiham Al Ashhab, chief of medicine, St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside; Wes Benwick, BluHorn software architect and JaxHomes.com managing broker; Giselle Carson, attorney and shareholder with Marks Gray P.A.; Crystal Freed, managing partner, The Freed Firm; Aidee Chavez Frescas, founder, Be Mas Social; Art Hooker, president, Go Executive Consulting, and Donnie Horner III, a national sales executive with SeaBest Seafood.

The event will be held Saturday, April 27, beginning at 8 p.m. at the Lazzara Performance Hall in the UNF Fine Arts Center. All of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus choirs will also perform.

Ortega resident joins Avondale realty office

Alex Spivey, of Ortega, has joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. Married to a Navy pilot, the newly-licensed Realtor understands the unique needs and wants of military families. Spivey, a Kansas City native, studied art history and entrepreneurship at Southern Methodist University. She taught fourth grade for a few years before deciding she wanted a change of pace and an opportunity to put her entrepreneurial skills to work.



Alex Spivey



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Cultural Council appointed new executive director

A Columbia, South Carolina resident has been appointed as the new executive director of The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. The board made the announcement Dec. 3, 2018 that Joy Young, director of administration, Human Resources and Operations with the South Carolina Arts Commission in Columbia, will start her position in early February.

A search committee consisting of Cultural Council board members and community representatives conducted the selection process. Young, the unanimous choice of the committee, was among 22 professionals from across the country, including Cathedral Arts Project Chief Program Officer Allison Galloway, who applied for the executive director position. The previous director, Tony Allegretti, announced his resignation in June from the role he had held since 2014. His tenure ended on September 30.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Joy’s caliber and experience to lead the Cultural Council,” said Ann Carey, board chair and member of the search committee. “Joy is a strong communicator with deep leadership capabilities. When we interviewed her, it was clear that she brings the energy, passion and expertise that we need at this critical moment in the organization’s history.”

For nearly two decades, Young has held positions in the nonprofit and arts sectors. She comes to Jacksonville with a strong background in arts administration, strategic planning and execution, advocacy, collaborations and partnerships, and governance. She served 14 years in both executive and programmatic leadership roles with the South Carolina Arts Commission.

A performing artist herself, Young earned a Bachelor of Arts in music; studied Voice



Performance at Manhattan School of Music; completed a Master of Arts; received certification in human resources employee relations law and mediation, and attained candidacy for the Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership.

Avondale barber shop brings awareness to men’s health



Dr. Albert Chester, Marko Carrión, Dr. Mikah C. Owen, Charles Griggs

In an effort to raise awareness about men’s health issues, Ken Moore, master barber and founder of International Blades & Shears in the Shoppes of Avondale, hosted Barber Talk I Shop Conversations Dec. 1 at Aromas Cigar and Wine Bar.

“We wanted to provide the community with an impactful, life-changing event which we hope will bring more early detection to men’s health issues, increased frequency in doctor’s visits for men and establishing healthy, life-long habits for men,” said Moore.

The event provided a space for candid conversations about the top health issues facing men and included four expert panelists ranging from physicians to personal trainers, who shared their personal stories and educated the audience on alarming health stats for men in the United States. Panelists were Charles Griggs, president, Eighth & Whitner Group; Dr. Albert Chester, New Town Pharmacy and The Capstone Institute; Dr. Mikah C. Owen, UF Health, and Marko Carrión, Crossfit Level 1 Coach at North Jax Crossfit.

Ali appointed to Cultural Council

Ryan Ali, formerly the director of development of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, returns to the council through a mayoral appointment to serve as a board member through Sept. 30, 2019. Ali replaces Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez, who served as chair of the development committee.



Ali, of Avondale, is currently director of development for Baptist Health. He holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Florida State University. His appointment to the council’s board was approved by City Council Nov. 27, 2018.

Culver joins speech and hearing nonprofit

The Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center has added Ortega Forest resident Jacqueline Horner Culver to staff as its new director of development.

Culver has more than a decade in health-related nonprofit experience, most recently serving as executive director for Marathon High, a program that challenges at-risk teens to train for a half-marathon to develop positive futures. Prior to that position, Culver was the executive director for seven years at the Shannon Miller Foundation. She also serves on the Mayor’s Council on Fitness and Well Being, and was chairperson for the Joint Use Committee of the Healthy Jacksonville Coalition for the Prevention of Childhood Obesity.

Culver holds a Bachelor of Science in radiologic services from the University of Central Florida, and recently attended the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship.



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King of Burgers surprised at local birthday bash

David Stein's accomplishments and 'David-isms' were on full display at the home of Elli and Charles Zimmerman, close friends to both Linda and David Stein, as the surprise birthday celebration brought longtime friends and families together in celebration. Linda Stein, with the help of friends, gathered guests in a special crowning of the King, by Elli Zimmerman, as David arrived at the party in Riverside.

With stealthy, black ops execution by The AutoValet, who secretly parked guests as they arrived, the surprise was flawlessly executed. After Linda convinced David to put on his jacket and head to dinner with friends – many more friends than he had anticipated – the plans were in motion. Texting updates all the while, Linda was able to pull off a great gift for her husband



"Burger King" David Stein with his wife Linda

with close family in attendance and many of their best friends as well.

Stein celebrated his official 80th birthday a few days later, not before the good company assembled to shower him with praise, accompanied by Liz Grenamyer's designed 'Burger King' themed foods and desserts, to include logo drink cups and wrapped mini-burgers.



Kitty Crenshaw with Mary Bower and Judy Hardwick



Chase and Elli Zimmerman with Deborah Gervin and Sharon Lucie

Nonprofit gym treats Navy unit to workout



Trinity Fitness, a nonprofit fitness center on Rosselle Street, hosted a special battle Dec. 2 for the Operation Health Support Unit, Detachment P of the Navy. The group of reservists were looking for a challenging workout for their monthly physical training as a group, and had a great time getting healthy inside and out, thanks to the complimentary workout.

Local and transient boat community show true holiday spirit

The boating community was in high holiday spirits, as well as a generous giving spirit, in mid-December at the Marina at Ortega Landing. The Lakeside Drive marina hosted a two-day opportunity for boaters and their guests to open their hearts and their wallets, as they first donated hundreds of toys for the U.S. Marine Corps annual Toys for Tots drive on Dec. 14 at the marina's holiday party. The following evening, boaters filled the Salvation Army's Red Kettle with nearly \$650 – matched by the marina – as they



Flanked by members of the U.S. Marine Corps are Harbormaster Bruce Fleming, Office Manager Jeanne Brown and General Manager Cam Melangton of the Marina at Ortega Landing.

enjoyed a Lighted Boat Dock Crawl. While the Salvation Army band serenaded the crowd, they strolled the esplanade lit by luminaria, and sampled tasty treats and libations at dozens of boat slips before gathering in the clubhouse for prizes and more holiday fun.

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Founding physician retires from Clay Eye

After co-founding Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons 41 years ago, Dr. John D. Wilcox announced his retirement and was celebrated by co-founder Dr. C.M. Harris and others in the 12-physician group.



John Wilcox

“Dr. Wilcox is the consummate ambassador for ophthalmology: caring, compassionate and always willing to lead by example—both in and out of the office,” said Harris. “Dr. Wilcox has always been known for his listening ear and ability to relate to his patients, invaluable qualities in medicine and in life. People have trusted Dr. Wilcox, and that trust has been earned.”

Prior to his career at Clay Eye, Wilcox served as a Navy Captain in the Medical Corps as a Flight Surgeon/Ophthalmologist and retired in 2002 after 33 years of service.

“Over the past 40-plus years, Clay Eye has experienced tremendous growth and I am proud of the practice that we’ve built,” said Wilcox. “While some things have changed, the focus on patient care never has. I’m incredibly blessed to have a wonderful, supportive family coupled with an amazing career. I am leaving my patients in competent hands with my incredible colleagues. As I reflect on my career, it’s heartwarming to know that I have cared for multi-generational families, from grandparents to grandbabies, and for that I feel humbled and privileged.”

Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons has offices in Orange Park, Fleming Island, Mandarin and Riverside.

Hotel awards \$12,000 grant to Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront awarded Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northeast Florida a grant for \$12,000 to further the organization’s efforts in enriching and preparing students by providing meaningful and relevant workplace mentoring experiences.

The check was presented to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida Dec. 4 at Terry Parker High School. Hyatt employees were invited to the school to be catered to by the Terry Parker Culinary Arts’ students, who prepared a three-course meal for their mentors, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront General Manager Luis Aloma and Terry Parker Principal Megan Pardue.

The grant is part of Hyatt Community Grants, a philanthropic program that empowers Hyatt colleagues to guide charitable giving, and celebrates Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront’s Beyond



Big Brothers Big Sisters CEO Sara Alford, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront General Manager Luis Aloma, and Carolyn Shuck, Hyatt’s director of human resources hold a check for \$12,000, which he presented to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida Dec. 4 at Terry Parker High School. Included in the photo are “Bigs and Littles,” students who are part of the nonprofit’s Beyond School Walls program.

School Walls partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida and Terry Parker High School culinary arts students. The program is a workplace mentoring program that connects employees from local businesses with career academy

students that are focused on the same industry. Managed by Big Brothers Big Sisters, the students are transported to the business site monthly for a three- to four-hour session where they receive training, job shadowing, and mentorship.

Caring nonprofit brings Santa to Nemours’ patients

To celebrate a recent \$10,000-plus donation by Hugs From Hunter 3 to the Nemours Children’s Specialty Care, Jacksonville – Mental Health Support Fund and the wonderful work done by the psychology team at NCSC, the Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit also had Santa and Mrs. Claus deliver 100 gifts to the Psychology Department at Nemours Children’s Specialty Care.

Hugs From Hunter 3 honors three young brothers who were patients at Nemours Children’s Specialty Care. The organization recognizes the importance of mental health and the quality care provided by Nemours psychologists. Helping others is important year-round, but especially during the holidays.

The Hugs From Hunter 3’s mission statement says it perfectly, “Healing hearts by serving those in need in our community,” and that’s exactly what they did on Dec. 5.



Santa and Mrs. Claus delivered gifts to patients at Nemours Children’s Specialty Care.

To learn more information about Hugs From Hunter 3, visit hugsfromhunter3.com. The Nemours Fund for Children’s Health proudly acknowledges the partnership with Hugs From Hunter 3, and gives thanks to the organization for caring about its patients and community just as much as they do.

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Ken Horton, Learn to Read Executive Director Judy Bradshaw with Stephen Reinel, board vice president



Gina Gordon, Matrell Sanders and Hillery Shephard



Julie Pope, Learn to Read Board President Moses Meide and his wife, Chris



Cassidy and Eric Bergstrom



Chelsea Anderson with Lauren Purdy and Christine Sweet



Ryan Tan with Jill and Jeff Auld



Nathan and Kat Miller



Dr. Tom Dubensky, Carson Barnett, Randle and Jody Marchman, Co-Chair Liza Barn



Betsy Lovett with Craig Schoeninger and Sarah Small



Mary Love Strum with Bitty McRae



Missy and Scott Riley

Supporters raise awareness of Learn to Read mission

It's been nearly 50 years since Learn to Read took on its mission to improve adult literacy in Duval County. To raise a little money and bring awareness to its noble goal, the nonprofit held Learn to Read Cocktails for Literacy at The Grape & Grain Exchange Nov. 30.

"We are excited that our 50th anniversary will be in 2019. We were oversold at 57 guests," said Executive

Director Judy Bradshaw. "This is intended to be a small fundraiser. It's not about making a lot of money as much as raising awareness for our mission and the adult literacy issues facing our community. Twenty percent of all adults in Duval County are functionally illiterate," she said, adding that her agency raised nearly \$4,000 through the event.

Opening night gala celebrat

Arguably the most highly-anticipated social event in Jacksonville, the Women's Board's opening night gala for the 42nd Annual Art & Antiques show successfully kicked off the holiday season of giving for The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The show's theme, A Place in the Sun, featured Lilly Pulitzer-inspired decor with hundreds of guests in attendance at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center. The gala, giving nod to old Palm Beach



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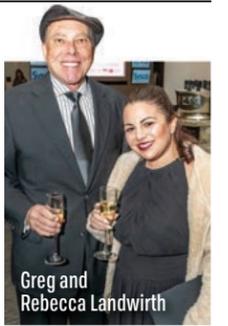
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Greg and Rebecca Landwirth



Darnell Smith and Angela Washington with Frank Castillo



Andrew Zoly and Brad Bokenkotter with Kyan Wolfe



Claudia Adams and Caroline Powell



Vikki Mioduszewski with Grace Sarber and Sally Parsons



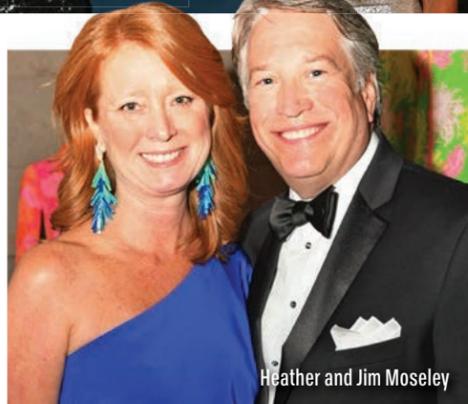
April Dobes and Robin Rawald with Andrew Steiler



Alan and Christina Wachs with Chris and Kim Miller

es charm of Old Palm Beach

glamour, brought together benefactors, Women's Board members and residents throughout Northeast Florida and South Georgia to celebrate the Women's Board's 5-year, \$4 million pledge to raise awareness and support the creation of a new NICU at Wolfson Children's Hospital, made to care for the smallest patients. The 2018 Art & Antiques Show Chairs were Claudia Adams, Liza Barnett Emmet, Holland Gibbs and Marleigh Gulliford.



