

RIVERSIDE • AVONDALE • ORTEGA • MURRAY HILL

# Resident

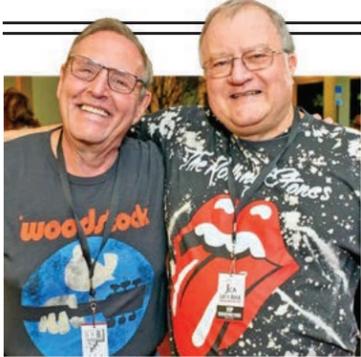
COMMUNITY NEWS



*Red Rose Ball delivers support for mission, outreach ministry*

Megan Mangiaracino, Natalie McBride and Megan Thomas were among the many proud supporters of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation and its mission to help those in critical need of medical care.

**READ MORE, PAGE 27**



*JCA benefit gave guests reason to rock and roll*

Myron Flagler and Lathun Brigman, rock it at Let's Rock, theme of the annual Jewish Community Alliance fundraiser.

**READ MORE, PAGE 36**



*Students present gifts and give thanks at donor event*

The Zimmerman family graciously hosted a "FRIENDraiser" at their Riverside residence, Feb. 13, to help kick off a big week for the North Florida School of Special Education. Chase, Charles, Elli, and Morrie Zimmerman were grateful for the gifts of framed art from students at the school.

**READ MORE, PAGE 31**

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## Greening of Boone Park blossoms as generations gather together

Billy and Melanie Dobbins with sons Walter and William and friend Kristen Sweet Gibbs with her daughter Mae and son Theodore plant a magnolia in Boone Park for the annual Love Boone Park Day Feb. 9. **READ MORE, PAGE 34**



## Legal community rallies around charity chili cookoff

### Young lawyers contribute funds to nonprofit

The Law Firm of McGlinchey Stafford vied for Most Spirited at the 10th Annual Young Lawyers Charity Chili Cookoff. Although not the winner, they did their utmost to put the crowd in a fun, Margaritaville frame of mind. Showing off ear-to-ear grins are (front): Mackynzie Driver, Kim Israel, Jessica VanTroost and Amy Kisz with Audrey Ann Kisz; (back): Leighton and Andrew Kisz, Ally Ottis. **READ MORE, PAGE 30**



### Ortega River runners take over neighborhood streets

A little bit of fog didn't deter Thomas Catto, his brother Matthew, or their St. Mark's Episcopal Day School classmate Jackson Helms from enjoying the Ortega River Run Feb. 23 through the scenic neighborhoods of Ortega and Lakeshore.

**READ MORE, PAGE 49**



## Friends, fans turn out for JASMYN's 25th

Having a great time while celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of JASMYN were Scott Tatum with Kyle Enriquez, Bruce Musser, Cinda Sherman and Rebecca Poland Davisson, Barry Stevens, Allan Alday, Jennifer Ancelin and Dave Arnold. **READ MORE, PAGE 26**



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Phone: (904) 388-8839 | Fax: (904) 423-1183  
1650-302 Margaret St. #310, Jacksonville, FL 32204

**PUBLISHERS**

Seth Williams - seth@residentnews.net  
Pamela B. Williams - pamela@residentnews.net

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Kate A. Hallock - kate@residentnews.net

**NEWS EDITOR**

Marcia Hodgson - marcia@residentnews.net

**GOT NEWS? EMAIL US AT**  
editor@residentnews.net

**SALES**

Debra McGregor - debra@residentnews.net  
Shannan M. Brown - shannan@residentnews.net  
Jose M. Velasco - jose@residentnews.net

**DESIGN**

Joshua Garrett - josh@residentnews.net

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# Brooklyn turnaround continues with another Hallmark development

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

Ground is being moved around for Vista Brooklyn, a 308-unit mixed-use development at 200 Riverside Ave., immediately north of 220 Riverside/Unity Plaza and across the street from the Winston Family YMCA, as site work begins.

The \$55 million joint venture between Jacksonville-based Hallmark Partners and Nashville-based Bristol Development Group includes private equity firm MountainStar Capital, general contractor Brasfield & Gorrie, J. Davis Architects and Rhode Island based Citizens Bank.

In addition to the residential aspect, which includes a 10th-level club/pool deck amenity space overlooking the St. Johns river and rooftop dog park, Vista Brooklyn will also include 13,000-square-feet of retail space with a retail promenade along Riverside Avenue.

Construction of Vista Brooklyn commenced in January 2019, with an estimated completion date of January 2021, according to Keith Goldfaden, managing partner, NAI Hallmark.

Also under construction review along that same stretch of Riverside Avenue is an 11,451-square-foot retail center, as yet



Site work is underway for another mixed-use development on Riverside Avenue in the Brooklyn area.

unnamed, by The Ferber Co. Plans indicate the two buildings will include both retail and restaurants.

Considered part of the downtown area, the Brooklyn neighborhood was originally residential in its 19th-century beginnings, then developed into a commercial and industrial area after the turn of the century. In 1955, the opening of the Riverside YMCA, later renamed the Claude J. Yates Family YMCA, heralded a lengthy rebuilding of the community. Ten years after that,

Preston Haskell founded Haskell next door to the Y.

More recently, in 2012, the development at 220 Riverside ignited a resurgence in the Brooklyn area and was soon followed by Brooklyn Station on Riverside, a mixed-use development which includes an apartment complex, Fresh Market, and a variety of retail, restaurant and commercial businesses. In 2016, the new Winston Family Y opened in August and a few months later the former Yates YMCA was razed for parking.

## CORRECTION - City Council candidate objects to description as forum 'no-show'

In the story about the District 14 candidates' forums in the February 2019 issue, it was stated that Earl Testy, a write-in candidate, was a no-show for the forum held Jan. 15 at the Murray Hill Theatre.

Testy, who lives in Murray Hill, said he had not been invited to the forum but would most certainly have attended if he had. "I was the first to file, along with Randy DeFoor, 18 months ago," said Testy. "I am happy to attend any and all forums."

DeFoor actually filed first, in September 2017, with Testy filing in October. Sunny Gettinger entered the race in February 2018, followed by Jimmy Peluso in May 2018 and Henry Mooneyhan last July.

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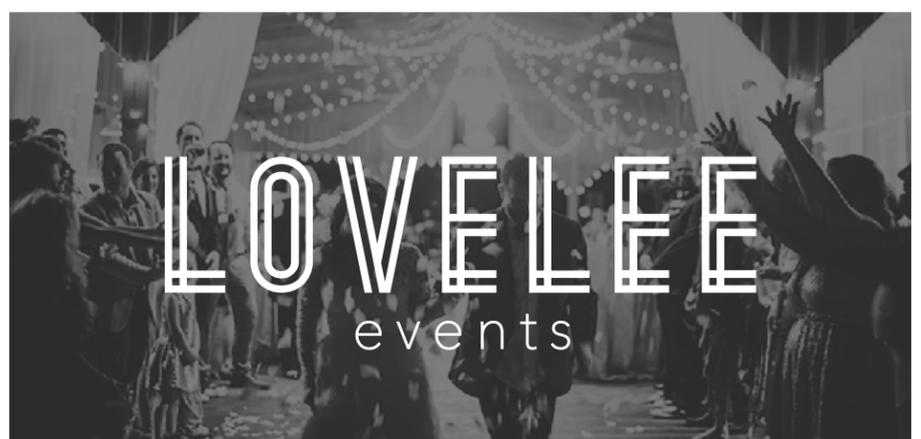
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# VyStar creating major presence downtown

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

With its roots firmly grounded in the Jacksonville military community, VyStar Credit Union couldn't be a better partner for the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena.

The announcement about the arena comes six months after VyStar purchased the SunTrust Tower in August 2018 to renovate and serve as its headquarters. The financial institution expects to move from its current Blanding Boulevard location and establish its presence downtown this summer. Renovations are being done by Dana B. Kenyon Co. for \$16 million.

In a naming rights agreement underway with the City of Jacksonville, the former Jax Navy Federal Credit Union – rebranded in 2002 as VyStar – will pay \$10.6 million overall in a sponsorship to rename the arena the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, located at 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.



Rendering shows potential signage rebranding the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena with VyStar's name.

in an area of downtown known as the Sports District.

Legislation co-sponsored by Councilmembers Tommy Hazouri, Terrance Freeman, Randy White, Aaron Bowman, Jim Love, Reginald Gaffney and Bill Gulliford was filed Feb. 12 and sent to City Council, which will hold a second public hearing March 12.

The agreement indicates VyStar will pay the city \$525,000 this year, with annual payments increasing about 3 percent per

year until 2033, when the final payment will be nearly \$800,000. Additionally, the credit union will pay \$50,000 in 2019 to create a veterans' memorial of some type inside the arena; match donations made at concessions up to \$50,000 annually, and contribute up to \$80,000 each year to host quarterly events for veterans.

The City will agree to put 10 percent of the \$9.76 million naming rights fee into a trust fund to support programs and initiatives for veterans and their families.

The 15,000-seat multi-purpose arena was built in two years, 2001-2003, for \$130 million as part of the Better Jacksonville Plan under Mayor John Delaney and has hosted sports and entertainment events. The first artist to hold a concert in the new arena was Elton John, who will be back at the venue March 15 as part of his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. The arena also hosts graduation ceremonies for area high schools.

## Annual meeting announced for Murray Hill library supporters

The Friends of the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library will hold their annual meeting Tuesday, March 26 at Maple Street Biscuit Company, 1171 Edgewood Ave. S. The evening will begin with a social hour and silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

This year one of the Friends' strongest advocacy goals will be met with the library going back to six-day service starting on Saturday, March 2. The library will once again be open on Mondays. The new hours at the library will be 12 to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, closed on Sunday. The Murray Hill Library was recently renamed in honor of longtime library advocate Bill Brinton during the 50th anniversary and renaming celebration held at the library on Dec. 15, 2018.

## Tenants moving in to Avondale apartment complex

A multi-family apartment complex in Avondale will welcome its first tenants beginning in April. RiverVue, located on the site of the former St. Johns Village across from the Fishweir Elementary School, is now in the final inspection phase, according to Crystal Carswell, RiverVue community manager, who said seven units have been rented. The finishing touches are also being put on landscaping at the waterfront residential complex, which includes amenities such as a dog park and pet spa, a resort-style pool and, on the first two floors of the tower, an athletic club, social lounge, and business center.



Landscape company crews were installing trees and shrubs around the RiverVue multi-family residential property at the end of February.

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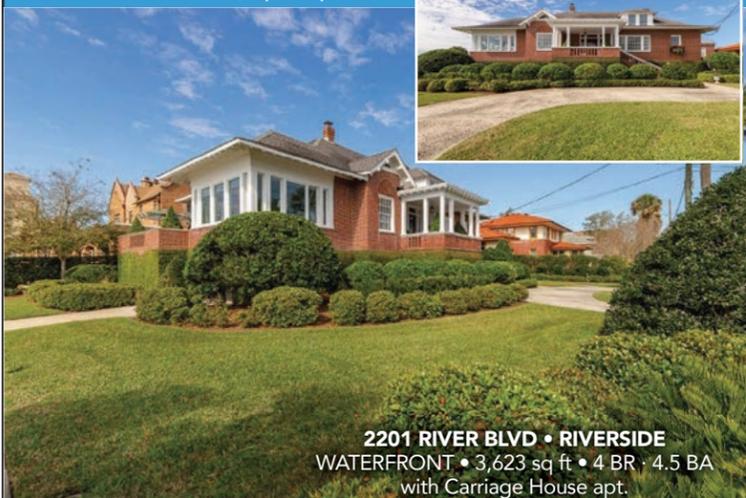
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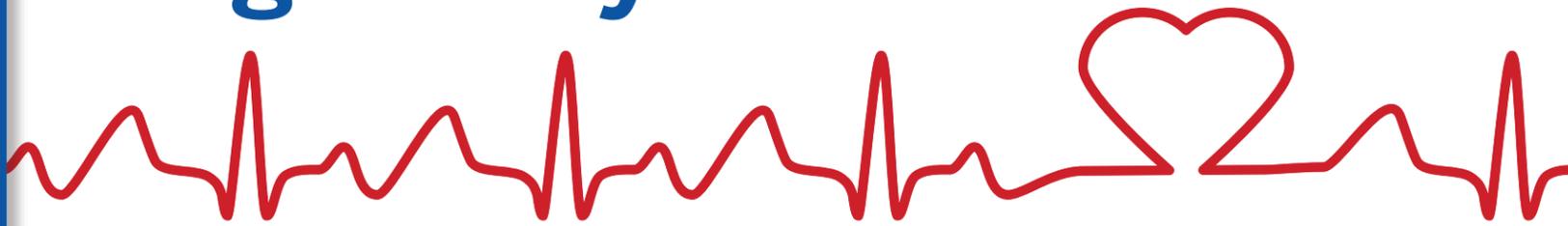
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## **The Sisisky-Kleppinger Annual Endowed Lecture for Women's Health presents:**

FOX Sports Reporter Jennifer Hale, who at age 38 learned she has a genetic heart condition called cardiomyopathy.

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but my heart was  
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**Jennifer Hale**  
FOX Sports Reporter

A panel of experts from Baptist Health, including cardiologists from Baptist Heart Specialists, will discuss heart disease risk factors for women and answer audience questions. No cost to attend.

Register at: [womenslecture.eventbrite.com](http://womenslecture.eventbrite.com)



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# Baptist to reorient campus with new Wolfson critical care tower

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Southbank's concrete jungle of parking lots and high-rise buildings will get a touch of green space this spring when Baptist Health begins construction on a new \$187 million Critical Care Tower at Wolfson Children's Hospital, which will include a spacious park-like entrance to its medical campus.

The new seven-story building will include a five-floor critical care tower comprised of a high-level 75-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Center as well as a 26-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Situated where Wolfson's P2 parking garage once stood on Palm Avenue, the new building will serve as the front entrance to both Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

"This new building will be our new 'front door,' essentially reorienting our entire campus. Our desire is to create a more welcoming entrance with increased accessibility to our campus," said Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Hospital President Michael Mayo, a San Marco resident, noting the plan will create wayfinding and ease transition from the parking structure to all Baptist's downtown campus facilities. "Adding green space is always desirable because it softens the architecture of the buildings and will bring a more peaceful environment to our patients and visitors."

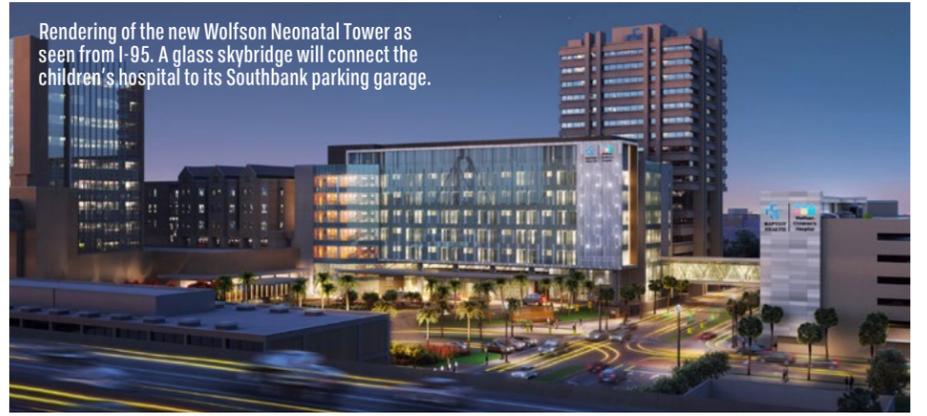
The new building is designed to make it easy for patients and visitors to find their way anywhere in the medical center, as well as to increase visibility and accessibility to the medical complex from I-95. Similar to the overhead walkway linking Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center across San Marco Boulevard with the

Baptist Outpatient Center, a skybridge will span Palm Avenue connecting the new building with the medical center's multilevel parking garage.

The new NICU, located in the tower, will include three separate units, replacing the current 56-bed Level II and Level III Newborn ICU's at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The NICU will provide a 25-percent increase in beds, while the new PICU will increase its number of beds by 30 percent, bringing the children's hospital total beds to 272.

"Wolfson Children's Hospital is receiving more and more critically ill infants and children from cities well outside of Jacksonville. It is our responsibility to ensure that our young patients are met with world-class care in the most advanced facilities," said Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin, a San Marco resident. Aubin also noted that Wolfson provides the region's only Neonatal Surgical Center.

"Wolfson Hospital is the only full-service tertiary children's hospital in North Florida and South Georgia. The awareness of a utilization by families from throughout the greater region – well outside of the Jacksonville area – has been growing yearly, and we anticipate this will continue to occur in the future," he said, adding the hospital has several programs that it offers in collaboration with Nemour's Specialty Care, the City of Jacksonville, and the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville. Those programs include Florida's largest children's hematology/oncology program, which includes a comprehensive neuro-oncology program in partnership with the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute; neurosurgery and neurology, as well as its vascular malformation, endocrinology and diabetes programs.



Rendering of the new Wolfson Neonatal Tower as seen from I-95. A glass skybridge will connect the children's hospital to its Southbank parking garage.

Wolfson is also a destination site for selected services for children from Great Britain, Canada, Norway and China, Aubin said.

The new 220,000-square-foot tower will include one "shell" floor so the hospital can expand in the future, said Keith Tickell, Baptist Health vice president of Strategic Assets/Real Estate. The state-of-the-art building will offer doctors the latest in technology and has been designed to integrate with Baptist Jacksonville's high-risk obstetrics and neonatal delivery center. It will feature private patient/family NICU suites to accommodate two parents with showers, bathrooms, separate parent wardrobes, entertainment and educational systems that access Baptist's learning library of information on child care, as well as a unique room on each floor for the joint care of mothers who require a post-delivery stay.

Large windows will fill each patient room with natural light, which is meant to help the healing process of postpartum mothers, infants and children.

"The new Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower will be an incredibly beautiful facility, inside and out," Aubin said. "What matters

most is the life-saving care and treatment that will occur within its walls, thanks to our top-ranked team members and medical facility."

Wolfson Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jerry Bridgham, who has been on the hospital staff since 1990, recalled when Wolfson Children's Hospital was just a two-story wing on a hospital building that doesn't exist anymore.

"We built the current building in 1993, and then the Weaver Tower in 2012," Bridgham said. "Now we are about to start on a neonatal tower. Wolfson's has just been expanding and expanding, and it's going to be a great thing to see for the kids in Jacksonville."

"There really is a need now for this new building," Bridgham continued. "We currently have 56 neonatal beds available to us and in the new building there will be 75 beds. Even at this period of time, we have days when we have over 60 to 64 patients in the NICU. We really need those beds as soon as we can get them."

"Obviously, our goal is to keep children out of the hospital, but we can't always do that, so we're glad to provide them with our services when they need them," he said.

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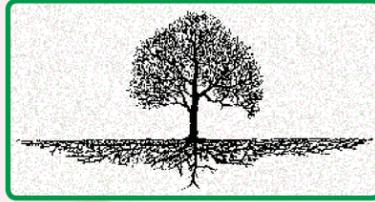
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715 MOORE AVENUE  
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LISTED BY ED AKERS  
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**UNDER CONTRACT**

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LISTED BY ROBERT VAN CLEVE  
**\$309,900**



1630 AVENGER LANE  
3/2, 1,570 square feet  
LISTED BY SETH KIMBALL  
**\$184,900**



1309 AVONDALE AVENUE  
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# At-Large candidates vie for votes in all districts

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Violent crime is the most pressing issue facing Jacksonville today agreed more than half of the At-Large City Council candidates during a Candidates Forum Feb. 11, where 13 of 16 candidates shared their views before a capacity audience at Southside Baptist Church.

Included among the candidates for Group 1 were Connell Crooms (NPA), incumbent Terrance Freeman (REP) and Lisa King (DEM); for Group 2, Darren Mason (DEM) and Ron Salem (REP); for Group 3, incumbent Tommy Hazouri (DEM), and Greg Rachal (REP); for Group 4, Matt Carlucci (REP), Harold McCart (REP) and Don Redman (REP), and for Group 5, Niki Brunson (NPA), Chad Evan McIntyre (DEM) and incumbent Samuel Newby (REP).

Gary Barrett (REP) and Jack Daniels (REP), both of Group 1, and James Jacobs (DEM) of Group 3 also qualified to be on the ballot but did not attend the forum.

The unitary election for the City will be held Tuesday, March 19, with early voting beginning March 4. Voters will make their selections on a single ballot within each electoral district regardless of party affiliation, according to the Supervisor of Elections website. Candidates who tally the



Thirteen At-Large candidates are running for City Council during the March elections: Back row: Lisa King (Group 1), Greg Rachal (Group 3), Harold McCart (Group 4), Darren Mason (Group 2), Connell Crooms (Group 1), Terrance Freeman (Group 1), Ron Salem (Group 2), Sam Newby (Group 5), Chad McIntyre (Group 5), Niki Brunson (Group 5), Don Redman (Group 4), Tommy Hazouri (Group 3). Front: Matt Carlucci (Group 4)

most votes are automatically elected. If no candidate captures a majority, a runoff election will be held Tuesday, May 14, so voters can decide between the top two vote-getters regardless of party affiliation.

At-Large Council candidates are divided into groups determined by the area of the city where they live. Because At-Large candidates represent the city in its entirety, residents will vote for one candidate from each of five groups.

"You can look at it as having six representatives rather than just one, because these folks will represent the entire city," said District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who moderated the forum hosted by the San Marco Preservation Society.

Candidates with close ties to Jacksonville's historic communities include Carlucci, a San Marco resident; Newby a Brooklyn resident; Salem, who grew up in Murray

Hill; Ortega resident McCart, whose wife who grew up in San Marco; King who grew up on the Southside and graduated from Wolfson High School, and Rachal, who worked for San Marco resident Zim Boulos more than 20 years ago and has children who attended Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

Each candidate gave an opening and closing statement and was privy to four prepared questions prior to their arrival at the forum. The last question was a 15-second "lightning round," where the candidates quickly told how they would spend \$500,000 if they could select any city service to support.

### Candidate credentials

In their opening statements each candidate introduced themselves to the crowd.

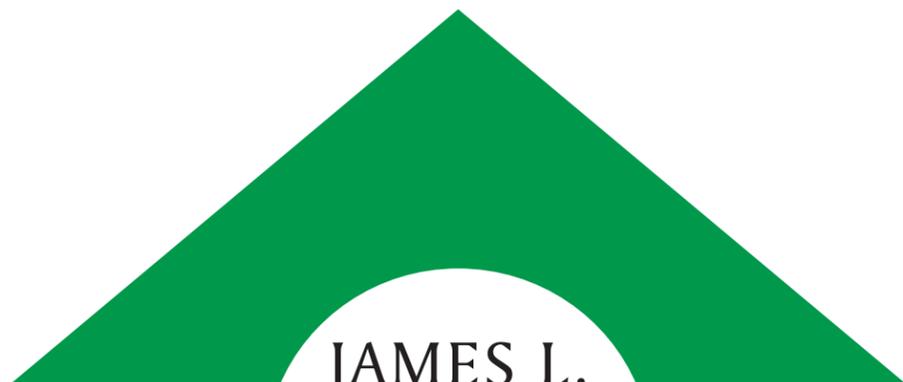
Crooms said he was a Jacksonville native, a Teamster, and is running to "disrupt the

status quo" by putting "the voice of the people back in City Hall."

