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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Neighbors enjoy San Marco holiday festivities

Adorned with Christmas tree lights and snowflake glasses, Adam Petrus with Peyton and Olivia, Jennifer Petrus and Susan Pryor kicked off the holiday season at the combined Festival of Lights 5K and Holiday Magic Celebration.

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FRIENDS SURPRISE 'KING OF BURGERS' ON BIRTHDAY

Ready to surprise David Stein for his 80th birthday were friends Jennifer Glock and Michael Ward, Richard Sisisky and Charles Zimmerman. Stein and his family launched the Burger King chain into a national success.

[READ MORE, PAGE 18](#)



Palm Beach glamour wows crowd

Missie Sarra LePrell and her husband, Samuel, pose with Art & Antiques Show guest speaker, Leta Austin Foster, an interior designer from Palm Beach.

[READ MORE, PAGE 22](#)



Community celebrates Chanukkah start

Honoring an ancient tradition, the giant outdoor chanukiyah at the Jewish Community Alliance was lit Dec. 3 by Adam Chaskin, new CEO for the JCA.

[READ MORE, PAGE 27](#)



Service brings comfort to grieving at holidays

Hardage-Giddens President Jody Brandenburg with Community Hospice & Palliative Care President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel at the annual Tree of Life service of remembrance.

[READ MORE, PAGE 34](#)



Lighting the House lightens hearts, too

Ronald McDonald provided a convenient photo op for Ajay, Arron and Amylee Chambers, who were there to celebrate the light of Ronald McDonald House for the holidays.

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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



“Being a new resident of Jacksonville having come from New York City, one of my goals is to buy a house in San Marco and start a family.”

– **Abel Hernandez**, Lakewood



“Just being the best version of myself and sticking to my goals. I just want to follow through on my plans. I want to work on my house and grow my business. I’m not comparing myself with others but want to stick to what I want to achieve.”

– **Jordie Papa**, San Marco



“I’d like to publish my first short story or novella. I’ve written some here and there but haven’t had anything published other than a small little thing – a story that was 10 pages. So that’s my main goal to publish something novella length. I graduated three years ago from UNE.”

– **Tyler Barney**, San Marco



“One of my goals is to spend more time close to home rather than traveling so much. We want to take advantage of the San Marco area because we did some remodeling. At work, my goal is to help Baptist Health connect its patient population to its community resources and finish that project before the end of 2019.”

– **Mary Reid**, San Marco



“A personal goal would be for my husband to get his residency here officially. He came here on a fiancé visa from Gambia, West Africa, so he’s been here for three years. We got a conditional residency, which has expired after two years so we are in limbo right now and are waiting for the government to approve our application while he is on an 18-month extension. As a teacher, I’d like to improve test scores always, and be visited by my students of the past. It’s always nice to see them visit because it proves that you mattered to the student.”

– **Bonnie Manjang**, San Marco



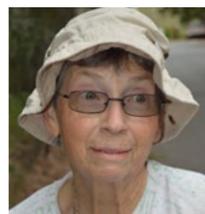
“To continue to travel and expand my horizons so I have a better understanding of different cultures and people, so it’s not just about what I grew up with and me.”

– **Valerie Harden**, St. Nicholas



“To have a portfolio I can show to potential employers in the advertising industry because I’m in advertising school right now. In a year, I’d like to have some work I can show people, so I can get a job”

– **Kathy Reid**, San Marco



“My goal for me and my dog is to continue to compete in nose work (canine scent competition) and get one more title. It’s a sport. I have a toy Manchester Terrier named Barclay. I’d like for her to get a Level 3 title. Since I’ve retired, I just want to work with my dog.”

– **Betsy Raiford**, St. Nicholas



“My goals are already pretty good. I work hard and staying healthy is very important to me. Helping other people is also important. I take care of three elderly ladies even though I’m elderly almost. Hopefully I will be able to continue that through this whole year, which will help both them and me. It helps me stay young.”

– **Kathy Davis**, St. Nicholas

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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



Lori Boyer



Jim Love

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.

“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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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

“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

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.

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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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SOLD by Anita Vining! Come home to comfort every day. Adorable
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City to clean up Linden Avenue dump site

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The Millers Creek Eco-Restoration project is not the only ecological clean-up operation going on in St. Nicholas. Very soon the City of Jacksonville plans to commence with a Remedial Action Plan to remove contaminated soils from an old dump site in the 1600 block of Linden Avenue.

Located on 1.24 acres of land at the northeast corner of Linden Avenue and Luce Street, the area is not considered to be a “brownfield” site, but still harbors enough contamination in its soils to require removal to a landfill facility.

According to an Nov. 7, 2018 email obtained from Millers Creek Special Tax District President Sharon Johnson, Diversified Professional Services is under contract to implement an approved Remedial Action Plan, which was prepared for the city by Aerostar SES in March 2017.

According to the Aerostar plan, the goal is to “close the site in accordance with Risk Management Option Level II – No Further Action with institutional and engineering controls (Chapter 62-780.680 Florida Administrative Code).” In the email, which was written by Nikita Reed of the City’s Engineering and Construction Management Division, the plan involves a “basic clearing and grubbing, excavation and clean fill job.” Also, in the email, Reed said she expects the land to start being cleared the week after Thanksgiving [2018].

According to the Remedial Action Plan, the dump site consists of a “maintained grassy area located on the northwestern corner of the site, a former electrical substation on the western portion of the site, and wooded land located in the central and

eastern portions of the site.” Also, in the area to be cleaned up is a raised concrete pad and an old concrete drive. However, there are no plans to clean up wetland areas adjacent to the specific site, which lies just a short distance south of Millers Creek.

Although the current property owners are registered as Albert and Margaret Bauknecht Family Trust, 3434 Atlantic Land Trust and the Jacksonville Electric Authority, the City will pick up the entire tab for the remediation. The City approved a sum of \$318,017 as payment for the cleanup effort to Diversified Professional Services Corporation during a General Government Awards Committee Meeting April 19, 2018.

Although there is a JEA substation adjacent to the dump site and JEA is listed as one of the property owners, the utility has no plans to pay for any of the remediation, said Gerri Boyce, a spokeswoman for the utility.

“Linden Avenue is an old city dump site that has been slated by Florida Department of Environmental Protection for cleanup,” she wrote in an email. “We have a lift station that is part of the cleanup site footprint. Over the past few years we have opened our site to the City, so it could assess what needed to be done. We will allow them back on our portion of the cleanup site for remediation activities but will not be funding any of the remediation as we are not the financially responsible party.”

According to Aerostar’s Remedial Action Plan, concern about contaminants began in July 2009, when Ellis and Associates, Inc. completed a preliminary contamination assessment report, which it submitted to the City’s Environmental Resource Management Department. The report showed that an organic vapor analyzer equipped with a flame ionization detector discovered



All the foliage and trees will be removed from more than an acre along the 1600 block Linden Avenue when the City cleans up contaminated soil at the old Linden Avenue dump site.

field screening results of more than 10 parts per million. Soil laboratory analysis also showed mercury, arsenic, benzo[a]pyrene equivalent and total recoverable hydrocarbon concentrations above the soil clean-up target levels established in Chapter 62-777 of the Florida Administrative Code. Meanwhile, results of the groundwater laboratory analysis showed naphthalene concentrations about the Groundwater Cleanup Target levels established in the same chapter of the Florida Administrative Code.

In researching the history of the site, Aerostar reviewed historical city directories, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and aerial photographs to determine the past occupants of the site. Although the site was not listed in any city directories, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps showed the site developed as the St. Nicholas Park Sub Station, including concrete pads for equipment and a water tower, with aerial photographs showing this development took place between 1952 and 1959. The photos also show that the water tower was dismantled in 1982, and “no visible dumping appears to have taken place in the aerial photographs between 1943 and 2000,” according to the report.

Since at least 1959, the northwestern adjoining property was developed as Fire Station No. 12. Meanwhile, the northeastern adjoining property was developed as an office building since approximately 1969. Residential development since 1952 took place on the adjacent property to the east near Millers Creek, while the southern adjoining property was developed around 1969 and was listed as the American Telephone Company Overseas Operating Center in 1970 and 1975. From 1980 to 1995, it was not listed, but in 2010 the listing had changed to the Baptist Health Data Center. Meanwhile, the southwestern adjoining property was developed in 1959 and has been listed as several different auto sales and repair shops and multiple restaurants. The properties to

the west, which border Linden Avenue, were developed for residential use prior to 1943, according to the report.

Because the extent of the contamination covers the entire site, all trees will be removed and disposed of off-site. Concrete and large debris will also be removed so the impacted soil can be excavated to a maximum depth of two feet. The excavations will then be “backfilled with up to two feet of clean backfill to insure the site has at least a two-foot cover of clean soil,” according to the report, which also notes the estimated volume of soil to be removed is 4,200 cubic yards (5,800 tons). The entire site will be graded to slope from Linden Avenue down to Millers Creek and will be covered with sod upon completion, according to the report.

Trees will be replanted on the site after the remediation is complete. While excavation and backfill activities are in process, traffic on Linden Avenue and Luce Street may be limited to one lane and it will be up to the St. Johns Water Management District to make sure stormwater safeguards are in place to ensure no silt or soil migrates into Millers Creek, according to the report.

Upon learning of excavation project, the Millers Creek Board asked Joe Wagner of Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., who is assisting on its eco-restoration project, to investigate whether work done on the Linden Avenue cleanup can also benefit the Millers Creek dredging project.

“Joe Wagner is seeing if there is anything that can be done to piggyback on this,” said Johnson.

Wagner said he has been speaking with the City to see if it is possible the District and City might share the cost of transporting the soil to the landfill. “If they are taking soil already, why not take this other soil, too?” he said. “We want to get a relationship started and have these folks talking to each other to see if anything can be done.”

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Downtown Dwellers to raise money for Southbank mural

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The idea to spruce up the “Little Gray House” came when Peninsula residents Sandra Fradd and Susan Strauss took a stroll on the Southbank Riverwalk last spring.

Fradd and Strauss, both organizers of The Downtown Dwellers, took a hard look at the small gray public restroom that also houses an office for the Southbank’s private security team, and collectively said, “Why don’t we do something about that?”

Since then the women, who are joined in their effort by Howard Taylor, who lives in The Strand, have interested the City’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department in renovating the public bathroom and have gained the City’s permission to hire a muralist to paint the gray exterior of the building. They are now embarking

on a quest to raise \$10,000 in January to pay to embellish the “Little Gray House” as well as other measures to beautify the Riverwalk on both sides of the river.

“We said, this is an eyesore, but we could make it disappear if we could get a mural painted on it. It would be good if the mural would imitate the greenery that was nearby. What can we do to make this happen?” said Strauss.

The “Little Gray House,” with thick foliage behind, sits in the shadow of The Strand and hides behind the Riverwalk’s famous Lone Sailor Statue. The thick underbrush in back of it was known to be a haven for homeless, and its public restrooms were not often used by the faint of heart. “Unless you knew it was there, it looked like a little dilapidated building left over from some other era,” said Taylor.