Heather and Jim Moseley

Jaguars supporters tackle hunger at annual tasting event

The Taste of the NFL Jacksonville, part of a league-wide initiative of football teams working within their own communities to help tackle hunger, was held Dec. 10 in the U.S. Assure Club.

"The reason why we are here tonight is because hunger is an issue that touches all of our hearts, and especially the hearts of these chefs who truly believe no one should go without food. They have donated their time and talent to raise money for this special cause," said J.P. Shadrack, Jaguars media host.

Chefs included Chef Sean Kinoshita with Delaware North; Chef Michael McKinney with Restaurant Orsay; Chef Waylon Rivers and Chef Rebecca Reed with Black Sheep Restaurant; Chef Kerri Rogers with Bellwether, and Chef Kim Savage with Pastiche Catering.

Proceeds will benefit the Jaguars hunger relief programs, including the Jaguars/Publix food distribution of 1,200 holiday meals held Dec. 18, and proceeds from the silent auction will benefit Feeding Northeast Florida.



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1522 Chaffee Rd. \$750,000



4130 McGirts Blvd. \$674,900



2804 Riverside Ave. \$599,900



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3428 Fitch St. \$447,900



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1685 Geraldine Dr. \$349,900



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4528 Tunis St. \$289,000



1566 Geraldine Dr. \$234,900



4462 Travelers Rd. \$229,900



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1479 Pine Grove Ave. \$219,900



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4932 ROBERT D GORDON RD
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SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen and CeCe Cummings! This lovely Ortega home has been thoughtfully renovated with open spaces, crown molding and a designer's touch. Updated kitchen with quartz countertops, brass fixtures and beautiful cabinetry leads to a well-appointed dining room and living room.



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4644 PRINCE EDWARD RD
5/3-2,796 sqft.

SOLD by Elizabeth O'Steen and CeCe Cummings! Amazing opportunity to live on the water in Ortega Forest! This home has everything you need with spaces to entertain inside and out. Downstairs offers a guest room/office with adjacent full bathroom, eat-in kitchen and dining room.



2687 POST ST - \$390,000
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2628 MYRA ST - \$259,000
3/2-1,370 sqft.

Immaculate and well cared for bungalow in Historic Riverside awaits you! Chill out on your front porch, a great spot for sipping lemonade and relaxing on a hot summer day. Or spend time in a foodies dream kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops.



1344 BELVEDERE AVE - \$280,000
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1924 Avondale bungalow that has been completely restored by a master craftsman. It has NEW everything - kitchen, bathroom, roof, wiring, plumbing, front porch and more! You will not find a better restored or maintained home in Avondale. All windows been re-glazed and restored.



2116 GILMORE ST - \$310,000
3/2-1,454 sqft.

Walk to Five Points! Built in 2016, this painted hardy plank bungalow offers all the comforts and conveniences of a new home yet tastefully fits into this desirable location close to impressive restaurants, shopping, parks, interstate, downtown and hospitals.



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4605 ORTEGA FOREST DR - \$375,000
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Absolutely charming used brick home in the heart of Ortega Forest, one of the Great Neighborhoods of Jacksonville! Traditionally laid out with spacious rooms, lots of windows to let the sunshine in and gorgeous wood floors - this home is just waiting for you and yours to make new memories.



1604 MALLORY ST - \$448,000
3/2/1-2,100 sqft.

Imagine coming home to this beautiful brick Colonial in the heart of historic Avondale! With over 2,400 square feet of fully renovated living space, this classic beauty offers refinished hardwood floors throughout, kitchen featuring Carrera marble counter tops, custom tile and stainless steel appliances.



4629 HOMESTEAD RD - \$274,900
3/2-2,041 sqft.

This adorable, well-maintained home in Ortega Forest is ready for you to move right in! The home features a spacious living room AND a spacious Florida room that could be used as a family room, play room, or game room.



3547 PARK ST - \$589,000
3/2/1-2,536 sqft.

Gorgeous renovated brick Colonial pool home on corner double lot. Remodeled with open floor plan for today's lifestyle while retaining its historic charm. Brand new salt water pool, covered lanai, paver patio, lush tropical landscaping and 6 ft. decorative wood fence.



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1617 WOODMERE DR
2/2-2,440 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Oh what a view!! Waterfront, mid century modern home redesigned as open concept by award winning architects Kassia & Rob Zinn (Office of Architecture and Design). Home includes a dock and large Brazilian wood and stainless steel cable deck overlooking Big Fishweir Creek.



3970 HERSCHEL ST
3/2-1,530 sqft.

SOLD by Linda Maxwell and Sarah Leuthold! Come see this super cute newer construction Avondale bungalow in the Historic District. This house has a light-filled, open floor plan and is ready for you to move right in. The large kitchen has tons of cabinets and counter space and a Subzero refrigerator.



1560 LANCASTER TER # 204
2/2-1,340 sqft.

SOLD by Julia Fattahi! It's rare to be able to enjoy a full day of activities - shopping, dining, Riverside Arts Market, Cummer Museum and Gardens, exercising, grocery shopping, and the list goes on and on.



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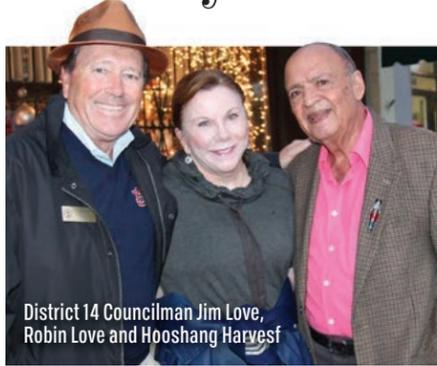
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Traditional Christmas in Avondale officially kicked off holiday season

Rain or shine, the merchants of the Shoppes of Avondale were ready for the annual Christmas in Avondale Dec. 1. Although the weather did clear up in time for the start of the event, several planned activities had already canceled, including belly dancers and pony rides.

Prior to the festivities, students from Fishweir, West Riverside and John NC Stockton Elementary Schools decorated real trees donated by the merchants, on display under cover in front of Underwood's Jewelers.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived by golf cart at 5 p.m. and followed the Robert E. Lee High School Junior ROTC and Color Guard down the four-block length of St. Johns Avenue. The Christmas tree was lit by District 14 Councilman Jim Love, and there were activities throughout the evening, including a cake walk, a snow-making machine and popcorn and a movie at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices.



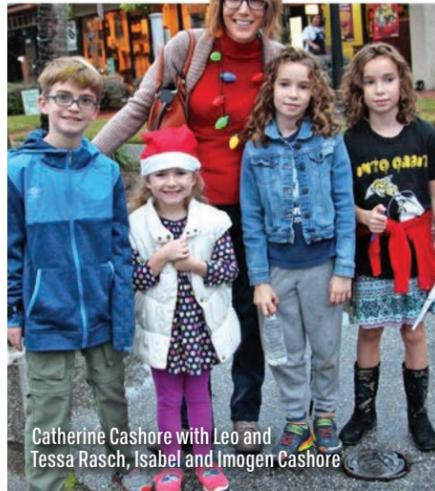
District 14 Councilman Jim Love, Robin Love and Hooshang Harvesf



Robert E. Lee High School Junior ROTC pose with Fang, mascot for the Jacksonville Icemen.



Front, Allen Dixon with his sisters Aliyah, Alexandria and Arielle



Catherine Cashore with Leo and Tessa Rasch, Isabel and Imogen Cashore



Rocky and Karen Smith with Inga and Gil Tejada and their sons Dominik and Enzo



Brooke Kennedy, Stephanie Foureau and Arabella Mortimer



Jeremy and Megan Baker with sons James and Ben



Delant Folsom, Katelyn Preble, Christyn Lindsey and Riley Rogers



Front: Max Csar, Joey Caron, Cort Csar; back: Alexa, Maggie and Tom Caron with Trey Csar

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Thanks to generous supporters Ronald McDonald House lights up the night with Christmas cheer

Thanks to the generosity of two Jacksonville businessmen and a host of benevolent supporters, more than 20,000 Christmas lights adorned the palm trees and perimeter of San Marco's Ronald McDonald House, bringing the holiday spirit to both the families it serves and the neighborhood beyond.

Billy Frick of American Electrical Contracting Inc. and Donald McGowan of Anything Under the Sun Services LLC spent more than two weeks installing the light display outside the house, in its interior courtyard, and high above in the rooftop garden, said Carol Harrison, development director. The lights were switched on with great fanfare in front of a huge crowd during a Hot Chocolate Happy Hour Social Nov. 29.

"We are lighting up the house inside and outside," said Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle. "This is an idea that was birthed after Hurricane Irma, when the whole San Marco area was impacted. We wanted to do something that could make a difference for the community. It took a year to put this together, but we thought Christmas was the perfect time to light up the house."

The ability to flick the switch would not have been possible without the efforts of Frick and McGowan, who gave their time and the lights pro bono to the effort, said Harrison.

"They have spent weeks here. It's an enormous amount of labor and love to decorate this house," she said. "They have turned the courtyard into a winter wonderland."

Harrison also credited Dillard's department store for providing Christmas trees inside the house, and volunteers from the Red Shoe Crew, Eco Lab, Johnson and Johnson, and Voya Financial for decorating the interior. The Deercreek Women's Alliance also worked hard raising funds to support the event, she said. For each \$5 donation, a light was put on the house and as additional funds came in lights were added until the end of December, she said.

The goal was to raise \$30,000 through the lighting portion of the fundraiser, said Boyle. "We want to commemorate our 30 years in Jacksonville and the fact that we have served over 35,000 families and counting," she said. "We are just glad we can be here for our families."

The Hot Chocolate Happy Hour event was a prelude to Ronald McDonald's Light Up the House 5K and Family Day Festival Dec. 1. More than 270 runners, and 17 teams donned red and white striped socks to compete in the 5K race and 1-mile fun run, raising more than \$73,820 and adding approximately 14,764 lights to the house. Included at the festival were special guest appearances from story book characters, games, arts and crafts, face painting, balloon art and more.



Ross and Gina Fishman with Ethan and Zoey, Scott and Jennifer Kaltman with Abby and Isabelle Davis, Sandy Anderson and Kelli Davis



Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle with Erika Hatch, Reed and Shelli Martin



Sheila and Donald McGowan with Darby and Billy Frick



Ryan Johnson, Owner Billy Frick, Jay Warner, Sam Ward and Devin Shepherd of American Electrical Contracting, Inc.



Sandy Anderson with Development Director Carol Harrison



Susan, Maya, and Hannah Gendzier with Angela Johnson



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Happy New Year!
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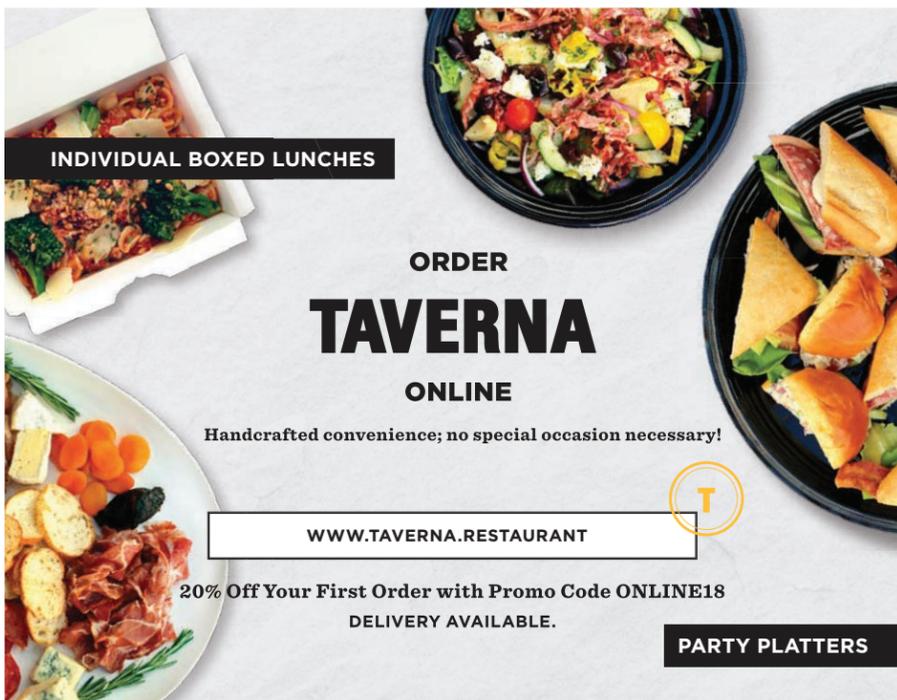
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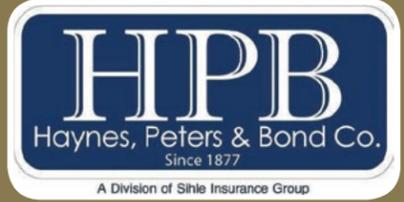
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Avondale author speaks at SUMC Christmas brunch

More than 250 women from Christian churches throughout Northeast Florida gathered at Southside United Methodist Church to enjoy fellowship and listen to featured speaker, Annie Pajcic, founder of Thou Art Exalted Ministries, Inc., during the church's annual Women's Christmas Brunch Dec. 11.