A former chair of the Jacksonville Planning Commission, King said she "has a record of defending the quality of life in San Marco." While on the commission, she said she prevented a cell tower from being built on property adjacent to Alexandria Oaks Park and made sure parking requirements are adhered to within residential areas. "I want to represent all of Jacksonville but particularly the historic neighborhoods," she said.

As Group 1 incumbent, Freeman said he is running for his children. "Jacksonville needs to be great for kids. We need economic prosperity for all, quality educational choices for every neighborhood, and public safety. Those are our most important issues," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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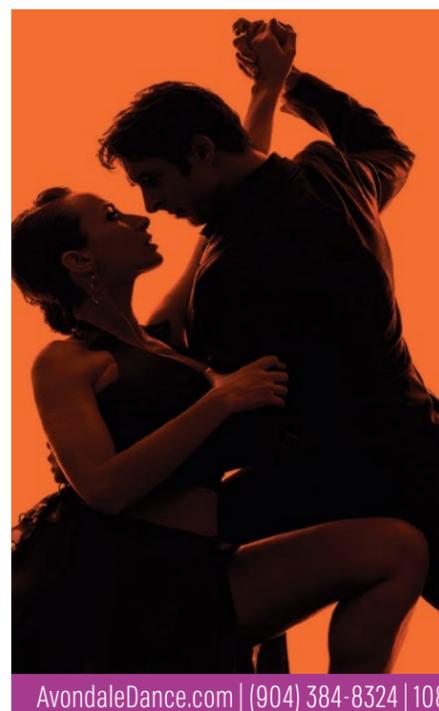
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Mason, who works as a staffer for Councilwoman Joyce Morgan, cited his working-class roots. "All life in Jacksonville has potential. Every citizen regardless of ZIP Code, where they worship, and who they love, deserves a decent quality of life," he said.

Salem is a pharmacist who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He recalled his service as neighborhood association president, PTA president, CPAC chair for two years and as a four-time chair of a sports entertainment board. "I want to run At-Large because I want to have a big-picture approach to Jacksonville," he said.

Mentioning that this election will be his "last hurrah," Hazouri, who is the Group 3 incumbent, said he takes public service seriously. He has served 12 years as a member of the Florida legislature, was mayor of Jacksonville, a Duval County Public School Board member and chairman, and is currently serving on the City Council. He said a vote for him would bring continuity and "sustainability" to the council. "I tackle issues people don't want to accept and address, including tolls and the human rights ordinance," he said.

A former U.S. Marine and member of the U.S. Air Force, Rachal said he worked in corporate America for 26 years. His record of public service includes Boy Scout commissioner, member of the Sheriff's Advisory Council, CPAC member, and as a current member of the Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures Commission (TRUE).

Carlucci grew up in San Marco and is a State Farm Insurance agent. "I am running for the primary reason I want to work for you," he said. "I want to enhance and protect our quality of life in Jacksonville and the way I want to do it is by bringing people together. We move best when Jacksonville moves together. We create more jobs, and

we need to do things for the betterment of our children and grandchildren."

McCart was also interested in building a future for Jacksonville's children. "I want to see a place where our children can thrive, and our grandchildren can thrive," said the Jacksonville native, adding it is important to focus on education, the oceans and infrastructure, which is not keeping pace with Jacksonville's population.

A small business owner, Redman served eight years on the Council and has experience on the Land Use and Zoning Committee. As owner of a barber shop and beauty parlor, he joked that he solves the city's problems all day long as he chats with customers in his barber chair. Redman served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and also has served as school advisory chairman for the Englewood High School area, District School Advisory committee, and has coached Little League baseball and swimming.

As incumbent for Group 5, Newby is an Edward Waters College graduate and former chairman of the YMCA, and a coach. He is a retired executive with Pepsi Cola, and in his four years on the council he has served three times as chairman of the Neighborhoods Committee. "Why am I running? Because I believe every neighborhood should be safe," he said.

Like Rachal, Brunson also has experience on the TRUE Commission, serving as chairman for two years. "If we are able to bring a more socially-sensitive decision-maker with TRUE experience (to the Council), then we can get better outcomes to our spending collectively," she said.

A paramedic for 25 years, McIntyre said he is running because he believes an "evidence-based approach is needed to solve issues facing the city. We need to stop thinking about ideals and to start thinking about how we apply evidence to them," he said.



Seated at a long table answering questions posed by District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who served as moderator, were At-Large candidates Connell Crooms, Lisa King, Terrance Freeman of Group 1, Darren Mason, Ron Salem of Group 2, Tommy Hazouri and Greg Rachal of Group 3, Matt Carlucci, Harold McCart and Don Redman of Group 4, and Sam Newby, Niki Brunson and Chad McIntyre of Group 5.

**Top city priorities**

More than half the candidates – King, Freeman, Hazouri, Carlucci, Brunson, Salem and Newby – said handling violent crime was the most pressing issue facing the city. Other top priorities mentioned by the candidates were quality of life (Crooms), homelessness (Rachal), infrastructure and development (McCart, Redman, and McIntyre), and neighborhood beautification (Mason). "If you look good, you feel good, and you do good," Mason said, while McIntyre posed the question, "Does Jacksonville want to be a big city or a small town?"

When Boyer asked the candidates where they would spend an extra \$500,000 if they could enhance any program in the city, she received a variety of answers.

In keeping with his priority of neighborhood beautification, Mason said he would support 630-CITY technology. Redman and Salem wanted to take a bite out of crime by supporting out-of-school suspension and other youth in crisis programs (Redman) and small innovative programs for youth involved in violent behavior and inmates being released back into society (Salem).

For Hazouri, it was libraries. For Rachal, it was safety measures, such as better lighting and crosswalks, to protect pedestrians. Newby said he would beef up public works, specifically roads and sidewalks, while Brunson would enhance education, specifically through grassroots organizations. Freeman would support parks, public and pedestrian safety.

Crooms, who saw quality of life as a top priority, favored supporting Community Guardians and fighting food deserts. McIntyre, who mentioned a shooting had simultaneously occurred in Mandarin as he was speaking, would fund Operation Ceasefire, an evidence-based program aimed at youth gun violence. Meanwhile Carlucci and King both agreed mental health and suicide prevention programs are poorly funded and will serve as ways to fight crime. "You might not know this, but the largest investor in mental health services and funding is our jail," King said.

McCart, meanwhile, would not be pinned down. "I would reach out to community leaders to see how they could better benefit from \$500,000," he said. "It's important to understand what is needed out there."

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**1817 Willowbranch Terrace**  
Beautiful Avondale Tudor on the water. Each unit in the duplex features 3BR/2BA. Garage apartment is 500 sq. ft. with 1BR/1BA. Located near The Shops of Avondale, St. Vincent's Hospital and Downtown. \$624,000



**2535 Forbes Street**  
3BR/2BA with rocking chair front porch. Original hardwood floors, high ceilings, lots of charm. This property has been a rental home in the recent past and is ready for a new owner to love it and make it their own. 2,185 sq. ft. \$299,000



**3216 Remington Street**  
3BR/1BA Well maintained Avondale bungalow home in the historic district. This home features a nice front porch, brick fireplace, and french doors leading to the dining room. Large fenced backyard with detached storage shed. 1,260 sq. ft. \$219,900



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# Maxi Auto Care gives customers all the 'tools' they need to make the right service decision

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When it comes to automotive service longevity, you won't find a better company than one whose family has been in the automotive business in Jacksonville for 50 years.

John Gordon's father started Tradewind Shell on Emerson Street back in the late 1960s. Today John and Karen Gordon own Maxi Auto Care, with two automotive service locations that continue to honor the lessons his father taught him.

"We're a company that puts a high emphasis on customer service and quality," said Gordon. "We take a lot of pride in our work and with the relationships we form with our customers."

Gordon said when a customer comes in for help with a problem, it's usually because something doesn't work, a service light is on or there's a strange noise. "That's our first concern – find the problem and fix it. We also perform digital inspections and share what we see with our customers either by text or email. Sometimes a customer may need to address a safety issue, there may be components or systems we want to monitor going forward or perhaps even a maintenance service the customer may benefit by performing," he said, continuing "Our motto is 'We diagnose, you decide.' We don't push anything on anybody. We share what we see then recommend maintenance and repairs to keep cars running well and keep passengers safe."

Many of Gordon's longtime customers are second and third generation patrons of his shop at 10200 Beach Blvd. "Our ideal customer is someone who wants to be treated respectfully and someone who wants to be informed about their vehicle. In return we offer an honest evaluation, recommendations and repairs with a nationwide warranty," said Gordon.

Gordon's newest location is Maxi Auto Care – Riverside at 591 Oak St., a block behind Florida Blue.

The Riverside shop has been serving the Riverside and Brooklyn area for 12 years under different management. When Gordon purchased the facility in August 2018, the first order of business was to update equipment and the facility to carry on his family tradition of being a full-service auto repair center.

Staffing received a big plus when the two technicians, Eric Harriott (Master ASE Certified) and Greg Warren (ASE Certified), who had been working in the business for a long time agreed to stay on, and then

Gordon added a seasoned store manager, Ryan Rush (ASE Certified) and a general service technician, Dillon Crismond (A graduate of J-Tech Automotive).

"We require our technicians to attend continual training, we keep up to date with the newest diagnostic equipment and technology," he said. "Both facilities are equipped with ASE Certified technicians and the equipment necessary to work on most vehicles."

In addition to longevity, experienced technicians, and state-of-the-art equipment, Maxi Auto Care offers one of the best warranties around – 24,000 miles/24 months – on most repairs, plus its relationship with two brand name auto care companies offers an even greater advantage.

"We're a NAPA Auto Care Center, which allows us to extend our 24 month/24,000-mile warranty nationwide, so most of the services we provide are warrantied anywhere in the country at any NAPA Auto Care Center," Gordon explained. "We also have a relationship with Valvoline for their lubrication products. Our customers can receive an extended warranty on different vehicle systems – transmission, brake, power steering, cooling and fuel injectors – by just performing system maintenance with Valvoline products. The warranties start 500 miles after the initial service and are good for 30,000 miles. "To continue the warranty, you merely do the service again when you are nearing the 30,000-mile mark," said Gordon. "We think it's a great value to our customers to receive a quality extended warranty from Valvoline on today's very expensive vehicle systems."

Personal experience has taught Gordon to inspect every customer's car when time allows. There is nothing worse than letting a customer down by missing something on their car when a problem could have been avoided by simply performing an inspection and passing it on to the customer. The same can be said for preventive maintenance – it is simply the best way to get value from your vehicle.

"Maxi Auto Care's goal is and always has been to deliver comprehensive vehicle maintenance and repair at a fair price and that will never change," said Gordon. "We hope to be in Riverside for a very long time and look forward to creating the same type of customer relationships we have on Beach Boulevard over the last 16 years."



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# City Council approves new truck route system to reduce traffic in residential neighborhoods

By **Kate Hallock**  
Resident Community News

Three years after the City of Jacksonville's Context Sensitive Street Standards Committee drafted a bill to regulate where commercial trucks could be driven on local roads, City Council passed an ordinance Jan. 22, 2019 restricting routes in residential neighborhoods.

The new ordinance reduces the use of regulated trucks traveling on restricted roads except for delivery and pickup, with the intention of protecting residential neighborhoods from excessive truck traffic that would create greater hazards to pedestrians, bicyclists and children; increase congestion and noise pollution, and distress pavement conditions. A "regulated" truck is one which exceeds 26,001 pounds in gross vehicle weight and is designed for the specific purpose of transporting freight.

Originally the bill intended to limit truckers to 52 truck routes and 10 alternate routes. Most state roads



While St. Johns Avenue is a state road and thereby not restricted for large trucks, this one became hung up on overhead power lines adjacent to the new RiverVue apartment complex.

would automatically be truck routes, unless specifically excluded, and the routes would show up on digital maps like Google Maps. Truckers could still make deliveries in neighborhoods, but they could be fined for using a residential street as a cut-through.

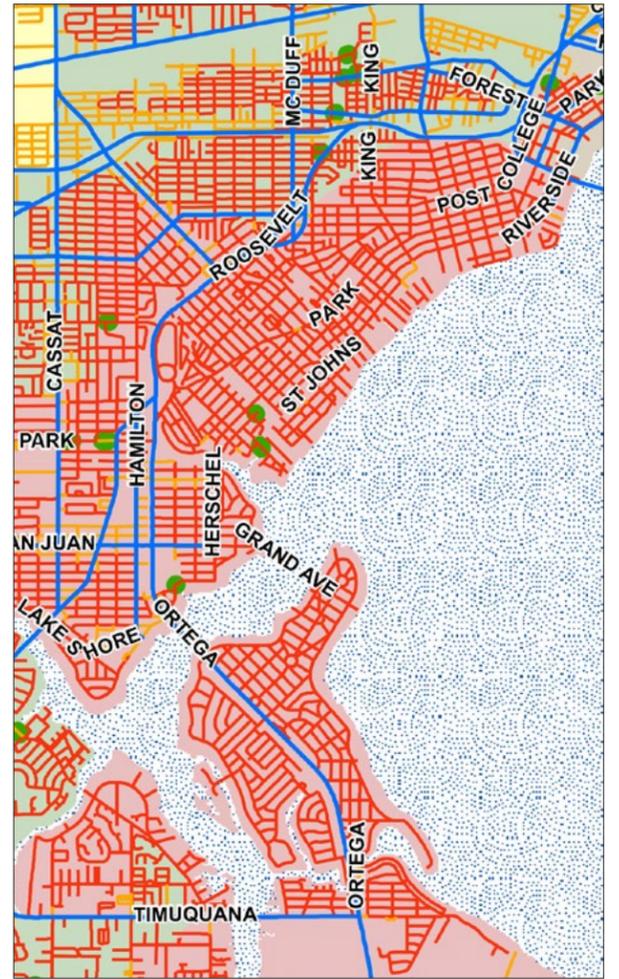
There was significant pushback in 2017 from the Florida Department of Transportation, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization and the trucking industry, which claimed the new rules would result in drivers taking longer routes and increase the number of accidents, the amount of road wear and tear, and price of goods delivered by trucks.

The industry's hue and cry caused City Council to postpone its vote in 2017 and sent the ordinance back to the drawing board overseen by a group of city planners, trucking company executives and two City Councilmen, Aaron Bowman and Danny Becton.

The revised bill noted the purpose of a commercial truck route system "is to provide guidelines that balance the needs of interstate commerce and the trucking industry with the desire to minimize the impacts of trucks on sensitive land uses," and does not "prohibit trucks from using all roads within a municipality, but it does require the use of certain roads that are more suitable to such commercial truck traffic to the greatest extent possible, and also minimizes truck intrusion into sensitive areas to the extent possible."

A document called the 2030 Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) intends for truck routes to minimize traffic through residential areas. Under the new ordinance, after a six-month introductory period, truckers can be ticketed if they use restricted roads.

For historic neighborhoods, such as Riverside, Avondale and San Marco, where streets are narrow, often paved, and primarily residential, the new ordinance should reduce congestion, noise, potholes and other safety hazards through neighborhood streets. Under the new ordinance, for roadways to be compatible with regulated trucks, lane widths on truck routes may be 12 feet,



The City of Jacksonville Regulated Truck Route System map indicates routes shown in red are restricted truck routes, while those in blue are preferred.

however 11 feet is acceptable when truck volume is less than 10 percent.

The bill amends the Municipal Ordinance Code, Chapter 804 Jacksonville Traffic Code, by creating a new Part 15 Truck Route Regulations. Additionally, it tasks the Planning and Development Department with creating an education program in conjunction with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to educate the public and regulated trucking industry about the location of preferred truck routes.



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# Lane expansion project on Fuller Warren Bridge on time

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

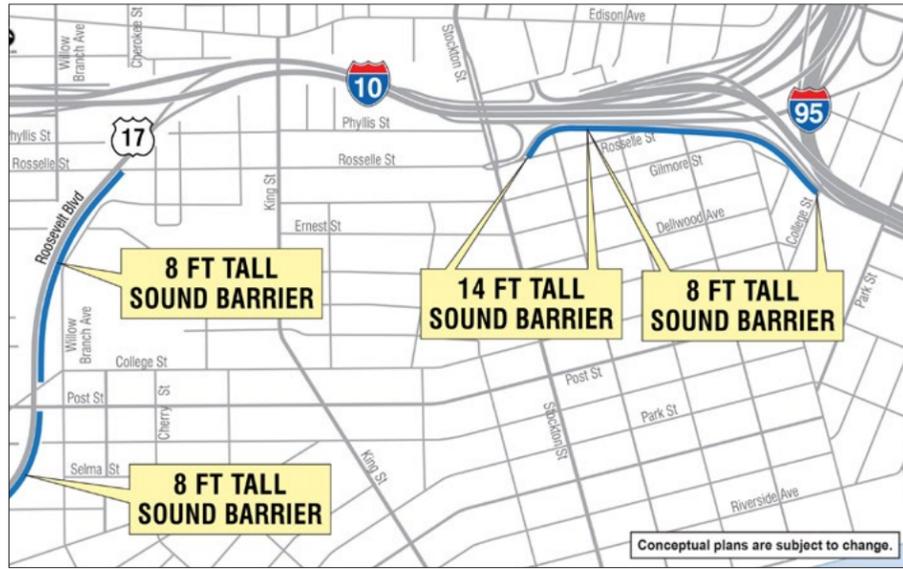
Despite Hurricane Irma's best efforts in 2017 to disrupt construction on the Fuller Warren Bridge expansion project, Archer Western Construction is a "little over halfway," according to Daryl Goss, Florida Department of Transportation public information officer. "They expect to be complete late in the fall of 2020," he said.

The expansion, which includes a shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path, is part of a \$126 million project to improve the I-95 and I-10 interchange.

The FDOT began planning the project five years ago, beginning work in May 2017. The contract days, as of mid-February, were listed as 692 used out of 1,329 projected on the FDOT's active contracts website.

Currently, a variety of subcontractors are working on pile driving and forming the columns and caps upon which the extension will rest. The next phase will be demolition of the existing edge of the bridge to join the new lane for the shared use path to it.

The shared-use path will be 12-feet wide with a 4.5-foot tall galvanized steel railing along the river side and will be separated from vehicular traffic by a 10-foot shoulder



Schematic showing where sound barrier walls will be installed as part of the I-95/I-10 interchange project.

and a 3.5-foot tall barrier wall plus a 10-foot tall curved fence. Directional arrows and bicycle and pedestrian symbols will occur in both directions. The ADA-compliant path will also include decorative lighting and three overlook areas. There will be three ramps providing access to the shared-use path. The Northbank access will be located west of Riverside Avenue near the Riverside Arts Market, while two ramps on the Southbank will have access from Palm Avenue and Children's Way.

Contractors are also making preparations to construct a sound wall along the east side of U.S. 17/Roosevelt Boulevard northbound, beginning at McDuff Avenue and ending at Rosselle Street.

During the project, FDOT "reclaimed" some of its property under the bridge near Riverside Park to stage construction equipment. The space had been used for the large

dog park at the John Gorrie Dog Park. Currently, the City of Jacksonville's Parks and Recreation Department is considering repurposing that space for a skateboard park and playground after the FDOT finishes the expansion project. "It makes great sense to put a skateboard park under the canopy," said District 14 Councilman Jim Love. "It would protect the skateboard fixtures from tree debris and weather."



Crews work on the shared use path on the Southbank.



Columns on the Northbank behind the Red Cross office will support the new Fuller Warren Bridge expansion lane.

## Annual river cleanup planned for March 16

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful will again host the annual St. Johns River Cleanup and Celebration, Saturday, March 16. The event begins at 8 a.m. at nearly 50 sites across Duval County. Chris Buckley, KJB chair, announced that 800 to 1,000 volunteers are expected to take part in the event to clear litter from parks, boat ramps, neighborhoods and the shorelines of the waterways. Last year volunteers collected over 20,000 pounds of trash, filling nearly 700 bags full of everything from cigarette butts to auto parts and household goods.

There is no pre-registration. Must be 18 years old or accompanied by an adult. Clean-up sites in the historic neighborhoods include:

- Azalea Creek/Boone Park, 3700 Park St.
- 5 Points, in front of Sun-Ray Cinema, 1028 Park St.
- Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library, 918 Edgewood Ave. S
- Memorial Park, 1620 Riverside Ave.
- Northbank Riverwalk at Sydney J. Gefen Park, 505 Alfred DuPont Pl.
- River Oaks Park/Craig Creek, 1000 River Oaks Rd.
- Yacht Basin Park, 2941 St. Johns Ave.

To find other cleanup sites, visit [coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/clean-it-up-green-it-up/st-johns-river-celebration](http://coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/clean-it-up-green-it-up/st-johns-river-celebration) or call Keep Jacksonville Beautiful at (904) 630-3420.

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# Medical aches, pains may soon be eased through marijuana retailer

## National medical marijuana company opening location in 5 Points

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

A medical marijuana dispensary may be coming to a location in the historic 5 Points area. An application was filed in December 2018 with the City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department for modifications to the former Fans & Stove Antiques Mall building at 1059 Park St.

Many residents in the Riverside/Avondale area also know the building as the one with the enormous Shaun Thurston mural on the Lomax Street side. If MedMen's plans are approved, the eight-year-old mural will be painted over – in red.

MedMen is requesting to complete “a few alterations” to the 99-year-old non-contributing structure, which would allow the Planning Commission to review and approve the request rather than be heard by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.



The mural painted by Shaun Thurston in 2011 may have run its course. If a marijuana dispensary is approved for that location, the company wants to paint over the mural.



MedMen proposes to repaint the retail building red.

As long as the alterations do not negatively impact the style of the building or surrounding area, the Planning and Development Department staff is able to approve the request with conditions.

The first request of the applicant was to remove the non-original green tile and replace it with new red tile in the same size. The planning staff approved that request. The second request, which was also approved, was to install new frameless hurricane-rated window systems while keeping the front window openings the same size.

The conditional approvals were for the third and fourth requests: to remove the non-original metal cladding on the front and repair brick behind and along the side, with the condition any new brick would match the existing in dimension, texture and mortar, and new signage could not be internally illuminated, a condition of the Riverside Avondale Overlay.

The last two requests were approved to paint the exterior red and replace the security door on the Lomax Street side of the building. Additionally, the single-leaf front door will be replaced with a double-leaf frameless hurricane-rated door system.

If the Planning Commission approves the application as recommended by the Planning Department staff, MedMen is anticipating a late third quarter 2019 opening.

The property, formerly owned by John and Jean Grant-Dooley, was purchased in 2015 by Miami-based real estate broker Jeff Morr for \$1.25 million. Morr originally intended to bring a restaurant into that space. A year later, in June 2016, Morr said he was considering three restaurant groups to bring into the 6,000-square-foot space.

He also said, back in August 2015, that he would renovate the façade of the building “in the coming month” while waiting for the right restaurant to move in. Those renovations did not occur even after the antiques mall tenants moved out in June 2016, and the Fans & Stoves building has been a vacant eyesore for three-and-a-half years.