To see what could be done, the trio first consulted with The Downtown Dwellers board and then embarked into conversations with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who represents the Southbank, Daryl Joseph, director of the City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, and Jill Enz, a landscape architect, who works in the Parks Department under Joseph. “Based on all our conversations, the Parks Department has decided to renovate the building,” said Fradd, adding that the City has since pruned back the shrubbery and overgrowth behind the building leaving only the trees.

Once they got the go-ahead from the City, Strauss began searching for artists via Thumbtack.com, a website that assists in finding local professionals for pretty much anything, and ended up selecting David Naskashi, a muralist who has also painted the sides of the First Watch Restaurant at



Brooklyn Station among others. “We were initially amazed with his work, then really amazed,” said Fradd. “And he’s very easy to work with. I don’t know if it is coincidental or not, but since he’s been working with us, he has been incredibly busy. His calendar has filled up.”

After gaining permission first from the City and then the Dweller’s board on Nov. 15, The Downtown Dwellers group rejected the idea of a Kickstarter campaign, preferring instead to raise funds for the mural in a way that would build a better sense of community.

“At first we thought we would go with Kickstarter, but the more we looked at it, we thought about the kinds of things we wanted to do to fundraise,” explained Fradd. “We knew we could go down there and pay David and get the thing painted, but that’s not what we are all about. Instead we said, ‘Let’s work together.’ We want to include the community, and we want to let people know what we’re doing because Lori Boyer has been working hard to activate the river and get people excited about the river and all the things people can do with it.”

Strauss agreed. “Also, in addition to what Lori’s doing, our interest is in fostering a real neighborhood, which means residents and real business entities of whatever sort that might be here, and right now, it’s a very limited sort on both sides of the river,” she said.

“Our project will blend in with Lori’s, especially her plans for pocket parks and nodes,” said Taylor.

The Downtown Dwellers plan to fundraise throughout the month of January and have Naskashi paint the mural in February, with a celebration afterwards.

The City, which recognizes The Downtown Dweller’s efforts as an in-kind donation of \$10,000 to the Parks Department, has agreed to install lights to illuminate the mural at night, and the Dwellers have agreed they will pay for maintenance of the mural including, if necessary, graffiti removal and having the artist touch up

the painting in the future if the colors fade a bit, Fradd said. “The lights will limit any interest the homeless or others might have in doing some damage,” she said.

So far, the Dwellers have received several private contributions and are now going about to secure the “second half” of the money needed to finish the project. They also intend to use money raised from their January campaign on an undecided art project for the Northbank Riverwalk.

“When the Liberty Street Courthouse area is all finalized and the little walkway and garden that’s supposed to be on Riverwalk on the north side is installed, then we want to have our colleagues on the Northside collaborate and decide what artwork they would like to have there. We plan to use this money for an equivalent comprehensive project,” Fradd said. “It could be a mural or something else for the beautification of the area.”

As a 501(c)(3) organization, The Downtown Dwellers ask that tax deductible donations be made on their website – TheDowntownDwellers.com – via PayPal. They also plan to spread the word of their campaign through other neighborhood organizations such as the San Marco Preservation Society, Riverside Avondale Preservation, St. Nicholas Area Preservation and the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Society.

As far as fundraisers go, the Dwellers are planning a “Tumble-Down” event for 40 or 50 people on the 38th floor of The Peninsula to watch the detonation of the Courthouse Annex when it occurs. The view of the Courthouse Annex from the top of The Peninsula is excellent and all money raised will go toward the beautification efforts, Fradd said.

“The Little Gray House is the only public restroom on the Southbank. What we are doing is a public service to the whole city. More than anything we want to let people know what we are doing as a group and invite them to support us and collaborate with us,” said Fradd.



Susan Strauss, Howard Taylor and Sandra Fradd, members of the Downtown Dwellers, are working on raising funds for a spruce-up of a public restroom known as the “Little Gray House” on the Southbank Riverwalk.



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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-cpac.



Renters will be moving in to the Southbank's newest apartment building, Broadstone River House, in February.

Broadstone River House readies to open its doors

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

One of several Southbank residential projects is nearing completion.

Construction on Alliance Residential Company's Broadstone River House Apartments, a \$26.6 million housing complex sandwiched on 3.8 acres of waterfront property between the Duval County Public School Board building and the Lexington Hotel, was scheduled for completion at the end of December 2018.

The site of the new residential complex is where the rustic seafood restaurant, Crawdaddy's, a former Jacksonville landmark reminiscent of a dilapidated tobacco warehouse, was located.

Lease applications for Broadstone River House were accepted in mid-December and tenants will be able to move in February 2019, said business manager Kimberly Watkins of Alliance Residential Company, a Phoenix, Arizona development firm, which will manage the property.

The six-story, 263-unit apartment complex offers residents an array of choices from 634-square-foot studios to three-bedroom

units measuring 1,592 square feet. Rents will probably range from \$1,412 to \$2,442 a month with some "premium" units costing more, Watkins said.

The complex consists of two residential buildings, one fronting the St. Johns River and the other fronting Prudential Drive with a 463-space parking garage in the middle. The apartment community's amenities include a swimming pool, courtyard, fire pit, game areas, a social clubroom, billiards lounge and health club, which will feature yoga and spin studios as well as top-grade fitness equipment.

Two bridges will give the public access to the Southbank Riverwalk on either side of the building.

Also included in the complex is a new \$100,000 public plaza built alongside the Southbank Riverwalk on the west end of the property. The 7,000-square-foot plaza will include benches, tables and landscaping and will be connected to Prudential Drive by a wide public walkway. There will also be wayfinding signage, so the public will be able to easily spot the plaza and find its way to the Riverwalk.

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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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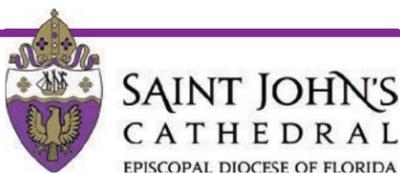


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Committee on planned unit development zoning roll out first draft legislation

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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City Council adopts North San Marco Neighborhood Action Plan

Ordinance to guide city planners, developers toward appropriate infill projects

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

With unanimous support of the City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee, the City Planning and Development Department, the San Marco Preservation Society and the San Marco community at large, the Jacksonville City Council approved Ordinance 2018-264, a North San Marco Neighborhood Action Plan, on Dec. 11 by a vote of 19-0.

The North San Marco Neighborhood Action Plan, formerly known to the community as San Marco by Design, is a smart-growth document designed to help guide city planners when they evaluate applications for infill development in North San Marco, an area bordered by I-95 to the north, Kings Avenue and the Overland Bridge Expressway to the east, the St. Johns River to the west, and San Marco Square and Mitchell Avenue to the south.

Consisting of a mix of commercial corridors – San Marco Boulevard, Hendricks Avenue, and Atlantic Boulevard – with multi- and single-family housing, North San Marco is considered a transitional area between the high-rise developments of the Southbank and the traditional residential neighborhoods that reside south of San Marco Square.

"Years ago, as we saw increasing pressure for redevelopment, what was once a two-story building on Kings Avenue or San Marco Boulevard might become a six-, or 10-, or 12-story building right next to residential," explained District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who sponsored the bill. "Part of this is to address, 'How do we all live together? How do the residential neighborhoods continue to exist next to commercial development along those corridors and those transitions?'"

The purpose of the action plan is to set standards for building heights and recommend infrastructure improvements in order to enhance existing neighborhoods and commercial corridors, with the goal of maintaining the scale and density of the North San Marco area. As a supplemental addendum to the City's Comprehensive Plan, its guidelines take priority and, in most instances, will require that zoning changes be consistent with its recommendations, said Boyer.

"There are two different types of documents, zoning and planning," she said during a San Marco community meeting attended by nearly 100 residents Nov. 19

at Balis Community Center. "The Comprehensive plan is broader and more general, but it governs. Zoning needs to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. It has a higher priority. It's the trump card. A neighborhood action plan is adopted as a supplemental addendum – a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan. This doesn't change zoning, but when it makes general recommendations for an area it will have importance when they are looking at rezoning applications in the future."

Initiated by the San Marco Preservation Society approximately 10 years ago at a time when developers were bombarding the neighborhood with several ambitious infill projects, the North San Marco Action Plan provided the preservation society with a way to be proactive rather than reactive, said former SMPS President Andrew Dickson, who helped formulate the plan.

The guidelines divide North San Marco into 12 districts, each with its own perimeters for development. For instance, the Hospital District, where Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center was recently built, allows for taller structures up to 12 stories, while the more residential Old San Marco District permits buildings no higher than two stories.

"The North San Marco Neighborhood Action Plan will allow developers to know what the stakeholders have envisioned for each district. We think the certainty the document spells out will be welcomed by developers who will know what to expect, and by the folks who live and work in San Marco, who have the reasonable expectation that their neighborhood will stay a welcoming, walkable place to live and do business," said Dickson in an email.

"The stakeholders that formed the steering committee were residents, urban planners, merchants, developers, and designers. They represented established institutions in Jacksonville government, business, retail, and community advocacy. They are folks who still live in and work in and around our neighborhood. At every step of the process, we held public townhall meetings and developed a pretty solid consensus of what we would like our neighborhood to look like in 30 to 50 years."

"The neighborhood action plan will stay in the City Planning Department and will form the institutional memory for our neighborhood even after the current generation of planners have moved on," Dickson continued. "This will be a solid and valuable resource for all stakeholders. While not an overlay or a form-based code, the document has the flexibility to accommodate new ideas while staying grounded in the environment that's already built."

Valerie Feinberg, a planning professional who served as chief architect of the North



Map of the districts within San Marco's Neighborhood Action Plan

LEGEND

HOSPITAL DISTRICT 3+ STORY	OLD SAN MARCO DISTRICT 1-2 STORY	SAN MARCO BLVD COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR 2-3 STORY
KINGS AVENUE DISTRICT 3+ STORY	LONDON DISTRICT 3 STORY MAX	HENDRICKS AVE. COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR 2-3 STORY
BELMONTE DISTRICT 3 STORY MAX	VILLAGES DISTRICT 1-2 STORY	ATLANTIC BLVD. CORRIDOR 4-6 STORY
RIVERFRONT DISTRICT 2-4 STORY	PARKS	THE SQUARE 3 STORY MAX

San Marco Neighborhood Action Plan from the very beginning, said the process of creating the guidelines was almost as important as the result.

"During the process of developing the plan, we pursued many improvement projects along the way as funding opportunities became available," Feinberg said. "The Square was reconfigured based on our commitment to enhance the pedestrian environment and increase safety for all road users – walkers, bicyclists, and cars. Safe Routes to School funding was awarded to make significant infrastructure improvements in and around Landon Middle School. This was a direct result of our focus on creating a healthy community and our partnerships with Florida Blue and the Health Planning Council."