Pajcic, an Avondale resident and Christian author, speaker, and creator who ministers to tweens, teens and women, has impacted more than 20,000 girls and women over the past 12 years by using art as a teaching tool through Bible studies, free devotions, art camps, conferences and online resources. With a new devotional book and app now available, and 15 Bible studies under her belt, the effervescent Pajcic didn't disappoint.

Drawing from one of her Bible studies entitled, "Riding Tandem," she discussed the need for women to rely on Jesus's leadership in life by allowing Him to share a proverbial tandem bicycle, allowing him to "captain" from the front and take "necessary" stops. "God leads us by the still waters," she said, also quoting Christian author Rick Warren who says, "If Satan



Annie Pajcic

can't make you bad, he will make you busy." It is important to "take a stop and find rest," she emphasized, adding that worrying in life is "practical atheism."

Elizabeth Brannock organized the sold-out event with help from her planning committee, Michelle Wright of St. Nicholas, and Amy Franks and Sarah Troup of San Marco. The brunch consisted of ham and cheese quiche, fresh fruit, and homemade cinnamon buns and was supplied by A Southern Bistro, a local restaurant.

Worship was led by San Marco's Libby DeVooght, a high school junior who took time off from school to lead the women in singing Christmas songs.



Jennifer McCranie with Allison Keiter and Jane Lee.



Sarah Troup, Elizabeth Brannock, Amy Franks, and Michelle Wright



Chris Conner, Betsy Lovett, Guideon Conner and Mike Hightower

Next generation leaders celebrate graduation

The second graduating class of the Jax Chamber's Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship gathered Dec. 11 for their closing reception at the Ortega home of Betsy Lovett. The Fellowship Class of 2018 included Ken Ackerson, Trish Bautista, John Brigman, Christopher Conner, Ashley Cook, James Croft, Tad Dickman, Alex Douglas, Sarah Henderson, Jenn Kjellman, Kim Kristoff, Kristin Livingston, Liam O'Reilly, Ashley Rogan, Katherine Ruttell, Jessie Spradley and Joey Vaid.

In 2017 the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, with ImpactJAX, created an emerging leaders program with the Board Chair, Mike Hightower, as the namesake, The Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

Guest speakers at the reception were Daniel Davis, Chamber president/CEO; Betsy Lovett, philanthropist; Tim Cost; Jacksonville University president; Peter Rummell, real estate developer, and Ed Burr, GreenPointe Holdings president/CEO.



Brett and Liam O'Reilly



Katie Dawson with Joey Vaid

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Cardiologist returns to health through ancient exercise

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

If your New Year's resolution to get in shape means hitting the gym hard – and you're dreading it – consider an ancient, graceful form of exercise that will keep you coming back for more.

On a typical day, Dr. Sonya Lefever of Ortega strums a pipa, wards off monkeys, grasps a bird's tail, and carries a tiger to the mountain, but she doesn't go far. Her exotic activities occur in the Tao tai chi class she teaches at Lakeshore Woman's Club.

As a cardiologist, Lefever's journey from medical school at Columbia University and Emory University to her internship in Connecticut, residency at Emory in General Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology, and internship at Bethesda Naval Hospital prepared her for the difficulties of caring for those striving for good health.

After she and her husband, Jeff, a pilot and owner of Sunrise Aviation, came to Jacksonville in 2004, Lefever joined the Diagnostic Cardiology Group in Riverside. By 2007 she was a partner, then the practice was sold to St. Vincent's Medical Center in 2011. During this time, Lefever was working long hours and taking care of her ailing mother. The effect of being on her feet all day, doing rounds, working in the clinic – all that goes with caring for others – resulted in unbearable pain which led to hip replacement surgery, intensive recuperation and therapy, not once but three times.

The doctor became the patient and experienced an unusual interruption of her professional life trajectory. In 2012, after her left hip was replaced, she went back to work. She did the same in 2013 after a right hip replacement. In 2014, her sister-in-law, Nancy Lefever, who had experienced the health benefits of tai chi, suggested that Sonya give it a try. "Right away I liked the challenge of it," said Lefever. "In the first four months I got relief from headaches and shoulder tension."

Still feeling unwell and in pain, Lefever discovered after numerous tests that she had an infection in her right hip, which once again required surgery. "I spent three months immobile. I sat in a recliner, used a walker or a wheelchair," she said. "I went from someone who was used to being very busy to just being at home. Tai chi had to go on the back burner."

After months of rehabilitation, but still with little stamina, Lefever hoped to continue practicing medicine, however, there were no openings for a part-time cardiologist. "So, I decided to quit and regroup." She eased



Sonya Lefever, far right, leads a class in tai chi at the Lakeshore Woman's Club.

back into tai chi, then started going to longer workshops and intensives.

"As a physician I wanted to be able to bring this healing to other people. Those with diabetes, high blood pressure, even Parkinson's, benefit from tai chi. It improves balance, bone strength and general well-being. You concentrate so hard that you can't think about anything else. Also, for me, it was something else to learn," said Lefever.

By January 2018 she had earned her certification as a tai chi instructor. "This is my career path for a while. This is the right time in my life and the right type of exercise. This hour-and-a-half class gives you strength and helps you get your priorities in order," Lefever said.

Gara Roberts, a participant in the Lakeshore Woman's Club tai chi class, said, "Tai chi is the best exercise for my brain as well as my

balance. It requires mental awareness as well as physical and carries over into daily life." Rhonda Hamrick, Tara Mason and Patty Vierling agreed that it "feels like meditation, improves motivation, stamina and anxiety."

A health questionnaire conducted in 2016 by the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA related that 63 percent of caregivers interviewed stated the exercise improved their emotional strength for dealing with stress and increased their strength and energy.

The practice of gentle movement and deep breathing impacts every aspect of your life: physical, emotional, spiritual and social. While healing herself, Dr. Lefever is fostering good health and healing in others as she guides her students through exercises to move their hands like clouds and strike that tiger on both ears.



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Art Center, Art League promote opportunities for artists of all levels

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

It was standing room only for over 200 visitors at the Dec. 1 Open House at the Murray Hill Art Center, where recent works by students were on exhibit and instructors gave demonstrations.

The Center on Kerle Street is part of the Art League of Jacksonville and offers classes and workshops for all ages and levels of artists, with a focus on interaction, collaboration and exhibition opportunities for both professional artists and community members.

Pottery student Celina Rohman said she has been part of the Murray Hill “mud group” for several years. Although she recently moved from the area, she drives from Melrose for classes each week. “I like the way you start out with an idea and it morphs into something else,” said Rohman,



Pablo Rivera graduated from Cooper Union Art School in New York City and has exhibited all over Northeast Florida.

who creates what she calls “yard art – zany, whimsical characters.”

Among others on hand for painting demonstrations were established artists and teachers Pablo Rivera, Pat Johnson, Siraj, Kevin Arthur and Cookie Davis. Members and visitors lingered to chat with the artists and admire the variety and skill of the displays.

William McMahon, director of the Murray Hill Art Center, promotes the fellowship and creative environment of the Center. There are summer art camps for kids, home school classes, workshops and offerings in a variety of media including painting, cartooning, pottery, sculpture, printmaking and various special craft activities such as a recent silk scarf design workshop.

The Art League of Jacksonville is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the arts for students, teachers and community members at a low cost. Check them out at artleaguejax.com.



Celina Rohman holds one of her “zany” yard art characters.



Cookie Davis, William McMahon and Pablo Rivera



Pat Johnson’s work is part of the permanent collection at both the Whitney Museum in Massachusetts, and the Caldwell Museum in Missouri.



Mary Sumner, William McMahon and Julie Guiliani



Self-taught artist Kevin Arthur with a work in progress



Julie Guiliani checks out the artwork at the Murray Hill Art Center.

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Charming 2BR/2BA manor home located on the water in the Villages of San Jose. This home offers a split floor plan with a bedroom and bath on each side of the house, fresh interior and exterior paint. 1,376 sq. ft. \$225,000



1613 Hawkins Cove Drive East
4BR/2BA. Master has its own en-suite that is complete with garden tub and stand-alone shower and also opens out to beautiful screened area and pool. Great open kitchen layout. 2,054 sq. ft. \$295,000



3609 Valencia Road
3BR/2BA home, steps from restaurants, shops, and parks. This home features original hardwood floors throughout, fresh exterior and interior paint, with a spacious floor plan. 1,442 sq. ft. \$245,000



4819 Attleboro Street
2BR/2BA, living room with fireplace, dining room, sunroom / office, large family room, hardwood floors, nice kitchen and laundry room. The home is in the exciting Murray Hill neighborhood. 1,468 sq. ft. \$184,000

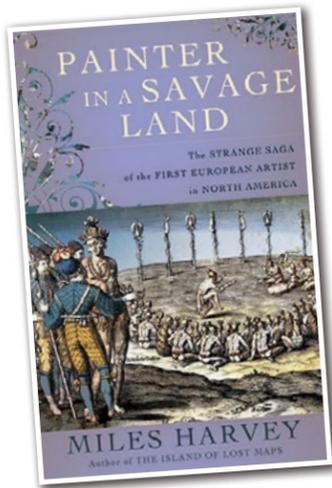


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Jan. 26 event to put Jacksonville Public Library on the map

From appraisals to unveiling, Mapping Our Past will exceed expectations

Mapping Our Past, Jacksonville Public Library's annual affair to celebrate the Lewis Ansbacher Map Collection—a true treasure comprising more than 240 anti-quarian maps—returns to the Main Library. This year's highlight will be the unveiling of the newly updated Jordan and Shirley Ansbacher Gallery to display the prized Le Moyne/De Bry Collection of engravings, which gives us the first European look of Native Americans in what is now Florida.



History comes to life as best-selling author Miles Harvey reveals fascinating details about the mysterious French artist Jacques Le Moyne.

Mapping Our Past promises a full day of activities, including free appraisals of your personal treasures, interactive tours of the Morris Ansbacher Map Room; presentations; children's art, storytime and coding; a talk by an award-winning journalist and author; and the gallery unveiling. The event will be held Jan. 26 at the Main Library downtown, 303 Laura St. N.

The fun kicks off in the Jax Makerspace with free appraisals of your maps and antiques from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. by local appraisers from B. Langston's Antiques. There will be a limit of two items per household please. You'll need to show a Jacksonville Public Library card in good standing for appraisals, and you may apply for a library card on the spot.

At 1 p.m. keynote speaker Miles Harvey, author of *Painter in a Savage Land: The Strange Saga of the First European Artist in North America*, will share his insight into the mysterious life of Jacques Le Moyne, the French artist, mapmaker and explorer who left behind a fascinating visual and written record of Native American Life in 16th century Florida—as seen in the Le Moyne/De Bry Collection.

Harvey, also known for *The Island of Lost Maps: A True Story of Cartographic Crime*, a national and international best-seller, will help us understand Le Moyne, an exceptional artist whose life, career, and adventures are shrouded in mystery. Who was he? What was he doing in Florida? What became of the French fort where he lived? Looking into the intriguing mysteries surrounding the first European artist in North America,

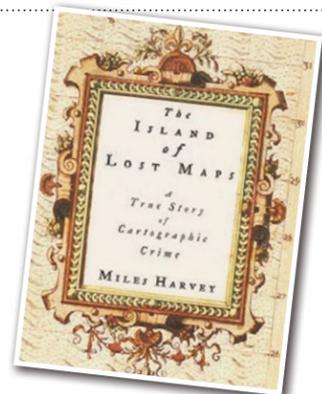


Stately and impressive, the Morris Ansbacher Map Room at the Main Library will be the setting for Mapping Our Past.

Harvey sets the stage to reveal the recently reframed engravings.

The Le Moyne/De Bry Collection in the Jordan and Shirley Ansbacher Gallery comprises 43 engravings based on Le Moyne's drawings and paintings. De Bry, a Dutch engraver and goldsmith, obtained Le Moyne's original sketches shortly after his death in 1588, and published the engravings in *Grand Voyages* in 1591.

At 2:30 p.m. Honorary Consul of France Francois Kloc will speak about the importance of the Le Moyne/De Bry Collection. Refreshments will be served following the unveiling.



Author Miles Harvey tells the story of the greatest map thief in history, a man he dubbed the "Al Capone of map theft."

The event is free and open to the public. Find out more details at jaxpubliclibrary.org or call (904) 630-2409 in Special Collections.

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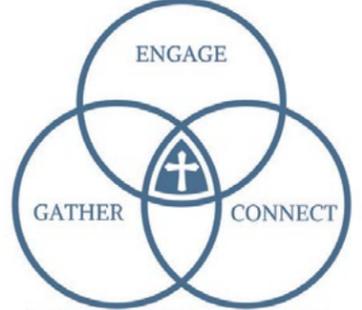
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Prosthetic leg doesn't deter marathon runner

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

Kelly Lockett doesn't believe in letting an impairment keep her sidelined. Despite having lost her right leg in an accident with a lawnmower when she was two years old, Lockett has run 35 marathons, including 13 consecutive Boston Marathons, as well as 10 ultramarathons (distances from 50K to 100K), and also 95 races of distances from 5K to half-marathon.