*The Resident* reached out to Morr's Jacksonville real estate broker, Matthew Clark of Prime Realty, to find out why Morr shifted his plans from installing a restaurant in that space to leasing it for a medical marijuana dispensary, but did not receive a response as of press time.

## Ortega River boaters advised to proceed with caution



Ortega River Drawbridge during a double-leaf opening

As part of the Ortega River Drawbridge rehabilitation project on State Road 211, channel restrictions began Feb. 18 and are expected to last until mid-March to safely complete painting work under the drawbridge, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

The drawbridge operating schedule will be daytime single-leaf only operations from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with nighttime double-leaf operations as normal. Mariners are advised to proceed with caution as there will be floating equipment in the waterway.

The small bascule span of 78 feet is dwarfed by the very long approach system; the overall length of the structure is just under 1,150 feet. When the spans are closed for vehicular traffic, the vertical clearance for watercraft is typically around nine feet, depending on the tide. When both leaves are open, the horizontal clearance is 53 feet, so a single-leaf closure is still adequate for most watercraft in the area. The bridge is opened on average about 7,000 times a year, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

The bridge was built in 1927 by the American Bascule Bridge Company of Pensacola and A. Bentley and Sons of Toledo, Ohio, designed by T.B. Carrick, whose signature is the distinctive ornamental railings and the presence of four bridge tender houses, although only one is staffed.

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# JEA shortlists San Marco plan for new headquarters

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

If Michael Balanky has his way, he will build the new headquarters of the Jacksonville Energy Authority in San Marco.

Balanky, a Jacksonville native and Southbank resident, is CEO and president of Chase Properties and one of three developers on the short list to win the contract to build a new corporate headquarters for the Jacksonville utility.

Working with his “A-Team,” a group of local architects, engineers, interior designers and contractors that he says are “the best of the best,” Balanky has submitted a proposal to build a shiny, eight-story, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient facility on Kings Avenue property he leases from the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and next door to the Kings Avenue garage.

“It’s going to be stunning. When people are entering Jacksonville, they will be driving through a gorgeous gateway of beautiful buildings,” Balanky said, referring to the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and the soon-to-be-built Wolfson Critical Care Tower, which also will line the I-95 Southbank corridor. “With this, the Southbank could be the next Buckhead,” he added, referencing the affluent uptown commercial and residential district in Atlanta.

In litigation for several years with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, owner of the Kings Street property, Balanky said he settled his lawsuit with JTA in December

2018, just in time for him and his team to quickly get a proposal together before JEA’s January deadline.

However, Balanky has stiff competition from two other developers that were named on JEA’s shortlist and joined him in presenting their proposals to the JEA board during a meeting at JEA headquarters Feb. 5.

In addition to Balanky’s Kings Avenue Redevelopment Company, Shad Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars and his partner, The Cordish Companies, hope to plant JEA’s headquarters “near the 50-yard line” of Lot J, a proposed mixed-use development west of TIAA Bank Field. If selected, JEA’s headquarters would encompass the office portion and first phase of Khan’s ambitious Shipyard plan, which could also include retail, residential, a convention center and entertainment district near the stadium.

During the meeting with JEA, Jacksonville Jaguars President Mark Lamping joined Blake Cordish, president of Cordish Development in presenting their proposal. They said they would focus on placemaking and described a building that would be part of a “transformational” project that would encompass 80 city blocks. The JEA building would be located on the 50-yard line of their vision for the Shipyards next to the Live arena and near the parking garage, said Cordish, adding the building would have solar panels on the roof, green panels below, and a plaza outside the building that would serve to reinforce the JEA brand.

Also shortlisted by JEA was Block 48, which would be developed by the Ryan Companies, an 80-year-old Minnesota-based firm, on a vacant lot adjacent to the Duval County Courthouse green in the heart of Downtown.

Ryan Companies plans to purchase the property from the city, said Doug Dieck, president of its Southeast Region, which is based in Tampa. Its vision is a high-rise building next door to a multi-level garage that would include an open lobby, security checkpoint, and comfortable breakout areas with soft seating. On the ninth floor would be an outdoor space just off the employee cafeteria.



A rendering of Chase Properties vision for JEA’s new headquarters as seen from the northwest corner.

JEA desires a new headquarters because its existing building on West Church Street is aging and too large, said Nancy Kilgo, JEA director of Government Affairs during the meeting.

The JEA board decided on its selection criteria in July and August 2018 and issued “invitations to negotiate” to developers on Oct. 15, 2018. Receiving six responses by its deadline of Jan. 8, JEA issued its shortlist on Jan. 22. It will receive its “best and final offers,” on March 11 and select the winning site during a special board meeting the week of April 8, Kilgo said.

Specifications for the building include that it be designed exclusively for JEA purposes, encompass at least 200,000 square feet, include parking to accommodate 760 employees, and be easily accessible to the 11,000 customers who pay their bills in person headquarters each month, she said.

In contrast to what is being proposed by the other developers, Balanky said his project is the most accessible and only “shovel-ready” plan in the mix.

“Getting here from any other part of the city is easier than from the other two sites,” he said, noting BRT (bus rapid transit), the Skyway and the airport shuttle are next door and JTA’s autonomous car program will run right up to the front door. He also plans to work with the new Beach Buggies San Marco micro-transit system, too.

“Access to I-95 is 90 seconds to the north and 90 seconds to the south. You don’t have

to navigate Downtown or try to make your way to the stadium,” he said.

As far as being “shovel ready,” Balanky said he could start the construction process the day after he is awarded a contract because he doesn’t need to sign a contract with the city, or go through the RFB (procurement) process. “We are also exempt from the DDRB (Downtown Development Review Board), while the others need to go through it. We are the only ones with control of our land and the only one without remediation issues. We already have the zoning in place,” he said. “The garage is built. There are 1,650 spaces already there. We have a huge economic advantage with this and that should save the taxpayers money because the garage and retention are already there.

“Also, noise is no issue. Being close to the highway is not a factor. Buildings all over the country are built close to highways,” he continued, noting large windows will bath JEA employees in natural light and solar panels will be installed on the roof and on top of the garage so the building will generate its own power. “It’s going to be real cosmopolitan and absolutely gorgeous.”

Other advantages to the site include its proximity to The District and the visibility of the building from the St. Johns River and I-95, which will help promote JEA’s brand, he said. “The building will be an iconic landmark for Jacksonville and seen by over 15 million travelers a year – 155,000 per day,” Balanky said.



Michael Balanky, CEO and president of Chase Properties



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## Garden tour to highlight historic Cummer Gardens, four in San Marco



The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and the Garden Conservancy announced an Open Days Garden Tour, Saturday, March 30, to support restoration efforts of the Cummer gardens.

The event, which includes four riverfront gardens in San Marco, is facilitated through the Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program, which welcomes more than 75,000 visitors into gardens around the United States. All revenue from ticket sales will be shared between the Cummer Museum and the Garden Conservancy.

Tickets for the full tour (\$30), as well as single garden entry tickets (\$10), are available for purchase at the Cummer Museum (829

Riverside Ave.), the Wardroom LTD (1969 San Marco Blvd.) and at cummermuseum.org/open-days. Tickets may be purchased in advance or the day of the event.

Since 1995, 3,000 gardens have participated in the Open Days program. This is the 6th year the Cummer Museum has participated.

Gardens will be open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on March 30. Guests may visit each garden at their own pace on this self-directed tour. Day passes and maps will be available on March 30, at the Cummer Museum and the Ward Room.



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# Congaree and Penn offers relief from the daily grind, fresh air



## Farm provides a place to relax, unwind and connect with nature

There's a farm in your backyard...literally. After a short 25 minute drive from the historic, urban neighborhoods, Congaree and Penn Farm and Mills on Old Kings Road has fast become the place to unplug and break away from the hustle and bustle of the sirens, honking horns and tempo of the city. As more and more people seek unique experiences that increase quality time with friends and family, support sustainability and understand the connection between food and their dinner table, farm visits have become a hot commodity.

As its popularity has risen in such a short time, the farm now provides more programming to accommodate the demand for an increase in visits by offering fresh food,

drinks and good times throughout the calendar year. The property provides a beautiful backdrop for enjoying the Friday night sunset tractor rides, unique farm-to-table dinners, weddings, fundraisers, private farm tours and the picking of seasonal grapes and blackberries. Not only does it provide a unique setting, the working farm teems with activity and an attentive staff poised to serve visitors.

The facilities have been fine-tuned to include the Taproom and Farm Store where Farm Cider is served, fresh-pressed sandwiches are made hot and ready, and snacks and drink options from sodas to juices, boxed water, wine and craft beer are available to quench the thirst of every guest. Products are also for sale from pressed pecan oil, rice grits and middlins, fish fry, jellies and cocktail shrubs, cookbooks, hats and reusable canvas shopping bags.

The Cider Garden – complete with brick pavers, tree plantings, chairs, high-top tables and a wall of seating – provides a relaxing

place to enjoy the farm. On the backside of the Quonset hut, the signature metal building on the property, outdoor open-air space provides shade, farm tables and the perfect space to unwind. Party-goers can relax while drinking, dining and dancing as they enjoy views of the lush acreage that meanders back as far as the eye can see.

Fields lined with grape vines are also dotted with fruit, pecan and olive trees as an apiary full of buzzing bees pollenate everything growing on the farm. Further back on the property, rice paddies deliver one of the signature harvests on the farm as rice and middlins are milled and readied for market. Provisions are packaged and sent off to grocery stores and specialty grocers – including Williams-Sonoma, Fresh Market, Native Sun, and Grassroots Natural Market. The rice has been a sought-after staple in meals at high-end restaurants and signature cocktail shrubs have become a favorite among local mixologists and bartenders.

By delivering farm-fresh, locally-sourced provisions and chef-inspired culinary events, the bar continues to be raised by the Congaree and Penn team. The farm is a top destination for a plethora of reasons, among them is the ability of visitors to bring furry canine friends. All are welcome on the farm and on Wag That Tail Wednesdays extra dog snacks are provided.

In order to truly understand what calls visitors to the farm, you've got to get out and decide for yourself –opportunities abound – there's something for everyone. Decide what appeals to you and take the trip or get a preview at [www.congareeand-penn.com](http://www.congareeand-penn.com) to browse event listings, dining options, arrange your private event or shop items in their online marketplace.

Farm hours are Wednesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Congaree and Penn Farm and Mills is located at 11830 Old Kings Road in Jacksonville – a short trip from the historic neighborhoods bordering downtown.

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# Damp, dirty crawlspaces can compromise indoor air quality



A dehumidifier system keeps crawlspace dry.

## Turners Underseal has the solution

If you're troubled by breathing problems or your house has a dank smell, Chris Turner, owner of Turners Underseal, knows why. Florida's humid climate means exposed wood in the house is always damp, even when it looks dry. A damp crawlspace is a breeding ground for mold, mildew and other microbes that can cause health problems.

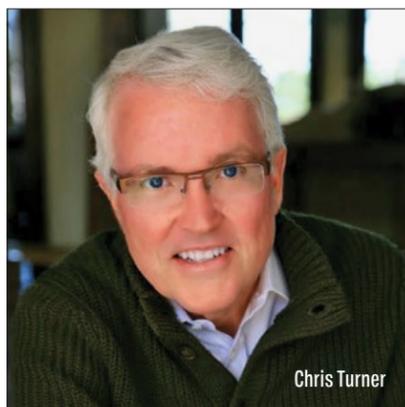
"The quality of air in the house is all about the moisture in the crawlspace," said Turner. "If you go outside and sniff the ground, it doesn't smell, but it does in a crawlspace. Especially in an older home where dirt hasn't been exposed to sun or fresh air in years, and mold, mildew, and bacteria can thrive.

"If you're having health problems you may not realize the problem could be in the crawlspace," Turner said. "A healthy, dry crawlspace means clean air inside the house and, hopefully, clean lungs inside your body."

Many "fixes" – such as air mover machines, floor insulation or encapsulated crawlspaces – are not the solution, said Turner. Air movers circulate contaminated air; insulation traps moisture and mold, and encapsulation does not seal the area well enough to prevent water becoming trapped, resulting in becoming an incubator for mold and mildew.

So, what's the solution? With more than three decades in the business of indoor air quality and his own bad experience with an encapsulated crawlspace, Turner knows a two-prong attack will work the best.

He first recommends installation of a ducted dehumidifier system. "Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace



Chris Turner

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

— Chris Turner

year-round is to use a permanently installed, commercial-quality dehumidifier, and a liner system with modifications," said Turner.

A dehumidifier system also addresses problems with wood floors, especially in older homes. Once Turner installs the system, badly cupped wood floors will settle down – almost to 100 percent smoothness. Ortega resident John Cassidy can attest to the success of his ducted dehumidifier system. "Since three weeks after the installation, the plank wood floor in the dining room is 99 percent back to level!" he shared.

Next, to keep moisture from recurring, Turner advises using Turners Underseal, a professional-grader polymeric water-proofing sealer for all kinds of wood, from the attic to the basement or crawlspace. The sealant contains EPA-registered preservatives that are water-resistant, environmentally-friendly and provide long-term protection.

It's not just older homes that benefit from Turners Underseal, the system can also be applied to new construction, making a new home resistant to moisture for 25 years, said Turner.

"This is Florida," he said with a shrug. "It's hot. It's humid. You need to protect your crawlspace. It's just common sense."



This is one of two units in a very large crawlspace to keep dry air circulating everywhere.

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



Riverside Avondale Preservation Board of Directors, front: Angela Schifanella, Maggie Theoni, Michele Luthin, Nancy Powell; back: Thad Crow, Rick Pariani, Bill Shelton, Lawson Carr, Laurie Jarvis, Tenley Dietrich, Jim Busch, Brooks Andrews (Photo by Mark Krancer)

## Annual preservation awards included surprises

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

More than 150 attended the 45th Annual Riverside Avondale Preservation meeting, held Feb. 21 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, and heard the story of the historic district's beginnings as well as RAP's own founding by its founder, Wayne Wood.

Riverside, founded in 1869, will be celebrating its 150 anniversary this year and Avondale, established in 1920, looks forward to its centennial next year. RAP has plans to celebrate both anniversaries in late 2019/early 2020.

At the meeting, highly anticipated awards were bestowed for a variety of preservation efforts and there were new awards categories to recognize residents who help keep the Historic District vibrant and welcoming.

The Architectural Rehabilitation Award, Commercial was given to Mike Shad for the restoration of the 100-year-old Delgado Building on Oak Street, while the Residential Award was given to Phillip Stamborski and Kevin Elphick for revitalizing a rundown Mission-style home at 1355 Challen Ave.

Two Craftsmanship awards were given, first in the commercial category, to Up In Smoke, after George Kassis, owner, Steve Williams, Harbinger Sign, and Lindsay Powell, designer, put their heads together to create an aesthetically appropriate look for the new vape shop in the Shoppes of Avondale. In the residential category, the second Craftsmanship award was given to Patty and Don Destephano, owners of a home at 3528 Oak St., for a backyard makeover which was a truly collaborative effort between the contractor, Jack Bamping, Legacy Construction; landscape designer, Gerry Crouch, Sunscapes Landscape Design, and brick mason, Paul Richman Masonry.

The Best Adaptive Reuse Award was given to Be Still Float Studio, Gina Schimpff, Content Modern, and River City Contractors for an exterior overhaul and interior gutting and transformation of a commercial building at 1050 Riverside Ave.

The award for Outstanding New Construction was given for a new home at 3680 Richmond St., owned by Kristen and John Surface, designed by Starr Sanford

Design and built by McAneny Builders in a transitional design perfectly appropriate for the historic district.

Angelo Miller, Inksmith & Rogers Tattoo Studio, 875 Stockton St., was given the Good Neighbor Award for working with neighbor Richard Ceriello to resolve an issue with the building's security lighting, which was flooding Ceriello's home.

Edie Williams, State Farm agent at 2325 Park St., was given the Stewardship Award for her work in preserving the 1911 historic house for her office, for sponsoring the monthly clean-up efforts at the John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park, and for providing transportation for seniors who attended the Memorial Park Veterans Day concert.

Awards of Merit were given to Michele Luthin, Karen McCombs, Kelly Varn, the Memorial Park Association, and the City of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services for the same concert, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and honored the veterans who served in all our nation's conflicts.

Two men were honored with the new Award of Service to the Community. District 14 Councilman Jim Love and his Executive Assistant Kevin Kuzel were recognized for eight years of advocacy for Riverside and Avondale.

The final award of the evening was a surprise to both the recipients and to the person for whom the new award was named. The Wayne Wood Preservation Award was given to John Hurtubise and Richard Goodman for preservation of many properties in the St. Johns Quarter and for their work to successfully have the Quarter rezoned to prevent commercial uses.

The RAP Board of Directors was elected and includes six new board members – Brooks Andrews, Jim Busch, Tenley Dietrich, Laurie Jarvis, Michele Luthin, and Maggie Theoni, as well as returning members Nancy Powell, board chair; Lawson Carr, secretary; Mark Moss, governance; Bill Shelton, treasurer; and Thad Crow, Rick Pariani and Angela Schifanella.

Stepping down after two years were Daniel Miller and Janice Young, after six years, Allan DeVault, and after too many years to count, Dr. Iris Eisenberg.

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# Women with Heart honored at annual awards program

Twelve Women with Heart were honored at the 3rd Annual Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Luncheon held Feb. 6 at Florida Blue Conference Center. Each woman – Martha Baker, Vickie Cavey, Inger Geraghty, Virginia Hall, the Rev. Dr. Helen Jackson, Helga Langthon, Eleanor Lynch, Velma Monteiro-Tribble, Dr. Pamela Rama and Ellen Wiss – is already an outstanding community leader who has committed to be a VIM Ambassador throughout 2019.

In addition, VIM honored Sherry Magill, Ph.D., with its annual “Heart of Gold” award in recognition of her many years of serving the Jacksonville community in many capacities, including her tenure as president and executive director of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund from 193 to 2018.

Hosted by Mary Baer, WJXT news co-anchor, the luncheon featured a special video by Dr. George H. Dorion, whose family has been involved with Bacardi Corporation for seven generations, and who supports Volunteers in Medicine as well as St. Vincent’s Healthcare, Gabriel House of Care and Farm Share.

The VIM-Jax Clinic is modeled after the original VIM founded in Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1994 by retired physician, Dr. Jack B. McConnell. Since then, VIM



Front: Ellen Wiss, Martha Baker, Helen Jackson, Sherry Magill, Virginia Hall, Vickie Cavey, Dr. Pam Rama; back: Sol Wynter, Velma Monteiro-Tribble, Pat Geraghty, Inger Geraghty, Darnell Smith, Helga Langthon and Eleanor Lynch

models have sprung up in cities across the country. Founded in 2002 by Dr. Jim Burt and Dottie Dorion, R.N., with their doors opening in 2003, Vim-Jax annually serves more than 1,600 of the approximately 120,000 working uninsured in Duval County.

Manned by active and retired physicians, nurses, medical and non-medical volunteers, VIM is located at 41 E. Duval St. and serves

a large downtown contingent, providing free diagnostic and therapeutic services for most medical conditions that do not require surgery.

For information on becoming a patient, donating your time as a medical professional, or donating funds to support services provided by VIM, call (904) 399-2766 or visit [vim-jax.org](http://vim-jax.org).



Dr. George and Dottie Dorion



Memorial Hospital’s leadership team includes Carmen Davis, Sonia Baughman, Cory Darling, Stuart Thompson, 2019 Woman with Heart Honoree Eleanor Lynch, Mary Reval, Brad Talbert, CEO, Odette Struys and Sue DeLeon

# Oldest bicycle shop in Jacksonville celebrates building’s anniversary

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

While some companies celebrate milestone anniversaries of their founding, the Fetzer brothers, Charlie and Mark, will throw a 50th birthday bash March 22 for the building that has been home to a much older company, LakeShore Bicycles.



A newspaper ad in the 1950s when the bike shop was on Timothy Lane in Lakeshore.

According to Charlie Fetzer, the company has been around since the 1930s, although under different names, and under ownership by three, maybe four families. It was originally established in Riverside as King Street Bicycles, a Western Flyer dealership, by a Mr. Thorton. When his son decided to share the bicycle shop space with his camera business, Thorton moved the bike shop to Timothy Lane, a one-block street connecting Lake Shore Boulevard and Blanding Boulevard. The shop was sandwiched between Gladwell’s Florist and the Lake Shore Theatre, which is no longer there.

Thorton sold the Lake Shore Bicycle & Hobby Shop in 1961 to Scott Robertson who, upon becoming a Schwinn dealer in 1969, renamed the shop LakeShore Schwinn around the time he built a new store at 2108 Blanding Boulevard.

Robertson subsequently sold the company in 1980 to Norman Fetzer, a retired U.S. Naval Aviator from New York. Fetzer’s sons joined him to sell bicycles to riders all over



Cathy and Charlie Fetzer, Mark Fetzer

Northeast Florida, then inherited the bike shop from their father in 2005. In 2011 the Schwinn company dissolved the dealership and LakeShore Bicycles became a Trek dealer.

“We are proud to be the oldest bike shop in Jacksonville and we don’t take this achievement lightly,” notes the website. “While others have come and gone, Lakeshore has thrived because of our love for cycling and our belief in customer

service, community outreach, and providing you the best products at the best prices.”

To celebrate the anniversary of the oldest bike shop’s headquarters, the Fetzers will hold a Duval Day event from 9:04 a.m. to 9:04 p.m., Friday, March 22. There will be food and drinks, awards presented, bike fittings, bike rentals, discounts on parts and repairs, as well as accessories and apparel. For the cycling crowd, a 28-mile ride will be held on the new, remapped Emerald Necklace.

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## Florida Creamery ownership changes, sweet goodness stays the same



Managers Amber Gock, Tybee Wilcox

As the Florida Creamery approaches 10 years, small-business owner Angela Wilcox is passing the scoop to her daughter, Tybee, and longtime manager, Amber Gock. When she opened in 2009, Wilcox envisioned a dreamy, retro neighborhood sweetshop with an old Florida aesthetic. Within the last decade, the walls of the Creamery have been filled with posters of Weeki Wachee mermaids, early Florida tourism, vintage postcards, and kitschy antiques that evoke a bygone era. Wilcox even commissioned local artists to build a custom “pirate ship” seating booth, as well as several hand-painted murals located throughout the store.

“Avondale will always have a special place in my heart. I have enjoyed watching the children in this close-knit community grow over the years,” she said. While Wilcox will miss serving the neighborhood, she has plans to open a second Florida Creamery location in High Springs, Florida, just outside of Gainesville.

The new Avondale managers will keep the nostalgia flowing, serving up many of the favorites and specialties their

customers have come to love. This includes Nathan’s Famous Hotdogs, topped with sauerkraut, chili-cheese or homemade slaw. They have also introduced a vegan coconut milk-based ice cream selection, with flavors including Strawberry, Mocha Almond and Coconut Fudge.

The shelves will stay stocked with old-fashioned candies like Pop Rocks, rock candy, jawbreakers, imported chocolate, saltwater taffy, and other goodies that beckon to kids of all ages. Looking for a unique birthday experience? Make-Your-Own-Sundae parties will continue to be available for booking. To make reservations, call (904) 503-0901.