In her pitch for the plan before the City's Land Use and Zoning Committee Dec. 4, Boyer admitted SMPS had been prepared to go to the city with the ordinance in 2014

but she put on the brakes because she felt it needed more specificity in its language and recommendations. "It was too wishful and sounded more like 'how nice it would be if this happened,'" she said. "I wanted more concrete information in it, so they did [revise it]."

"I probably should have gotten to it three years ago," she said. "I had committed to members of my community that I wouldn't let my term go by without addressing it."

Boyer also applauded the City's Planning and Development Department's suggestion to amend the ordinance, requiring it to be reviewed every 10 years so it can recommend to the City Council whether it needs to be updated, rescinded, or readopted as submitted. "I think it's a great idea to open it up in 10 years to make sure it's still relevant," she said. "There are a lot of recommendations in it we've actually followed without it being in effect as a neighborhood action plan."

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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 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

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 15**




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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.”

Old Arlington, Inc.

Old Arlington, Inc. (OAI) was established in 1993 when certain citizens became concerned over the possible loss of historic structures, most notably the Richard Norman Silent Film Studios, now a National Historic Landmark with an independent governing board.

Their current focus is the Renew Arlington Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). As an organization, they participated in various studies that precipitated the CRA, as well as attending meetings and providing input as the planning, and ultimately the CRA, was established. One of the OAI board members is serving on the CRA.

“Most recently, we’ve been active in meeting with the Council representative to discuss the content of the CRA’s zoning overlay, to ensure it meets the needs of the Arlington community and to meet OAI’s vision statement: to champion neighborhood improvements and preservation through advocacy, community participation, education, and events that celebrate the uniqueness and character of Old Arlington,” said Melody Shacter, OAI president. “It is critical that we get it right. Members of the board have been very active in attending meetings and providing input for the project.”

The zoning overlay itself is 50 pages long, which is demonstrative of why the CRA needs so much attention from OAI.

“Understanding the CRA and the Zoning Overlay are critical to ensuring the tax dollars collected through the Tax Increment Funding (TIF) mechanism is appropriated in a manner that will enhance and preserve the architecture, culture, and history of the community while improving the economic status,” said Ann Burt, board member and past president of OAI.

OAI has created and offered tours and provided tour guides for the City of Jacksonville

events when asked. Most recently, they provided the tour guide and narrative for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Anna Kingsley tour. Over the years, they have participated in numerous visioning exercises and initiatives – the Jax Pride and JEA charrettes, the City of Jacksonville Old Arlington Neighborhood Action Plan, Seeds of Change Initiative, ICARE – ACT organizational visioning. Also, they applied for and received funding for roadway visual improvements along University Boulevard and Arlington Road through the federal Intermodal Surface and Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) and the City of Jacksonville Town Center Initiative program.

“Throughout our 25 years our emphasis has alternated between historic preservation and community revitalization. We have gathered – and continue to gather – our stories,” said Burt.

In keeping with both preservation and revitalization, OAI has offered five mid-century modern home tours, Arlington Mod & More, since 2011. These tours bring an awareness of this unique architectural style and of the many beautiful neighborhoods.

Looking forward, it appears there is finally funding to finish the renovation of the Norman Studio’s complex. OAI is tasked with the cottage, which will most likely become a history/visitors’ center. The project will involve physical renovations to the cottage that are needed so artifacts and programs can be housed there. OAI and the Norman Studios board work closely together to promote the projects of both organizations.

OAI representatives attend JUNC meetings to remain informed about what the other associations are doing. SPAR’s Kelly Rich spoke at an OAI meeting, which was helpful to understand the impact the overlay had on the Springfield neighborhood, according to Shacter. OAI also participates in the Jacksonville History Consortium, started by Harry Reagan with the mission to share the efforts of preservation organizations in Jacksonville, identify our issues and needs and work together to address them.

“Since the 1999 Jax Pride Charrette led by [Avondale resident] Ted Pappas – Revitalizing the Older Suburb – we have recognized that communities must stake stock of their assets and use them to deal with their issues. Arlington boomed in the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s and has experienced the natural aging process. Events such as Mathews Bridge 60th Anniversary Celebration, Arlington Aglow Christmas Celebration, the Arlington Mod & More Home Tours are all designed to showcase Arlington and attract positive attention,” said Burt. “We are writing our own narrative using our assets – our amazing history, our central location, our great neighborhoods, Jacksonville University, our great housing stock to name just a few.”



Ed Burr, Peter Rummell and Tim Cost with Betsy Lovett, Mike Hightower and Daniel Davis

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.



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Lenna and Kenyon Sutton with daughter, Athena



Kenneth Ackerson with Katherine Ruttell and James Croft



Katie Dawson with Joey Vaid

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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

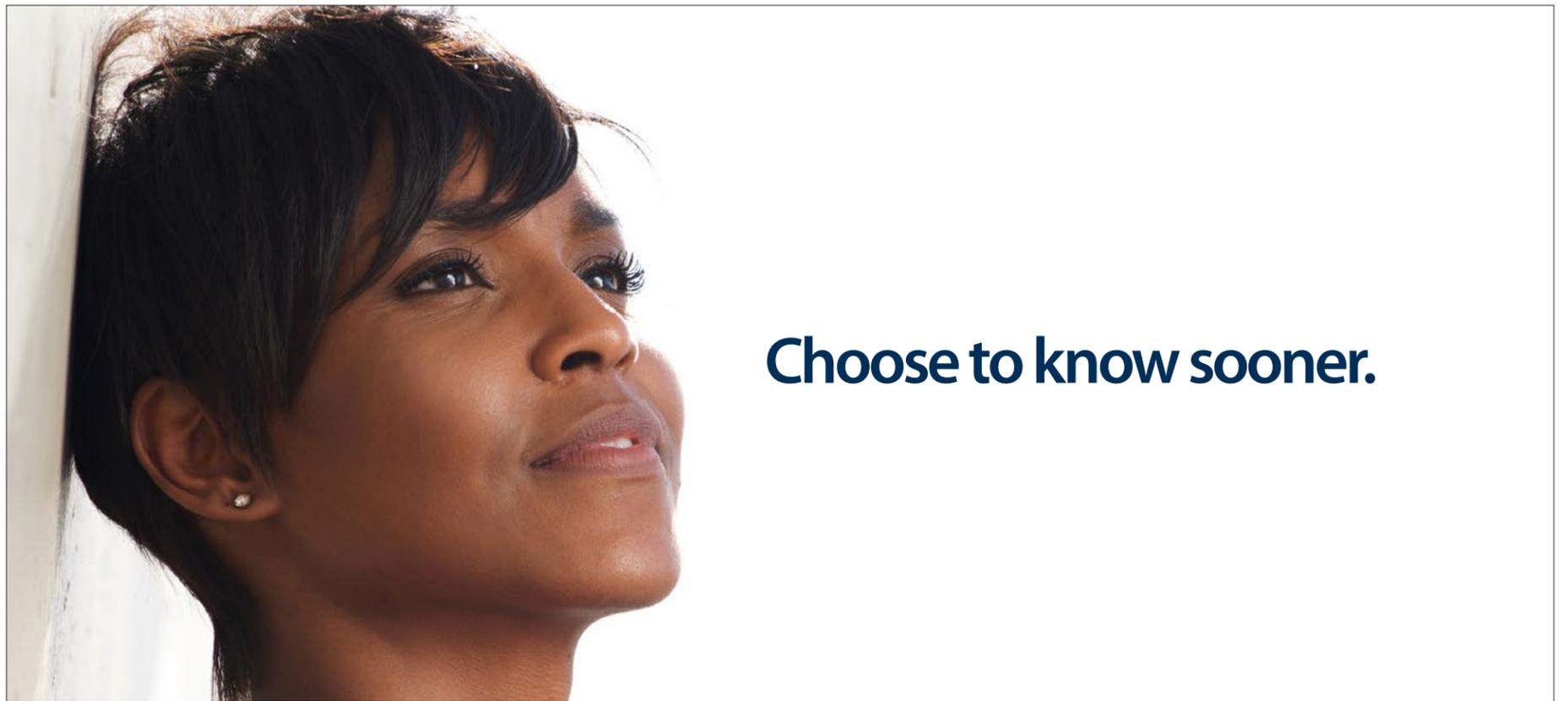
Today Mark Ross and Scott Wohlers have been tapped to lead the firm into the future. Mark is also an alum of Merrill Lynch, with 24 years’ experience. Scott is a former banker most recently with Regions Bank in the San Marco area. Both bring a variety of abilities, expertise, and contacts to benefit 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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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 celebrates Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront's Beyond 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.

The grant is part of Hyatt Community Grants, a philanthropic program that empowers Hyatt colleagues to guide charitable giving. The Hyatt Community Grants program, which is in its 11th year, encourages hotels around the world to identify and nominate local community-based organizations for funding consideration. The program works under the assumption that no one better understands the local community's most pressing issues and their solutions than those who live and work there. Since 2008, Hyatt Hotel employees have helped direct nearly \$3.5 million to 260 nonprofits in 52 countries throughout the world.

Funding for the Hyatt Community Grants program is provided by the Hyatt Hotels Corporation. Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront is among 29 Hyatt hotels around the world that will award grants totaling \$365,000 to nonprofits in their local communities in 2018.

"We are honored to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida and their valuable contributions to our community," said Aloma. "We consider the members of our community an integral part of the Hyatt family, and through our relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, we have seen first hand the way its work enables our city to thrive."

Alford said receiving the grant was a great honor. "We are thankful that Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront nominated our organization to be the recipient of this generous donation," she said. "We know this grant will go a long way in helping us continue our mission of empowering children to reach their full potential by placing a caring adult mentor in their life."



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.

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.

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.



Rachael Tutwiler Fortune



Judge Brian Davis

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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.

Forbes names BK alumnus one of ‘30 Under 30’



Chris Davlantes, Bishop Kenny Class of 2011, has been named to the 2019 Forbes Magazine list of “30 Under 30.” Each year Forbes identifies a total of 600 entrepreneurs in 20 different industries, and Davlantes was one of the 30 chosen in the category of Energy Sustainability.

A graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a double major in electrical and mechanical engineering, Davlantes is the founder of Reach Labs, a company located in Oakland, California. Davlantes, 25, is working to create wireless technology that, as the website describes, “is the foundation for a new standard of power delivery and distribution.” One of the products is an algorithmically controlled, adaptive antenna array that can “beam” power, without wires, to multiple moving receivers.

Not surprisingly, Davlantes was a successful competitor at local, state and, national science fairs while at Bishop Kenny. As a junior, he was chosen to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the world’s largest international pre-college science competition. As a senior, he returned to compete at the Intel event, this time in San Jose, California, where he placed fourth in the Energy and Transportation category and sixth overall in the entire event.