Now 51, Lockett doesn't remember ever having both feet. She grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, with two brothers and two sisters. "I was the youngest, but I don't think they treated me any differently than if I hadn't had a prosthetic leg."

However, Lockett remembers she was always the last one picked for teams at recess. "Several kids in the private grade school I attended from Grades 3-8 bullied me relentlessly for all five years," she said.

Lockett was fitted for her first prosthetic soon after the accident. "I don't have any memory of learning to use it, but I do remember having to be fitted often for a new leg, since I kept outgrowing them, just as kids outgrow their shoes and clothes when they are young."

It wasn't until she was 30 and cheering on her husband, Brian, as he ran in Atlanta's Peachtree Road Race 10K, that she decided to try running. "I'd always wanted to be a runner, but it was difficult with a clunky prosthetic foot made for only walking," Lockett said.

"I was tired of being just a spectator," she said. "I realized there were runners who were all sorts of shapes, sizes, and speed and thought, 'Who cares if my running gait is clunky and slow?'" She ran her first race at the Peachtree Road Race 10K.

Running marathons has increased her self-confidence. "Everyone has challenges in some way," Lockett said. "Striving to overcome those challenge is the way to live your best life."

Lockett's challenges are mostly the same as for other marathon runners, but with a prosthetic leg she has to make sure she has the right fit to avoid having her residual limb move around in the prosthetic socket which causes pain and bruising or skin abrasions. "Also, it takes more energy for a runner with a prosthetic leg to cover the same distance at the same speed as a non-amputee runner," she said.

A prosthetic running leg (carbon fiber blade and socket) costs \$15,000 or more and isn't covered by medical insurance. "I've been fortunate to have sponsorships from prosthetic companies such as Orthotic & Prosthetic Centers, here in Jacksonville, to provide my running leg and grants from Challenged Athletes Foundation to help cover my expenses to the Boston Marathon," she said.

"My prosthetist, Stephanie Walker, with Orthotic & Prosthetic Centers, really listens," Lockett said. "She's enthusiastic about my running, and she works magic to get my



Kelly Lockett displays her finisher's medal at the Grand Rapids Marathon.

leg to fit properly and resolve any issues that come up."

Walker has helped Lockett try the "socket-less socket" by Martin Bionics. It's a newer type of prosthetic socket that is adjustable and flexible for the user, unlike a traditional socket that is hard and fully enclosed. Lockett trained and completed the Grand Rapids Marathon in October with the Martin Bionics walking leg. Her finish at the Grand Rapids Marathon qualified her for Boston Marathon's mobility-impaired division in 2019.

Lockett and her friend, BethAnn Perkins, have run the Boston Marathon at least six times, including the 2013 Boston Marathon. They were about three-quarters of a mile away from the finish line when the bombs went off.

"I will never be able to mentally or emotionally process the fact that I qualified for the Boston Marathon only because I was an amputee, yet over a dozen people who were near the finish line that day to cheer for the runners became amputees," she said.

Lockett and her husband moved to Jacksonville because they wanted more opportunities for employment as well as better access to healthcare, recreation and the arts. Brian is a classical guitarist and adjunct professor of classical and flamenco guitar in Jacksonville University's Music Department. Kelly is a marketing analyst for Healogics, an advanced wound care provider.

The couple loves historic homes and historic preservation. They owned a 1928 Craftsman bungalow in Atlanta and then an 1892 Victorian home in Savannah, Georgia, prior to moving to Jacksonville.

"We knew we wanted to live in one of Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods," Lockett said. They found a 1928 brick bungalow in the St. Johns Park neighborhood. "It has the original historic details we were looking for, such as plaster walls and original windows, trim and floors, and it's a nice, quiet neighborhood tucked between Avondale and Ortega."



Mia Weyh with her mother, BethAnn Perkins, and Kelly Lockett at the Grand Rapids Marathon



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THE WAY WE WERE: THOMAS G. HIGHTOWER, SR. BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Tom Hightower of Lake Side Park has experienced many joys and sorrows during his 86 years. Born December 18, 1932 in Odum, Georgia, Hightower had a hardscrabble childhood. Times were tough in the rural farm community, then tragedy struck when his grandfather was shot and killed by the father of Tom's stepsister. Later, in an ironic twist, Hightower's father, who was a mechanic, died in an automobile accident.

"There wasn't much insurance back then and my mother didn't have any income, so she sent the kids off to her brother's house in North Carolina part of the time. She took in washing and ironing to keep the family together and pay the \$9 a month rent," Hightower said, describing how she beat the clothes outside in a wash pot over a fire.

Since they lived near a turpentine still, young Tom would gather the leftovers – a congealed mixture of straw mixed with pine tar – for his mother to use to stoke the fire which, he said, "makes a hot fire in a hurry!" The enterprising lad also gathered the turpentine and straw mixture to sell for 25 cents, "enough to buy a sack of candy."



On the beach, August 1970

Hightower related that in his teens he always had a rifle and a shotgun and would go squirrel, coon and opossum hunting. When his mother remarried, they all moved to Buford, South Carolina, where he worked in the garden growing corn and beans, went trout fishing, crabbing and gathered oysters. At the age of 17, Hightower was ready to spread his wings, so he joined the Air Force.

"I went in the Air Force in 1950. I didn't have a lot of 'learnin.' I didn't really like school and then jumped out of the frying pan into the fire," he joked. "I went to aircraft mechanic school, became a B29 specialist. Went to power plant specialty school. Then learned to train pilots in the AT6 and T28 planes. I'd never been anywhere, and Lubbock, Texas is a long way from Buford. I came out of the woods in Georgia and for the first time in my life I had my own stuff and clothes that matched. I learned so much that has helped me in my lifetime. I have met a lot of good people."

Hightower's older sister, Lorie, worked as a hairstylist in a shop in 5 Points near the Green Derby, so he made his way to



Tom Hightower and his friend, Thomas Payne, Jr., Fort Worth, Texas, 1954

Jacksonville in 1954 after leaving the Air Force. He went through a two-year apprenticeship and worked at NAS Jacksonville as a Civil Service Employee. He received a plaque recognizing his 37 years of service when he retired in 1987 at the age of 55.

Hightower joked that his motto was "Out the gate in '88. I decided to retire early. Most people try to get it all together then retire. Next thing you know they are in the ground," he said, explaining, "You don't really retire anyway, you just start over."

His philosophical approach of living with the hand you've been dealt has seen him through tough times – a divorce in 1967 from his first wife and the mother of his children, Yvonne Brinkley Hightower; the tragic loss of his sons, Johnny, to cancer in

2012 and George, Junior, to suicide in 1975; the loss of a granddaughter and the loss of his wife of 34 years, Margaret Wing Hightower, in 2010 add to his sorrow.

However, the indomitable, upbeat Hightower chuckled through his tears as he reflected on the joyful moments that are intertwined with his lifetime experiences: the old Corvair van that he made into a fishing buggy; all the great cars and motorcycles he had; the wonderful trips that he and Margaret took in the old school bus that he converted into a camper – Key West, the mountains, Washington, D.C.

"We went everywhere. She'd never been anywhere but Vidalia, Georgia, except when

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 37**



Camping trip, May 1972



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she lived in Jacksonville. She worked at George Kelly's Wood's Pharmacy on McDuff. That was the end of the trolley line at the original McDuff Pharmacy, which was a little farther down the street," he recalled.

Hightower's favorite pastime, besides photography, is dancing. "I met Margaret at the Expressway Club on Southside Boulevard. My sister did one of the girl's hair and we all went to dance since they knew the band. She loved to dance and to fish. We'd go to Little Talbot Island, St. Augustine and all over. My first wife and I used to square dance. Now I go to the Lane Wiley Senior Center and dance. It's good exercise, keeps you moving," said Hightower, who likes country music, especially Kenny Rogers, whom he described as making smooth music to dance to especially the song "Lady."

The ever-sensible Hightower, who learned to be frugal by growing up the hard way, bought his 1921 house on Colonial Avenue in 1968 from Henry Walthall, whose mother had owned it. He added to it over the years and did renovations. "It just had a light bulb hanging from the ceiling and it wasn't a very big light bulb. There was a hand pump on the back porch and there was



Car aficionado, November 1970

an apartment in the back to rent to sailors from the base," he said.

When he and Margaret, a widow, married in 1976, she had a house on Burke Street and when her neighbor put his house on the market, they bought it as an investment. "We bought that one and redid those houses and some others and sold them. I realized that if I didn't have a house payment, I wouldn't owe anybody, so I cashed in some bonds and paid off the Colonial Avenue house," he said. "Now days people just whip out that plastic and struggle to pay for things. Young people just live too damn fast. We give them everything. We did without - you're talking about a lifetime."

Hightower also built a house in Lyons, Georgia where he and Margaret lived until she passed away, then he sold it and moved back to his home on Colonial Avenue.

Hightower recently received his 50-year Masonic pin and occasionally goes to the VFW Club but said, "Since I don't drink or smoke, I don't fit in very well." He keeps in shape with his dancing and until a year ago was working out at the gym three or four days a week. He suffered a fall, spent some time in the hospital, then moved in

temporarily with his daughter, Deborah, and son-in-law, Lou. While Hightower convalesced, Lou, who works from home, fixed Hightower's lunch and washed and folded his clothes. The care was so good Hightower decided to stay. "I'm wounded, not stupid!" he quipped.

His payback is helping with the dogs - two pit bulls, a German Shepherd and an aggressive little Chihuahua. He said the Chihuahua tries to attack, which reminded him of a cousin who used to bite him when he was little. "My grandmother would hold him, so I could bite him back," he laughed.

As Hightower flipped through the thousands of photographs he has taken

over the years of his family, he laughed and cried. The hundred or so photo albums are a visual stroll down memory lane from his childhood and the lives of his children and his eight grandchildren. They chronicle his travels with Margaret and his trips with his daughter, Deborah, as he accompanies her each year on her Women's National Bowling Tournaments to Baton Rouge, Reno, Syracuse and other places around the country.

Hightower's philosophy of "living the hand you're dealt" is a reflection of a generation forged by overcoming hardships. His is a journey of a life well lived, a life of inspiration for the present generation.



Margaret Hightower, Key West



Moroccan Gala, November 1972



November 2005



Tom Hightower and his daughter hold hands across state lines.



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Career volunteer finds special joy in serving others

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

Young women today might not understand how a college-educated woman would choose to pursue a career in volunteerism instead of entering the workforce. But for Joan LeChot Shewbrooks, in the 1960s, marriage to a corporate executive meant frequent moves up and down the East Coast, to the Midwest and overseas.

Not only was it difficult to maintain a career, Joan found that every time she and her husband, Steve, moved – 16 times in 53 years – she had to apply for a driver’s license in a new state – seven times.

Stephen and Joan Shewbrooks, residents at Ortega Bay condominiums, were high school sweethearts in Pompano Beach High School, and both attended the University of Florida, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English and journalism. Steve, armed with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and an MBA, went to work for IBM in 1968, effectively kickstarting Joan’s life as a “career volunteer.”



a tennis instructor in New York, a weekend puppy sitter for Puppies Behind Bars, and a foster for a breeding dog for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Joan said the hospital stint which stands out most in her mind is when she worked in a closed unit at the Cornell Psychiatric Hospital in White Plains. “It was an amazing learning experience in human behavior, mine and others,” she said.

The first time the Shewbrooks were sent to Paris, 1975-1980, in addition to volunteering at the American Hospital of Paris, Joan “worked” at a wine shop. Because she could not get a work permit, she received “payment in kind. Best job ever!”

During both stints in Paris, the second in 1993-1995, Joan’s volunteer work was not typical front desk work. She served as assistant editor of a new edition of “Le Cookbook,” was assistant head, then head, of the patient library, taught conversational English to the French hospital staff, and was vice president of orientation programs.

Before moving to Jacksonville in 2006, Joan was named Dutchess County (NY) Volunteer of the Year in 2005, which came as no surprise to her husband.

“Joan is blessed with instinctive leadership qualities that are quickly recognized in any organization she works in. She was president of her sorority in college and president of the auxiliary in three different hospitals,” said Steve. “It has been very interesting for me to observe this since I benefited from 35 years with IBM, which has one of the finest management training programs in the corporate world.”

Upon moving to their first home in Ortega, Joan immediately became a volunteer at St. Vincent’s Riverside and joined the Auxiliary, where she served as president for two terms. Now she “works” two days a week at St. Vincent’s, one morning in Human Resources, one in the gift shop, and two afternoons at the information desk. She also subs for other volunteers in the surgery center or surgical waiting room.

For Joan, there’s a special joy in volunteering. “There is always work to be done and you are thanked for your efforts,” she said.

“Joan is blessed with instinctive leadership qualities that are quickly recognized in any organization she works in.”

— Steve Shewbrooks

Joan said she grew up with the notion that one volunteered. “My mother was always a volunteer of some sort, PTA president, Scout leader, choir mom, etc., and my father’s mother volunteered in a local nursing home for 40 years or more,” she said. But when it came time to begin her own volunteer career, Joan was inspired by her husband’s mother, grandmother and godmother, who were all healthcare volunteers. “They were educated, erudite, funny ladies I greatly admired,” Joan said.

