

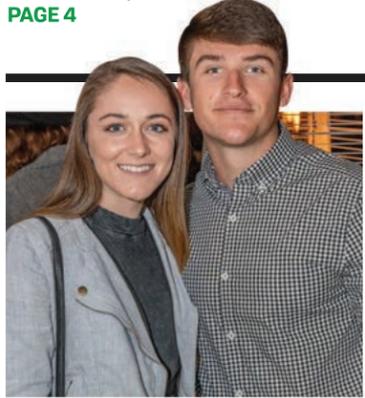
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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

At-Large City Council candidates share thoughts at San Marco forum

READ MORE, PAGE 4



Diner en Noir masquerade gala convened at Congaree and Penn

Katherine Connolly and Noah Pescitelli, members of CAPtivators, joined dozens of other young professionals at a mystery dinner to raise funds for Cathedral Arts Project.

READ MORE, PAGE 27



PGA volunteer receives Deane Beman award

Anne Nimnicht, 75, became the fifth recipient of the Deane Beman Award for a lifetime of contributions to professional and other golf activities in Northeast Florida. The award was named for the former PGA Tour commissioner who brought the PGA Tour to the First Coast. Nimnicht, of San Jose, was honored for more than 50 years of service at the First Coast Celebration of Golf banquet Feb. 19 at the San Jose Country Club.

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Legal community rallies around charity chili cookoff

Young lawyers contribute funds to nonprofit

Associates from the law firm of Kubicki Draper attracted the votes for Most Spirited team at the Jacksonville Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section 10th annual Charity Chili Cookoff, Feb. 16 at Riverside Arts Market. Shown here are Vanessa Grace, Debbie Eiserman, Kara Cosse with daughter Sloan, Christine Day and Hillary Lovelady.

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Great gathering for growing the mission

Dr. Eric Gabriel and Katie Gabriel with Kelly Owens and Dr. Ryan Owens were among the many who embody the mission of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. Attendees of the 38th annual Red Rose Ball enjoyed the soiree at the Jacksonville Marriott Southpoint, Feb. 15.

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Bulldogs alum honored at Super Bolles event

Jim Newman with Sandy Catanese and Susan Newman were among alumni, longtime donors and supporters of The Bolles School honored at a Super Bowl-themed "party of champions" on the campus Jan. 31.

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

Theater students rub elbows with variety show icon

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Theatre Tech students were tech assistants at the Feb. 8 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 Burnett's Question & Answer sessions.

"I have watched every episode of 'The Carol Burnett Show' and now I get to see her live.

This is a dream come true," said Brandon Diaz, a junior Musical Theatre student.

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."



Models strut stuff for great cause

Heart of the Runway Honorary Chair Elli Zimmerman, left, gets a hug from Linda Cunningham, owner of Linda Cunningham, a designer boutique, and host of the annual benefit for North Florida School of Special Education, held on Valentine's Day.

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Servicing the 'last mile' in San Marco

Company to provide free transit to San Marco and Southbank businesses

By Marcia Hogdson
Resident Community News

San Marco's parking problem may be solved.

Thanks to the efforts of Robert Harris, former president of the San Marco Merchants Association, and others, Beachside Buggies, the same free-ride transportation service that successfully serves the Jacksonville Beaches, will be expanding its micro-transit facilities to San Marco.

The transportation company is branded at the Beach as Beachside Buggies and will be known in San Marco's historic district by the moniker Beach Buggies – San Marco.

The San Marco Merchants Association and other local businesses will fund the service in its entirety through sponsorships and advertising, so it can provide two environmentally-friendly, zero-emission, long-range electric vehicles to ferry residents, shoppers, and tourists around the commercial areas of San Marco and the Southbank at no cost to its riders other than tips for the drivers.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

Baptist Convention buildings razed, plans in the works



The buildings on the old Florida Baptist Convention Center site at 1230 Hendricks Avenue are coming down to make way for a new multi-use development.

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The walls were tumbling down at the old Florida Baptist Convention Center site at 1230 Hendricks Ave. in late February as developers made way to build more residential apartments and retail space in the South Jacksonville area.

In June 2017, Florida Baptist Convention Inc. sold the property to Chadbourne II LLC for \$6.15 million, according to the City of Jacksonville property appraiser's website. Chadbourne II LLC holds the same address as Block One Ventures, a multi-family development company. The Block One website says it is a Jacksonville-based company backed by a discretionary proprietary equity source and can "make quick investment decisions, providing improved certainty of close for property sellers."