Davlantes is a member of a family with strong ties to Jacksonville and Bishop Kenny. The son of Dr. Tim and Teresa Heekin Davlantes ’76, his siblings, Elizabeth ’04, Stephanie ’06, and Michael ’08, are also all proud Crusaders.

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 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 Grenamy’s designed ‘Burger King’ themed foods and desserts, to include logo drink cups and wrapped mini-burgers.



“Burger King” David Stein with his wife Linda



Sharon Lucie with Deborah Gervin, Linda Stein and Mary Bower



Marty and Susie Goetz



Nancy and Seeman Zimmerman with Jamie Shelton

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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.



Myron Flagler

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

Wolfson named one of 13 top Children's Hospitals in nation

When it comes to children's healthcare, Northeast Florida's smallest residents have a lot to be grateful for. Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, based in San Marco, was named a Top Children's Hospital by The Leapfrog Group, an independent hospital watchdog organization. One of 13 in the nation – less than 6 percent of the nearly 1,900 children's hospitals in the country, Wolfson was recognized in December for its achievements in patient safety and quality.

"The clinical team at Wolfson Children's Hospital is honored to have earned this patient safety and quality award from The Leapfrog Group," said Michael D. Aubin, Wolfson Children's Hospital president. "We don't seek quality awards and rankings for the recognition. We do it to make our care the safest and with the best outcomes. That's what the children and families we serve demand and deserve."

Performance across many areas of hospital care is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, perinatal care, and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors.

"Thanks to our strong partnerships with Nemours Children's Specialty Care and the UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville, we are able to provide some of the best pediatric care in the nation," said Aubin.

In addition to being named as a 2018 Leapfrog Group Top Hospital, Wolfson Children's is a three-time Magnet® designated hospital, a designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center that recognized excellence in patient care, and is named among the 2018-19 U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals.

Services provided at Wolfson Children's Hospital are provided primarily by pediatric physician specialists with Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville, University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville and Emergency Resources Group.

DuPont teacher named to Teacher of Year finalist

Ballet teacher at Douglas Anderson a semi-finalist

Rachel Duff, a teacher at Alfred I. DuPont Middle School, was named one of five finalists for the 2019 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year. Staff from the Jacksonville Public Education Fund surprised Duff with the announcement at the school Dec. 6.

Duff teaches sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Developmental Language and English Language Arts with emergent bilingual students. Among the languages native to her students are Spanish, Arabic, and Burmese. Duff employs several strategies under the Guided Language Acquisition Design – or GLAD – that brings grade-level content to her students, allowing them to better understand the English language through vocabulary and sentence structure.



Rachel Duff



Rhonda Stampalia

Previously, Duff taught abroad in Guyana for three months, and worked at Sulzbacher as a children's program assistant. She holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of North Florida.

St. Nicholas resident Rhonda Stampalia, who has been the Director of Ballet at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts for the past 29 years, was named a Top 15 semi-finalist for the 2019 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year Award.

Stampalia, who is the 2018-19 Teacher of the Year at Douglas Anderson, was selected as a semi-finalist from a pool of more than 8,500 teachers in the Duval County Public School System. "I am as passionate about dance as I was when I fell in love with ballet as a young girl," said Stampalia. "As my performing career segued into a teaching career, I discovered that the passion I had felt dancing was multiplied exponentially as I passed along this art form to my ballet students.

"Teaching at DA is an opportunity to participate daily in the creative process. The entire school culture is about nurturing a love and appreciation for the art," she said.

There were 182 Teachers of the Year nominated from the individual schools in the county. Each of the 15 semi-finalists will receive at least \$1,000 to use for a professional development scholarship, paid for by Florida Blue.

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How to End the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Daniel Pipes *President of the Middle East Forum, will speak on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7pm* at Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple)

Thank you to Dr. Larry and Kathy Kanter for sponsoring this learning opportunity which is open to the entire community. Wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Searching for Hope in Our Neighbors

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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

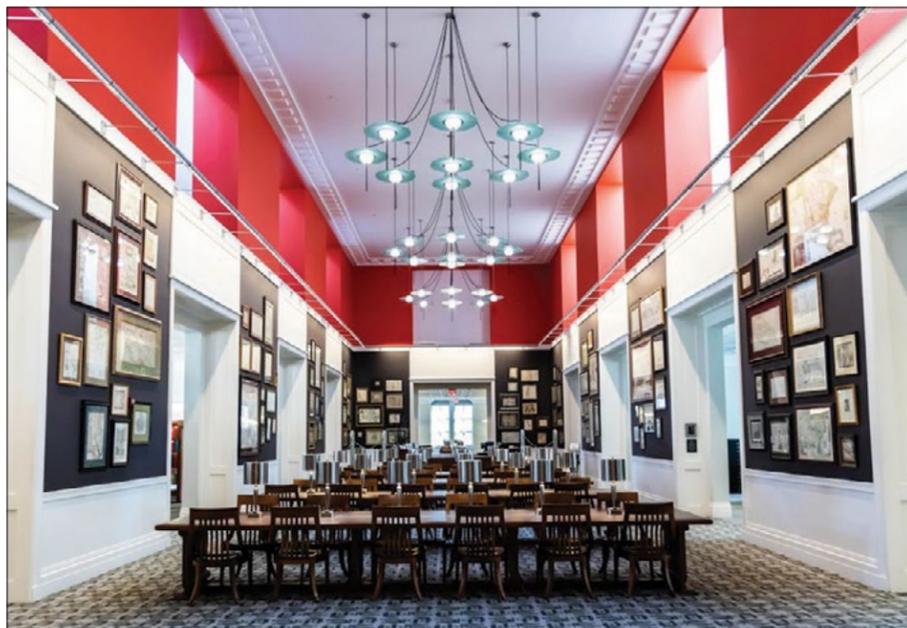
Mapping Our Past, Jacksonville Public Library's annual affair to celebrate the Lewis Ansbacher Map Collection—a true treasure comprising more than 240 anti-quearian maps—returns to the Main Library. This year's highlight will be the unveiling of the newly updated Jordan and Shirley Ansbacher Gallery 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.

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.

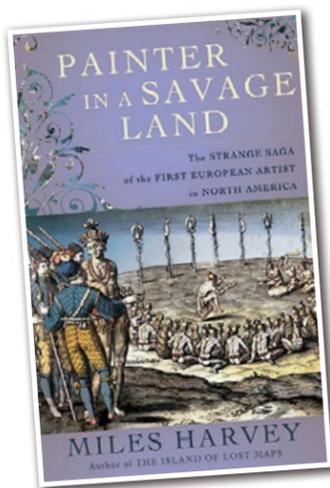
The fun kicks off in the Jax Makerspace with free appraisals of your maps and antiques from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. by local appraisers from B. Langston's Antiques. There will be a limit of two items per household please. You'll need to show a Jacksonville Public Library card in good standing for appraisals,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

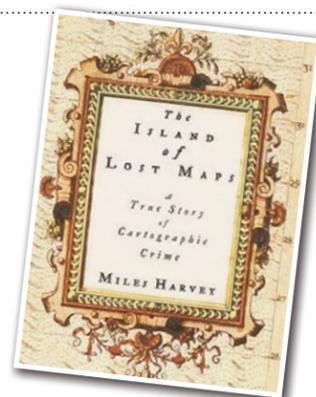


History comes to life as best-selling author Miles Harvey reveals fascinating details about the mysterious French artist Jacques Le Moyne.

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



Gina Gordon, Matrell Sanders and Hillery Shephard



Kelly Coker-Daniels with Angie Coker and Megan Moon



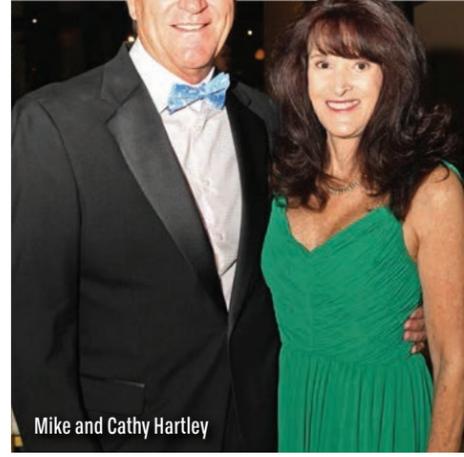
Learn to Read Board President Moses Meide and his wife, Chris



Chelsea Anderson with Lauren Purdy and Christine Sweet



Jessica Richter, Vickie Robinson with Carmen Ullman



Mike and Cathy Hartley



Co-Chairs Liza Barnett Emmet, Holland Gibbs, Marley Gulliford



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 celebrates

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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ford and Claudia Adams



Women's Board President
Beth Langley with her daughter Kristen



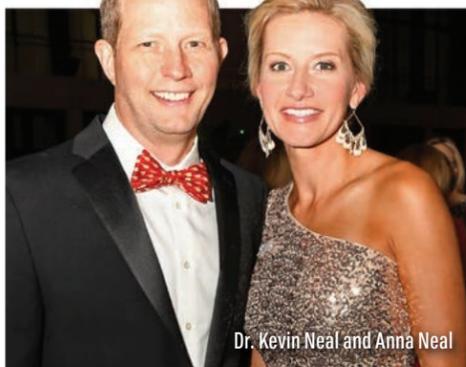
and Caroline Powell



Vikki Mioduszewski with Grace Sarber
and Sally Parsons

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.



Dr. Kevin Neal and Anna Neal



Debra Malinis, Brian and Kathy Flynn with Brenda and Joe Adeeb and Josh Martino



Dale and Ellen Darley



Alan and Christina Wachs with Chris and Kim Miller



Eli Darkatsh and Jason Burnett with
Michael Neff and Frank Castillo



Mike and Christine DeMartino with
Justin Youngmans and Danny Caudy



Gary Chartrand, Tony Boselli and Christopher Cooper

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. Shadrick, 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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This well cared for North Mandarin ground floor condo has direct entry from the garage. There are 42" cabinets, a newer HVAC and a laundry room. The gated community offers a pool and exercise room.
9390 Underwing Way #2
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Annual Silver Bells party raises needed funds for Clarke School

The 20th annual Silver Bells holiday party to support Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech—Jacksonville added nearly \$15,000 to the previous \$200,000 raised over 19 years by Ray and Susannah Wolford.

Created in gratitude for the services Clarke School provided their granddaughter Abbi, the Wolfords' annual open house is a fundraising blessing for the school's programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Longtime supporters know to set aside the second Saturday in December each year. Approximately 250 guests, including members of the Rotary Club of Mandarin, neighbors, out-of-town friends, and supporters attended the Dec. 8 holiday gathering at the Wolfords' waterfront home along Julington Creek. Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech CEO Doug Scott flew down from Philadelphia and Clarke's Chief Development Officer, Charlie Urquhart, flew in from Northampton, Massachusetts to attend the party. Donors received silver bells with the school's name and 2018 inscribed.