The Florida Creamery Avondale makes an environmental effort by encouraging patrons to dine-in with reusable dishware and proudly provides financial support to local nonprofits including the St. Johns Riverkeeper and North Florida Land Trust. This neighborhood gem continues to be a wonderful destination spot for out-of-town visitors and local residents alike. Stop by and satisfy your sweet tooth at 3566 St Johns Ave. or follow them on Instagram and Facebook @FloridaCreamery for updates and specials.

PD. ADV.

## Chairpersons named for annual Root Ball



Root Ball co-chairs Robin Patton and Zimmerman Boulos with Honorary Chair Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman

Greenscape of Jacksonville has announced the co-chairs for The Root Ball – one of the season’s most anticipated events – are Robin Patton, of Riverside, and Zimmerman Boulos of San Marco, together with Honorary Chair Lori Boyer, also of San Marco.

The annual fundraiser, produced in conjunction with the Late Bloomers Garden Club, will take place on Saturday, May 4 at the Bowing Oaks Plantation. The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with the running of the 145th Kentucky Derby. Enjoy a “Derby Evening Under the Oaks” with mint juleps, bourbon tastings and a Bodacious Hat Contest. Live music will be provided by The Firewater Tent Revival.

## Cathedral’s support for downtown nonprofit improves lives



Rev. Kate Moorehead, Tiffany Adams, Mark Landschoot, Kathryn Bissette

Members of St. John’s Cathedral presented Family Promise of Jacksonville with a check for \$4,861.30 at its annual parish meeting Feb. 3. The donation is a result of proceeds from the Cathedral Bookstore.

“We are thrilled to be able to make this donation,” stated the Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John’s Cathedral. “Family Promise of Jacksonville has been a neighbor and partner for years. We are both working to improve people’s lives. This is just an example of one of the many nonprofits we support year-round, including the Sulzbacher Center, Volunteers in Medicine, and the Clara White Mission.”

Mark Landschoot, executive director, Tiffany Adams, family support manager, and Beth Mixon, development director, of Family Promise of Jacksonville were present to accept the donation. “We’re in the business of helping families take the necessary steps towards lasting independence,” said Landschoot. “St. John’s has been a supportive partner.”

St. John’s Cathedral supports Family Promise by providing meals and housing

for one week at a time, several times a year. The program is fully supported by volunteers in the parish who cook meals and are overnight hosts while the families stay in a facility at the Cathedral.

The Cathedral Bookstore recently moved from inside the Cathedral to a new location at 221 E. Church Street to increase accessibility and support the congregation’s desire to grow a lively neighborhood in the city’s Cathedral District.

Kathryn Bissette, bookstore manager and president of the Episcopal Booksellers Association, said a portion of proceeds from the bookstore will continue to support Family Promise throughout 2019. “The bookstore is truly a place where you can shop to make a difference. By partnering with other nonprofits, such as Rethreaded and Angels for Allison, the bookstore offers an opportunity for other nonprofits to raise awareness and funds,” said Bissette.



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## Leadership Jacksonville opens applications for next generation leaders

Leadership Jacksonville has renamed its Collegiate Leadership Experience (CLE) to reflect inclusion of post-graduate candidates and opened applications for the Class of 2019.

What was originally conceived in 2005 as a program for undergraduates has grown to include graduate students as well as working professionals within two years of graduation. To better reflect the nature of the program, CLE has been renamed Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation.

Next Generation is for individuals at school or living in Northeast Florida between 18 to 30 years old and currently in school or within two years after graduation. Almost 500 individuals have experienced the Collegiate Leadership Experience in the past 13 years.

“Leadership Jacksonville recognizes that preparing the next generation of leaders



Ally Capriotti, Leadership Jacksonville board member and Next Generation Class of 2014 alumna, with Meg Folds, Leadership Jacksonville youth programs director

yields a great return for Northeast Florida’s workforce and the community. Next Generation does this each summer,” said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Jill Langford Dame.

The Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation Class of 2019 will begin on May 30 and end on August 3, 2019. The course includes four program days and two weekend retreats. Applications are accepted online today through Tuesday, April 2. To apply or learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit leadershipjax.org or call (904) 396-6263.

## Familiar face named new Bishop Kenny football coach

Bishop Kenny Crusader Football Coach Bobby Raulerson stepped down as head football coach March 1 and was succeeded by former longtime Bishop Kenny Assistant Coach Tim Krause, who is currently the Nease High School head coach.

Raulerson has served as the head coach at Bishop Kenny for the past three years leading the Crusaders to a record of 18 and 13. The team made one playoff appearance during that time.

“For the last five years I have had the incredible privilege and responsibility of serving as a teacher, dean of students, and coach at Bishop Kenny High School,” said Raulerson. “However, after much thought and prayer, it is time for me to step away from my role as head football coach, to pursue career opportunities that will require more time than the job of being a head coach allows.”



Bobby Raulerson



Tim Krause

Krause took over as the leader of the BK football program on March 1. He spent eight seasons as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator at Bishop Kenny prior to taking the head coaching reins at Nease High School. At Nease, Krause led the Panthers to the 2015 District Championship and was named the Jeff Holt Pursuing Victory with Honor Coach of the Year at the end of that season.

“My family and I are extremely excited to return to Bishop Kenny. I am grateful for the chance to serve as BK’s head football coach and work under the positive leadership of Principal Todd Orlando and Athletic Director Mark Thorson,” said Krause.

## Event planner and designer steps out on her own, starts company

Ortega Forest resident Tara Lee is taking her passion as an event producer and designer to the next level by starting her own company – Lovelee Events. After being in charge behind the scenes running high-end events and weddings for many years, Lee has embarked on her own journey as an entrepreneur and she’s poised to become a household name in the industry.

“I’ve been in the business for a long time, producing and designing every imaginable event – from weddings to family gatherings, galas, corporate events, you name it – I’ve executed them all from top to bottom,” shared Lee.

From her time at the University of Florida, earning her degree in event management, Lee knew that events were a special outlet for her creativity, love of working with people and eye for detail. Her experience has grown with time spent at well-known entities here in Jacksonville like PRI Productions and Wounded Warrior Project. The high marks and recognition of her hard work has made her a sought-after leader in the profession



Tara Lee

over the past 15 years. She’s confident that what separates her from her peers in the event planning business is her “high touch” approach to her clients – where she puts them at ease before, during and after the event. She prides herself on being engaged and available.

Lovelee Events handles everything from overall wedding and event design and concept creation, audio/visual arrangements and stage design, floral arrangements and budget/logistics for large and small functions. She now can leverage her long-term relationships with top local vendors to secure the very best bands and entertainment, event space, floral designers, photographers and more, to create successful and unforgettable events across Northeast Florida.

Lee’s new business venture can be found at loveleeeventsjax.com or on social media @loveleeeventsjax.

## Riverside salon brings in West Coast lash artist



Molly Houlihan

Hair Peace Salon has welcomed Molly Houlihan, a two-time certified lash artist and certified esthetician originally from the West Coast, to the Riverside salon. Houlihan has fallen in love with making eyes pop with beautiful lash extensions and other lash services including lifts and tinting at Hair Peace Salon, 2534 Oak St.



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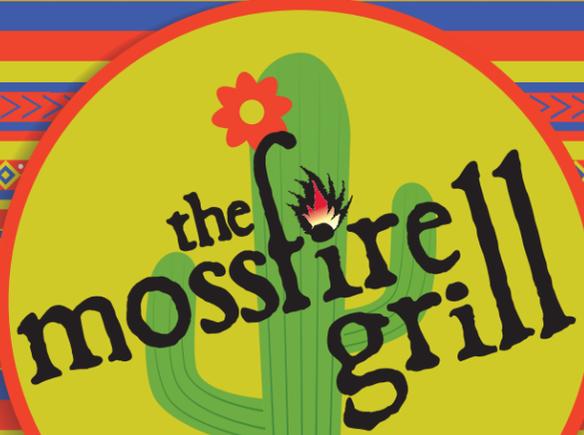
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## Real estate firm adds new agents, honors 2018 top lister



Carla Bahri



Liz Bobeck



Ainslie Langford



Paula T. Sheldrick

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has added three new agents, welcoming Carla Bahri, Ainslie Langford and Paula Sheldrick to the Avondale office, and congratulates Liz Bobeck as Top Listing Agent with 53 listings last year.

Bahri graduated from the University of Florida's Rinker School of Building Construction. She obtained a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida. After working in the family business, Bahri Construction, Inc., Bahri started her own construction and real estate business.

Langford, an Avondale resident, graduated from the University of North Florida in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Communications with a focus in advertising.

She worked as an account executive for a local advertising company before beginning a real estate career as an executive assistant for a real estate investment company last year.

Sheldrick, a dual national from London, England and Toronto, Canada, previously worked with another local brokerage. Prior to becoming a Realtor®, Sheldrick was a strategic sales and key account relationship manager for an investments firm in Toronto, Canada.

Bobeck, of Avondale, has been a Realtor® with BHHS since 2005. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Georgia College & State University and is a member of the Junior League of Jacksonville and the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

## Riverside research expert saves clients time, money and mistakes



Roxanne Henkle

Alexa and Siri have nothing on Roxanne. In fact, although not a household name, "Roxanne" could be synonymous with local virtual research assistance.

For nearly 20 years, Roxanne A. Henkle, founder of Spazhouse LLC, Intuitive Research, has been trusted to delve deep into thousands of archives for clients' needs ranging from business start-ups, genealogies, copyrights and trademarks to land use and zoning, food and drug approvals, fiction and nonfiction, house biographies, game development and more.

Henkle, who lives and works in historic 5 Points in a turn-of-the-last-century carriage house, has always been fascinated by what lies beneath the surface. An art director by education and early career, Henkle found that to accurately execute graphic arts projects for clients, she needed to know what the message was they wanted to convey.

"Looking at what the message is became the foundation for what I do for my clients," said Henkle. "I decipher what

the 'right' question should be in order to dig for and find the correct answer."

For example, an author tired of burrowing down factual 'rabbit holes' for a novel asked Henkle for help researching swamps. "It turned out she actually wanted to know if a swimming pool could be left in place to turn into a wetland," said Henkle. "Swamps and wetlands are not the same thing."

Henkle's reputation as a "knowledge generalist" has led her to slots as a guest professional at conventions on a variety of topics. She also has a following of more than 5,000 global listeners to her podcast, "Weekend Justice." Henkle even provided research for the late actor Gene Wilder's last book, "Even Dogs Can Learn to Swim."

A member of the Association of College & Research Libraries, Henkle wants local authors, businesses and the curious to consider Spazhouse as a first resort – not an afterthought – when it comes to research of any type.

"Everyone has a story to tell and I can help them tell it," said Henkle.

For information about fact checking and problem-solving services, business, marketing and deep information research, visit [spazhousellc.com](http://spazhousellc.com), call Roxanne A. Henkle at (904) 210-0011 or email [spazhousellc@gmail.com](mailto:spazhousellc@gmail.com).

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## Florida Yacht Club installs new commodore



Wilson Studstill

Wycke Hampton

The Florida Yacht Club celebrated its Change of Command Jan. 6, welcoming Wilson S. Studstill as the 109th Commodore in the club's history, succeeding Wade "Wycke" Hampton.

Studstill has been a member of the yacht club since 1991, serving on its board since 2011.

An Ortega resident, Studstill also grew up in Ortega, graduating from Robert E. Lee High School, and attending Stetson University, where he graduated with a degree in business.

After graduation he became a banker for several years, then changed careers in 1998 to become a financial advisor working for Smith Barney for 11 years. In 2009 Studstill changed firms and is currently a Senior Vice President, Investments with Raymond James and Associates.

Studstill also currently serves as treasurer on the Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation Board. He and his wife, Penny, have two children, a junior at Valdosta State University and a senior at Bishop Snyder High School.

Hampton, also an Ortega resident, grew up in San Marco, attending Riverside Presbyterian Day School and The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Following high school, Hampton is currently a partner in the firm Duss, Kenney, Safer, Hampton & Joos, P.A., and specializes in business, real estate, and business and real estate litigation. Hampton currently serves on the Board of Directors of the 200 Club of Jacksonville, and on the Troop Committee of Boy Scouts Troop 2 in Avondale.

## Zarkis named as new city bike/ped coordinator

Stephanie Zarkis, Jacksonville's new Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator, is serious about doing everything she can to make the city safer for those traveling on two wheels or two legs.

"I am excited for this new opportunity," said Zarkis who worked in the City's Transportation and Planning Division for the past two and a half years. "I worked closely with [former Bike/Ped Coordinator] Amy [Ingles] on a variety of bicycle and pedestrian projects, and I helped staff the Mobility Plan Working Group and the Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee."

Zarkis, a former Riverside resident, also sees a benefit in biking to work daily. "I enjoy biking, running, and walking for both transportation and recreation," she said. "I often bike on the S-line Rail Trail and the Baldwin Rail Trail. I worked closely with the cycling community alongside Amy Ingles, and I look forward to continuing our good working relationship."



Stephanie Zarkis

Zarkis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography from the University of Florida and a master's degree of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. Prior to working for the City of Jacksonville she was a transportation planner for San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, where she worked on a mix of long-range transit planning as well as bicycle and pedestrian projects.

"While in graduate school, I had an internship with the New York City Department of Transportation working on pedestrian safety projects," she said.

Zarkis said her primary goal as she takes over her new position is to make Jacksonville a safer place for bicyclists and pedestrians. "My focus is on implementing the recommendations of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan," she said. "There are multiple bicycle and pedestrian projects identified by the plan in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods."

Currently Zarkis said she is implementing two pedestrian safety programs from the city's master plan, The Strategic Neighborhood Action Program for Pedestrians (SNAPP), a neighborhood-based sidewalk assessment, maintenance and infill program and the Targeted Roadway Improvements Program (TRIPS).

The Phoenix neighborhood is the first to receive SNAPP attention, with \$2.5 million in funding for this year. Although sidewalks in Avondale and Riverside are not on the docket to be fixed through the program, in the near future those neighborhoods will eventually have their turn, Zarkis said. "In the coming years, this program will ultimately be funded and implemented in all needed areas across the City of Jacksonville," she said.

TRIPS is a corridor-based safety improvement program for crash hot-spot locations. Through the program, high visibility crosswalks, mid-block crossings, traffic calming, lighting and other safety improvement measures are implemented, she said.

"The City is in the process of installing over 80 Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) in high crash locations throughout Jacksonville," she said, noting the new pedestrian crosswalk on University Boulevard in Lakewood as well as the dangerous crossing areas near St. Nicholas Center on Beach Boulevard and near Bishop Kenny High School on Atlantic Boulevard are state roads governed by the Florida Department of Transportation and not included in the TRIPS program.

## Ortega croquet club earns Club of Year award

Members of the United States Croquet Association voted the Florida Yacht Club Croquet Club as 2019 Croquet Club of the Year. Some of the FYC Croquet Club's 25 members hope to attend the 2019 Club Teams dinner March 15 at the National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach to accept the award, one of 24 being given to croquet clubs all over the U.S.

The USCA was organized in 1977 to establish croquet as a serious sport. The organization has nearly 300 clubs with more than 3,000 members who participate in local, regional, national and international tournaments each year.

The FYC Croquet Club won both the 2017 and the 2018 Club Team Golf Croquet Championships, solidifying it as one of the elite programs in the country.



Members of the Florida Yacht Club Croquet Club play a round on a sunny day.



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# Local pastors look to help those struggling with addiction

Offering a safe place to celebrate hope, help and healing

There are people around you struggling. Whether it's a neighbor, your best friend's son or daughter, your own spouse, or someone you love dearly, it is real. Their struggle may not be obvious to everyone around them, but they're in a tough place and they are battling addiction. Today, we're seeing record numbers of people in dire straits; losing their lives to opioids, or in some cases the lure of alcohol or sex, an eating disorder, food addiction, gambling addiction, or a tendency to be angry dominating their day to day.

Life doesn't have to be this way, there are people who care and they're offering a safe place to find help in a local neighborhood near you. This special place of healing, located in Ortega, is where two pastors provide a program that gives wings to those seeking freedom and flight from addiction. The two gentle-men leading the way are Resurrection Anglican Church's Pastor, Joe Porfidio, and his Celebrate Recovery [or CR] programming partner, Anglican Diocese Canon, Mark Eldredge.

"Christians have long been the worst advocates of Christianity," said Eldredge, "We're used to hearing the four-letter words in church, as members of the church typically say, 'We're fine [f-i-n-e]', often times people fail to open up and be honest. We aim to change that."

Porfidio and Eldredge have both seen first-hand the transformations and truths come to fruition for addicts, as they leave hang-ups behind and mend pains of the past. They've also been concerned about the church environment, as they have both

learned from others that there is a stigma in organized religion. The hope is that people come to church to be transformed and meet Jesus, not be afraid to be themselves and share their grievances.

"Unfortunately, a lot of people don't think of church as a place to go and share problems, the myth is that you've got it all together and you're fine," said Eldredge. "People who have fallen, those that have taken the bite of the apple, those that have been unable to resist temptations...they belong here," he shared. "That's the biggest fallacy of the church - that we're a hotel for saints, not a hospital for sinners."

Porfidio and Eldredge offer a God-centered, safe place for people who find themselves in need of transformation. They have both experienced countless success stories, and both pointed to a Bible verse in Mark 2:17 that echoes their efforts; "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Both men agree that recovery is a journey, not a destination, and they have a plan to help.

The program is Celebrate Recovery or CR, and while it's not a new program, it's an affiliated network that provides a roadmap to success - an unapologetic Christ-centered 12-step program. Matter of fact, there is a rich history dating back to 1991 at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, where the spiritual leader and Pastor, Rick Warren, is famously known for the book, *A Purpose Driven Life*. There are now 35,000 Celebrate Recovery churches and other affiliates around the world, and that number continues to grow as the course of lives are altered for the better.

The program being offered in the local neighborhood is modeled by years of tried



Canon Mark Eldredge with Fr. Joe Porfidio, Pastor at Resurrection Anglican Church in Ortega

and true methodology. The best part, you don't have to fear condemnation or feel that people will judge you and ask you to leave if you bring your hang-ups with you. That's the point, you are welcomed, loved and you are not turned away for the things that seem ugly, or difficult to talk about.

"When people feel like their lives are messed up, filled with burdens and baggage, they tend to think they're not welcome at church," said Porfidio. "We want people to know there is a safe place where they can exhale, be themselves and come as they are. Whatever that looks like."

Joe also took note of a scary trend in the area, where statistics show the incredibly high level of opioids affecting the 32210-zip code, where there is an epidemic of drug addiction and trouble in high concentrations. Opioids tend to have a chilling effect on households, and they don't

discriminate. Addiction, whether it's a drug or another vice, includes those that have the appearance of trimmed shrubs, perfectly manicured yards, river views and other outwardly appearances that seem to illustrate perfection.

If you or someone you know is struggling with depression, addiction or any other difficulty and you need some sound advice and understanding - reach out for a helping hand. It's just around the corner and it's safe and secure - ruled by love and compassion and rooted in faith.

Visit Resurrection Anglican Church on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 to learn more about CR. The meetings are in the shared space at the Ortega Presbyterian Church at 4406 Longfellow Street in the 32210-zip code, or call 904-480-7057 to speak to someone that cares deeply and wants to help. A lifeline is waiting for you.

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# River and Post grows stronger through outstanding service

Restaurant matures as commitment to customers reigns supreme

When local restaurateurs Bob Fleckenstein and Jeff McCusker embarked on the venture to open River & Post Restaurant in 2017 they had big plans for the location on the corner of Riverside Avenue and Post Street in Jacksonville's Riverside neighborhood. Before they put a hammer to nail or put an architectural plan in place, they felt confident they had a winner. The space, location, parking options and the best rooftop view in all of Jacksonville provided the opportunity to create a recipe for success.

Not only was there a recipe, but the ingredients going into the plans were cooking up a unique opportunity to create another great restaurant for North Florida to enjoy. Fleckenstein and McCusker were for looking for locals to frequent their new concept and

become regulars, but they knew it would take more than friends and family to make it go. They knew it would take a great experience, from the food to the ambiance, and a presence of their leadership team every night of the week.

"We're here seven days a week," said McCusker. "We truly care about everyone's experience."

One of the restaurant's best ambassadors is Rea Fleckenstein, Bob's wife of 47 years, a graduate of Andrew Jackson High School and a native to Jacksonville. She's proud to be a welcoming presence and greets visitors to the front door with a smile. She also knows countless many familiar faces and has never met a stranger. Rea's a true asset to the restaurant operation and strives to make everyone feel comfortable and welcome when they arrive.

"I like to visit with guests and it's always great to see them having a good time," said Rea. "Jeff also did a great job hiring the staff and we have a great team working to make [R&P] a great experience."

Today, the restaurateurs are happy to say that familiar faces of friends and established Jacksonville families enjoy their concept. The list of local notables is long, including the Mayor, top brass at the Chamber of Commerce, business owners across the board and several PGA Tour pros stop in for dinner.

The leadership couldn't be more pleased to learn that out-of-town visitors come from the Beaches and further south in St. Augustine with regularity. This phenomenon has become a great indicator that word is getting out about the quality of the experience and exceptional dishes served from the kitchen.



Rea and Bob Fleckenstein with Jeff McCusker

"We know there are a lot of options at the beaches to dine, so it's flattering when they join us on a special night to celebrate," said Bob.

From the relaxed interior vibe with fish tanks and nautical décor, seasoned servers and creative chefs, the restaurant is ready for another successful year of growth. As unique specials and dishes are created by sous-chefs and other contributors in the kitchen, things remain interesting for guests at River and Post. The ever-present leadership team ensures

that the reservations continue to roll in, as the staff continues to grow closer as a family and serve with excellence.

River and Post has become one of the most sought-after experiences in our city's dining landscape. From rooftop proposals, to watching the most spectacular fireworks displays the city has to offer, and office and private parties galore, the future looks bright. Visit [RiverandPostJax.com](http://RiverandPostJax.com) and other social media channels to get an inside look at the menu, photos of the rooftop and great feel for the experience.

*"We know there are a lot of options at the beaches to dine, so it's flattering when they join us on a special night to celebrate."*

— Bob Fleckenstein

## 2325 Post Street | \$525,000

### A RARE FIND IN RIVERSIDE 4 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom

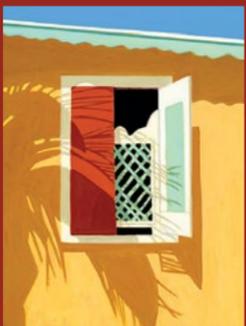
Completely remodeled 3 story brick & stucco home! 2 Car Garage. Master Bedroom and one guest room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, both with large closets. En suite on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has a small kitchenette and 4<sup>th</sup> large bedroom all with gleaming hardwood floors! This 1930's home is nestled under large pecan trees and only a short walk to Historic 5 Points, fine dining, theater and parks!



Eat in Kitchen with granite counters, drop in gas stove, stainless appliances!



Living room with fireplace and gleaming hardwood floors.