Before the couple left Gainesville in 1968, Joan had volunteered for six years at the Children’s Hospital there. Upon arriving in Boca Raton, the first of 11 IBM moves, Joan began serving as a front desk volunteer and flower and mail deliverer at the community hospital there.

From South Florida they zigzagged to Rochester, Minn.; Chappaqua, New York; Paris, France; back to South Florida in Highland Beach; back to Rochester, Minn.; then to White Plains, New York; back to Paris; and then finally to Hopewell Junction, New York, where Steve retired in 2003.

All along the way, Joan gave her time to hospitals and medical centers, but also volunteered in a library, served as a PBS station gala publicity chairperson, was a board member for the Minnesota Orchestra,

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Ellen Woolley Wood

February 1, 1948 to November 24, 2018

Ellen Wood’s gentle fingerprint is pressed on the hearts of over 3,000 students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School during her 1981-2013 career as a “masterful” and “beloved” teacher.

At a gathering of friends and family members to celebrate her life at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, several spoke of her “calling to be a teacher.” Brian Roes, former RPDS music teacher, remarked that he would frequently observe her class during his free period. He recalled listening to her lead a discussion on the book “Puck Everlasting,” where the conversation centered around living forever. After careful leadership, in which she “taught the story not the words,” the students came to realize that, like a book, each life has a beginning and an end.

Her brother-in-law, the Rev. Tom Wood, spoke eloquently about his sister-in-law. How she had loved her husband, his brother, Nowell, who died in 2011; how she loved her children, Lee (Patrice), Jennifer and Allison, and her grandchildren, Kaitlin, Bryson and Madelyn. How she had loved all the children she taught, no matter their academic range or challenges.

Former student Casey Roberts shared that like many others who were educated by Wood, she had maintained a long-time friendship with her former teacher. She said Wood was always interested in her students even when they were grown and enjoyed their visits, birthday cards and wedding invitations.

In his eulogy, Rev. Wood mentioned that Ellen Wood had a temper. She got furious at bigotry, outraged at injustice, and incensed at the neglect or mistreatment of children. Present and former teaching colleagues took up three pews to honor this dedicated educator and friend, most too emotional to stand and speak. However, there was laughter through tears as they recalled the peach schnapps, her many pranks, and the way she gave a little head tilt before she came out with one of her witty and pointed remarks.

Former RPDS teacher Dianne Wellman flew in from St. Louis to be with her friend in her last moments. Colleague for 34 years and friend for 40, Pam MacCulley remarked, “I will miss Ellen every day of my life. She always wanted to do for others. Even during her illness, she wanted to keep it quiet, maybe not to upset others.”

Comments on social media reiterated Wood’s great sense of humor, and her ability



“Ellen had a great deal to teach us as adults, as well as to share with the students.”

— Palmer Bell,

former Head of School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School

to always offer an encouraging word to colleagues and every child. One student said she “gave the best hugs and made the best brownies.” Palmer Bell, former head of school remarked, “Ellen had a great deal to teach us as adults, as well as to share with the students.”

Comforting words came from Rev. Tom Borland as he led the unison reading of the 23rd Psalm and Rev. Wood related the analogy of watching with sorrow from the shore as a loved one sets sail, thinking, “There she goes.” Yet on the other side there are loved ones waiting in joy saying, “Here she comes.” He said, “When it’s said that she is no longer here, she is gone, don’t you believe a word of it. She has simply changed addresses.”

Start the new year right, join us for worship on Sunday mornings.

Happy New Year

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Main Worship Center
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Services in the Main Worship Center

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Look at New Year's resolutions with fresh eyes, open heart

By Karen J. Rieley, Resident Community News

Self-improvement goals are high on the list of common New Year's resolutions, but joining a gym, reading self-help books or taking up a new hobby aren't the only ways to improve your outlook on the year ahead.

Volunteering not only addresses many resolutions but also makes the community a better place for everyone. Sharing your time, skills and interests to help others is good for your mind, body and soul. The right match can help reduce stress, find friends, learn new skills and even advance your career. Giving to and serving others can also help improve your emotional well-being.

Jacksonville has many great nonprofit organizations eager to put your skills and interests to work improving the lives of others, and there's so much more to volunteering than serving at a soup kitchen. From A to Z – the arts to the zoo – here's a sampling of things you can do this year to turn on your volunteer spirit.

Calling all chefs

Gabriel House of Care volunteers create a "community of healing" in affordable, temporary lodging for adult organ transplant and cancer patients and their caregivers who come to Jacksonville for medical treatment. Chef's Night volunteer groups give guests and caregivers an evening off from cooking following long days of tests, medical treatments and appointments. They plan their own menu, purchase the food, cook and serve the meal. [Visit gabrielhouseofcare.org](http://www.gabrielhouseofcare.org) and click on *Get Involved*.

City Rescue Mission Supper Club volunteers serve the homeless and needy by choosing from the mission's menu, paying for the meal, preparing, cooking and serving the meal, having fellowship with CRM's guests; and cleaning up following the meal. [Visit crmjax.org/volunteers/groups/](http://www.crmjax.org/volunteers/groups/).

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville volunteer Meal Makers plan a meal then come to the House to prepare and serve the meal to families staying in the House so they can be close to a hospital. [Visit rmhcjacksonville.org](http://www.rmhcjacksonville.org) and click on *How You Can Help*.

Good with tools?

HabiJax Habitat for Humanity volunteers help both on the construction site or at the ReStore to provide affordable homeownership, enhanced neighborhoods and a better quality of life for those in the Urban Core of Jacksonville. Volunteers serve as construction team leaders and construction workers in building HaibJax homes ([contact Anya Denbow, adenbow@habijax.org, 904.208.6676](mailto:adenbow@habijax.org)). Those with merchandising experience help supervise volunteers in HabiJax ReStores, home improvement retail outlets open to the public ([contact Gabrielle Bellamy, gbellamy@habijax.org, 904.208.6645](mailto:gbellamy@habijax.org)). Experienced DIYers and crafters volunteer to share their skills in DIY seminars at HabiJax ReStores ([contact Candace Johnson, cjohnson@habijax.org, 904.208.6674](mailto:cjohnson@habijax.org)).



Presbyterian Social Ministries needs volunteer seamstresses who can mend or hem donated clothing. Plumbers and electricians are welcome as well. Volunteer cooks feed volunteer groups living in the agency's dorms while they do storm recovery work. Volunteer painters can help brighten up dorm walls. [Visit Presbyterian Social Ministries' Facebook page or contact Teri Ketchum, teriketchum@prebyteriansocialministries.org, 904.338.0920.](#)

Rethreaded, a social entrepreneurship agency that is breaking the cycle of the sex trade by offering viable and creative work to those affected by the sex trade, received a donation of 27 pallets of leather seat covers. They need volunteers who can strip leather from the seats so the agency can up-cycle the leather into a unique jewelry line. They also need help with T-shirt sorting. [Find out more at rethreaded.com/pages/contact](http://www.rethreaded.com/pages/contact).

Smell the roses

Bouquets of Kindness volunteers pick up donated flowers from events, stores and wholesalers, disassemble them, recreate bouquets and then deliver the prepared bouquets to seniors living in assisted living, memory care and HUD-funded long-term care facilities. [To volunteer, email info@bouquetsofkindness.org.](mailto:info@bouquetsofkindness.org)



Since 1975, Greenscape has planted more than 350,000 trees in Jacksonville. Volunteers who like to get their hands dirty are welcome to join the fun, in particular, those with horticultural backgrounds, science teachers, master gardeners and landscape designers. [Visit greenscapeofjacksonville.com](http://www.greenscapeofjacksonville.com) and click on *Get Involved*.

Caring for the medically underserved

Volunteers in Medicine depends upon medical as well as lay volunteers from all walks of life. Student volunteers pursuing a health-related career will experience a working clinic and interact with patients as well as health professionals and volunteers. Other volunteers include primary care physicians and specialists, nurse practitioners, nurses, and front office and patient intake help. [Visit vim-jax.org/medical-volunteers/become-a-volunteer/](http://www.vim-jax.org/medical-volunteers/become-a-volunteer/).

We Care Jacksonville is a volunteer coalition of healthcare professionals, clerical personnel and local church groups that provide primary and specialty care to uninsured, homeless and medically underserved people in Duval County. It works with a network of volunteer physicians and hospital networks to find donated care. [Call \(904\) 674-6450 to help.](tel:9046746450)

Can't get enough of the outdoors?

St. Johns Riverkeeper volunteers work to protect and restore the St. Johns River by being the eyes and ears on the water from a boat, kayak or on land by submitting observation reports, reporting algal bloom outbreaks on the St. Johns and tributaries, cleaning up the waterways of the St. Johns River, and researching important and timely topics facing the St. Johns River.

Those with a heart for educating can help with the Riverkeeper's monthly school boat excursions, registering passengers, passing out boat trip guides and snacks, and providing staff assistance during the 2-hour trips; or help with kids crafts and games at festivals, classroom programs, science fairs and summer camps. [Visit stjohnsriverkeeper.org/how-to-help/volunteer/](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/how-to-help/volunteer/).



Groundwork Jacksonville volunteers clean and redevelop the Emerald Necklace and convert contaminated land into parks, playgrounds, trails and other public green-space by cleaning up creeks, maintaining S-Line biodiversity corridor, and volunteering for the Green Team program. [Visit groundworkjacksonville.org/support/volunteer/](http://www.groundworkjacksonville.org/support/volunteer/).

Friends of Parks' groups work to improve and enhance many of the county's more than 400 parks. They connect people to the natural places in Jacksonville while enhancing the role of parks in local communities.

Friends of Hemming Park volunteer at Jacksonville's first and most historic public park located in the center of downtown and adjacent to City Hall. Volunteers help with event programming and other initiatives vital to the park's revitalization. [Visit friends-of-hemming-park.org/volunteer/](http://www.friends-of-hemming-park.org/volunteer/).

Friends of Boone Park South on St. Johns Avenue is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the park and its playground. [Visit Friends of Boone Park South on Facebook to message the group.](#)

Memorial Park Association protects and preserves Memorial Park at 1620 Riverside Avenue between Margaret Street and Memorial Park Drive. The all-volunteer board welcomes master gardeners, historians and scrapbookers to create an archive, website designers, writers and event planners. [Visit memorialparkjax.org/contact-us/](http://www.memorialparkjax.org/contact-us/).

Riverside Avondale Community Garden at the corner of Azalea Place and Park Street across from Willowbranch Library invites the community to help the garden thrive. Volunteer master gardeners and

weekend gardeners alike are welcome. Artists, storytellers and musicians may express themselves and inspire others in the garden. [Visit riversideavondale.org/get-digging-at-raps-community-garden/](http://www.riversideavondale.org/get-digging-at-raps-community-garden/).

Are you a legal eagle?

Guardian ad Litem volunteer advocates gather facts surrounding a child's case, review reports, visit a child's home, school or placement and provide the court with an unbiased recommendation on what is required to serve the best interests of the child. [Visit galfirstcoast.org/volunteer/](http://www.galfirstcoast.org/volunteer/).

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid pro bono area attorneys provides free civil legal assistance to those who could not otherwise afford it. [Visit www.jaxlegalaids.org/pro-bono/](http://www.jaxlegalaids.org/pro-bono/).

Be an animal whisperer

Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) volunteers assist in the handling and care of adoption animals including exercising, bathing and grooming animals, providing food and water and maintaining kennel facilities. They register and take care of pets in emergency shelters during a time of disaster. [Visit acps.net](http://www.acps.net) and enter ACPS in the search box.

Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) volunteer foster families care for the animals admitted to the facility by providing temporary, in-home care to JHS animals. Children visit the shelter to read to the animals. Youth volunteers age 16-18 and still enrolled in a high school program can complete community service hours for school or scholarship requirements. The Dog Day Out program pairs visitors with adoptable dogs for a day of adventure. [Email volunteer@jaxhumane.org](mailto:volunteer@jaxhumane.org) for more information.

Therapy Animal Coalition serves to increase the number of therapy animal teams volunteering in therapeutic, educational and other special environments. If you have a well-trained animal that can do all the basic commands reliably, get registered to become a therapy animal team. [Visit therapyanimalcoalition.org](http://www.therapyanimalcoalition.org) to get help finding a local therapy animal program in which you can become involved. Or, you can start your own therapy animal program. [Email info@therapyanimalcoalition.org](mailto:info@therapyanimalcoalition.org) to request assistance in developing a program.

Animal lovers with a heart for wounded warriors can volunteer with K9s For Warriors to raise a puppy from 8-12 weeks old and ready it for training. Foster volunteers take care of a dog-in-training in the comfort of their own home from one month to three or four months. Other volunteers help out in the organization's kennels. [Visit k9sforwarriors.org/get-involved](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/get-involved).

It's not just domestic animals who need care. Join the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens volunteer roster to work alongside zoo-keepers and in other capacities. [Visit jacksonvillezoo.org](http://www.jacksonvillezoo.org) and click on *Volunteer*.

Share the knowledge

Communities In Schools of Jacksonville volunteers help keep kids in school and on the path to graduation and beyond by providing academic support, helping with activities, serving as positive role models, advising about college and career preparation and sharing about their work. [Visit cisjax.org/get-involved/volunteer/](http://www.cisjax.org/get-involved/volunteer/).