Dan Montero with Brad Rupp and Amy Johnson



Tom and Cynthia Robinson with Doug and Jan Scott



Bill Mckee, Cary Helton, Stephanie Helton and Eleanor Coalson



Betsy and Ed Gilman



Susannah and Ray Wolford with Blake and Jennifer Murray



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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.



Sheila and Donald McGowan with Darby and Billy Frick



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



Manya Stone with Christina and Lawrence Thompson



Frank Brezezinski, Jennifer Deverin, Kelin Ayer and Faye James



Sandy Anderson with Development Director Carol Harrison



Susan, Maya, and Hannah Gendzier with Angela Johnson



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Community comes together for annual outdoor chanukiyah lighting

More than 300 Jewish Community Alliance members gathered Dec. 3 at the center on San Jose Boulevard to celebrate Chanukkah. The event, which has been held since 1999, began with the lighting of the JCA's giant outdoor chanukiyah, a special menorah for Chanukkah, sculpted by local artist David Ponsler.

JCA Board President Brent Trager officiated the ceremony, and new CEO Adam Chaskin lit the chanukiyah. JCA Family and Jewish Outreach Director Dave Flagler led attendees in the reciting of traditional blessings and Chanukkah songs.

The evening marks one of the agency's most festive events, with hundreds of attendees celebrating the start of the eight-day festival of lights. Chanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. The lighting of the nine-branched chanukiyah used during Chanukkah commemorates the miracle of a day's worth of menorah oil lasting eight days.

The event was followed by a family-style dinner of hotdogs and latkes, and activities for the kids.



Adam Chaskin lights the giant outdoor chanukiyah Dec. 3 at the Jewish Community Alliance.



Nancy Green, assistant director, with Brent, Brooke, Allison, and Elly Trager



Danielle Leder and Jodi Rogozinski



Sara Golden, Honey Golden, Marsha Monfred, and Jeff Golden



Svetlana Goldiner, Beth Fleet



Myron Flagler, retiring JCA executive director, Brent Trager, JCA board president, Adam Chaskin, CEO



Hollie Arnold, membership director, Eiffel Gilyana, fitness director, Theresa Levy, early childhood director



Jen Lofberg, Harper and Jason Braddock



Belinda Hannigan holding Claire Brannock, Joni Hannigan, Clark Brannock in John Hannigan's arms



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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 hemmingpark.org/volunteer/](http://www.hemmingpark.org/volunteer/).

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 coj.net](http://www.coj.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 for more information.](mailto:volunteer@jaxhumane.org)

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 zookeepers 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](http://www.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 learnreadjax.org](http://www.learnreadjax.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](http://www.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.](tel:9043916688)

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/](http://www.hartfelt.org/be-a-volunteer/).



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/](http://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](http://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/](http://campiamspecial.com/buddies/) or [contact Cheryl Estevez, cestevez@ccbjax.org, 904.354.4846, ext. 269](mailto:cestevez@ccbjax.org).

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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://lssjax.org/get_involved/) or [contact Natalie Holland, natalie.holland@lssjax.org, 904.730.8271](mailto:natalie.holland@lssjax.org).

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](http://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](http://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/](http://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 bbsnefl.org/beabig](http://bbsnefl.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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:Zac.West@younglifejax.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](http://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](http://jacksonvilleladies.org) for more information.



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THE WAY WE WERE: HELEN BRINSON COVINGTON & GUY DIETZ

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

You can't ask more of time spent growing up than to reach retirement years with the kind of memories Helen Brinson Covington and Guy Dietz have about growing up in Lakewood and attending Dupont High School as part of the Class of 1962. "I have nothing but good memories," Helen said. Guy quickly agreed.

Helen's parents met, married and had Helen's older sister, Mary Jane, in Miami, but moved to Jacksonville when Helen's mother became pregnant with her to be near her sister and brother. "She wanted some extra help now that she was going to have two children," Helen said.

Helen's parents were living in Miramar at the corner of Dover Road and Birmingham when she was born. Helen remembers walking by herself to Mrs. Warren's Kindergarten, which she operated out of her home. Later Mrs. Warren opened the Little Red School House on St. Augustine Road that Guy attended. Guy went to kindergarten in The Little Red School House, too.

Her family lived on Dover Road in Miramar until she was eight years old. Then, her father wanted some property and they moved to Fort Caroline Road in 1952 "back when there was nothing up there," she said.

Her sister, Mary Jane, who eventually married retired banker Jack Uible, was attending Landon High School in San Marco. After they moved to Fort Caroline, her mother had to catch a bus to get Helen to Arlington Elementary, and from there Mary Jane had to catch a bus to Landon.

Mary Jane was a Lionette in high school, part of a precision marching team that practiced after school. Helen would get home from elementary school, and then she and her mother had to drive all the way to San Marco to pick up Mary Jane.

Eventually, Mary Jane convinced their father to move from Fort Caroline because no boys would come out to date her, Helen recalls. So, they moved to St. Nicholas into the Belven Apartments.

"I remember there used to be a great restaurant there on the corner called Old South," Helen said. Her family attended Mayfair Baptist Church on Atlantic Boulevard, and after church each Sunday they would go to the Old South for lunch.

They stayed in the apartment until Mary Jane graduated and then they moved to the Lakewood neighborhood on Clemson Road, south of University Boulevard and near the land where Winn-Dixie was eventually built. "It was just a dirt plot then," Helen said.

Meanwhile, Guy lived north of University Boulevard at the corner of Tulane Avenue and Vassar Road also in the Lakewood area. Oaklawn Cemetery backed up to woods near his home. He and the other boys in the neighborhood used to play cowboys and Indians, built pits, threw dirt bombs and played war in the woods. Guy would ride his bike around to Emory Circle between two houses, then ride down dunes on a dirt road up to Stetson and then follow it around to St. Augustine Road.

"But we knew that when you hear the whistle, you'd better get your butt home," Guy said. "If I didn't respond right away, my mom would yell, 'Guy! Time to come home!' You could hear her for miles."

The whistle was a 32-inch copper steam whistle that had been installed at the municipal waterworks beside Hogan Creek near First and Main Streets in Springfield in 1895. At 7 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., "Big Jim" blasted into life with a long, throaty baritone.

Guy was adopted when he was almost five. They lived at 5218 Vassar Road in



Halloween at Little Red Schoolhouse, 1950: Halloween at The Little Red Schoolhouse, 1950, where both Helen Brinson Covington and Guy Dietz attended

Miramar until his mother died. After his father remarried and moved out in 1977, Guy moved into the house and lived there until 2006, completing some major remodeling along the way that resulted in the 1,100-square-foot home becoming 2,800 square feet.

Helen and Guy both remember catching a bus on University Boulevard (which they say was called Love Grove Road when they were growing up) to go to Annie Lytle School in Riverside for seventh grade. Helen remembers that when she lived on Dover Road and was in the first or second grade, she could ride the bus on Saturdays straight into San Marco for a dime, then go to the theater and watch cartoons all day for a dime. "That was my mother's way of babysitting," she said.

At Christmastime, they would go to Cohen Brothers up to the toy floor where they had a huge toy display, then walk across the street to Morrison's Cafeteria. "You would walk the entire block around Cohen's because every window had an automated Christmas display," Guy said.

Helen remembers her mother bought her shoes at Cohen's. "They had a machine you put your foot in, and then it would X-ray your feet." Guy's shoes were bought at Spencer Ladd's in San Marco and then at Rosenblum's for his Weejuns.

When Helen was 12 years old, her mother paid another child to give Helen his front row seat at The Florida Theatre to see Elvis Presley perform on stage in August 1956. Helen loved Elvis. "I used to lip-sync all of his music on my 45 turntable," Helen said. "One time my mother had a garden party, and she got me out of bed to come

to their party to lip-sync his songs and do his gyrations."

Helen and Guy have many of the same memories of fun times with friends in high school. Guy went to parties at Helen's house. They also hung out at the Texas Drive-In on San Marco Boulevard where Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute is now located. "The drive-in had a burger joint that made the best onion rings in the world," Guy said. "The Texas was a favorite hang-out for Dupont, Bolles, Landon and Bishop Kenny students."

If she was late on her curfew, her mother would come driving through the parking lot at the drive-in to find her and drag her out. "I was so embarrassed," Helen said.

"When we were in high school, if the Texas was full, we overflowed to the Krystal drive-in across from Bishop Kenny," she said. The building is still there but it is now a used car lot. Helen and her mother would eat dinner at Krystal while waiting for her sister to finish Lionettes practice.

Another favorite hangout was Southside Drive-In Theater at University and Philips where Big Chief Tire is now. The building had offices on top and the building itself was the screen. Big Chief chopped the top portion off to turn the building into the tire store.

They also went to Midway Drive-In where Walmart is on Beach Boulevard and to Atlantic Drive-In. Helen remembers mosquito coils that gave off a vapor to kill mosquitos that sneaked into the cars because moviegoers had to crack car windows to hook on the speakers for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Dupont High School cheerleaders from classes of 1961-1962



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Guy Dietz and Helen Brinson Covington at the 55th reunion of the Dupont High School Class of 1962

movies. “The kids who had station wagons backed them into the parking spaces so that they could lay in the back with the door open and watch the movie,” Guy said.

The original Bono’s on Beach Boulevard was another favorite hangout from high school days. “I still go to Bono’s with a group of guys every month that has five Thursdays,” Guy said. “We all knew Harvey, Bono’s pit boss.” Harvey Green is legendary for spending more than 50 years working the pit for Bono’s.

The Class of 1962 also frequented Beach Road Chicken, which opened in 1939. “We still go there regularly to eat,” Helen said.

And, what would high school be without a few pranks? Helen remembers when she was in high school at Dupont she drove a little red and white, two-seater Metropolitan. “I used to cram all my friends in that car,” she said.

“All of us were part of what they called Y teams back then – one for girls and one for boys – sponsored by the YMCA.” They would congregate at Lakewood Pharmacy after the teams met. The pharmacy was the hub in the neighborhood.



Lakewood Pharmacy in the 1950s was “the hub of the Lakewood neighborhood.”

One time, Helen parked her car to go in and get a Coke. The boys picked her car up and plopped it in front of the door so that no one could go in or out. “The manager was very upset and finally convinced the boys to move the car,” she said.

Guy remembers going out to Julia Knight’s home on Mandarin Road. “They had an orange grove, and it was a regular Sunday afternoon outing to go pick oranges,” he said. Guy and Helen both remember riding a small train at Mandarin Road and San Jose and watching sugar cane being crushed. The small-gauge train was known as the Little Train at Mandarin. It chugged riders around its tracks, passing through the woods, around curves and over small trestles.

Helen and Guy remember going to dances when they were juniors and seniors. The Y-Teens held dances to raise money – \$3 stag, \$5 a couple. Single teens would come to the dance as a couple to save money.

Guy recalls dances underneath the swimming pool next to the San Marco Branch Library on Hendricks. It was popular for both guys and gals to wear madras then. There was no air conditioning and they remember their madras clothes fading onto their underwear, because it was so hot during the dances.