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# Mystery dinner held 'down on the farm' benefits Cathedral Arts Project

The 6th annual Diner en Noir Mystery Dinner to benefit the Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) was hosted Feb. 9 by the CAPtivators, a young professionals group which supports CAP. Diner en Noir is a pop-up dinner modeled after a similar idea that started in Paris.

Approximately xxx guests attired in black are invited to the spontaneous masquerade dinner at a secret location, revealed by text message just hours prior to the start of the event. This year the benefit was held at Congaree and Penn Farm and Mills, where guests enjoyed an evening of dining courtesy of Streaming the Bullet food truck and dancing to DJ James Harper of Entertainment and Productions. Prizes were awarded for the best dressed, best mask, and best table décor.

Previous mystery locations include St. John's Cathedral, the EverBank building (now TIAA Bank), the Jessie Ball duPont Center, Bella Sera, and Intuition Ale Works.



Hali Avener and Carl McNulty with Sheldon Walsh and Richa Gupta



Emily Devine with Elizabeth and Kane Sears



Kristin Livingston



Stephanie Cruz and Zachary and Kirsten Barns with Alyssa Hockenberry and Caitlyn Swindell



Cynthia Stephens with Lemetris Ingram



Natalie and Tommy Schulte with Brad and Danielle Russell

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Helen Willoughby  
REALTOR®  
(904) 655-8232



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**3547 PARK ST**  
3/2/1-2,536 sqft.

SOLD by Helen Willoughby and Shannon Gullion! Gorgeous renovated brick Colonial pool home on corner double lot. Remodeled with open floor plan for today's lifestyle while retaining its historic charm.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**4242 LEXINGTON AVE**  
3/3-1,431 sqft.

SOLD by Julia Fattahi and Beverley Brooke! Nestled in between Avondale and Ortega, this treasure of a home resides. The current owners have poured so much love into perfectly restoring and adding on to this 1926 bungalow.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**1321 AVONDALE AVE**  
4/2/1-2,476 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Live in one of the friendliest neighborhoods of Jacksonville! Enjoy a glass of wine in one of the two outdoor spaces, the he-space with room for your barbecue and a tree house or the she-space overlooking the sparkling pool.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**2970 ST JOHNS AVE #1B**  
2/2-1,480 sqft.

SOLD by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett! Amazing Avondale Waterfront Value! 2nd Story spacious 2/2 with St Johns River views @ The Beau Rivage, one of the historic districts top full service buildings. This unit is on the same floor as the main lobby & affords the owner the option of rarely needing to use the elevator.



Conor Flynn  
REALTOR®  
(352) 406-2042



Zackery Williams  
REALTOR®  
(904) 962-5479



**5050 YACHT CLUB RD - \$1.1MM**  
4/5/1-4,712 sqft.

This home has a fabulous floor plan and most rooms have water views. The property has 148' of waterfront privacy on Pirate's Cove with lush landscaping. Many rooms have 10' ceilings and others have 9' ceilings.



**4815 ARAPAHOE AVE - \$735,000**  
4/3/1-3,549 sqft.

Nestled in the heart of Ortega Terrace, this home is filled with memories of children growing up enjoying each and every space. It is now time to pass this beautiful traditional home to it's next owner.



**4061 TIMUQUANA RD - \$1.775MM**  
5/4/1-4,913 sqft.

Once in a lifetime chance to own a slice of Jacksonville architectural history! One of renowned architect Mellen Greeley's few residential designs, this exceptional Tudor-style home sits on a high terraced lot on the St. Johns River with spectacular views of the downtown skyline.



**2635 IROQUOIS AVE - \$335,000**  
3/2-2,394 sqft.

Wonderful historic home nestled in Old Ortega amongst the oak trees. This home boasts lots of living spaces where you can entertain with ease, large eat-in kitchen with gas cook top, stainless appliances, double ovens and walk-in pantry.



Leslie Fraleigh  
REALTOR®  
(904) 705-6464



Joy Walker  
REALTOR®  
(904) 699-4417



**2525 COLLEGE ST # 1204 - \$349,000**  
2/2-1,822 sqft.

THE JOHN GORRIE a condominium is a Restoration & Renovation of an Historic Landmark into 68 unique condominium residences offering convenient amenities to include a Fitness Center, Reading Room, Courtyard, Elevators, Gated Parking & more.



**4907 ORTEGA FOREST DR - \$425,000**  
4/2-2,608 sqft.

This classic brick ranch-style home with open floor plan and hardwood floors is waiting for a new family to make it their own. Home is situated on a large, landscaped lot on a premier street in walking or biking distance to A-rated Stockton Elementary.



**1453 BELVEDERE AVE - \$470,000**  
3/2/1-2,103 sqft.

Don't miss an opportunity to own a home in historic Avondale that has been meticulously maintained and fully updated! This Mediterranean inspired home is loaded with historic charm. Restored hardwood floors, fireplace, original windows and french doors.



**4317 VENETIA BLVD - \$650,000**  
3/2-2,213 sqft.

Wonderful Waterfront Opportunity in Venetia! Manicured waterfront home on Pirate's Cove in Venetia area of Jacksonville is a boater's paradise. This home sustained damage during Irma and is in need of interior restoration.



Claire Franson  
REALTOR®  
(904) 923-5331



Anita Vining  
REALTOR®  
(904) 923-1511



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

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

SOLD by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett! Rarely available and highly coveted riverfront, corner unit at Beau Rivage! Commanding views of the St. Johns River and Downtown Jacksonville from almost every room and the covered balcony!



SOLD

**4867 WATER OAK LN**  
3/2-1,950 sqft.

SOLD by Joy Walker and Susan Touhy! Great Home - Great Neighborhood - Great Value! Looking for a wonderful home in an A-Rated Elementary school district? This just might be the one! Beautiful and classic, 4-sided brick ranch, is a real find!



SOLD

**2931 ST JOHNS AVE # 3**  
2/2-1,100 sqft.

SOLD by Lee Elmore! Get out your favorite walking shoes, because this super cute 2nd flr condo is in the heart of Historic Avondale. This boutique-sized building has only 8 condos & is easily walkable to neighborhood restaurants, shops, breweries, amazing parks, museums & a stone's throw from St Vincent's Medical.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**2821 GRAND AVE**  
3/2-2,213 sqft.

Love the Old Ortega area but haven't found the right home yet? Want a beautiful lot on a "Grand" street a block from the river? Bring your creativity and dust off this much-loved brick family home and make it your own.



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Susan Touhy  
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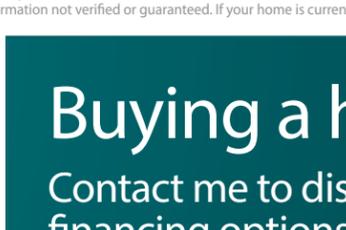
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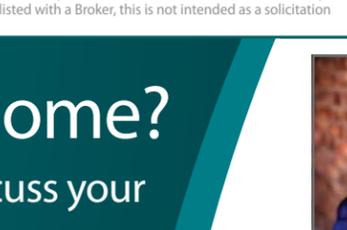
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Steve Watson, Tripp Newsom III, Matt Wolfe, Ward Lariscy, Marco Garcia and Earl Farris with (in front) Carter Elliott and Joe Porter



Carrie King with Ellen Wiss and Tina Wirth



Evin Willman with Jimmy Midyette



Ryan Ali with Alex Osborne and Laura Collins



Ben Marsh with Sydney Mann



Kathy Osterel with Donna McNett, Jeanine Rogozinski and Eunice Zisser



Ben McNett with Benjamin and Melanie Setzer



Stephen and Judith Silverman with Judy Root



Iris Kraemer, Ken Jacobs, Daniel Miller and Jeanine Rogozinski

**JASMYN celebrates 25 years of service to community**

Riverside-based nonprofit, JASMYN, otherwise known as Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network, rolled out an elegant evening for its big 25th anniversary. Visionary leaders from the business community were also on hand, including mentors, board members and other supporters. Founding Board Member and CEO Cindy Watson, as well as honorees Hugh and Susan Greene were showered with applause during their podium speeches. The evening raised over \$250,000 dollars for the organization, held Feb. 17 in the US Assure Club at TIAA Bank Field.

**Federation supporters enjoy a Sixties night out**

The community was invited to "Come Together" for a night of friends and entertainment by BeatleBeat, Feb. 7, at the Jacksonville Marriott, by the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville for its annual fundraiser. The evening was kicked off with a special reception for the nonprofit's Impact Donors, Lions of Judah and Major Gifts Donors. Co-chairs for the gala were Daniel Miller, Jeanine Rogozinski and Haley Trager.



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3041 Doctors Lake Dr. **\$1,124,705**



4810 Arapahoe Ave. **\$898,365**



5145 Pirates Cove Rd. **\$819,000**



1853 Powell Pl. **\$469,000**



2251 Myra St. **\$424,500**



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
4311 Lakeside Dr. **\$419,999**



10754 Long Cove Ct. **\$274,900**



**SOLD**  
3907 Herschel St. **\$255,000**



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
1640 Westminister Ave. **\$234,500**



5765 Cherry Laurel Dr. **\$159,900**



4364 Longfellow St. **\$149,900**



**SOLD**  
4840 Wheeler Ave. **\$140,000**



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Jess Jenks  
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Bill and Brenda Ryan with Russ and Susan Armistead, Sylvia and Kendall Spencer



Christina Abbassi with Jane Lanier



Doug and Laura Baer with Jan and Lou Walsh



Kristen Ferguson with Eva Roth and Kali Roth



Vincent Federico with Dean and Autumn Toubis, Ashton and Justin Federico



Liz Stewart with Bascom Kurtz, Tim and Jackie Reinschmidt



Drew and Colleen Sutter with April and John Patelli



Dr. Al Kafrouni with Betsy Lovett, Ward Lariscy and Carrie Kafrouni

UF Health, TraumaOne celebrate heroic efforts

A Night for Heroes, the annual black-tie gala honoring men and women of our community who care for trauma victims, was celebrated Feb. 24. Every day, a team is ready to deploy helicopters and trauma teams on a moment's notice to help victims of accidents and other tragic events in the region. This special team not only saves lives, but they support families through some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable.

Red Rose Ball celebrates 38 years in fine floral fashion

The St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation rolled out a beautiful evening at the Jacksonville Marriott at Southpoint, as sweethearts spent time Feb. 15 enjoying good company. The mission and ministry of outreach is supported by all attendees, including Co-Chairs Stephanie and Christian Harden, Susan and David Heekin, Colleen and Andrew Sutter as well as Jennifer and Charles Swain, all of whom embody the mission to serve all walks of life, especially those with the greatest need for care.

<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>
3903 St Johns Ave. <b>\$799,000</b>	1522 Chaffee Rd. <b>\$750,000</b>	1302 Windsor Pl. <b>\$599,900</b>	2804 Riverside Ave. <b>\$595,000</b>	1444 Avondale Ave. <b>\$569,000</b>
<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>
13846 Atlantic Blvd. #307 <b>\$398,500</b>	3665 Oak St. <b>\$359,999</b>	2536 Dellwood Ave. <b>\$315,000</b>	3577 Boone Park Ave. <b>\$296,000</b>	2950 Collier Ave. <b>\$279,000</b>
<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>	<b>NEW LISTING</b>
3949 Herschel St. <b>\$225,000</b>	1655 Charon Rd. <b>\$225,000</b>	1566 Geraldine Ave. <b>\$224,900</b>	1479 Pine Grove Ave. <b>\$214,900</b>	1560 Lancaster Ter. #103 <b>\$159,900</b>
<b>SOLD</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>	<b>SOLD</b>	<b>UNDER CONTRACT</b>
4742 Cambridge Rd. <b>\$136,000</b>	5321 Colonial Ave. <b>\$124,900</b>	5375 Ortega Farms Blvd. #311 <b>\$124,900</b>	2126 Fouraker Rd. <b>\$120,000</b>	2149 Tegner Dr. <b>\$119,900</b>

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# TAKING GREAT PRIDE IN OUR PERSONAL ATTENTIVE SERVICE.

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Steve Pajcic and Michael Pajcic both recently donated to Jacksonville elementary schools that have meaning to them.

Steve has been a long-time supporter of Annie R. Morgan, the school he and his late brother Gary attended back in the day. He presented a check to principal Torra Talbott.



Michael is assisting Fishweir Elementary, the school in his neighborhood. He recently handed over a check to principal Kimberly Dennis.



Giving to education has always been important to members of the Pajcic family, knowing that a strong educational foundation for young people can help them to succeed in the future.



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## Dedicated donors honored at Super Bolles party

The Bolles School hosted its most dedicated donors at the 38th Annual Super Bolles Party of Champions in Bolles Hall Jan. 31. The school's supporters in the Agnes Cain Painter & Glynlea and Heritage Societies were treated to a "party of champions" that included live music, upscale tailgate food and half-time remarks from Tyler Hodges, Bolles president/head of school. Cheerleaders and Champ the Bulldog also were on hand to regale the attendees and thank them for their ongoing support of The Bolles School.



Sara Brackin and Tatiana Salvador



Rosa Maria and Fitch King with Rosalind Travis



Sarah and Chet Skinner with Amy and Rick Morales



Agnes Danciger and Dottie Risley



Jill Smith and Allison Sheridan with The Hon. Marcia Morales Howard

## Weekend a smash for inaugural wine festival



Ken Wright speaks to patrons at Restaurant Orsay's Winemaker Dinner Feb. 22.

A big weekend of celebrity guest appearances, fine culinary eats and dessert treats rounded out an inaugural series for one local restaurant group. Each restaurant in the group hosted events, as wine and provisions from around the globe were served up in style as the Black Sheep Restaurant Group rolled out its first *Orsay, Blacksheep & Friends Wine Festival*. The Feb. 22 opening night Winemaker Dinner at Restaurant Orsay was sold out and other events were highly sought after by fans of the group's fine dining concepts.

The Winemaker Dinner featured Ken Wright of Ken Wright Cellars, who shared his insight into grapes and the qualities of the landscapes, soils and weather that help plants that produce the finest opportunities for harvest. The Willamette Valley winemaker has been dubbed the "Godfather" of Pinot Noir for his early pioneering steps to grow grapes on some of the more than 19,000 acres in the Oregon Wine Country.

A Burgundy seminar and lunch was held at Bellwether downtown on Feb. 23, followed by a Rooftop Champagne Soiree later that evening. Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte bubbly was served at Black Sheep in 5 Points, as patrons enjoyed a beautiful night under the stars paired with flutes of fine champagne. Nicolas Feuillatte hails from

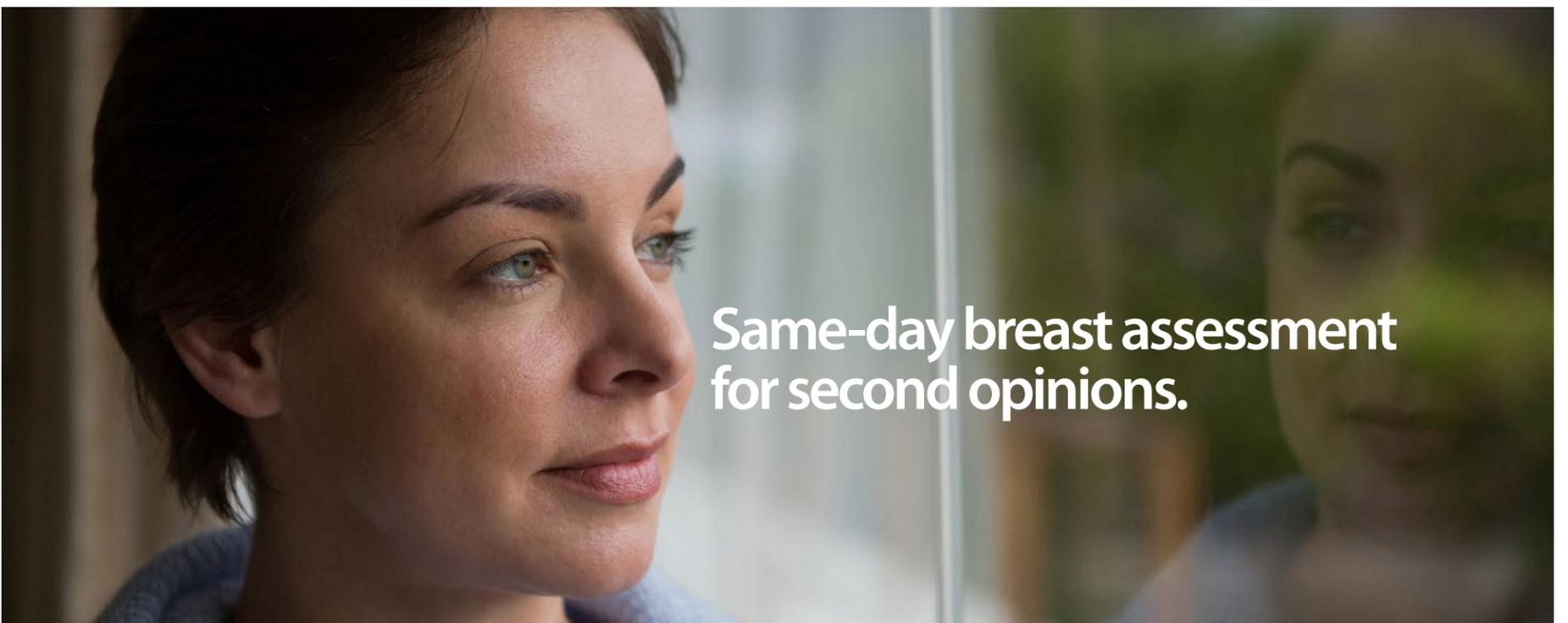
Chouilly, France, where 82 winemaking cooperatives are represented by more than 5,000 vineyards.

Sunday's offerings included Trade + Public at Restaurant Orsay Feb. 24, where patrons experienced a scaled-down version of what restaurateurs go through when they travel to trade shows with hundreds of wine and food vendors. The weekend wrapped up at Bellwether, where a Family Meal and Silent Bottle Auction was rolled out by Chef and Owner, Jonathan Insetta.

The profits from all the events will go directly to supporting the educational efforts of The Merendino Foundation, as well as feeding the needy in our community through Feeding Northeast Florida.



Executive Chef Michael McKinney and Managing Partner Jason Eddy of Restaurant Orsay



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Learn more at [UFHealthJax.org/breast](http://UFHealthJax.org/breast) or call 904.244.4387 to schedule your private consultation.



# Area law firms raise funds for Best Buddies with chili cookoff

The Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers hosted the 10th Annual Charity Chili Cook-off Feb. 16 during Riverside Arts Market. Although 50 teams registered, an impending trial resulted in a no-show for one law firm, but the other 49 very competitive firms who offered tastes of chili and cornbread raised approximately \$18,000 for Best Buddies, which also had a booth.

Among the most creative teams vying for Most Spirited were two firms with a St. Patrick's Day theme (Farrell Disability Law and Lewis, Longman & Walker), Collaborative Family Law Group of NE Florida with a unicorn theme, McGlinchey Stafford with Jimmy Buffet-inspired décor, Pozo-Diaz & Pozo with a Rocky theme complete with two prizefighters, and the

winning firm two years in a row, Kubicki Draper's Shark Attack.

Other winners included Moseley Prichard Parrish Knight & Jones as Best Overall; Spohrer Dodd as Crowd Favorite; Best Cornbread went to the Law Offices of Ron Sholes, while Coker Law took Best Fixins'. The Jacksonville Asian American Bar Association was awarded Most Original as they did in 2017, the Jacksonville Women's Lawyer Association took Meatiest with their filet mignon chili, and the Spiciest went to Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball, who swept that category in 2018.

After the tasting event, the cooks and their crews enjoyed an after-party hosted by Black Sheep Restaurant, where first place winners received bragging rights and a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant or brewery.



Best Overall: Moseley Prichard Parrish Knight & Jones



Spiciest: Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball



Best Cornbread: Law Offices of Ron Sholes



Crowd Favorite: Spohrer Dodd



Most Original: Jacksonville Asian American Bar Association



Best Fixins': Coker Law



Meatiest: Jacksonville Women's Lawyer Association



Most Spirited: Kubicki Draper

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# Annual Heart of the Runway showcased more than fashion

Students from North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE) showcased fashion, art, and culinary creations at the 9th Annual Heart of the Runway Fashion Show and Luncheon on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at Linda Cunningham, a designer boutique, while also displaying the depth of education received at the school.

Two hundred supporters perused the latest spring trends as well as original art created by student artists, then enjoyed a delicious lunch, which included tasty and fresh all-natural ingredients grown at the school's Berry Good Farms and prepared by the talented NFSSE culinary team. Elli and Chase Zimmerman were honorary co-chairs of the fashion show, which featured Linda Cunningham designs as well as clothing from Dillard's at the St. John's Town Center, emceed by Mary Baer, WJXT news anchor.

All donations made at the event will be matched dollar for dollar by Heart for Art matching sponsor Peninsular Pest Control.

NFSSE children with intellectual and developmental differences a place to learn, thrive, and become the best versions of themselves. They cover the same subjects as typical students throughout the year with a 1:6 teacher to student ratio and learning techniques and therapy adapted to student strengths and needs. NFSSE also offers programs for students transitioning out of school, as well as micro enterprises that provide job training and paid employment for young adults.

View more photos at [photos.residentnews.net](http://photos.residentnews.net)



Jake Scovill and Julia Preuss with Nick Mueller and Wendell Zimmerman



Marie Howell with Ann Meadows and Mary Virginia Jones



Chris Ball with Sharon Lucie



Carol Searle with Jane Pomar



Annual attendees at Heart of the Runway are sisters Denise Kowkabany, Claudette Rodenborn and Brenda Farah



Irene Puskas with Diane Seymour

# Former Major League Baseball player shares story of addiction, turnaround

City Rescue Mission's 4th Annual Difference Makers Banquet, a major fundraiser for the nonprofit, was held Feb. 7 at The Lexington Hotel and featured World Series Champion and New York Mets Hall of Famer Darryl Strawberry as the keynote speaker.

More than 250 guests were spellbound as Strawberry shared his story of transformation from a life derailed by substance abuse and a prison sentence into that of a philanthropist and founder of a recovery center in Central Florida.

The event also recognizes individuals and companies who make a difference in the lives of those who have no hope. This year awards were given to Arthur Crofton, of Venetia, Morning Show host, CRM board member and long-running emcee for CRM events; Changing Homelessness CEO Dawn Gilman, of San Marco, whose efforts have

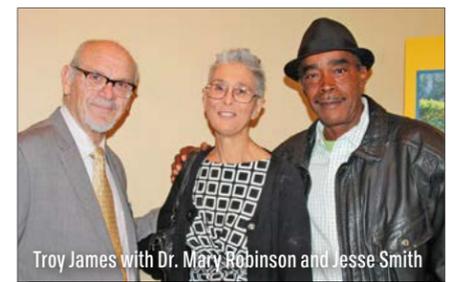


Penny Kievet, Darryl Strawberry and Angela Washington

resulted in a 30 percent decrease in overall homelessness in the past 10 years, and Trish Philbin, of St. Johns, a CIT vice president who opened a food pantry called Collin's Cupboard at a local school to assist children from food-insecure homes.