All I Know Inc. equips limited-resource families and youth who are at risk for not meeting basic human needs with the tools and skills they need to lead positive, productive, and contributing lives. Volunteers lead workshops and tutor families and youth, in addition to helping with marketing, event planning and social networking. *Visit alliknowjax.org and click on Volunteer.*



Learn to Read provides free instruction to adults who function within the lowest levels of literacy. Volunteers start off as aides in one of Learn to Read's weekly computer learning labs, where they assist students working on various computer-based instructional programs. The majority lead one-on-one tutoring sessions with students who have demonstrated or expressed the need for more individualized and personalized instruction. Veteran tutors and teachers lead small groups of three to five students who are all working on the same level of curriculum content. *Visit learntoreadjax.org.*

A heart for the elderly

Aging True volunteers help with arts and crafts, deliver gifts or donated items, relieve caregivers, check on seniors by telephone, deliver Meals on Wheels for seniors and their pets and serve lunch at Cathedral Café. *Visit agingtrue.org/senior-care-volunteers.*

ElderSource volunteers assist seniors with completing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP) applications online, advocating for the benefits of the SNAP program, as well as educating the community against stigmas that prevent older adults from utilizing this program. *Contact Sherrie Keshner at 904.391.6688.*

Hart Felt Ministries volunteers build relationships, enhance environments, and preserve the independence of frail seniors. Volunteers make friendly visits; do grocery shopping and light housekeeping, advocacy; assist client in organizing, understanding and responding to bills and correspondence; make minor home repairs; provide respite; construct wheelchair ramps; transport seniors to medical appointments; and do yard mowing and cleanup projects. *Visit hartfelt.org/be-a-volunteer/.*

Stirring the soul with the arts

Art With a Heart in Healthcare volunteers provide personalized fine art experiences that enhance the healing process for patients and their families in support of the artist-in-residence. They also create art to be distributed to hospital patients as door signs and room décor and provide visiting artist sessions. *Visit artwithaheart.info.*

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens volunteers assist with exhibitions and special events. Arts4All volunteers help staff Art Stops and guide groups of students as part of the Arts4All Festival. Teen volunteers help with Camp Cummer, Weaver First Saturday Free for All, Florida Blue Free Tuesday and educational preparation. Docents lead tours of the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions. *Visit cummermuseum.org/volunteer.*

The Jacksonville Symphony all-volunteer chorus has made great music with the Jacksonville Symphony for three decades singing for many landmark Symphony events. *Visit jaxsymphony.org/symphony-chorus/.*

Serving the vulnerable

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida volunteers spend a few hours each month befriending children facing adversity to change their lives for the better. *For more information, visit bbbsnefl.org/beabig.*

Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida volunteers provide tutoring, mentoring, coaching, homework assistance, teen director assistance and fitness activities assistance. *Visit bgcnf.org/volunteer/.*

Daniel Kids volunteers help children who are at risk to harm themselves or others or at risk to enter the juvenile justice system by providing one-on-one support, tutoring or helping with fund-raising events. *Visit danielkids.org and click on Get Involved.*

Young Life Jacksonville volunteer leaders help with activities that enable them to build significant relationships with kids. *Contact Zac West, 904.303.0188, jacksonvilleyounglife@gmail.com*

Patriotism in diverse forms

Honoring deceased military can be done in several ways. If you enjoy motorcycling, consider joining the Patriot Guard Riders to help shield mourners from interruptions by protesters. *Visit patriotguard.org and navigate to state and regional leadership for the Florida chapter.*

The Jacksonville Ladies also have a sincere desire to pay final tribute to veterans. A volunteer is there to attend every service, not to intrude but to stand as a silent witness and give honor to the veteran and condolences to their families. *Visit jacksonvilleladies.org for more information.*

Building young lives through sports

The First Tee of North Florida volunteers and coaches impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. *Visit thefirstteenorthflorida.org/ways-to-help/volunteer/.*

Girls on The Run of Northeast Florida volunteer coaches work with a team of 8-20 girls over the course of 10 weeks to develop essential skills and an appreciation for health and fitness. They serve as role models and mentors for girls ages 8 to 14 years old. *Visit gotrnefl.org/Coach.*



Helping those who are differently-abled

Offering a summer camp experience for children, teenagers and adults who are challenged by physical, emotional and mental disabilities, Camp I Am Special

seeks volunteers to cook/assemble and serve lunch and dinner to hungry campers. Volunteers trained in safety and security (person-first language, seizure and swimming protocol, adaptive environments, lifting and transferring, positioning, food safety, CPR, First Aid and AEDs) help provide a safe camp experience. Registered nurses care for special medical needs of campers, administer medications and respond to any emergencies, while volunteer high school buddies are assigned one-on-one to campers. *Visit campiamspecial.com/buddies/ or contact Cheryl Estevez, cestevez@cbjax.org, 904.354.4846, ext. 269.*

Change the lives of adults with intellectual and other differences at Pine Castle by serving as ambassadors, helping to beautify the campus, spending time with clients in life enrichment activities, getting involved in weekly and daily activities, helping with holiday/seasonal festivals and planning special events. *Visit pinecastle.org/get-involved/volunteer/.*

Volunteers at The Arc Jacksonville serve people with intellectual and developmental differences by teaching, directing recreational activities and helping with social events. *Visit arcjacksonville.org/get-involved/volunteer/.*

Helping others to help themselves

Jewish Family & Community Services provides family and individual social services in the Jewish tradition of "helping people help themselves." Volunteers help seniors living independently by visiting a senior once a month for six months. They participate in the Holocaust Survivor Food Delivery Service. Volunteers also tutor and mentor middle school students at risk of dropping out of school, and they participate in gift giving to low-income individuals for all faith holidays. *Visit jfcsjax.org/howtohelp/.*

Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida seeks volunteers in all aspects of living. Teach cooking techniques to refugees and help with menu planning. Counsel clients on quality affordable apartments, housing subsidies, buying a first home, etc. Help with money management, budget planning and credit counseling. Licensed medical professionals check vitals like blood pressure and blood sugar. Technology/web professionals help improve the agency's website SEO and/or social media. Refugee youth program volunteers present after-school workshops to refugee teens and tutor in math, sciences and English as a second language. *Visit lssjax.org/get_involved/ or contact Natalie Holland, natalie.holland@lssjax.org, 904.730.8271.*

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$298,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">4242 Ortega Blvd #10 • 3/2 condo, low fees</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$245,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">4242 Ortega Blvd #20 • 2/2 condo, low fees</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$550,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">3221 Herschel St • Avondale tri-plex</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$289,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">4643 Plymouth St • Murray Hill New construction</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$350,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">0 Arapahoe Ave • buildable lot in Ortega Terrace</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$679,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">5729 Cedar Oaks Dr • 5,000 SF on river w/pool</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$490,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">2325 Beachcomber Trail • Atlantic Beach/Oceanwalk homesite</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$219,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">7545 Scarlet Ibis Lane • Townhome near Town Center</p>

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Centenarian's birthday deemed best party of her lifetime

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Riverside resident Maxine Meritt Kroll is always on the go. For a woman who recently celebrated her centennial birthday, she can leave others much younger in her dust.

"If you want to get on her dance card you need to try two or three weeks in advance," said Bill Schmidt, a longtime friend who, with his wife, Mary Dudley Schmidt, threw the Nov. 21 birthday party for Kroll at his Ortega home.

"Extraordinary! So much fun! The best party of my lifetime," said Kroll, who was feted by more than 200 friends.



Maxine Kroll at her 100th birthday party

A computer-savvy, iPad-using, text-messaging social butterfly, Kroll makes sure she is impeccably dressed and coiffed when she's out and about with friends of all ages. She attends fundraisers and Riverside Presbyterian Church, frequents the Sun-Ray Cinema and enjoys dining out.

Formerly a volunteer at both St. Luke's and St. Vincent's hospitals, Kroll has also volunteered for the Symphony Guild, the Cummer Museum, Friends of the Jacksonville Library, and was a runway model in fashion show fundraisers for Jacksonville University Library. "I'll do anything for fundraising!" said Kroll, who established the Peter and Maxine Kroll Endowed Chair for Wellness Education at the St. Vincent's Foundation.

When not dining out, Kroll can be found in her kitchen, but in front of her easel, not the oven. Her impressionistic-style street scenes painted from memory tell the stories of places she has traveled. Studying with well-known local artists, such as Christine Schmidt, Gail Strickley and Alice Ulmer, Kroll spoke of the trip to France with Schmidt and Ulmer. They rented a villa to paint for a month and none spoke a word of French.

Kroll's youth was one of white gloves at the Majestic Theatre with bellhops, and maids in the dressing room. "I love music and dancing – swing dance. I'd love to walk into the ballroom at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas once again and swing dance," she said, joking that she was the "wild card" of the four girls in the family.

She contributed to the war effort as one of 30 Hunter College girls who ran payroll for the military during 1941 and 1942 in McAllister, Okla., operating a Victor Comptometer, a type of key-driven calculator.

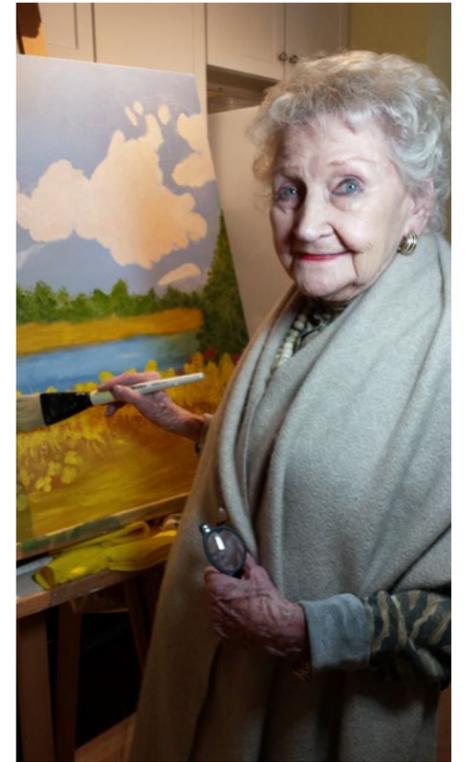
*"Extraordinary!
So much fun!
The best party
of my lifetime"*

— Maxine Meritt Kroll

Kroll moved about with her husband, Dr. Peter Kroll, a cardiovascular surgeon and Flight Surgeon for the U.S. Navy Medical Corps. They met when Maxine was living with her sister and brother-in-law in Santa Barbara, Calif., during World War II.

"Peter [who passed away in 1983] was a Gemini so there was never a dull moment! His family was European, so his background was one where everybody was highly educated. One time he asked me about my college experience. 'What did you learn in Texas?' I answered, 'To be a cheerleader!'" she said.

Kroll considers herself a "modern woman," although she said she disapproved of Gloria Steinem and the '60s bra-burning era. Reflecting on beginning her 101st year, Kroll said the answer to everything is to "Let go and let God. It works every time."



Maxine Kroll at her easel



A Paris street scene painted by Maxine Kroll

Terry Vereen

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Tree of Life service brings comfort to the bereaved

Three glorious Christmas trees decked with more than 800 silver streamers – each with the treasured name of a loved one who had passed under hospice care – were center stage as the Community Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation held its 28th Annual Tree of Life Tree Lighting and Service of Remembrance Dec. 6 at its facility on Sunbeam Road.

The service included music by Ancient City Brass and remarks by Susan Ponder-Stansel, president and CEO of Community Hospice, and Matt Tucci, marketing director for Dignity Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes, the event's main sponsor.

Chaplain Kirk Crocco, U.S. Navy Ret., recognized the deceased who had served in the U.S. armed forces. Also speaking at the event were Chaplains Jess McCrosky, Grant Wheeler, Mike Campbell, Debbie Allen, Victor Cole, Jackie Carmicle, Derrick Young, Larry O'Connell, Jackie Hayes, Tracy Tucker, James (Pop) Williams and Mona Decker.



Community Hospice Marketing and Communications Project Manager David Luck with Director of Grievance Services Byron Beall, Alicia and CFO Carlos Bosque, and Vice President of Education and Community Engagement Jim Monahan

Music Therapist Carey Barwick, Director of Spiritual Care Gary Hutcheson, and John Yivisaker also took part in the ceremony.

Longtime supporters Manny Anloague and his sons, Arnold and Armand, have attended the ceremony every year for nearly a decade. "Grief is a hard thing to go through," said Arnold Anloague. "The Tree of Life Celebration is one of the events where you get to take a moment to think of your loved one, all that you've been through, and where you are now," he said. "Our family was helped tremendously before our mom's death, but also afterwards. The Tree of Life event gives us a chance to remember all of that, which is comforting."



Kelli Thomas and Sharon Millsbaugh



Hardage-Giddens President Jody Brandenburg with Tom Harris, Hardage-Giddens general manager



Best Historic Landmark: Old Jacksonville Train Station

Judges get creative with gingerbread entry prize categories

With more than two dozen delectable entries in the annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, sponsored by the Jacksonville Historical Society, it was a difficult task for the panel of judges to determine winners. In the end, the prizes were as creative as the gingerbread displays as each of the 25 entries received an award.