The most popular local band was the all-black J-Notes. Dances were held almost every weekend at Southside Woman’s Club, Friday Musicale, Riverside Woman’s Club or Riverside Garden Club.

A popular second choice band was Freddy Caddell and the Twirls. Linda Willard (Dupont Class of 1960) sang and danced. Freddy, who went to Bolles, was two years older than Guy and Helen.

The guys wore Weejuns and Gold Cup socks. “The color of the socks had to match the color of our GANT shirts,” Guy said. Helen said that girls wore Weejuns, too, but with no socks, and Villager dresses that hung just below the knee.

“Our high school wasn’t air-conditioned either,” Helen said. “When crinolines were in vogue, we started out the day starched but came home drooped.”

Helen and Guy both live in Ponte Vedra now. Helen is retired; she worked at St. Vincent’s and then for several doctors as a medical technologist until she had children. Daughter Laurie Hatsall lives in Julington Creek and son Brian Covington lives in World Golf Village area.

Guy had three children – Jeff in Mandarin, Brooke in Rivertown off San Jose, and Andy in the Navy, stationed in Washington, D.C.

Helen and Guy serve on their class Reunion Board. They have planned reunions every five years starting with their tenth. “I kind of took over and put everything on the computer to keep up with everyone,” Helen said. Having a designated and steady contact person has helped, and now Helen has a page dedicated to the class. “She found people for the 50th and 55th reunion that we had never been able to contact before,” Guy said.

The Class of 1962 has an “Alfred I duPont Class of 1962” Facebook page. Lots of memories are also found at “You know you are from Lakewood/San Jose/Miramar/San Marco in Jax, FL if...” Facebook page.



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Southside Assembly of God breaks ground for new Southpoint church facility

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

A religious fixture in San Marco for nearly 70 years, Southside Assembly of God church will find its home in a new Southpoint facility by the end of next year.

“Our vision is to be the best for the City of Jacksonville and to be a place where families grow in faith,” said Southside Assembly of God Senior Pastor Milton Dykes. “We are not moving away from our people. The new location will be more of a center point for our congregation. Our existing facility needed lots of upgrades and improvements. We found it’s pleasing to the Lord and pleasing to our people to make this change.”

The new Southside Assembly of God Church building will be built on 5.2 acres of land located at 6851 Southpoint Parkway, which the church purchased Aug. 8, 2018 for \$1.45 million. A groundbreaking for the new facility was held Dec. 2. The 24,000-square-foot building will include a sanctuary that will seat 450 worshippers, educational facilities, a full gymnasium and a fellowship hall area. Also incorporated in the design will be a large gathering place in the foyer area of the church, said Dykes.

The Southside Assembly of God congregation will continue to worship in its San Marco facility until June 2019, said Dykes. Because there is a good chance construction on the new edifice will not be complete, church members will meet in temporary quarters until the new Southpoint facility is finished. Construction is expected to take 10 to 12 months, Dykes explained noting, “I’ll be happy if we can move in by Christmas.”

The Assembly of God denomination has been in residence in Jacksonville since the



A rendering of Southside Assembly of God’s new church facility in Southpoint.

1920s when its congregation met downtown in buildings on 10th Street, Phelps Street, and Liberty Street. In 1951, the religious group made its home in San Marco at 2118 Kings Ave. Through the years it has built numerous additions onto its original building including an annex and fellowship hall. In the mid-1970s it constructed its present sanctuary on land that formerly housed a Volkswagen dealership.

The Southside Assembly of God congregation had no thought of moving until it was offered a deal by Chance Partners LLC, developers who wanted the 7-acre property to construct San Marco Crossing. The mixed-use development will be located south of San Marco Promenade, a two-phase

infill project currently under construction by Chance Partners, that abuts Philips Highway and is located on land formerly known as Jackson Square.

Southside Assembly of God sold its property to Chance Partners in March 2018 and plans to start construction on its new facility in December 2018. In its contract with the church, Chance Partners allowed the congregation 15 months to relocate because it had not yet purchased any property or had a set of plans in place for a new church home, Dykes said. “It’s been a challenging six months, but we’re ready to make it happen,” he said.

“To be honest, we’ve given thought to a move such as this for a number of years.

“Our vision is to be the best for the City of Jacksonville and to be a place where families grow in faith.”

— **Pastor Milton Dykes**, senior pastor, Southside Assembly of God

We had been approached by multiple developers and after much prayerful thought it seemed that it was time for a new day,” he continued. “Our church has had a rich history, but we believe its best days are ahead.”

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– In Memoriam –

Connie Jackson Byrd

August 21, 1958 to November 16, 2018

Foster children and disadvantaged youth lost a dedicated and caring advocate when Connie Jackson Byrd passed away at her Colonial Manor home Nov. 16 after a long illness.

“Children in the foster care system in Jacksonville have lost a true friend and advocate with the passing of Connie Byrd,” said Judge David M. Gooding of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida. “She always made room in her law practice and in her heart for children in need. She will be sorely missed.”

Byrd, who specialized in family law and dependency with an emphasis on child advocacy, co-partnered with her husband of 40 years, Terry, in the San Marco law firm, Byrd & Byrd LLP. A large portion of her legal efforts were volunteer and pro bono, acting as both guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem for disadvantaged youth.

Although her legal career only spanned nine years, Byrd made her mark in the collaborative family law community where she served as past president and as a board member of the Collaborative Family Law Group of Northeast Florida, on the board of the Florida Collaborative Council, and as a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

“Connie’s passing has left a void in the community of collaborative family law practitioners in Jacksonville, a community she strove tirelessly to revitalize and expand since we met in 2011,” said Jacksonville Attorney Laura Giovannetti. “During Connie’s tenure on the board of the Collaborative Family Law Group of Northeast Florida, Inc., including multiple years as president, membership grew from a handful of participants to a robust group of nearly 30 professionals dedicated to resolving family law matters outside of the courthouse.

“I admired Connie’s decision in recent years to accept only non-litigated cases, a decision based on her apt recognition that families undergoing the transition created by divorce are often better served by participating in a cooperative rather than combative process,” Giovannetti continued. “That Connie has inspired so many in our community to follow her lead is a testament to her legacy. She was truly one of the most caring individuals I have had the privilege of knowing, and she is greatly missed.”

Byrd grew up in San Marco and lived in her childhood home at the time of her passing. She attended Hendricks Avenue



Connie Jackson Byrd

Elementary School, Landon Middle School and Samuel Wolfson High School before heading to Florida State University for a bachelor’s degree in accounting and the University of North Florida for a master’s degree in business administration.

Her first accounting job was for Owen’s Corning Fiberglass, where she worked in Jacksonville, Atlanta, and Toledo, Ohio. Upon leaving the company after many years, she received her CPA license – passing all four parts on her first attempt – and opened her own accounting practice in Jacksonville and was awarded the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award by the North Florida District Office of the United States Small Business Administration.

It was also during this time that she served as the manager of her husband’s law practice. Through her work with her husband, she decided to attend Florida Coastal School of Law, graduating with honors, and passing the Bar Exam in 2009.

“Connie was my friend for over 40 years,” said Judi Williams, a family friend from church who worked as Byrd’s assistant at Byrd & Byrd for the past three years. “I first met her when she was a hard-working, resourceful college student. I was impressed by her persistence in untangling complicated financial issues. That talent served her well when her career expanded from financial to legal areas. She always could keep the big picture in mind while working on the details. A rare ability!”

In addition to her work with Collaborative Law groups, Byrd was involved with Florida’s Children First and was active in

the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (JWLA), where she served as a vice president – Girls Court, and was chairman of Youth Outreach and Mentoring.

In 2014, she was named JWLA Lawyer of the Year, and was honored as the Class of 2015 Leader of the Law by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers.

Byrd also served on the board of directors of Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist in Jacksonville and for the Christian Science nursing service, Wellsprings of Florida.

“Connie cared deeply about people, especially her family, friends, clients, and community,” said Williams. “She had the courage and determination to pioneer new ideas with love, humility, and resourcefulness. I saw her step in when she saw a need to redirect church activities to include more of the community or to raise money for a church trip for young students. I’ll never forget seeing Connie and her helpers, late one Friday night, pricing items piled in her garage for a sale the next morning. Those students had the money for their trip by Saturday evening!”

Byrd and her husband especially enjoyed traveling to baseball stadiums and blues festivals throughout the United States and were always planning to visit another part of the world. Also in her free time, she enjoyed time with her family at their place in Vilano Beach.

In addition to her husband, Terry L. Byrd, she is survived by her three children – Stephen Byrd, his wife, Julie, of Nocatee, and their children, Kaitlyn, Emily, Thomas, Jackson and Cooper; Stacy Byrd Thomas and her husband, Jaynorris, of San Jose Forest; and Christine Byrd Blount and her husband Zach and daughter, Magnolia, of Atlanta; as well as her sisters and brothers, Carole Jackson Poindexter and husband, Al, of San Marco, Mark Jackson of Seattle, Cathy Nove-Josserand and her husband, Hubert, of St. Germain-en-Laye, France, Matt Jackson of Seattle, and Mike Jackson and his wife, Susan, of Clemson, South Carolina, and their children. Her niece, Avery Poindexter Sander, and her husband, Paul, and nephew James Poindexter and his wife, Katherine, also live in San Marco.

“That Connie has inspired so many in our community to follow her lead is a testament to her legacy. She was truly one of the most caring individuals I have had the privilege of knowing, and she is greatly missed.”

— Laura Giovannetti

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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. 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 Millspaugh



Community Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation Director of Development Amy Davis with Anne Michael



Marilyn Jones, B.J. Sohn with Sally Kinney and Gina Taylor



Sherri Fussell with Pat Tucker



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



Linda Riesterer with Caroline Massie



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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 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."



Best Christmas Family Vacation: Christmas at Rockefeller Center



Best Historic Landmark: Old Jacksonville Train Station



Best in Show: Magic Beach Motel

Mentoring program reignites young philanthropists in Jewish community

Through the merger of the Jewish Community Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville, an opportunity arose to reignite the young philanthropy program in the Jewish community. Valuing their heritage as people committed to making the world a better place, one of the principles passed from generation to generation is the value of charitable giving. The program, B'nai Tzedek, concentrates on young adults ages 13-45 by developing

young leaders and empowering the next generation to view themselves, even in their youth, as strategic philanthropists.

On Dec. 6, 315 young philanthropists and leaders from the Jewish community were invited to attend Hey B'nai, an event to reignite the B'nai Tzedek young philanthropy program and launch Next Generation Grantmaking.

Manifest Distilling hosted the event, which was attended by community leaders, philanthropists and young professionals. The event was done in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville Young Leadership Program, rGEN, and the former Jewish Community Foundation's B'nai Tzedek Young Philanthropy account holders.