Joanna and Mike White with Arthur Crofton



Troy James with Dr. Mary Robinson and Jesse Smith



Nora and Doug Milne

# Pulling Together for Jacksonville's Future



My campaign is about people pulling together to create opportunities for future generations in Jacksonville. Pulling together to create new opportunities for every neighborhood and community. Pulling together to improve our quality of life, support public safety and create more jobs.

Our legacy is what we will leave the next generation. I promise all my energy and optimism to make Jacksonville a better city for our children and grandchildren. As a former City Council President and Budget Committee Chairman, I know it is an honor to help guide this great city. I'm asking for your support...let's pull together for Jacksonville's future. I'm Matt Carlucci and I want to earn your vote!

*Matt*



The Carlucci family.

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- ✓ New hope and new opportunities in our vulnerable neighborhoods,
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- ✓ Honest and ethical government.

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# Estate planning puts you in control even after you're gone

Make your wishes known whether you're 18 or 98

March is the month we all take on the tasks of spring cleaning and filing tax returns. Another important item to add to your to-do list is estate planning. How important it is becomes clear if you've ever dealt with the aftermath from the loss of a loved one.

"By not planning and not having a Last Will and Testament, you lose control over the disbursement of your assets after you die. Who wants to allow a state statute to dictate who gets what when you die?" said Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle, principal at The Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, P.L.

Even if you created a plan when you were younger and just starting a family, as your children grow and start their own families you need to look hard at the intentions of your current estate plan. If you are ready to retire or have retired, things have definitely changed, so it's time to revise those documents, advised Naugle, who has a basic package of documents to put your intentions in writing.

In addition to the Last Will and Testament, which leaves your assets to your chosen beneficiaries, you need a Durable Power of Attorney (POA) which, while it is a lifetime planning document, isn't always appropriate forever. You need to review and update it periodically – especially if you haven't done so since the law changed for the POA in 2011.



Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle

"The POA is what we call a Lifetime financial document. It allows others to assist you in making financial decisions if in your best interest," said Naugle. "This document becomes very important if you become incapacitated and can no longer make your own financial decisions."

Speaking of changes in law, in 2015 the Healthcare Surrogate Designation was revised to allow for immediate effectiveness upon signing. "This is a very important document whether you have a lot of health issues or not. You never know when you will become incapacitated," said Naugle.

Add to that a Designation of Pre-need Guardian, which enables you to name the

person you want the courts to appoint as your guardian if the time comes and you are incapacitated and may not have an effective POA.

If you are opposed to having your life prolonged by artificial means, you will also need to draw up a Living Will, which prevents extreme measures from being taken to keep you on life support against your will. It takes the burden and guilt from your loved ones, who often are not in agreement, of making the decision to remove life support.

"A Living Will makes it easier on your family members because you are taking control of your healthcare wishes in those final days," Naugle said. No one likes to be put in the position of second-guessing a parent's wishes at the end of life. Failing to have a Living Will can cause heartache and in-fighting among family members when it's time to make hard decisions, she added.

Finally, if you have minor children or grandchildren whom you wish to leave funds to, you need to create a minor's trust for them. In the State of Florida, you cannot leave a minor more than \$15,000 without setting up a guardianship unless the proper planning is done. A minor guardianship ends when the child turns 18, at which point the young person receives the funds outright.

"Turning over large sums of money to an 18-year-old is never a good idea, in my opinion," said Naugle.

There are many pitfalls when you fail to plan for what comes after your death. It is not for the faint of heart. Naugle knows the pitfalls that can occur when it comes to probate.

Named a Florida Super Lawyer consecutively for several years by her peers, Naugle has practiced law since earning her law degree in 2001 from Stetson University College of Law, specializing in the areas of estate planning, probate and guardianship. She is a graduate of The Bolles School and of Emory University as well, with strong roots in Jacksonville.

Naugle can also help untangle legal issues if there is no Will or clear directive for handling your assets. Her years of experience in probate will safeguard your family's interests. When it comes to untangling those issues, Naugle cautions that online or do-it-yourself wills are one of the biggest mistakes you can make. Yes, they can be quick, easy and inexpensive, but they kick the can down the road and don't save the family when it comes to probate, said Naugle. "Typically, the most difficult probates I handle are the ones where the person did their own Will," she said.

*"A Living Will makes it easier on your family members because you are taking control of your healthcare wishes in those final days."*

— Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle

For peace of mind, call Katherine Schnauss Naugle today at (904) 366-2703 and make an appointment to discuss your estate planning, or visit Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle at The Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, P.L., 810 Margaret Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204, online at [www.jaxlawteam.com](http://www.jaxlawteam.com).

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**Ash Wednesday Services**  
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7 a.m., Noon and 7 p.m.

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**Lenten Evensong**  
March 10, 5 p.m.

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# THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE & KEEP JACKSONVILLE BEAUTIFUL

PRESENTS

## THE ST. JOHNS RIVER CELEBRATION 24TH ANNUAL CLEANUP

SATURDAY,  
MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 - 8AM-12PM

*Times may vary, check site listing*



Join Volunteers around Duval County to help keep Jacksonville beautiful by removing litter and debris from parks, boat ramps and neighborhoods

### THERE'S A CLEANUP SITE NEAR YOU!

#### Arlington/Beaches | 8 a.m. -11 a.m.

- **Arlington Lions Club Park**  
4221-1 Richard Denby Gatlin Rd.
- **Atlantic Boulevard at the Ocean**
- **Beach Boulevard at the Ocean**
- **Seagate Avenue at the Ocean**
- **Beach Boulevard Boat Ramp**  
8508 Beach Blvd., (Next to All Wet Sports)  
*A personal or rented kayak, canoe or boat is required for this site. Participants use water vessels at their own risk. This site not recommended for children.*
- **Blue Cypress Park**  
4012 University Blvd. N
- **Brookview Community Garden**  
McAleer Road & Rayben Drive (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
- **Castaway Island Preserve**  
2921 San Pablo Rd. S
- **Ft. Caroline National Memorial**  
12713 Fort Caroline Rd. (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
- **Glynlea Park**  
6801 Altama Road (Meet at Ball field)
- **Mike McCue Park and Boat Ramp**  
2510 2nd Ave. N (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
- **Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park**  
500 Wonderwood Rd.  
*Exception: Volunteers must arrive before 9:30 a.m. to participate.*
- **Reddie Point Preserve**  
4499 Yachtsman Way

#### Naval Station Mayport, Jetties Pavilion # 3 | 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

*Exception: Volunteers must have base access or arrange for base access*

#### Urban/Riverside Avondale/San Marco/ Murray Hill/Springfield | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

- **Azalea Creek/Boone Park**  
3700 Park St. (8 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
- **Five Points**  
1028 Park St. (Meet in front of Sun-Ray Cinema)
- **Hollybrook Park**  
319 Cherokee St.
- **Historic Murray Hill (Murray Hill Public Library)**  
918 Edgewood Ave. S

- **Klutho Park**  
West 2nd St. at Boulevard St.
- **Memorial Park**  
1620 Riverside Ave.
- **Northbank Riverwalk at Sydney J. Gefen Park**  
505 Alfred DuPont Pl.
- **River Oaks Park/Craig Creek**  
1000 River Oaks Rd.
- **Yacht Basin Park**  
2941 St. Johns Ave.

#### Southeast | 8 am. - 11 a.m.

- **Burnett Park**  
3740 Burnett Park Rd.
- **John Lowe Boat Ramp at Goodbys Lake**  
9020 San Jose Blvd. (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
- **Mandarin Park**  
14780 Mandarin Rd. (Mandarin Boat Ramp)

#### Southwest | 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- **Curtis Lee Johnson Marina Boat Ramp**  
5434 San Juan Ave.  
*A personal kayak/canoe is necessary to participate in the water-based portion of the cleanup.*
- **Ringhaver Park**  
5198 118th St.
- **Wayne B. Stevens Boat Ramp**  
4555 Ortega Farms Blvd. (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)  
*A personal kayak/canoe is encouraged to participate in the water-based portion of the cleanup.*

#### Northwest | 9-11 a.m.

- **Bulls Bay Preserve**  
8017 Old Plank Road
- **Moncrief Springs**  
(Castellano Avenue and Helena Street)
- **Riverview Park**  
9620 W. Water St.
- **Tullulah Park**  
383 Tullulah Ave.

#### North | 9 a.m. -11 a.m.

- **North Shore Park**  
7901 Pearl St.

### Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission 2019 Calendar of Annual Projects & Events

#### Keep Jacksonville Beautiful 36th Anniversary Event

March 1, 2019 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m.  
Haskell Co. 111 Riverside Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 3220

#### St. Johns River Celebration Cleanup

March 16, 2019 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Various sites around Duval County

#### Earth Day Downtown Cleanup & Earth Day Ecology Fair

April 20, 2019 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. (Cleanup)  
The Jacksonville Landing 2 Independent Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

#### July 5th Beaches Cleanup

7 a.m. - 9 a.m.  
Atlantic Beach at the ocean  
Beach Boulevard at the ocean  
16th Avenue South at the ocean

#### International Coastal Cleanup

September 21, 2019 9 a.m. - 11a.m.  
Various sites around Duval County

#### Right Whale Festival Litter Cleanup

Date to be Determined 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
Seawalk Pavilion 1st St. North  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

#### America Recycles Day

November 15, 2019 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Downtown location to be determined  
10 am. – 5 p.m. 301 3rd St.  
Neptune Beach, FL 32266

*\*This list is subject to change \*\*No pre-registration. Must be at least 18 years of age or accompanied by an adult \*\*\* Dates and location of events are subject to change.*

FOR INFORMATION CALL (904) 255-8276 OR VISIT COJ.NET



# Annual tree planting in Boone Park provides shade for future generations

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Planting a tree should be on everyone's bucket list, according to Joe Anderson, forester for the Jacksonville Energy Authority, and 21 families apparently agreed when they signed up to plant 23 trees in Boone Park South (the 10-acre portion of the 28-acre park between St. Johns Avenue and Herschel Street) on Feb. 9.

Although this is just the second annual Love Boone Park Day, in 2015 the fledgling Friends of Boone Park South – which includes steering committee members Pamela Telis, Margaret Tocknell, Bill Jones and Melanie Dobbins – first planted over 50 trees and bushes with the help of anyone who showed up.

Unfortunately, the undertaking then was too large, the City of Jacksonville didn't meet its commitment to water the young trees and there was a mild drought that spring, resulting in the loss of more than 50 percent of the plantings, said Telis, founder of the group.

"I started the 'adopt-a-tree' program last year and it worked great – every one of the 20 trees planted one year ago is living today," said Telis. "There are no guarantees, but it was a good idea for engaging our neighbors. [After a two-year hiatus,] this is our third

year of tree planting. We're filling the gap in a succession plan for trees in our local parks that the city seems to be unable to manage."

All the trees were donated by Greenscape of Jacksonville, who was represented that day by Becky Henson. The trees selected for planting were those which are native to the area and included two Live Oaks, four East Palatka Holly trees, five Sparkleberry and three each of Redbud, Red Cedar, American Elm and Southern Magnolia.

While most of the tree sponsors were residents who lived within a few blocks of the park, some families came from San Marco, Lakeshore and the Venetia neighborhood to help replenish the tree canopy. For most, it was a first-time event, and some gave their trees names. The magnolia is Melanie Dobbins' father's favorite tree, so the family named their tree "Poppa" in honor of David Solomon, while siblings Natalie, Eric and Isabella Garcia named their American Elm "Trevor."

JEA works with the nurseries to have trees delivered and brings shovels to the event. Anderson provided directions for planting the trees, saying there were just three steps: dig a hole wide enough to fit the root ball, prepare the root ball by loosening up the roots, then cover the hole with dirt and pine straw to keep the roots warm. After planting their trees, the sponsoring families are responsible for watering their trees as needed for the first year.

"I will never sit in the shade of these trees, but I like knowing that we are preserving the tree canopy for generations ahead!" Telis said.

To organize a similar tree planting event in other city parks, contact Greenscape at (904) 398-5757 or email [info@greenscapeofjacksonville.org](mailto:info@greenscapeofjacksonville.org).



Sabrina and Jack Guma plant a Redbud tree and a Red Cedar.



Trey and Cort Csar planted an American Holly for the Gettingter-Csar family.



Kaylee helps her father, Brian Murray, plant a Redbud tree, adding one more to several they have planted in Boone Park in the past.



Jen and Josh Edwards with daughters Palmer, Leighton, and Caroline with a friend, Langston Bryan, and new puppy, Fletcher, prepare to plant a Red Cedar.



Logan King and Jenna Bradley plant a Sparkleberry tree in Boone Park.



JEA Forester Joe Anderson gives instructions on how to plant a tree to 21 families who attended Love Boone Park Day Feb. 9.



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2665 Park Street • Riverside  
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Nekinia Wright and Lisa King with Meg Ronal and Deborah Reid, exhibit curator

## Art exhibit, fundraiser displays feminine perspective

The works of more than two dozen local artists were exhibited at a fundraiser for Women Writing for (a) Change Feb. 15 at the Riverside home of founder Jennifer Wolfe. The event will help fund outreach programs, such as the journaling program Wolfe holds for incarcerated women at the Community Transition Center.

“A super opening night for ‘SHINE: A Feminine Perspective.’ About 100 people walked through the doors at a leisurely pace to view artwork by over 27 artists,” she posted. “Most wound up in the She Shed where beautiful new journals were all laid out. More wound up around the fire pit in the garden, where we made a fiery speech for a more diverse and feminine representation of artists and writers in the world. We are doing our part, in our own backyard.”

Wolfe noted that only 2 to 4 percent of art on display in national museums has been created by women, with less than 30 percent in major galleries.

The show was curated by Deborah Reid, an attorney and artist who had done the same for Wolfe’s first fundraiser, ‘RISE: A Feminine Approach to the Craft of Art,’ last fall.



Richard Sutphen, Artist Marsha Glaziere and Cathy Sutphen in front of Glaziere's work "Paradox."

## Popular Christian speaker, author shares joy



Over 500 women from all over Northeast Florida joined Women for Christ at its 34th annual luncheon Feb. 5 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center with author Jodie Berndt as the keynote speaker. Committee heads include (front) Annie Pajcic, Anne Tyre, Roseanne Ennis, Richerria Brady, Colleen White, Women for Christ President Vicky Yong, Allene Zvara, Gretchen Fleming, Gail Brent and Jan Andrews; back: Janice Brinker, Punkie Bethea, Dianne Diffenderfer, guest speaker Jodie Berndt, Christy Mobley, Peggy Allcorn, Alicia Fischer, Katy Towers and Linda Stowell.

## Palms, leis and island drinks set mood for Friday Musicale soiree

Friday Musicale’s fourth annual fundraiser was a soiree with a South Pacific theme. Held at the historic property in Brooklyn, the Feb. 15 South Seas Adventure drew more than 100 supporters for an evening of fun. Beginning with a Blue Hawaii Cocktail Hour and perusal of silent auction items that included hotel stays, wine tastings, golf/tennis memberships and more, the evening progressed with a dinner show which featured Prince Pele’s Polynesian Revue, a troupe from St. Augustine.

The oldest musical organization in Florida, Friday Musicale was founded in 1890 by Claudia L’Engle Adams, and has flourished despite disasters like the Great Fire of 1901, the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, two World Wars and its own fire in 1995, an act of arson which destroyed the building. Although the auditorium was rebuilt and reopened in 1998, Eric Becher, interim executive director, indicated the nonprofit is hoping to launch a capital campaign to expand the auditorium to allow for a larger stage and greater capacity for guests.



Sue and Bill Scarbrough with Christina and Eric Becher



Gina Martinelli with her sister Denise Landolfi



Shigeko Sams and Marilyn Wilkerson



Lizzie and Charlie White with Sharon Kaczmarczyk and Gayle Cox



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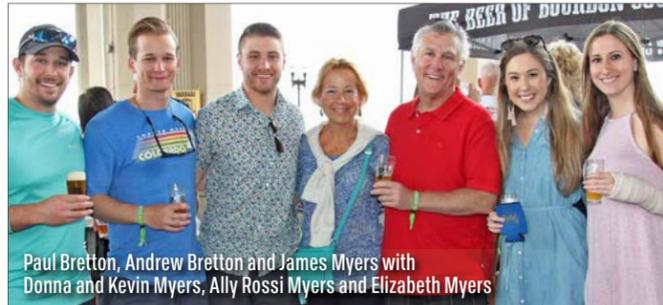
Tom Jackson, Owner

## Rotarians hope annual beer fest tops prior year proceeds

More than 1,000 beer lovers bought Early Bird tickets for the 6th Annual Riverside Craft Beer Fest, but Riverside Rotarians anticipated many more would attend the Feb. 23 benefit at Riverside Arts Market. By the end of the event, leadership thought there would be close to 5,000 people enjoying more than 100 craft beers from all over the United States and abroad. A variety of food trucks and bluegrass music created the perfect atmosphere for a successful fundraiser, which would once again benefit Community Hospice & Palliative Care PedsCare.



Jennifer and Tim Page with Peppermint Patty



Paul Bretton, Andrew Bretton and James Myers with Donna and Kevin Myers, Ally Rossi Myers and Elizabeth Myers



Galen Reding with Katia Font



Mario Baugh, Eustachius Roberts and Ali Brin with Bill Hallows, Rob Alexander, president of Riverside Rotary Club, Michael Reddaway and Emma Newton

## Crowd was rockin' at annual JCA gala

Rock over the ages – from Fifties Doo-Wop to Heavy Metal – was celebrated at the annual fundraising event for the Jewish Community Alliance, on its campus Feb. 23. Guests in decade-appropriate rock concrete attire came together to raise funds to support scholarship services and financial assistance for preschool, after-school and summer camp tuitions. Honorary chairs were the Berman and Stoddard families, assisted by nearly 40 committee members.



Suzie Menaged and Kim Robbins with Nancy Green and Nancy Perlman



Jeremy Bryant, Scott Berglund and David and Rochelle Stoddard with Tom Gallacher and Glenn Miller



Alan Margolies with Myron Flagler and Adam Chaskin



David Miller, Michael Miller, Nina Waters and Trey Csar



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**WINFIELD DUSS 710-7948**



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**BART COLBERT**

  
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**LEE NORVILLE**

  
**TOY SCOTT**

  
**BILL SHEFFIELD**

  
**LINDA SHEPHERD**

  
**DAVID TAYLOR**

  
**LISA ANTHONY TUCKER**

  
**ELLEN WILSON**

## Quality of student art wows audience at Extravaganza

Extravaganza, a talent show in the extreme, is one of four student art shows for the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts' Visual Arts Department during the school year. This year, 72 students from all four grades exhibited their work at Extravaganza, held Feb. 23 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

All types of art – from drawing, painting, collage, printmaking (silkscreen, multiple color relief, Intaglio and lithography) to sculpture (ceramic busts, welding, assemblages) and photography (color photography and digital collage) were on display in the center's rear lobby.

Although not a juried art show, all students keep a resume documenting the exhibitions in which their work was displayed. The works are typically based on the students' own ideas or their responses to lessons from their classes.

At the exhibition, members of the National Art Honor Society sold paintings to help fund the purchase of NAHS graduation cords. A string quartet of Douglas Anderson instrumental students also played during the reception.



James and Dr. Diana Greene



Barbara Drake and Sue Fazio with Nan Huckler and Linda Oberdorfer



Kevin Pilcher and Danielle Tatchio with Morgan Fuls



Bryant Hardwick, Adam Edgecombe, Jake Gordon, Laura Edgecombe, Hana Ferguson, Kat Hardwick, Dimitri Demopoulos, Justin Stoltzfus and Jillian Waller were all having a blast in Havana.

## Fourth annual #DTJAXGala delivers a glimpse of Havana

The urban core never looked so stylish as supporters of Downtown Jacksonville attended "Havana Nights, Neon Lights" at Novel Coworking, 25 N. Market Street, Feb. 23. Havana's nightlife was reflected through music, a tin can photo lounge, cigar rolling station and guests dressed in their Cuban best for photo ops and themed cocktails. The gala funds support the Lively And Beautiful Sidewalks initiative in the downtown core.

"Our 4th Annual #DTJax Gala was a great success celebrating Downtown with approximately 300 guests. We couldn't have done it without our more than two dozen sponsors, event partners, volunteers and our dedicated staff," said Jake Gordon, CEO, Downtown Vision. "And, we raised more than \$45,000 to complete even more place-making projects Downtown."

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Bettina Kohaut, MD • Evaleen Caccam, MD • Felicia Fox, MD • Meredith Oruc, MD

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# New grove dedicated in old park honors memory of AIDS victims

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

Two years after the Valentine's Day vote was passed 12-6 by Jacksonville City Council to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the Human Rights Ordinance prohibiting discrimination for public accommodations, employment and housing, another significant event for the LGBTQ community occurred this Valentine's Day.

Several hundred people took time during the lunch hour to gather in Willowbranch Park, 2870 Sydney St., to dedicate the first three of 100 trees in what will be known as Love Grove, a memorial to the nearly 5,000 Northeast Florida men and women who have died from AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in the past 35 years.

During the ceremony, AMP Board President Richard Ceriello noted many of the early deaths were within blocks of Willowbranch Park and most within a few square miles. "ZIP Codes 32204 and 32205 initially represented some of the largest numbers of the early cases of AIDS diagnoses in Northeast Florida," he said. It was also in that park the first Jacksonville Pride parade was held 40 years ago with some 300 attendees.



Richard Ceriello, president of AIDS Memorial Project, with Robin Patton, board member

Sponsored by the AIDS Memorial Project of Northeast Florida (AMP), the Love Grove dedication ceremony included music, multi-denominational prayers, words of remembrance and the reading of 100 names of local individuals who succumbed to this disease, among them Ceriello's partner, Tony O'Connor, in whose memory he established AMP in 2017.

AMP Board Advisor Robin Hughes Patton's brother, John, a Los Angeles actor under the name Jackson Hughes, also passed away from complications of AIDS in November 1989 shortly after performing in his one-man show, "Our Man in Nirvana." Patton said the loss of her brother at age 30 was devastating. "John's death was a wake-up call for me, to my existence and what I wasn't doing... what I needed to do" to help others with AIDS and to fight the stigma against AIDS, she said. Patton became certified as a HIV pre-test/post-test counselor at the hospital in Daytona where she was working in the late 1980s.

When the initial three magnolia trees were planted earlier in the day Feb. 14, Patton added the ashes of her brother and of her mother, Evelyn Nehl, who passed away in 2011. Nehl, also an actor in Jacksonville community theater, was honored in 1992 for establishing the AIDS Memorial Quilt project in Jacksonville.

The tree plantings are a joint venture between AMP, Greenscape of Jacksonville and the City of Jacksonville. Landscape architect Scott Dowman planned the placement of 100 trees, representing five different species, in the park. Open areas for picnics and other recreation will remain. Greenscape will organize the subsequent tree plantings, utilizing funds from the City's Tree Mitigation Fund, which has more than \$25 million available.



Rendering indicates type and placement of 100 trees in Willowbranch Park to create Love Grove, a memorial to Northeast Floridians who died from AIDS.



Dan Hutton affixes a commemorative leaf to a magnolia tree planted in Love Grove.



Jonathan Joseph kneels to affix a commemorative leaf to a magnolia tree planted on Valentine's Day in Love Grove.