Best in Show was awarded to Avondale's Jean Grimsley, Sophie Grimsley and Kate Begley for their "Magic Beach Motel," which also won Best Art Deco Christmas. First-time bakers Dawn Ballard, Tina Brooks and Ella Banghart of Murray Hill won the Best Christmas award for "Santa's Secret Stop," while Best Historic Landmark went to Drew Haramis' third-grade class at St. Mark's Episcopal for "Old Jacksonville Train Station." Best Local Structure was given to Grace Episcopal School sixth-graders Kayli Scott and Riley Hall for the "Historic Grace Chapel."

Pat Andrews and Fred Lambrou, of San Marco, won Best Travel Fantasy for their "Icelandic Gingerbread," and the award for



Best in Show: Magic Beach Motel

Best Christmas Family Vacation went to Mabel Smith, Ashton Body and Charlotte Rosenberg, students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville for their gingerbread version of Christmas at Rockefeller Plaza.

Peterbrooke Chocolatiers of San Marco was awarded the Best Beach "Salt Life" prize for their version of the Jacksonville Beach Fishing Pier, and the Mandarin Peterbrooke won Best Engineering for "Main Street Bridge." The Most Snow award was given to John Carpentier and his daughters, Madeleine and Gemma, of Lakeside for their sugar cube igloo, "Season's Greetings from the South Pole."



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No place students would rather be

Bishop John J. Snyder High School draws enrollment from all over Jacksonville

Among the many sound reasons why a family would choose to enroll a child in a Catholic school, academic excellence is likely first and foremost – especially for the almost 100 students at Bishop John J. Snyder High School who are not Catholic and who represent over 20 percent of the school's current student body.

"We are a welcoming school and we are a Catholic school; so we provide a Catholic education," said Deacon David Yazdiya, principal since the school's founding in 2002. "That means we present as a Catholic school, but we certainly teach and welcome anyone who wants to come here. We are honest and tell our families that one of our goals is to bring them closer to God. They have different faith experiences and backgrounds and we hope by what we teach and more importantly, by the way we act and

relate to them, and to each other, we ultimately bring them closer to God and deepen their faith experience."

The Westside-based school was the result of a capital campaign begun by Bishop John J. Snyder, just before his retirement as bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, to add two new Catholic high schools to the diocese. The school opened with 78 freshmen students; today there are more than 450 in four grades, with room to add nearly 200 more.

Being a welcoming school is evident in all aspects, from academics to athletics, fellowship to Fine Arts, and more.

"We also welcome students of all academic levels and capabilities," said Kelly Brown, Dean of Academics. "The majority of our courses are offered at both the standard college prep level and the honors level. We also offer many Advanced Placement courses, which provide eligible students the opportunity to earn college credit."

Jade Croft, Class of 2019, said she was faced with the hard decision of where to attend high school. "I had heard of Snyder and decided to go tour it. The second I stepped on to campus, I knew I wanted to go to Snyder," said Croft. New students will have a chance to tour the campus during an Open House, Saturday, Jan. 26 from noon to 3 p.m., where they can meet other students, teachers, coaches and administrators.

"The environment here is so welcoming and different than any other school I've attended. The teachers work hard to make sure you succeed, and everyone gets along because there are no cliques," Croft said. "Going to Snyder has prepared me for college, and I am so lucky to have attended this school."

Another thing that distinguishes Bishop Snyder from other schools is its "Bring Your Own Device" technology policy, which



Visit Snyder on January 26th or February 7th to learn more. Call 904-771-1029 for details.

allows students to bring their own iPad, Chromebook or laptop to class. However, 70 percent don't bring a device to school, preferring to learn with a notebook in front of them. Even cellphones are put into lockers all day, which means lunch hours are loud and noisy, said Shelley Gudzak, Director of Admissions. "Lunches are fun to watch; kids are all at the tables talking to each other; it's a little loud but they are well-behaved," she said.

"My experience at Snyder has been all-around great. Everyone is very inviting and friendly," said Peyton Poitevent, Class of 2022, while Emily Butler, a senior, said she has made incredible friends and life-long connections. "Snyder has given me the opportunity to join new clubs and try new things. Since being at Snyder I have been able to join the Student Government Association which has always been a dream of mine as well as the chance to start a service club, Interact. I'm incredibly blessed to have gone to Snyder," Butler said.

In addition to its academic excellence, Bishop Snyder offers 14 teams and individual sports. "What's nice about athletics here is that for a smaller school there is so much more opportunity here. Students can come here and try a new sport. About 70 percent are on one or more teams. It's a high rate of activity," said Gudzak.

Yazdiya agreed that its small size is one of the school's biggest strengths when it

comes to Fine Arts. "Being smaller than many other public and private high schools affords the students greater opportunity to participate in plays and musicals," he said. "Often we have freshmen who can be the lead or in one of the top roles, because the opportunity is there for them to be in that role."

Located less than 10 miles from NAS Jacksonville, Bishop Snyder High School draws from the Southside and Mandarin areas, too. "Distance is not a factor when it comes to education. It's what they want out of it," said Yazdiya.

"Going to Bishop Snyder was never a difficult decision. I knew as soon as I stepped on campus that I wanted to attend this school," said Alana Lecoite, Class of 2019. "The community at Snyder is so tight-knit and full of love that it becomes a safe place for students to learn and grow as people. In my experience, Snyder has been a place where I've been able to discover more about myself and my strengths. There is truly no place I'd rather be," concluded Lecoite.

Offering a quality education for young men and women grades 9 to 12, Bishop John J. Snyder High School is located at 5001 Samaritan Way. Contact Shelley Gudzak, Director of Admissions, at (904) 771-1029, for a tour, or visit bishopsnyder.org.



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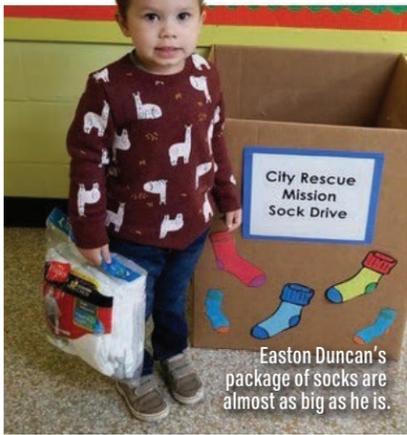
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Warm hearts donate socks to keep others' feet warm

Students at St. John's Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool collected almost 200 pairs of socks for the City Rescue Mission as part of learning about giving and thankfulness in the month of November. The annual sock drive is also a reminder that many in the community don't have socks or shoes, and gifts like this will go a long way to keeping feet warm this winter.

CISV Jacksonville announces 2019 international opportunities

The CISV Jacksonville chapter will offer seven programs for youth ages 11 to 18 and adults 19+ in 2019 to help "educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world."

CISV (Children's International Summer Village) was founded in 1950 and the Jacksonville chapter in 1976 with the goal of building intercultural friendship, cooperation and understanding.

The seven international, camp-based, family exchange and local community programs offer youth the experience of their lives. This year locations will include Austria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain and Sweden, as well as a few locations in the United States.

The programs range from two to four weeks, may include a reciprocal exchange of hosts, and may focus on cooperative living and/or leadership development. Some of the programs allow youth to have a greater role in planning the activities.

Youth and adults interested in participating in CISV's local and international camps can apply at <https://jacksonville.cisvusa.org/programs/apply/>.

Mother, daughter named coach, player of year

The apple didn't fall far from the fitness tree in the Livingston family of Ortega Forest.

St. Johns Country Day School Athlete Director Traci Peacock Livingston was named the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year and her daughter, Madison, was named District 6 Class 3A Player of the Year.

Traci Livingston grew up in Avondale and is a 1990 graduate of St. Johns Country

Day School. She holds a degree in sociology and criminal justice from The University of North Florida. As a student, Coach Livingston was a three-sport letter winner at St. Johns but chose to play softball in college. She was on the 1992 National Championship team, and was named First Team All-American, First Team All-State and was named the Most Valuable Player in the National Tournament. She has been teaching at St. Johns since 1996 and has been the varsity volleyball coach since 1998. Livingston was named Florida Volleyball Coach of the Year in 2001 and Clay County Volleyball Coach of the Year in 2000, 2001 and 2006. In December 2008, she was one of the inaugural inductees into the St. Johns Country Day School Alumni Hall of Fame.

Madison Livingston will graduate from St. Johns in May 2019 and plans to study nursing at the University of Mississippi. Her matriculation at Ole Miss will complete the Mississippi connection for the Livingstons as Madison's brother, Brandon, a 2017 graduate of St. Johns, is currently studying at Mississippi State. In addition to playing varsity volleyball, Madison serves as the Athletics Editor for the school yearbook, "The Chalice."



Traci Livingston



Madison Livingston

Designs by three students selected for holiday notecards

The artwork of three Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth-grade students has been selected in the annual Angel Competition put on by Angels for Allison. Drawings by Susanna Ball, Colvin Hall and Hallie Nelson were featured on notecards and a calendar sold at Angels for Allison retail locations for the Christmas season. RPDS Art Teacher Dale Child said the school has participated in the competition for eight years.



Susanna Ball, Colvin Hall and Hallie Nelson



Susanna Ball's card design



Hallie Nelson's card design



Card designed by Colvin Hall



Episcopal School of Jacksonville
Open House · January 15, 2019

Grades 6-12 | esj.org

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Episcopal students present urban plans to ULI's 'City Council'

Twelve teams of students in Ortega resident Perry Walthour's high school economics class at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville presented their redevelopment vision to a fictitious city council made up of Urban Land Institute (ULI) volunteers. Two concurrent city councils were held Nov. 5, producing a winning development team from each council.

UrbanPlan is a hands-on, 15-hour course created by ULI to teach urban planning concepts to high school and college students. Students work in development teams to analyze and respond to a hypothetical Request for Proposal for the redevelopment of a specific urban area. Each student takes on a specific role in their development team, which consists of a Site Planner, Financial Analyst, Marketing Director, City Liaison and Neighborhood Liaison.

The winning teams were Blackstone Development with Luke Tipton, Marketing Director; San Jose resident Lindsay Monger, Financial Analyst; Ortega resident Henry

Page, Site Planner; Jillian Griffin, City Liaison, and Matthew Cooper, Neighborhood Liaison; and ESJ Enterprise with Evan Mansur, Marketing Director; Ortega resident Max Borghese, Financial Analyst; Justice Queen, Site Planner; Alan Sievert, City Liaison, and San Jose resident Hollin Hakimian, Neighborhood Liaison.

Through the program, students explore how the forces of a market economy work with and against non-market forces in a democracy to create the environment in which they live.

In completing their plans, the students must consider economic, social, cultural and political goals of the fictional city and its residents. Some of the items they will have to consider are zoning and design regulations, market demand for different types of land uses and real estate products, traffic patterns, quality of life and the needs of investors and lenders providing the capital for the project.



Matthew Cooper, Jillian Griffin, Henry Page, Luke Tipton, Lindsay Monger



Evan Mansur, Max Borghese, Alan Sievert, Justice Queen and Hollin Hakimian



Jacob Davis sits among more than \$6,000 worth of donations in animal supplies.

Boy Scout makes holidays easier for shelter animals

Jacob Davis, a member of Boy Scout Troop 25, made the holidays a bit brighter for shelter dogs and cats in half a dozen locations.

Davis, an Ortega resident, completed his Eagle Scout project, a supply drive for local nonprofit animal rescues and shelters, just before Christmas. The homeschooled ninth-grader created a wish list of the specific items the animal shelters needed, listed it on Amazon and 100 percent of the list was fulfilled.

With the assistance of The Jacksonville Dog Café, Davis and fellow Scouts sorted and delivered the items to St. Francis Animal Hospital in St. Nicholas; Fur Sisters - Furever Urs Rescue, Inc.; Dachshund Adoption Rescue and Education (DARE); Pit Sisters; The London Sanctuary, and the City of Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services.

"With the recent hurricanes, there is a lot of need to help these animals beyond their everyday need," said Davis.

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Students learn police officers are good guys



Fishweir Elementary School students William Dobbins and Bella Neuendorf pose with Officer Lashante Whitaker of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office's Safety Education Unit, who presented an "Officer Friendly" program to 240 kindergarten, first- and second-grade students Dec. 5. The program comes under the JSO's Community Engagement Section and includes tips on Stranger Danger, doing the right thing and what it's like to be a police officer. Whitaker is one of four officers who present the program to Duval County Public Schools throughout the year, work with school crossing guards and the Safety Patrols.

Verhoef named Head Swim Coach at Bolles

Peter Verhoef, of Charlotte, North Carolina, was named the next Head Swim Coach and Aquatics Director for The Bolles School. Verhoef will take the helm on January 7 and work with former Head Coach Jon Sakovich to make the transition as seamless as possible.

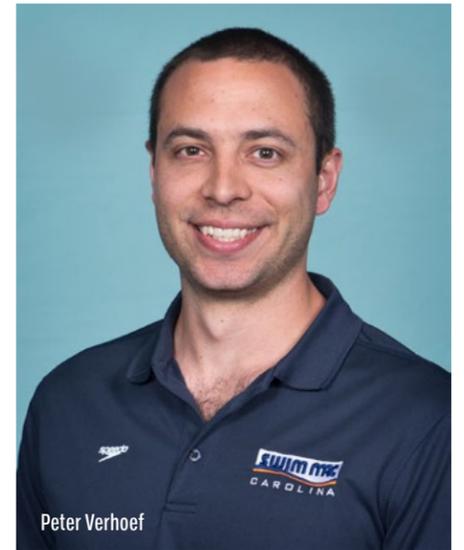
Verhoef has national, international and Olympic competition experience. During the past three years, he has earned acclaim as a Senior Coach and High Performance Director for SwimMAC, a globally competitive swimming program in Charlotte, N.C. Senior athletes from SwimMAC have achieved positions on the USA National Junior Team, won Junior National Championships, and recorded the highest number of scholastic All-Americans of any program in the country.