Mel and Debbie Gottlieb, who started the program in 1999, provided the match funding to establish the more than 300 Young Philanthropic Funds within the Jewish Community. During the event, the Gottliebs announced an end-of-year match for the first 10 Young Professionals interested in opening a Young Philanthropic Fund by providing half of the money needed to create the fund.



Debbie and Mel Gottlieb stand together at Jewish Federation of Jacksonville's Hey B'nai event Dec. 6 at Manifest Distilling.



Mel Gottlieb speaks about the history of Jacksonville's B'nai Tzedek program and its relaunch.



Richard Sitsisky speaks about the importance of instilling philanthropic values in young adults.



Stefanie Levine and Avigail Berke light the chanukiah.



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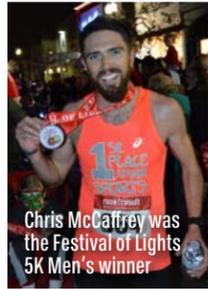
Holiday magic abounds at San Marco Festival of Lights

Although Jeff Brumley lives in Lakewood and has competed in several 5K road races before, he never thought to venture to nearby San Marco Square to compete in the annual 1st Place Sports Festival of Lights 5K race or even enjoy the festive Holiday Magic celebration.

"It never occurred to me to come down here and run, not until my friend Doug Gill talked me into it. Now, I see it as a chance to get out of the house, because I stay at home with my dog, Nosey, and work and get cabin fever," he said, before the race. "I know I will finish and not be the last."

Brumley was among more than 3,000 runners from throughout Northeast Florida to compete in the 5K competition that was orchestrated by 1st Place Sports. Included among the festivities were caroling, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn sleigh rides, jugglers, stilt walkers, bell ringer, petting zoo, Little Train rides, Christmas music, food from local shopkeepers and, of course, the 5K road race and 1-mile stroller and fun run.

Winners of the 5K race were Chris McCaffrey of Mandarin and Elle Baker of Jacksonville Beach.



Chris McCaffrey was the Festival of Lights 5K Men's winner



Elle Baker was the Festival of Lights 5K Women's winner



Mei Pierce, Bill Markle and Michelle Jackson



Rachael Morris, Sarah-Marie Johnston and Quinn Gray



Morgan, Lindsay, John and James Williams



Emily Price and Austin Spann greet Santa Claus



Michael Wathen, Haley Bailey with Lauren Babb and Mac Bailey



Gretchen and Steve Henrickson with Mary Anne Eldreth



Larry Berger and his dog, Bella, take in the festivities



Runners hit the road when the gun goes off in San Marco's Holiday Magic 1-mile fun run.

Don't Miss a Beat All-Stars perform for Southbank residents

It was a loud and happy occasion when musicians and the All-Star team of singers from the Don't Miss a Beat Foundation entertained residents and their friends during The Peninsula's annual Christmas Party Dec. 6 in the lobby of the Southbank high-rise.

Ulysses Owens Jr., artistic director for the nonprofit, orchestrated the musical event for residents from The Peninsula and its neighboring high-rise, The Strand, and their friends as they munched on heavy hors d'oeuvres. The only quiet interlude came when Jayla Royal, a student at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, recited an original statement she wrote entitled, "Jayla Smile," which illustrated her efforts to live with and overcome the disease lupus.

Don't Miss a Beat Foundation Board Member Nicole Nusraty, who planned the party, said the Southbank residents have been especially generous this holiday season, filling up two large boxes with gift cards and presents for the children



Don't Miss A Beat Development Director Gwendolyn Owens with Director of Operations Felicia Bass and Artistic Director Ulysses Owens, Jr.

served by the foundation. Each child in the program makes out a wish list, and the nonprofit endeavors to give them at least two of the items they requested for Christmas, she said.

The Don't Miss a Beat Foundation holds afterschool programs for children in the Brooklyn, Riverside and Woodstock neighborhoods at the Edith Brown Ford Community Center on Beaver Street.



The Don't Miss a Beat All-Stars



LeAnna Cumber with Susan Strauss, Ed David and Sandi Tobias



Jane Condon, Carol Grimes, Jill Campbell and Dita Domonkos

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Caring nonprofit brings Santa to Nemours' patients



Three young sisters visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at Nemours.



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

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.

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.

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 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



Annie Pajcic

cinnamon buns and was supplied by A Southern Bistro, a local restaurant.

Worship was led by San Marco's Libby DeVoight, 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

Children enjoy trains, games, and St. Nick at annual Train Station party

For more than 100 children, Christmas came early when jolly old St. Nick stopped by his namesake neighborhood during the annual Jolly Christmas Party at the St. Nicholas Train Station Dec. 12.

Decked out in white lights, the St. Nicholas landmark was the center of a fun-filled evening as children and their parents helped themselves to plenty of hot chocolate and hot dogs, thanks to Sylvia Pulido at Havana Jax, and desserts supplied by the folks at St. Francis Animal Hospital. Children took turns in the bounce house and on the new holiday train that gave rides throughout Train Station Park, courtesy of Joe Joseph and the Mudville Grille.

Santa was right at home inside the station, seated alongside two sparkling Christmas trees decorated by Kuhn Florists. After visiting the jolly gentleman, each child selected a gift from two long tables brimming with toys, such as basketballs, Barbie dolls, and various games, which were donated by EMed Specialty Group.

Also sponsoring the party were Elizabeth R. Ondrizek, P.A. Attorneys at Law, St. Nick's Lounge, Fototechnika, Bou'tique 3:16, Curry-Thomas Hardware, Deborah Thompson – Consultant, Yuleen Broome-State Farm, and Tom's Instant Printing.



Kendall Tobin, Jennifer B. Williams, Santa Claus, Jasmine Ley, Elizabeth R. Ondrizek and Ashleigh Bateh of Elizabeth R. Ondrizek, P.A., Attorneys at Law assisted in running the party.



Joe Joseph with his grandson, Hudson Meehan



Stephanie Peralte shared her Christmas wish list with Santa.



A real train ferried children around St. Nicholas Train Station Park during the Jolly Christmas Party Dec. 12.

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Leadership Family Night encourages habits of effective leadership

Submitted by **Leslie DeVooght**

Hendricks Avenue Elementary students are not only learning language arts, math, science and history, they are learning to be leaders. As a Leader in Me school, all students from kindergarten through fifth grade develop leadership skills through lessons based on Stephen Covey's book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

Leadership training doesn't stop with the students, however. All teachers and staff underwent extensive training to implement the program, and the school hosted its first Leadership Family Night Oct. 25 to better inform parents of how they can encourage these habits at home. During this event, parents, students, faculty and staff enjoyed activities centered around the seven habits noted in the book. Everyone helped decorate banners that hang in the school, reminding shareholders of Hendrick's mission: We lead with compassion, creativity, and curiosity.

The Leader in Me model has been adopted by thousands of schools since its inception in 1999 and launch by FranklinCovey Education. According to the Leader in Me website, "[it] is an

evidence-based, social-emotional learning process—developed in partnership with educators—that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century."

Locally, students are taking what they learn at school and using the habits to help the community. On Family Leadership Night, a group of fourth-grade students conducted a bake sale to raise money for the Smile Train, a national charity that performs cleft pallet repairs. They were inspired by an article they read in class and used the skills from the leadership program to arrange the sale. The Hendricks students raised over \$500 at the bake sale, which will pay for two children to have the surgery.

Several boys held a lemonade stand and donated their proceeds to the Humane Society, and another group of students have created the San Marco Cleanup Crew. One member of the crew is Sarah Maloney. She said her favorite habit is synergize, remarking "This habit is important because if we all work together, we can get a lot more done. They didn't put a man on the moon alone. They did it together." The group gathers once a month to clean up around San Marco.



Julian Norris and Lucy Pearson



The San Marco Cleanup Crew: Piper Hallil, Jeneva Hayes, Lila Poole, Sophia MacDowell, Ava MacDowell, and Sarah Maloney

Through the lessons, students learn to apply these habits in all walks of life. For example, HAE fifth-grader Lucy Pearson said her favorite habit is to begin with the end in mind because it helps her reach her goals. Currently, Pearson's goal is to make the Landon soccer team, so she knows that she will have to train hard to reach her goal. Pearson also won a leadership award for

this habit. Julian Norris and Burke Scharer agreed that their favorite habit is to put first things first, which means they complete their school work before playing.

Through this program, Hendricks Avenue Elementary students are learning that all members of the community can be leaders and will take these skills with them as they face challenges in the future.

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

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San Marco youth named football MVP at Episcopal

Davis Ellis, a sophomore at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville was named Most Valuable Player for the 2018 season by the school's football coaching staff. Ellis, of San Marco, played varsity for the team that went 7 and 3 for the season.



Davis Ellis wearing No. 21 for his school photo, but switched numbers with a teammate before the season began to wear his favorite, No. 4. (Photo by Laura Evans Photography)



MVP Davis Ellis in action on the field.

Ellis led 43 schools on the First Coast in receiving yards (1,084) and receiving touchdowns (17), catching 51 passes in the process. On special teams he returned a kickoff for a touchdown as well.

He also played defense and had five interceptions, returning three of those for touchdowns. He returned a fumble for a touchdown, too. He had a total of 22 touchdowns for the season on defense and offense.

Ellis was also named the Athlete of the Week in Week 1 by the High School Sports

Show, hosted by Terry Norville, that broadcasts out of the Mudville Grille.

Ellis said he owes much of his success this year to the coaching staff and his teammates. "It was truly a special team and a great opportunity for him to play with a talented and hard-working group of young men this year," said his mother, Pam Ellis.

Eighth-grade girl wins Assumption spelling bee



Assumption Catholic School students in the Spelling Bee

While Sophia Christian didn't have a choice in the words served to her in the Assumption Catholic Spelling Bee Nov. 28, the eight-grader did correctly spell "volition" to win the bee. Christian had some tough words to wrap her brain around, including frippery, flambeau and galactic, but she persevered. Runner-up was seventh-grade student Mary Cecilia Fannin, of Miramar.

Tricia Gardner, fifth-grade reading and religion teacher, organized the spelling bee for the two dozen fifth- to eight-grade students. Christian's win takes her to the Diocesan competition and, if she succeeds there, to the First Coast Spelling Bee next year.



Tricia Gardner, Sophia Christian, Mary Cecilia Fannin

Love for grandmother motivates Boy Scout Eagle project

Nick Snyder, a Boy Scout with Troop 906, can thank his grandmother for his Eagle Scout project. Snyder's grandmother, Lois Schwinger, has a long-standing relationship of volunteering for Ronald McDonald House and he wanted to do something to benefit them.

Snyder enjoys woodworking and has created several other projects in the past, and proposed corn hole boards for the children to play with. He met with Ashley Strickland, marketing manager, to discuss the project, and the Ronald McDonald House also asked him to make a small picnic table to go in their play area.

Ten Scouts helped Snyder with the project over the course of three weekends, and the total time it took to complete it was about 10 to 12 hours. The funds were obtained through many generous donations, including from the Men's Garden Club.