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# In Memoriam



## ROGERS BALDWIN "TIGER" HOLMES

Jacksonville lost one of its true champions when Rogers Baldwin "Tiger" Holmes passed away November 28, 2018 at the age of 97.

He was a fighter pilot in World War II and Korea, Lieutenant Colonel in the Air National Guard, big-game hunter, helicopter pilot, successful entrepreneur, world champion swimmer, friend to United States presidents, and finally an author of "A Tiger Tale: The Life and Times of Rogers B. Holmes," which he wrote as a legacy for his children and grandchildren.

Holmes got his nickname, Tiger, as team manager of Robert E. Lee High's State Champion football team. The name stuck, and he carried tiger-like competitiveness into swimming and golf as well.

At the University of Florida, he was captain of the swim team, SEC champion in the 50-yard freestyle, named to University of Florida's Athletic Hall of Fame and Hall

of Fame, and was president his graduating class in 1948. Later in life, he competed in masters swimming internationally, winning many awards and setting a masters world record when he was 93 in the 800-meter relay with his friends, John Corse, Bill Adams and Ed Graves. His most prized achievement was the International Swimming Hall of Fame Gold Medallion Award, presented annually to a former swimmer who also has great accomplishments in business, entertainment or politics.

In 1947 Holmes married Lockwood "Lockie" Morris, now deceased. They raised five children – Leighton, Rogers B. Holmes, Jr., Kenneth, Lockwood, and Mary. Later in life, he married Jacqueline Bennett, who is also deceased.

Holmes started the Holmes Lumber Company in 1954, turning it into one of the most successful lumber companies in

the Southeast. In the 1990s, he became a vintner on Fleming Island, running the largest muscadine grape farm in Florida, selling 1,200 bottles of wine a year and 92,000 pounds of grapes to Publix and Winn-Dixie.

In the early 1970s he was elected chairman of the Duval County Republican Executive Committee, fundraising, recruiting candidates, assisting in campaigns and hosting U.S. presidents when they visited Jacksonville.

Jacksonville City Council passed a resolution Feb. 26 "honoring and commending Holmes' life and countless accomplishments."

He is survived by his children, Leighton Holmes Tesche, Kenneth A. Holmes, Lockwood P. Holmes (Tricia), two step-daughters, Elizabeth Drake (Tom) and Connell Pinkney (Dank), as well as eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren.

## PHILIP STOCKTON MAY, JR.

No one can argue Philip Stockton May, who died January 12, 2019 at 93, did not lead an interesting life.

Born in old St. Vincent's Hospital, he grew up in Avondale attending Fishweir Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and was a 1943 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School. After a stint in the U.S. Army, he graduated in 1952 from Princeton University on the GI Bill.

While serving with the Army's 87th Infantry Division, May received a Purple Heart after his leg was nearly blown off by a German shell fragment. With the injury, he was one of the first people to receive a pedicle skin graft and endured 35 surgical procedures over four years spent in German, French and English hospitals.

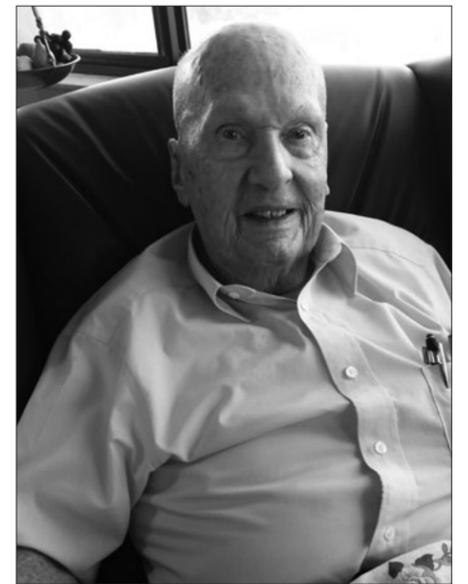
After college he worked mainly in financial services. A career highlight was his partnership with Clay Video, which brought cable television to Clay County in 1978. Lastly, he worked with Mumford Library Books, which was heavenly for the self-proclaimed bibliophile, who was acquainted with famed Florida author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and had accumulated more than 10,000 tomes within his life.

At age 40, May married Gloria Binzel Sullivan, a Navy widow, becoming stepfather to her three children – Gloria, John Phillip, and Susan – and later welcomed a son of his own, Philip Stockton "Tiger" May III. Married 51 years, he and Gloria, who died in 2016, were world travelers, especially

enjoying trips to Japan, Singapore, Bali, and Bangkok, where they once rode an elephant through Siam's jungle.

An Ortega resident, May served on the board of The Salvation Army and the Jacksonville Historical Society and was a member of The Friends of the Public Library, Meninak Club, the River Club and Florida Yacht Club.

He is survived by his children, Gloria Sullivan Phillips (Reid) of Greensboro, NC., Susan Sullivan Scott (John) of Ponte Vedra and Philip S. "Tiger" May, III (Stacy) of Jacksonville, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



## ROXIE HORNE MERRILL

Roxie Horne Merrill was a woman ahead of her time.

The Ortega resident, who died on January 14, 2019 at the age of 97, was a successful entrepreneur, having set up a popular gift shop in Ortega Village, as a young married woman during a time when most women didn't work.

Merrill, who grew up in Riverside, attended West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High, and Landon High School, graduating in 1939. A bit of a rebel with an independent streak, she first studied history at Shorter University in

Rome, Georgia, and later graduated from Kingsmith School of Interior Design in Washington, D.C.

Merrill was married for 53 years to James C. "Jabbo" Merrill, Jr., whose family business was the Jacksonville Shipyards and Merrill-Stevens Shipyards. After their 1942 wedding, the couple moved to Ortega, where they raised their three children – Roxanna, James III, and Eleanor "Winky."

In 1959, Merrill partnered with Barbara Hoffman and Mariah Bissell to open a gift shop, The Added Touch, in Ortega. At one point the shop carried Pappagallo Shoes,

an exclusive brand that was popular in the 1950s and 1960s.

Merrill was instrumental in preserving the old Merrill House, a stately Queen Anne home built by her husband's grandfather in 1879. The home, now a museum, was moved next to the old St. Andrews Church, where the Jacksonville Historical Society's headquarters is located, in 2002.

Merrill is survived by her sister, Barbara Arnold (William) of Ortega and two daughters, Roxanna Seely (Fred) of Ortega, and Eleanor "Winky" Fowler (William) of Atlanta, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## R. MALCOLM FORTSON, JR.

The Ortega community will miss Commander R. Malcolm Fortson, Jr. USN (Ret.), who passed away Feb. 5, 2019 at the age of 97. A native of Ortega, Fortson attended West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and Robert E. Lee High, graduating in 1939. After graduation he attended the United States Naval Academy and served during World War II in the Pacific aboard the U.S.S. Lutze DD-481, receiving a Bronze Star when his destroyer tried to assist another destroyer and was hit by a Kamikaze fighter plane.

Fortson made the Navy a career like his father, Rear Admiral R. Malcolm Fortson Sr., his brother, Capt. Thomas Fortson USN (Ret.), who is deceased, and his son, Cdr. R. Malcolm Fortson III USN (Ret.).

Following his retirement in 1967, Fortson joined Operations Research, Inc. and in 1974 moved the family to Atlantic Beach and later to back to his hometown. In retirement, he could be found gardening or volunteering at St. John's Presbyterian Church. He was a former president of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville Beaches and a member of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville.

Fortson was married for 73 years to the love of his life, his childhood next-door neighbor, Kathryn Register, who joined him in traveling throughout the world on his great naval adventure.

In addition to his wife and son, Malcolm (Martha Frances) of Portsmouth, Va., Fortson is also survived by sons Richard C. Fortson (Mary Stuart) of Ortega and Alvin R. Fortson (Lee Ann) of Fayetteville, North Carolina; four grandchildren and a step-grandchild as well as two sisters, Nellie Hull and Janet Walthall.



# THE WAY WE WERE: WILLIAM J. HARP, JR. & BARBARA PARKS HARP

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

According to William J. Harp of Avondale, he was handed “a life that is unbelievable.”

Growing up in South Georgia in the 1930s, Harp’s family had a limited income. He worked as a soda jerk at the Rexall Drug Store in Brunswick owned by James Andrews, town mayor and the wealthiest man around. When his parents, William J. Harp, Sr. and Sarah Parks Harp, moved to Jacksonville, they allowed Harp to stay with the Andrews couple in Brunswick.

“I moved into their house – a mansion, really – they had seven bathrooms! My room at their house was larger than any house my parents and I had ever lived in. I was so fortunate to have Maude and James Andrews in my life. Their son died when he was 24 and they just took me in like I was their own. No one in my family had gone to college but they sent me to the University of Georgia. They were wonderful and thought I could do no wrong,” recalled Harp.

He chuckled as he related this story. “While I was at college one of my frat brothers from Kappa Phi was in Brunswick

and saw Mr. Andrews, who asked how I was doing. The guy said, ‘He was sober the last time I saw him.’ Instead of getting upset, Mr. Andrews said the boy would do well to tend to his own business!

“Mrs. Andrews gave me a blank check to keep with me in case I needed something,” he continued. “While living with them we went to Sea Island, the Cloisters. They did so much for me; I was so fortunate to have them in my life.”

In 1950 Harp joined the Navy and his travels began. First to San Diego for training, then to Memphis to work at the hospital as a medical technician, then off to Bethesda, Maryland for physical therapy training after which he served at the Naval Hospital in Key West as a physical therapist. Harp also served as a hospital corpsman 2nd class, then transferred to TAD – Temporary Additional Duty – as a medical technician with the 5th Marine Regiment near the 38th parallel in Korea for 14 months.

“After the Navy, I went back and finished pharmacy school in 1956, then moved to Jacksonville where my parents lived, and went to work for Ed Pierce at Pierce’s Prescriptions downtown across from May-Cohens by Hemming Plaza. I loved it and worked there for 38 years. It was sold in 1994. I retired in 2001, then taught math at FCCJ Pharmacy Tech School until they moved that program, then I started substitute teaching, which I still do, in Clay and Duval Counties.”

Harp’s good fortune has continued throughout his life with one of the most significant events occurring on a bus while he was still in college. When returning to pharmacy school from a trip to Jacksonville around 1956, Harp was studying for his



Barbara and Jim Harp

pharmacy exam using the notes of a fellow classmate, Bill, whose name was written across the top of the notepad. Barbara Jean Parks was sitting behind him. She also was returning to Athens, where she worked for the University of Georgia Press, from a visit with a girlfriend in Jacksonville.

“I was a proofreader, if you can imagine that!” she joked. On that fateful bus ride, she leaned over, glanced at Harp’s notepad and said, “Hi, Bill.” Harp (who goes by his middle name James) turned around and said, “My name is Jim.”

Jim and Barbara’s subsequent courtship got off to a few false starts. Barbara explained that the couple had broken up, then she received a letter “out of the blue” from Harp in Jacksonville and their courtship resumed.

On Sept. 2, 1957 they were married by a justice of the peace in Abbeville, South Carolina. Each received a check for \$1,000 from the Andrews. “That was a lot of money then. We went to Key West for our honeymoon,” said Harp.

While Harp worked at Pierce Pharmacy, Barbara had a job at Utsey’s Shoes in Avondale, where Yours Truly Antiques is currently located, then worked at Stillwell School with special education kids for 15 years. She was voted Paraprofessional of the Year in 2006 for Duval County Public Schools Council for Exceptional Children.

“Those were the happiest years for her,” said Harp. “She still talks about it like it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41



Jim Harp, middle, assists in compressing aspirin tablets at the University of Georgia pharmacy school in 1956.



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was yesterday. She worked there, then volunteered with sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders for four years after that.”

Longtime members of Avondale United Methodist Church, Harp relates a humorous story of Ed Pierce encouraging him to go to church. “I told him I went to Avondale Baptist occasionally and he asked me who the minister was. I just died on the spot. My idea of church was to go twice a year, put \$5 in the plate and think I was doing good.”

Soon thereafter, the couple joined Avondale UMC where they made up for the lack, and are still members after 60 years. Barbara volunteered for many years in the children’s department; Harp sang in the choir for 32 years, or helped fill up the back row, as he said.

During the 1970s and 1980s Harp earned the nicknamed “Pap” serving as youth director of the Avondale UMC “Anchovies” – rivals of Ortega United Methodist Church’s “Oysters.” He traveled with the youth to the Grand Canyon, the Bahamas and Hope Town on mission trips. He was in Faithful Friends and president of the “old people’s class,” as he called it. The Harp family was also honored as Family of the Year and asked to sing a family song at the event. They selected “Ivory Palaces,” but Harp’s



Jim Harp with children James, Rebekah and Mark

musically-gifted son, Jimmy, offended him by not wanting him to sing. That’s when Harp realized that filling up the back row of the choir wasn’t just a joke by his choir director.

Not one to toot her own horn, Barbara is adamantly photo shy. When asked where she was in a photo of Jim and the kids, she remarked, “I was there. I took the picture!” She maintains that while in the past her husband has been globe-trotting with youth groups and taking trips with their grown children, she “had too many other things I had to do,” mainly helping care for daughter Rebekah’s numerous dogs, and her own beloved Captain Jack. Over the years, the number of framed dog photos and urns with ashes of dogs they have loved on display has increased.

Jim and Barbara also have a photo of the revered Mr. Andrews in a place of honor in their stairwell. “Mr. Andrews gave me 50 shares of Rexall stock and after he died Mrs. Andrews told me to pick anything

from the house that I wanted, so I took the amethyst jardinières,” said Harp.

Harp acknowledged the sacrifice his parents made for his well-being by allowing him to live away from them, but said they remained close, and his mother stayed with them for 10 years after his father died. About her own parents, Barbara said, “Mamma and Daddy taught me well. We were taught to be honest – to push through hard times, don’t just lie down and wallow.”

Jim and Barbara incorporated their parents’ advice into their daily lives and celebrate the joys of every day. Jim said his favorite Scripture is Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer.”

The Harps credit their parents with influencing them to what Rebekah described as a “Life of Substance” in a photo book she made for her father.

The Harps both seem amazed about the longevity of their marriage. Jim

commented in an astonished tone, “Sixty-two years! Our marriage has lasted all these years! We are so different. I like Victorian; she’s more modern. I like to travel; she doesn’t. She is a homebody; she doesn’t like boats since she can’t swim, nor airplanes,” he said.

Barbara joked that the “glue sometimes comes apart,” but credits their children with being the “glue” that has held their marriage together.

Their son, James, is the artistic director of the Maryland opera and professor at Johns Hopkins. Mark, a consultant for Accentua, lives in Marietta, Georgia. Rebekah is an award-winning special education four-time Teacher of the Year in Duval and Clay Counties, recipient of the Jake and Scout Award from the Clay Humane Society, dog lover and Flyball training champ. The Harps also have two grandsons, Bradley at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Brian at Georgia Southern, both scholars and athletes.



Jim Harp during the time he served as youth director for Avondale United Methodist Church



Barbara, Rebekah and Jim Harp



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# Next generation artists spotlighted at awards ceremony

The First Coast's next generation of artists were honored Feb. 2 at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards, a regional visual art awards and scholarship program.

Prior to the awards ceremony, which was held at the Florida Theatre, Adjudication Day took place at Jacksonville University on Jan. 5, when 18 judges worked in six teams to adjudicate panels of student work totaling 2,578 works of art representing 843 students, 76 educators and seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia) in Northeast Florida. Students from public, private, charter and home schools participated in this annual event. Terry Woodlief, an Avondale resident and art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary School, served on the awards board.

In the regional, 19 portfolios comprising 319 Gold Keys will advance to the national level. Gold Key winners from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts included Anasha Barnes, Erin Bouchard, Emma Flaire, Kaitlyn Griffin and An Tran.

Twelve silver portfolios included 341 Silver Key awards; 19 portfolios comprised 487 Honorable Mentions, and five students, including An Tran, were nominated for American Vision medals, the highest regional honor. In total, 573 students earned awards.

Following the awards ceremony, exhibitions were on display at the Jacksonville Main Library and the Heather Moore Community Gallery, located at Cathedral Arts Project, 207 N. Laura St.

Last year, regional winners were awarded college scholarship offers from Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida, Savannah College of Art & Design and the New Hampshire Institute of Art totaling over \$4 million. Gold Key winners advancing to the national level will be recognized this summer at the 2019 National Ceremony of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards at Carnegie Hall.



Emma Flaire's "Gigi," a Gold Key winner in mixed media



"Road Trip" was a Gold Key winner for Emma Flaire, a junior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.



LaVilla eighth-grader Meghan Haile's mixed media work, "Adrift," received a Gold Key award.



Lillie Tritt, a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, won a Gold Key for her archival inkjet print, "The River."



Margaret Commander, a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, won a Silver Key for her photo, "Pathlight."



Fourth-grade students Henry Massey and Cheyenne Knight with second-grader Emma Knight dropped off Ruth N. Upson Elementary School's latest donation for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

## Little things can make big difference

Students at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School know that just the smallest gesture can reap a larger benefit. The Murray Hill-based school supports Ronald McDonald House Charities in Jacksonville by collecting the little tabs used pull to open soda, soup or other aluminum cans.

These aluminum gems are recycled for cash to help provide housing for families visiting Jacksonville while their children receive medical care. RMHC takes the tabs to a local recycling center. Collections have helped raise over \$5,000 annually for RMHC of Jacksonville.

The price of aluminum changes on a regular basis depending on the supply and demand. On average, they receive between \$.40-\$.55 per pound of aluminum pop tabs. Approximately one million pull tabs equals 800 pounds. Approximately 1,430 pull tabs comes to about one pound.

"This ongoing school initiative is good for Ronald McDonald House families, our school and the environment. We can all do a little to make a big difference in our community," said Principal Yvonne Spinner.

# Literacy Week celebration includes author reading

During "Celebrate Literacy Week," the John Stockton Elementary School PTA sponsored a reading from award-winning children's author, Kentrell Martin, whose series of books feature a deaf girl named Shelly and her many adventures, and which incorporate American Sign Language in the stories.

During literacy week Jan. 28-Feb. 1, the PTA and school held other literacy events such as reading lunch dates with parents or grandparents, a vocabulary parade where kids dress up like a vocabulary word and parade around the campus for all to see, DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), buddy class reading where older classes buddy up with younger classes and read to each other, and ended the week with Lunch and Read (parents joined kids for lunch and read together).



Kentrell Martin, an award-winning children's author, incorporates sign language in his stories.



Rocky Smith, Lily Gordon and Pepper Lochrie participate in a Vocabulary Parade.



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# New Little League season evokes nostalgic thoughts from former players

**By Kandace Lankford**  
Resident Community News

At the inaugural game of the Navy Ortega Lakeshore (NOL) Little League, a field full of boys looked upward in wide-eyed wonder as the season opener started with the Blue Angels roaring overhead, leaving trails of blue and gold smoke across the sky. The year was 1960, and the game took place at Blue Angel Park at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. It was the beginning of an era that has echoed down through several generations.

NOL has gone through a kaleidoscope of changes since that day, but the sense of camaraderie and community that developed in the early days of the league has strengthened as fathers passed their proverbial bats down to their sons and daughters, and then to their grandchildren.

One of the NOL pioneers, Lee Wedekin, was 10 years old and played on the majors when the league started. His father was on the first board of directors, and father and son spent five years bonding through baseball. After that, Wedekin didn't return to the field for 19 years, when his firstborn was old enough to play. He spent a total of about 15 years coaching his four sons, but gave it up when he injured his elbow throwing curve balls.

"Now I'm back out there with my grandson, but I'm sitting in the stands watching and my son is coaching," said Wedekin. "We have had four generations of family out there, and I hope there will be a lot more of them."

He has many fond memories of being on the field during childhood, including the time he was 12 years old and played on an all-star team that went to the state championship. He chuckled as he recollected standing at bat, facing a formidable pitcher during his time playing for NOL.

"I remember being hit by Percy Rosenblum every time I faced him," said Wedekin.

Rosenblum, who was also part of NOL at the beginning, played as a minor leaguer his first year, then played two years on the major league and three as a senior leaguer. The friendships forged during his time playing on the teams, including his friendship with Wedekin, have deepened through the years.

"The Little League has been a big part of a lot of lives in the area for many years; people tend to stick around in this area," he said. "I played there, my two boys played there and now my grandson plays there."

Another original NOL player, Mark Hulsey, was on the same team as Wedekin. Hulsey played second base, and Wedekin played first.

"I always was proud of the fact that I was there for opening day at Blue Angel Park.

The first year I made the majors somehow; I was in the 4th grade and Navy squadrons sponsored all the teams. My team was the VA44 Hornets," said Hulsey. "It was a really important part of my life at that point, and I also coached my boys for a total of about seven years in the Ponte Vedra league."

During the late 1970s, Ortega resident Perry Walthour began playing for NOL and was there until about 1983. He spent most of that time playing in the majors for the Coke team. At that time, the teams were named after their sponsors.

His first time at bat was a memorable experience – instead of the anticipated crack of the bat against the ball, he was hit square between the eyes and his glasses broke in half. Even that couldn't put him on the bench – someone taped his glasses back together and the next time he went to bat, he ended up scoring a run.

About three years ago, Walthour returned to NOL when his daughters were old enough to play softball. A few months ago, he took on the role of player agent for the softball divisions.

"It's definitely a generational league," he said. "There are several people I went to high school with that are parents out there, and a lot of people I know in the community are volunteers or on the board."

In the early 2000s Steve Moore began coaching the first of his four children at NOL, and he continued to coach through last summer, when his youngest child aged out of the league. He coached over 20 teams, served on the board and the executive committee and was president of the league in 2011.

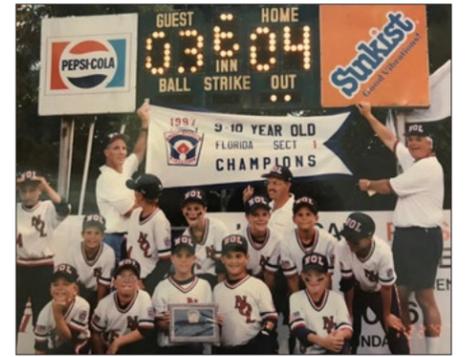
He was there to witness the fire that consumed the concession stand, boardroom building and press box, burning all the memorabilia. Although he doesn't recall the exact date, he remembers getting the phone call about the fire. He worked nearby and was able to be there within a matter of minutes. Firefighters put out the blaze, caused by faulty wiring, but the building was in ruins.

"It was in the off season, but the season was coming up. The NOL community and NOL alums quickly rallied together, and in a matter of probably two or three months had the place rebuilt better than before. It was operational by the spring season" he said. "It was a labor of love where everyone came together to rebuild, and I have no doubt that if something like that were to happen again, they would do the same thing – that's the way the community feels about NOL."

Since NOL first began, it has expanded from one field to multiple fields, and numerous improvements have been made recently. At present, the NOL league has 329 registered players and 29 teams, but the



Mark Hulsey, age 9, back in the day when he played for Navy Ortega Lakeshore (NOL) Little League.



Navy Ortega Lakeshore team were the 1997 Florida Section 1 Champs when Lee Wedekin coached.