Prior to that, Verhoef assisted in coaching SwimMAC's Team Elite program for Olympic level athletes from 2010-16. During this time, Team Elite athletes

combined for a total of nine gold, four silver and one bronze. Throughout his tenure at SwimMAC, Verhoef helped guide strategic decisions including staff development, growth, team culture, member relationships and more.

Verhoef received a Bachelor of Business Administration and double majored in Management and Management Information Systems in 2007 from the Terry College of Business. While at Georgia, he was a finalist at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Trials and represented the United States at the World Championships in 2007 where he also served as the Team USA Team Captain and earned a Silver medal at the World University Games in 2005.

Sakovich announced at the start of the school year he would step down as head coach of the Bolles School Sharks at the end of 2018. He was a coach with Bolles since 2000 and was promoted to the head coach position in 2015.



Peter Verhoef

The Bolles School swimming and diving program has an outstanding record with a combined total of 14 national titles and 72 state championships. Fifty-nine Bolles students, alumni or Sharks have participated in every Olympics since 1972, representing 28 countries and claiming 20 medals.

Basketball league starts 21st season

The Riverside Presbyterian Church (RPC) Basketball League kicked off a new season last month and will finish the 8-week season Feb. 2, followed by a post-season tournament. There are 11 divisions comprised of eight boys' teams and three girls' teams, ages 7-16, and the games are played at six area churches. The league was established in 2000 to give families in Jacksonville the opportunity to learn individual and team basketball skills while providing the boys and girls a demonstration in leadership, service, fair play, confidence and self-esteem on and off the court.

Henry Caine, Shannal Thomas and Rick Cartlidge with youngsters from the Sanctuary on 8th Street when they received their basketball uniforms.





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Episcopal Day School
Age 1 - 6th grade



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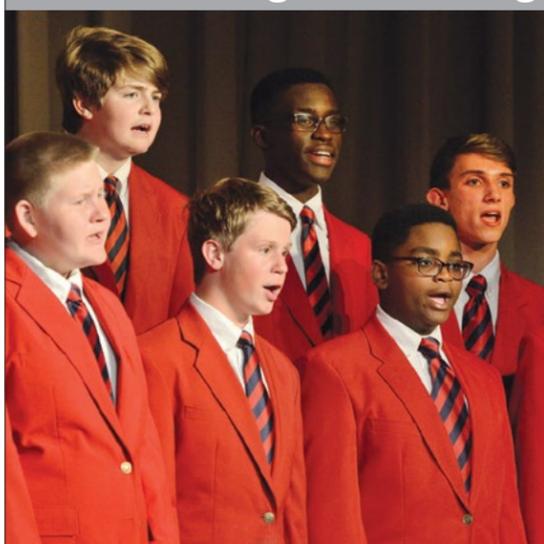
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DA students participate in “Nutcracker” performances



Grace Leeper and Reece Weaver

There are several different productions of The Nutcracker that take place in downtown Jacksonville every year. The “First Coast Nutcracker” featured the Jacksonville Symphony and took place Dec. 14-16 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. The “Community Nutcracker” took place at the Florida Theater, Dec. 6-8. There are always multiple Douglas Anderson students who participate in each version of the enchanting show.

Reece Weaver, a senior dance major, was selected to play the lead, Clara, in this year’s First Coast Nutcracker. She played the role for the first time in last year’s production and was excited to be back on stage. Cecilia Despres, a Performance Theatre senior participating in the Community Nutcracker, said that “if it weren’t for DA, I would not feel nearly as prepared to take on all six performances of the Community Nutcracker.

“Combining arts with academics has taught me how to manage time effectively so that I can be a part of this production while maintaining strong grades at school.”

“Through my arts area, I’ve also learned what most directors are looking for during the audition process,” added Despres, “as well as how rehearsals for shows normally run. I have been able to rehearse and perform the nutcracker knowing what to expect.”

Upson Kids Spread Cheer with Holiday Mail for Heroes

The American Red Cross’s annual Holiday Mail for Heroes program enabled Sara Henry’s fourth-grade class at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School to give “something that means something” during the holiday season.

Each fourth grader wrote a personal note and signed a holiday card. Liz Smith, military and international program director for the Red Cross on Riverside Avenue, accepted the cards from the class and saw that they were distributed to veterans, those currently serving in the armed forces, and their families.

Rather than send cards to a centralized national location, as has been done in the past, the Red Cross empowered individuals in all chapters to collect cards in their own communities. The Riverside Red Cross distributed the cards to those who will most appreciate them, including patients in VA hospitals or rehabilitation centers who have little contact with friends or family.



Sara Henry’s fourth-grade class at Ruth N. Upson

The Red Cross said servicemen and women, veterans, wounded warriors, and military families who receive the cards appreciate them in ways that might surprise many of us. Students at the Murray Hill school hope that one of their cards really made their day.

Sunday lunch angels for Church Without Walls



St. Mark’s youth members prepare to create 100 healthy lunches for Church Without Walls.



Lunch bags decorated by St. Mark’s youth were filled with sandwiches by the eighth-grade confirmation class.

Eighth-grade students currently participating in confirmation class at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church recently made and delivered over 100 healthy bagged lunches for the Sunday Lunch Angel program at Church Without Walls in downtown Jacksonville. The paper lunch bags were lovingly decorated by younger St. Mark’s children during Sunday school. Church Without Walls is an urban mission within the Episcopal Diocese of Florida that shares the Gospel of Christ to in-need neighbors beyond church walls. The St. Mark’s youth confirmation class is led by St. Mark’s parishioner Keith Daw.

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Marathon High students pose for a group shot before embarking on a 7-mile run. (Photo by Jim Ferguson)

In it for the 'long' run

Submitted by Jasmine Butler
Robert E. Lee High School Senior

Over 400 students from 19 area high schools, along with more than 100 coaches and running buddies, gathered at Robert E. Lee High School Nov. 17 on a chilly Saturday morning to run seven miles together in a running program called Marathon High.

Marathon High incorporates team building, bonding, and running. Students train to run a half-marathon (13.1 miles) over the course of four months, meeting three times a week to run in small groups with adult volunteers. The groups practice the Galloway Run-Walk-Run method of interval training to build up their running distances over four months. Although the program requires the runners to keep up, it isn't competitive at all.



Michelle Julio-Rendon, Robert E. Lee freshman (Photo by Jim Ferguson)

"We start with a 2-mile run and eventually run over 13 miles that includes running over the Acosta bridge," said Coach Khristi Keefe, Lee school counselor. "We ask students to put forth their best effort, maintaining at least a 14-minute mile average pace, and to support each other. It's amazing to watch the students high five each other along the way or see them check on each other, making sure they all make it to the end of each run."

Not only are the students trained to run, but they have the opportunity to make friends and learn new things. Jacob Anderson, a senior at Robert E. Lee, shared why he decided to join Marathon High. "Well, it all started my sophomore year. I quit wrestling and football, but I wanted to stay in a sport. I wanted to run! I stayed because it's just so much fun with so many positive people," he said.

First-year volunteer running buddy Jennifer Sandifer had only great things to say about her experience. "Being around new people was a new experience because I am an introvert. I've done a few 5Ks, but I agreed to be a 'running buddy.' It is such a great experience hearing the students' stories and backgrounds," said Sandifer. "If given the opportunity, I would definitely do it again next year."

Marathon High is taken very seriously by the runners and they feel the need to share this wonderful opportunity with their peers. Vioudny Senat, Lee senior and fourth-year runner, shared a few tips for incoming runners. "To future runners, don't miss out on training, because if you do, it gets harder. Don't give up!" she said.

After training for months, students of Marathon High are prepared to run 13 miles.

They realize it will take hard work, but with their teammates by their side, it will be worth it. "The most rewarding part is the 13.1 miles and then getting that jacket because you feel like you earned it," said Mashara Torrance, Lee senior.

Students are now training to run the "Finish Breast Cancer" half-marathon this year with the support of local businesses such as 1st Place Sports, JTC Running, and the Rotary Club of Jacksonville. To learn more about the Marathon High running program, to volunteer, to sponsor, or to donate, visit website marathonhighfl.org.



Kelli Padgett, Robert E. Lee teacher, Sydney Brown, senior, and Brett Smith, teacher (Photo by Jim Ferguson)

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- In Memoriam -

E. William "Bill" Nash, Jr.

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James Nash, E. William Nash III, E. William Nash, Jr., E. William Nash IV with E. William Nash V

When he was small, E. William Nash IV thought his grandfather and namesake-once-removed, Emanuel William "Bill" Nash, Jr., was like Santa Claus.

"He was this jolly Santa-like king who lived in a big tower on the river and his house had marble floors," he remembered in the eulogy he wrote for his "Papa," who died peacefully in his Avondale cottage on Nov. 23, 2018 at the age of 93.

"You went up the elevator, and as you got off he'd be waiting there at the end of the hall, with a big golden-y scotch in a crystal tumbler, swishin' it around, with rosy red cheeks and blue twinkly eyes, Beethoven or Vivaldi blaring in the background, and he'd say 'Hello,' or if it was Christmas, 'Ho Ho Ho,'" Nash IV wrote. "Then he'd bend over and scoop you up on his big round belly and his scratchy mustache would tickle your face. There'd be this delicious smorgasbord of smells - Trumper's Wild Fern cologne mixed with a fresh, potent swig of Johnnie Walker Red and a bit of peanuts, cigar, and mothball. Believe it or not, it was a really cool smell, and when he was around, you felt like nothing bad would ever happen to you."

Nash, Jr. truly lived the Horatio Alger story. His father, the first E. William Nash, was a poor coal miner from Yorkshire, England, who fought for the British during World War I and immigrated to the United States after the war, settling in Mansfield, Ohio, where his son, Nash Jr., was born.

During the Depression, Nash Jr. distributed newspapers and dairy products, and was a soda jerk and a farmhand. During World War II he served on the U.S.S. Destroyer Plunkett, then used the G.I. Bill to attend Wheaton College in Illinois where he met the love of his life, Frances Flewellyn Johnston. The couple moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where Nash continued his studies and graduated from Emory University with a degree in business administration.

It was in Atlanta that he was introduced to the insurance business by his wife's uncle, a Prudential agent. "Papa started out as a door-to-door insurance guy. He thought life insurance was an amazing concept. He educated and convinced thousands of people about the benefits of financial planning and protecting one's family with life insurance," said Nash IV.

Working hard, Nash Jr. climbed through Prudential's ranks, selling insurance in Atlanta, Nashville, Newark and Houston. He eventually settled in Jacksonville as president of the South-Central Home Office, where he headed all of Prudential's operations in the Southeastern section of the United States.

With the big job came big responsibility, which Nash Jr. relished. Embracing Jacksonville, which he called "Our Town," he was one of the city's greatest cheerleaders, serving as president of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Jacksonville

Symphony Orchestra, and the United Way of Northeast Florida where he co-founded the Tocqueville Society with his good friend, Charlie Towers.

His tenure on the board of the Jacksonville Port Authority from 1986 to 1993 was proclaimed "The Nash Era" and included two terms as chairman, the dedication of the new \$101.6 million terminal at Jacksonville International Airport, the opening of the terminal at Blount Island, and the dedication of the Blount Island Bridge.

Nash Jr. also chaired the Board of Directors of the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Florida Independent College Fund, and the YMCA. His advice was sought by Mayors John Peyton, Ed Austin, Jake Godbold and John Delaney. At the request of Mayor Godbold, he raised \$4 million to preserve and transform The Florida Theater into a center for the performing arts.

He also had a love for private schools and served on the board of Jacksonville University, from 1982 to 2005, including a five-year stint as chairman. In addition, he was a board member for Episcopal High School, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, and his alma mater, Emory University.

In 1955 Queen Elizabeth gifted a piece of Gibraltar to Prudential to commemorate its slogan, "Own a piece of The Rock," and the boulder adorned the lobby of 841 Prudential Drive for many years. In 2002,

after the building was sold, the 2.5-ton stone was moved outside near the river and Mayor John Delaney dedicated the rock to Nash Jr. as a recognition of his numerous business and civic contributions.

An ardently religious man, Nash Jr. and his wife were active in many churches, including St. Mark's Episcopal in Ortega, and his final church home, First Presbyterian Church.

An avid art and antiques collector, he was proud of his English heritage and supportive of his son's business, E.W. Nash and Son, a furniture restoration business in Riverside. After retiring from Prudential, he kept an office there. "He did so much in the community, but also loved being in the shop with my dad. He was a real roll-up-your-sleeves-and-do-physical-labor kind of guy, too," Nash IV said.

Yet, however busy he was, he always kept his large family close to his heart.

He was married 64 happy years. After Fran's death he built a cottage for himself between the homes of his son and grandson at Nash Abby, a family compound in Avondale. It was there he enjoyed gardening and daily visits with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Perhaps his grandson, Parker Roberts, summed up the family's feelings best when he said, "Papa was the epitome of a life well lived. It is hard to really ponder how much good he did, how so much is different for the better because he was alive."



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