"I have been in Scouting since I was in first grade. I started as a Tiger Cub and I am excited that I have completed my Eagle project and look forward to becoming an Eagle Scout," said Snyder, who is a sophomore at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. "My troop at the Saint John's Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville has helped me move through the ranks and has made it possible and enjoyable to be in Scouts."

Snyder and five members of the troop also participated in the Light Up the House Charity Run for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville on Dec 1.



Ashley Strickland, Ronald McDonald House marketing manager, with Nick Snyder, Boy Scout with Troop 906.



Kamm Eckles, Nick Snyder, Andrew Snyder, Jack O'Malley, Emiliano Makros and Liam Leonard participated in the Ronald McDonald House Light Up the House 5K.



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Youngsters fill stockings for families in need

First-grade students turned into elves in December at San Jose Episcopal Day School, stuffing stockings for those less fortunate. The children filled 84 stockings with toiletries, toys, games and stuffed animals for the St. Mary's Episcopal Church Christmas Ministry.

St. Mary's hosts a Christmas shopping day open to families in need within the community. Families are able to shop for their children, and children are able to choose a stocking for themselves. The 84 stockings the San Jose Episcopal Day School students stuffed will be among those to choose from at St. Mary's.

"I like this project because we're giving to others. Giving is better than getting," said Genevieve Plaughter, a first-grade student.

"A very important part of our mission at San Jose Episcopal Day School is to 'inspire a heart for Christian service,'" said Lori Menger, Head of School at SJEDS. "The Christmas season lends itself to many opportunities to model service to our



First-graders at San Jose Episcopal Day School stuff stockings for St. Mary's Episcopal Church Christmas Ministry.

students. We are also especially proud to support St. Mary's year-round outreach efforts, such as collecting food to support their food pantry."

St. Mary's has a special connection to SJEDS. The Rev. Beth Tjoflat, St. Mary's senior pastor, attended SJEDS in kindergarten and first grade, and her son is currently a second-grader at the school.

DA students participate in "Nutcracker" performances

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.



Grace Leeper and Reece Weaver

"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."

Seniors showered with holiday gifts

The Bishop Kenny High School Chapter of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul donated over 300 Christmas gifts to the residents of St. Catherine Labouré Manor in December. The students collected a variety of items the residents could use and enjoy all year long, not just at the holidays. The packages included word puzzle books, crossword books, socks with rubber bottoms, blankets, and holiday door decorations. It was a joyous



time for the students and they loved showering the residents at St. Catherine's with these thoughtful and useful gifts.



San Jose Episcopal Day School fifth-grade students with a handmade puzzle of the United States

Students take road trip on paper

Do you know which U.S. state has the most glaciers? Can you name two states that share the magnolia as their state tree and state flower? The fifth-graders at San Jose Episcopal Day School know the answers to these questions and more, thanks to their Road Trip Around the U.S.A.

"Our Road Trip Around the U.S.A. social studies unit allows the students to be as hands on as possible, while still staying in the classroom," said Lauren Barcenas, fifth-grade social studies teacher at San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS). "Students become the experts on the states they've researched and share that knowledge with

their classmates. The large-scale states they create become puzzle pieces that we fit together to make one huge United States of America on the gym floor. The other grades come to visit and walk around the country, hearing from the states' experts!"

Each student chose two states to research, learning about landforms, major cities and interesting trivia. In addition to the large-scale replicas, students wrote a report on one state and learned the capitals of all 50 states. Fifth-grade social studies curriculum focuses on United States history, and SJEDS fifth-graders are looking forward to their actual trip to Washington, D.C. in February.

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.



Peter Verhoef

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.

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.



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Wolfson students invited to band festival

Elijah Galarza and Trinity Hootman, members of the Samuel Wolfson High School band, were selected to play at the four-day Tri-State Band Festival Nov. 29-Dec. 2, joining musicians from Florida, Georgia and Alabama in a concert at Florida State University. Each year, the festival features nationally and internationally renowned guest conductors and FSU music faculty in an intensive schedule of rehearsals, masterclasses, professional clinics, and concerts.

Trinity Hootman, Elijah Galarza



Wolfson High School athletes make state tournaments

Samuel Wolfson High School athletes scored post-season honors this fall. Wolfpack golfers placed second at District events and advanced to the Regional tournament. Sophomore Will Davis qualified for the State tournament, where he placed 11th overall.



Will Davis



Mayson Wilkins, Leah Troup, Gavin Carter, Hannah Sykes, Cecelia Bailey

Wolfpack swimmers had a strong showing at Districts. In all, 11 swimmers and divers advanced to Regionals. Samuel Wolfson High School Seniors Hannah Sykes (swimming) and Gavin Carter (diving) qualified for the State meet in individual events. Freshmen Leah Troup, Cecelia Bailey and Mayson Wilkins, along with Sykes, qualified as a relay team. Sykes placed second in the 200 free and third in the 100 fly, and Carter placed 17th in diving.

Catholic glee club places first in music festival



Assumption Catholic School Glee Club with First Place trophy

The Assumption Catholic School Glee Club placed first in the Concert Choir division, earning an "excellent overall" rating at the Music USA Festival's Holiday Music Extravaganza, Nov. 30-Dec. 1 at Universal Studios. Thirty fifth- to eighth-grade students were led by the school's music teacher, Erin Barnes, who said, "We competed against middle school and elementary choruses from Miami, St. Mary's, and everywhere in between!"

Music USA Festivals provide an opportunity for students to perform musical selections in a relaxed, yet competitive environment, allowing students to improve their musical skills through comments made by quality adjudicators. There are 10 performance categories overall, including instrumental, choral and dance.

Students help seniors celebrate the holidays

Hosted by the City of Jacksonville's Senior Services Division, the annual Holiday Festival for Senior Citizens was held Dec. 1 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, where 30 students from Bishop Kenny High's St. Vincent dePaul Society spent nearly five hours serving at the event. The students served as greeters, then helped serve a traditional Christmas dinner with dessert, and cleaned up after. The event included a visit from Santa, live entertainment and dancing.



Students from Bishop Kenny High School prepare plates for the annual Holiday Festival for Senior Citizens.

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– In Memoriam –

E. William “Bill” Nash, Jr.

September 30, 1925 to November 23, 2018

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 a Horatio Alger story.

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

As a youth during the Depression, Nash Jr. distributed newspapers, conducted dairy routes, was employed as soda jerk and a farmhand. During World War II he served on the U.S.S. Destroyer Plunkett, then later used the G.I. Bill to attend Wheaton College in Illinois where he met the love of his life, Frances Flewellyn Johnston. Under her family’s encouragement, the couple moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where Nash continued his studies



E. William Nash Jr. meets with his grandson, E. William Nash IV, and his great-grandson, George, a few days before he died.



E. William Nash, Jr.

and graduated from Emory University with a degree in business administration.

It was also in Atlanta that he was introduced to the insurance business by his wife’s uncle, Frank Marshall Akers Jr., a manager of a Prudential insurance agency. Insurance became a business Nash firmly believed in. “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. worked his way up through Prudential’s ranks, selling insurance in Atlanta, Nashville, Newark and Houston. He settled in Jacksonville when he was tapped to be president of the South-Central Home Office – a big deal at that time – 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 directors 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 restore The Florida Theater from an old movie palace to a center for the performing arts.

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

In 1955 Queen Elizabeth gifted a piece of the Rock of Gibraltar to The Prudential Insurance Company to commemorate its slogan, “Own a piece of The Rock.” In 2002, the sizeable boulder, which adorned the lobby of Prudential’s old headquarters at 841 Prudential Drive for so many years was moved to the Southbank, so it could be enjoyed by the citizens of Jacksonville after the building was sold. At that time, Mayor John Delaney recognized Nash Jr. for his numerous business and civic contributions to the city with a proclamation and dedicated the rock to him.

During his many years of service, Nash Jr. acted as an unwavering rock of support to his employees. “Part of my life, 32 years, was working with the Prudential and Bill Nash,” wrote Joseph Stingone in an online comment in the Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home guestbook. “He was the Best Person I ever worked with. He was a kind person,

with deep insight. He always had the right answers for me to help us to make the challenge come out with the best results for all. He was a ‘Man’s Man.’ One of his great speeches had this comment, ‘If you are going to win, what better place than here, and what better time than now?’ Think of all of his leadership in Jacksonville, then you will understand him.”

An ardently religious man, Nash Jr. and his wife were active in many churches and Young Life, including St. Mark’s Episcopal in Ortega, where they taught a Sunday School class based on The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis, and his final church home, First Presbyterian Church.

A life-long art and antiques collector, Nash Jr. was proud of his English heritage and equally supportive of his son’s business, E.W. Nash and Son, a furniture restoration business in Riverside. After he retired from Prudential, he kept an office there. “He was multi-faceted. He did so much in the community, but he also loved being here 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, it was his large family that was closest to his heart.



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

Married 64 happy years to his wife, Fran, after her death he built a cottage for himself at Nash Abbey – a property spanning Riverside Avenue and Oak Street where his son and grandson reside in separate homes. It was there he enjoyed gardening and daily visits with his great grandchildren, Laurie, E. William Nash V, James, and two-week-old George.

Perhaps his grandson, Parker Nash Roberts, best summed up his family’s feelings about their beloved patriarch 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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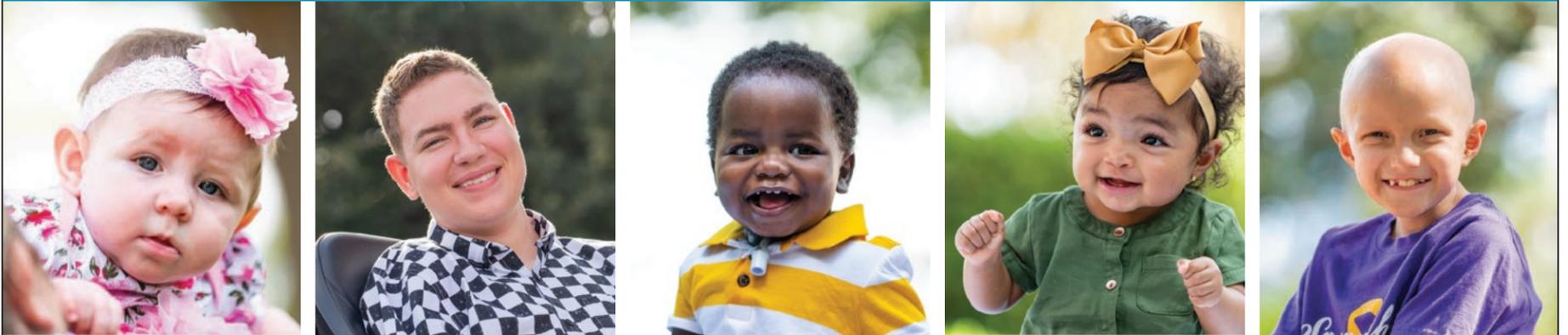
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