Coca-Cola team 1979-80 with Coaches Doug Milne and Russell Walthour

goal is to expand to 400 players and about 40 teams, according to Patrick Barnett, league president.

"I feel like we are going through a transformation to bring a fun experience with enhanced facilities to the park," said Barnett. "During the past 14 months, we put over \$30,000 in private funds back into the facility. We have new scoreboards, new storage sheds, new equipment and new signage all throughout the park. We have upgraded the restrooms and the concessions as well."

When the NOL opens its 59th season on March 2, a mix of the new and the old will be evident. Improvements to the physical facility will be much appreciated, but it's the community spirit of NOL, pitched from one generation to the next, that makes the league strong.

"It's people you see at school, church, in the park and at the grocery store," said Barnett. "It's more of a family experience – you know everybody. It's a tight-knit group for everyone there."

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## Team captains learn about 'Power of Positive' at spring clinic

Representatives from the Bolles Upper School spring sports teams gathered in the Class of '46 Alumni Conference Room Feb. 2 for the Spring Captains' Clinic. The group participated in discussions on the challenges of being an effective team captain, the value of setting individual and team goals, and the importance of being a good role model for the entire Bolles community.

Student-athletes attending the clinic were Cal Henrichsen '19, Hunter Barco '19, Bryson Kirksey '19, Helena Kummings '20, Abigail Witt '20, Laine Roberts '20, Julia Preuss '19, Wiley Gillam '19 and Zayne Blackwell '19.



Zayne Blackwell, Laine Roberts, Julia Preuss, Cal Henrichsen, Hunter Barco, Bryson Kirksey, Wiley Gillam, Helena Kummings and Abigail Witt

The program was led by Dean of Students John Newman '86. Captains' Clinics were held in the fall and winter as well, continuing a program started last year as part of Bolles' partnership with Positive Coaching Alliance.

At the beginning of the program, Head of School Tyler Hodges dropped in to thank the student-athletes for their dedication to the program and school.

## Pediatric dentist teaches preschoolers oral hygiene

Since opening her Lakeside office, Kids First Dentistry, at Roosevelt Square Mall in 2013, Dr. Jila Mahajan has made it a practice to visit local preschools and elementary schools each January and February to teach children the importance of good dental hygiene.

The pediatric dentist visited Avondale Child's Day Out Early Learning Center, 1621 Talbot Ave., Feb. 5 where she demonstrated proper brushing and flossing techniques to nearly 40 students ages 1 to 4 years old. Mahajan enlisted the help of VPK-4 students Lorenza Gowdy and Matthew Almand to use puppets, Sunny and Chase, in the exercise.

The students also watched a short, animated film about oral hygiene and shared



Dr. Jila Mahajan squirts preschool students with water after teaching the class about the importance of oral hygiene.

their own successes about daily brushing. One little girl shared that she plays a tooth-brushing game to win a prize, while others showed off their nice, clean smiles.

Mahajan also visited St. John's Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool Feb. 11 and St. Mark's Episcopal Day School Feb. 12.

## Theater students rub elbows with variety show icon



Actor and comedian Carol Burnett with Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Theatre Tech students and Principal Melanie Hammer.

A group of Theatre Tech students from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts had the opportunity to be tech assistants at the Feb. 8 Jacksonville presentation of Carol Burnett's touring show, "An Evening of Laughter and Reflection," at the Moran Theater.

The students served as audience intercessors, extending the microphone to audience members during the show's multiple Question & Answer sessions with Burnett.

"It is so incredible to be here," said Brandon Diaz, a junior Musical Theatre student at DA. "I have watched every episode of 'The Carol Burnett Show' and now I get to see her live. This is a dream come true."

The students received instruction from Burnett's stage manager during the soundcheck.

"We were each assigned to a section in the audience," explained Winter McCormick, a senior. "We were instructed to flash our flashlights to the stage manager if we saw a hand raised in our section. Then we would hand the audience member the microphone if Carol called on the fan."

After the show, the group posed for a photo with Burnett as a memento of the occasion and Douglas Anderson Principal Melanie Hammer was ecstatic after the Burnett performance.

"It is so amazing that our students were able to meet such an icon," said Hammer. "I am sure that they will remember it always."



Kamy Loustau  
Signed to play soccer at Princeton



Aaron Hogshead Makar  
Lifelong dream to attend Duke. Accepted Early Decision.



1953 19 53 2019

## Celebrating St. Johns Seniors.

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### Lady Falcons win district volleyball championship



St. Matthew's Catholic School Girls Volleyball Team



St. Paul's Catholic School Girls Volleyball Team

The St. Matthew's Catholic School girls volleyball team, the Lady Falcons, won the district championship Jan. 30 at Bishop Kenny High School, beating Blessed Trinity. Led by Coach Melissa Merritt, the team went undefeated in their season for the second year in a row and has also won the league championship with no losses in two years. This team consists of some all-star scholar athletes, said Kathy Tuerk, principal.

The St. Paul's Catholic School girls volleyball team, the Ramblers, started strong in the pre-season tournament, scoring some early victories to set the tone for the upcoming weeks. In the regular season, the team of fourth- through eighth-grade girls worked tirelessly to improve their volleyball skills and create a positive and rewarding team dynamic. They ended the season 11-7, showing everyone that the Ramblers were back and ready for competition, said Sheila Roohan, volleyball coach and Grade 2 teacher.

## Rival basketball teams come together to beat cancer

The Bishop Kenny High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team paired up with The Bolles School Bulldogs Jan. 29 for the 2nd Annual Play 4 Kay game, raising \$1,200 to be split between Play 4 Kay and In the Pink. While the game brought the rival schools together, the common theme of beating cancer brought the community together.

Play 4 Kay is a fundraising initiative for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, established in 2007 to raise money for women's cancer research. Former head coach of the North Carolina State University women's basketball team, the late Coach Kay's motto was "When life kicks you, let it kick you forward."

Jeri Millard opened In the Pink, a boutique for women living with cancer, in 2009 with the goal to help women heal, and cope physically and mentally with the effects of cancer. In addition to the boutique in San



Girls' basketball players from Bolles, left, and Bishop Kenny, right, flank the cancer survivors who were honored during halftime at a cancer research fundraiser Jan. 29.

Marco on Hendricks Avenue, Millard has shops at Jacksonville Beach and in Sarasota.

Bishop Kenny Head Coach Charlea Clark chose the theme "Beat Cancer Together," bringing hype to the game by distributing pink T-shirts to the first 200 students in the door and to the 20 cancer survivors who were honored at halftime: Stephanie

Aiken, Marie Dodson, Bruce Dolmovich, Shanna Edge, Joseph Ferencsik, Sarah Graham, Heather Griffin-Nipper, Lisa Henry, Cheryl LaBarge, Dollie Lim, Julie McCarthy, Amy Mergen, Linda Montgomery, Cheryl O'Connor, Zoe Regas, Kathy Reynolds, Anne Robinson, Scott Sberna, Dana Stevenson and Jackie Terry.

## Bolles student-athletes make college commitments



Will Shepherd, Kyle Coffindaffer, Michael Jubran, Kel McCloud, Jack Brady, Pearson Toomey, Chris Sanders, Claire Cywes, Adrian Grant, Miles Herman, Ethan Thomas, Camila Batista, Ashley Rabinovich

Thirteen Bolles student-athletes were honored Feb. 6 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers. The second of three commitment ceremonies to recognize the student-athletes was held in McGehee Auditorium on the Upper School San Jose Campus. The final ceremony will be Wednesday, April 17.

The following Bolles student-athletes were honored: Will Shepherd, Dartmouth College, Baseball; Jack Brady, University of Florida,

Kyle Coffindaffer, Marist College, Michael Jubran, Jacksonville University, Kel McCloud, Benedict College, Chris Sanders, Florida A&M, and Pearson Toomey, Furman University (signed Dec. 19), Football; Claire Cywes, Haverford College, Women's Soccer; Adrian Grant, Florida Institute of Technology, Miles Herman, Skidmore College, and Ethan Thomas, Boston University, Men's Swimming; and Camila Batista, University of New Mexico, and Ashley Rabinovich, Wingate University, Women's Swimming.

Brianna Enter  
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## New female Boy Scout troop inaugurated in Ortega

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

Scouts BSA Troop 465, a new girls-only Boy Scout troop, enjoyed a welcome aboard ceremony Feb. 11 when Boy Scout Troop 522 presented the girls with their own troop flag and a U.S. flag.

The troop's charter organization will be Ortega United Methodist Church, 4807 Roosevelt Blvd. Scoutmaster is Sean Deese and assistant scoutmaster is his wife, Nichole. The couple's son, Nathan, belongs to Boy Scout Troop 522 and their daughter, Brooke, is a founding member of Troop 465. Both Nathan and Brooke took part in the ceremony.

The new troop's founding verse is Psalm 46:5, "God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at the break of day." During the ceremony, Scoutmaster Deese shared a brief history of "firsts" for women, noting the 100th anniversary in 2019 of women's right to vote was a fitting comparison to the Feb. 1, 2019 launch date of the Boy Scouts' decision to open its ranks to female Scouts.



Charter members of Scouts BSA Troop 465 include Sydney, Addison, Brooke, Myra, Alexis, Nina, Kaylee and Kendal

The BSA made the decision in October 2017 to open the Boy Scout program to both boys and girls ages 11 to 17. Renamed Scouts BSA, the program welcomes both genders, but will not be co-ed. Troops will be single-gender and will meet independently.

In 2018, the BSA opened up the Cub Scout program to both boys and girls ages 5 to 10. Within the North Florida Council, more than 800 girls joined Cub Scouts putting the local council in the top 10 in the southern region.

The Scouts BSA girls-only troops will have the same curriculum as the current program and will earn the same merit badges and achieve the same ranks, including the prestigious Eagle Scout rank. Girls who join by the end of 2019 will be granted an additional two years to achieve the Eagle rank, said Nichole Deese. The male and female troops will have separate scoutmasters. Serving Troop 522 is Jim Steele, who was assistant scoutmaster under Deese.

Boy Scouts of America, North Florida Council has approximately 14 girls-only troops across its 17-county area, including Troop 465 in Ortega, which is the first female Boy Scout troop in the council's Great Muskogee District, according to John Wiegert, district executive, who attended the ceremony.



Troop 522 Scout Nathan Deese with Troop 465 Scoutmaster Sean Deese and Scout Brooke Deese

## Two St. Paul's Catholic students win Rising Star awards

Two St. Paul's Catholic School students were named Step Up For Students Rising Stars and were recognized at a county-wide awards program Feb. 28. Schools nominate up to six individuals (students, teachers and family members) in five categories of achievement.

Ngong Beit received the High Achieving Student Award. With the help of Catholic Charities, Beit's family was able to move to the U.S. from Sudan. They found a simple apartment not far from the school. Not too long after Beit was born, his father died of cancer. Since then, his mother has supported the family by working two jobs. Beit entered St. Paul's in PreK-4.

"Beit and his family have a strong faith and put God, family, and academics first," said Kim Repper, principal. "Ngong receives Honor Roll each quarter and is always a model of Christian citizenship. Ngong is well respected by his classmates, representing the fourth grade with Student Council. We look forward to hearing of Ngong's great successes in the future!"

Sixth-grader Jayden Register also joined St. Paul's as a PreK-4 student. She earned the Outstanding Student Character Award. "She is a well-mannered, personable young lady who always wears a smile. Jayden gives 110 percent and is often harder on herself than her teachers or parents are!" said Repper. "She is a good student and is able to balance academics with her passion for dance."

Register has danced since she was four years old. Having two brothers, she has learned to be flexible when finances have been tough, and understands her parents



Jayden Register and Ngong Beit

try their best to put her and her siblings' education and needs before anything else. "Jayden is loved by all who spend time in her presence," Repper said.

Step Up, a nonprofit scholarship funding organization serving Florida schoolchildren, is expected to help 125,000 children during the 2018-19 school year with four scholarships – the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for children in lower-income families, the Gardiner Scholarship for children with certain special needs, the Hope Scholarship for children who are bullied in public school, and the Reading Scholarship Accounts program, to assist struggling readers in third through fifth grades.



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## Young 'green thumbs' learn how to beautify neighborhood

If 12 boys and girls, ages 3 to 12, were successful, there will soon be more flowers blooming in the neighborhood. The youngsters are members of the Budding Gardeners, a creative gardening camp sponsored by the Garden Club of Jacksonville's Wildflowers Circle.

On Feb. 9, the children learned how to create seed bombs, taught by members of the Late Bloomers Garden Club, and seed mats, instructed by Wildflowers Circle members.

Budding Gardeners Leader Aline Clement kicked off the camp with a story about the endangered Monarch butterfly and encouraged the young gardeners to plant milkweed to attract the Monarch caterpillar.



Allen Thakker receives a little help making a seed bomb from Leslie Pierpont.

Following the educational story time, the children made seed bombs – a ball of compost, soil and wheatgrass or flower seeds, which can be tossed onto bare ground or into the woods after drying. According to Leslie Pierpont, member of Late Bloomers, seed bombs were started in urban locations to beautify vacant areas. The activity of tossing seed balls is sometimes called guerrilla gardening because you can stealthily bomb unsuspecting neighbors' yards and other off-limits spots with flowers.

Another engaging activity was creating Valentine cards using heart-shaped paper doilies encrusted with seeds. The recipients of the cards will be encouraged to plant the doilies under a light coat of soil in a sunny place and wait for flowers to grow.

The seed bomb mix was donated by seedballs.com and seeds were supplied by Joel Philips of Philips Garden Center.

The next Budding Gardeners camp will be held Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Garden Club, 1005 Riverside Ave. Children will create something special for Mother's Day. Call (904) 355-4224 or email [info@gardenclubofjacksonville.org](mailto:info@gardenclubofjacksonville.org) to register your child.



Lauren Wright and Liam Will took part in making seed bombs, clumps of fertile soil embedded with flower seeds.

## Girls' troop helps local church with outreach to homeless



Avery Peters, Lucy and Ella Cooke, Tessa Brunson, Coco Breton, Kate Peters, Lily Hardaker, Penny Breton, Ziva Hill, Adelyn Brunson, Eden Hill, Daisy Hardaker

The Avondale troop of the American Heritage Girls and family members volunteered at The Well Church of Jacksonville Feb. 10 packing toiletry bags and making Valentine cards, which were distributed later that week when The Well Church took its mobile shower unit out to serve Jacksonville's homeless population. The girls had a wonderful time helping and look forward to working with the Riverside-based church again on future outreach efforts.

## Sixth-grade student hopeful for geography bee state finals

Riverside Presbyterian Day School fourth- to sixth-grade students participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee sponsored by Google. In the final round of competition, which took place Jan. 10, sixth-grader Susanna Ball outlasted fifth-grader Harrison Spencer by answering the following question correctly, "National Geographic Explorer Ricardo Moreno studies jaguars and human-jaguar conflict in places like Darien National Park, the largest national park in which Central American Country?" The correct answer



Susanna Ball and Harrison Spencer

is Panama. Ball now moves closer to winning a college scholarship and will try to advance to the state finals by completing the online state test Jan. 30. Results will be available March 4.

# Boys and Girls!!

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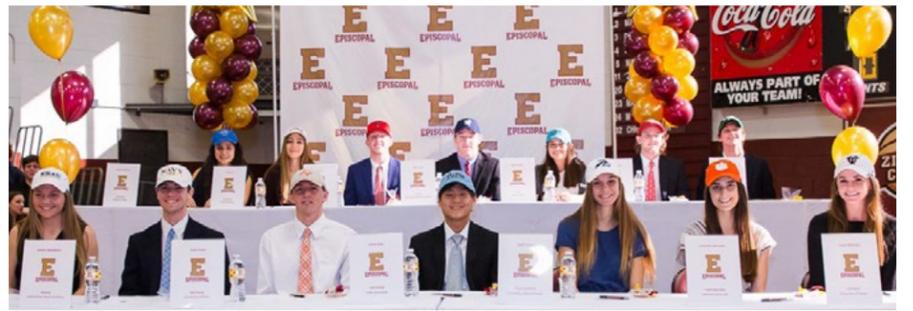
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## Episcopal student-athletes make college commitments



Front: Stela Chepenik, Kiefer Washburn, Cole Crane, James Kim, Gabi Carter, Caroline Johnston, Leah Williams; back: Hollin Hakimian, Ana Ion, Zack Blair, Jake Tylski, Apryl Parker, Samuel King and Colin Sirbaugh

Fourteen student-athletes at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville made their commitments Feb. 6 to a college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers. The ceremony was held in Semmes Gym.

The following ESJ student-athletes were honored: San Jose resident Hollin Hakimian, Wellesley College, and Ana Ion, Alfred College, Basketball; Zack Blair, Concordia University, and Jake Tylski, Charleston Southern, Football; Samuel King, Cornell,

and Ortega resident Colin Sirbaugh, Stetson University, and Apryl Parker, Eckerd College, Golf; Miramar resident Stela Chepenik, Embry Riddle, Lacrosse; Empire Point resident Kiefer Washburn, U.S. Naval Academy, Rowing; Cole Crane, University of Texas and James Kim, Tufts, Swimming; Gabi Carter, University of North Florida and Caroline Johnson, Clemson, Cross Country/Track and Field/Triathlon; and Leah Williams, University of Tampa, Volleyball.

## Reading with mom a sweet treat for kindergartners

To promote reading, family unity and community involvement, Fishweir Elementary School held its annual Read to Your Sweetheart Day on, appropriately, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. Four kindergarten classes took to the front courtyard armed with blankets and books to hear stories read by parents, grandparents and other caregivers. "If kids see their parents reading, it will increase their own interest and desire to do so," said Sonya Demps, kindergarten teacher. The other kindergarten teachers include Ernestine Parks, Jane Ruffin and Kaitlyn Feathers.



Nekesheana Sanders with granddaughter Kymani Sanders

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## Ortega streets shut down for annual river run

Despite a fog that held throughout most of the race, the 41st annual Ortega River Run saw nearly 2,000 runners of all ages compete in one or both of the early morning races which started and ended at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. In the Gran Prix-sanctioned 5-mile run, 1,278 runners vied for top prizes, with Lydia McRae and Alejandro Hernandez finishing first in the female and male categories. A large family-friendly street fair with food, activities, and giveaways was also part of the special day. Proceeds will benefit the financial aid and scholarship program at the school. Sponsors were St. Vincent's HealthCare/Ascension and Duval Motor Company.



Declan Meeker, Lula Kate Richards, Kinley Meeker, and Emily Kidd



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School Teachers Lauren Mahoney and Holly Joyner with kindergartners



Start of the 1-mile run

## Woman's Club joins First Responders, parents in annual Kindness Day event



Members of the West Riverside Elementary School PTA and the Woman's Club of Jacksonville came together with Jacksonville First Responders to help students celebrate Kindness Day Feb. 14.

Since beginning their Journey 2 Kindness in 2017 with the Great Kindness Challenge, students and faculty at West Riverside Elementary School have celebrated Kindness Day Feb. 14 with a parade through a colorful balloon Community Kindness Tunnel and high fives from poster-waving parents, school staff and members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department before attending a Kindness Pep Rally in the auditorium.

"It's so amazing to see the community come together to support kindness and to support our kids to promote kindness in the school and outside the school," said Stephanie Vihlen, president of the PTA. "The first year there was just a couple of parents and now look at the crowd out here. It's wonderful."

This year members of the Woman's Club of Jacksonville joined the fun and were acknowledged for their own acts of kindness

to the school throughout the years. The women have raised money to supply the school with a new speaker system, art tables and other needed supplies, as well as serving as Lunch Buddies. "The kindness is incredible here," said Laura Crooks, a Lunch Buddy. "You never hear a raised voice."

Kindness Week kicked off with "Wear Bright Colors Monday" to brighten someone's day by being kind, "Pajama Tuesday" to encourage dreaming of being kind, "Superhero Wednesday" to be a hero by showing kindness, and culminated on Valentine's Day wearing red to have a heart for kindness. The children also collected items for K-9s For Warriors during that week.

The event was sponsored by the American Civility Association, founded by Amy Barnett, who introduced the Kindness program to West Riverside in 2017. After that first year, there was a 66 percent decrease in discipline referrals, said Principal Shawna White.

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### Perkins hoping to go to state geography bee

Fifth- and sixth-grade students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee sponsored by Google. Sixth-grader Sam Perkins was the champion while Sarah Frances Magevney, also in Grade 6, was the runner-up. Perkins, who completed an online test in January to try to qualify for the state GeoBee, is awaiting the results due March 4.

## Little kids develop mighty big hearts

As part of their Service Learning Project, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School second-grade students partnered with Art with a Heart in Healthcare to collect art supplies for young patients staying at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The supplies were placed in "Art-to-Go" bags and blessed in chapel on Feb. 13. In addition, students created keepsake pictures in art class that were given to patients along with the bags before Valentine's Day to brighten their day. "We loved watching the joy and excitement our students had while working on this special project," said Dina Middlekauff and Sue Fligor, Grade 2 teachers.



### Inaugural 'Ethics Bowl' trophy captured by Douglas Anderson team

The student Ethics Team from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts captured the inaugural First Coast High School Ethics Bowl held at the University of North Florida Feb. 2.

The Douglas Anderson squad, composed of Marla Eisman, a junior from San Jose, Caroline Owen, a junior from Avondale, Sarah Spencer, a Southside senior, Katie Varon, a senior from Riverside and Araya West, a Westside junior, competed against 10 teams from seven different high schools.

In each round of the competition, in front of professional judges, the students analyzed real-life ethical issues, from personal cases to global concerns.

"The students had 15 case studies that they needed to analyze for the competition," said DA social studies teacher Jamie Stater, who coached the Ethics Team, along with UNF graduate student Jason Simpson. "It was so impressive how they were able to discuss complex ethical issues, defend



Displaying their championship trophy from the First Coast High School Ethics Bowl are Douglas Anderson students Araya West, Marla Eisman, Sarah Spencer, Caroline Owen and Katie Varon.

whichever position they thought was correct, and demonstrate that they have analyzed the case rigorously and systematically.

"I am confident that these students will become the informed leaders in their communities, and will make a difference in the world," Stater added.

The team will next compete in a virtual match against the Georgia regional champion, with a chance to go onto the national Ethics Bowl to be held in the spring at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

### Abstract art has meaning to beholder

Central Riverside Elementary School's fourth-grade students learned about abstract art and created line design paintings using fluorescent tempera cakes. Next, they added line details using oil pastels. "They were a bit nervous at first because their painting 'didn't look like anything' but they soon discovered that Abstract Art has no subject," said Terry Woodlief, art teacher. "It is just lines, shapes, and colors."



Zycorie Allen and Michah Hall create abstract art.

### Girls volleyball offered at Ortega church

All Out Sports is opening registration for two girls' volleyball leagues, beginning Monday, March 4 for Grades 4-6 and Tuesday, March 5 for Grade 7-8. Games will be played in the Ortega Family Life Center at 4807 Roosevelt Blvd. League fee is \$70 and includes a jersey. Sign up at [ortegaumc.org](http://ortegaumc.org) or email [melissas@ortegaumc.org](mailto:melissas@ortegaumc.org) for more information.



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