In April 2017, prior to the sale, the Jacksonville City Council unanimously approved rezoning for the approximately 3.37-acre site as a planned unit development (PUD). The PUD allows a maximum of 345 residential units and up to 30,000 square feet of retail and commercial uses.

Being demolished on the site are several buildings including the old Florida Baptist Convention Center building, a building that formerly housed the offices of the Florida Baptist Financial Services, and the Florida Baptist Credit Union as well as a metal storage building, a building that was used for theological-education classes, and a recording studio.

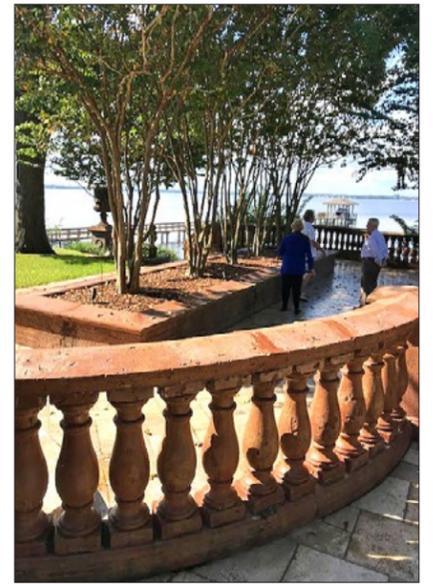
The property has been vacant for nearly two years. The Florida Baptist Convention, which had occupied the red-brick building since 1960, moved to new office space in Southpoint in March 2017.

In May 2017, *The Resident* reported that the developer, Block One Ventures, had proposed to build a seven-story building, which would include retail, restaurant and office space on the first and second floors, as well as an amenity center, courtyard, and pool with studio apartments to two-plus bedroom units and seven-level parking garage, which will be built adjacent to the residential building. At that time, District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer said a rooftop terrace and restaurant would also be included in the plans.

The architect and planner for the project is Baker Barrios Architects Inc. The engineering firm is England-Thims & Miller Inc.

The developer is also planning to provide a portion of the bicycle/pedestrian path the city plans to build that will run in front of the property along Nira Street, Boyer said during a Florida Department of Transportation meeting in January regarding the multi-use path and the closure of the railroad crossing at Naldo Street. The 16-foot-wide path will consist of a circuit connecting the Southbank Riverwalk, the new multi-use bridge being built over the Fuller Warren Bridge, the easement behind Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Children's Way/Nira Street to the Kings Avenue Parking Garage and The District - Life Well Lived development.

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 Wardroom.



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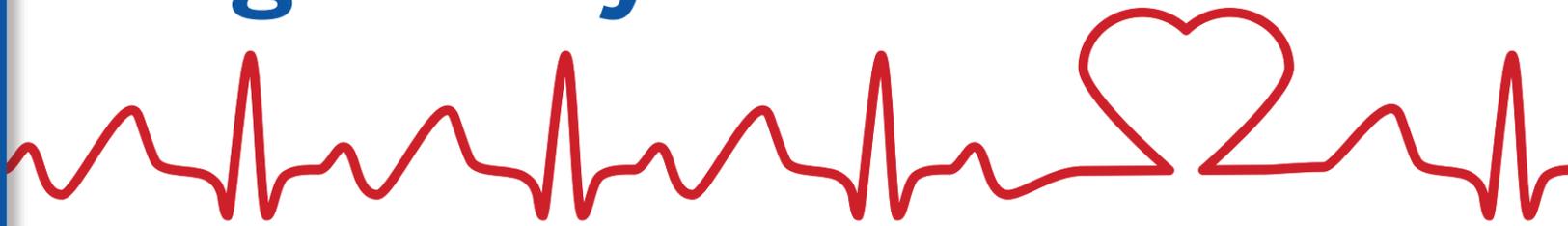


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At-Large candidates vie for San Marco's Vote

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 hosted by the San Marco Preservation Society Feb. 11.

Thirteen of the 16 candidates who qualified to run At-Large shared their views before a capacity audience of San Marco voters in a large meeting room 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



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)

being held at Balis Community Center in San Marco March 4 -17.

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 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.

Running unopposed in District 5, LeAnna Cumber of San Marco automatically won the seat and was introduced by Councilwoman Lori Boyer, who moderated the forum. Cumber will claim her council seat July 1.

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,

San Marco residents will vote for one candidate from each of five groups.

"Whomever is elected in each one of these groups will be an additional representative for District 5 in addition to LeAnna," explained Boyer. "You can look at it as having six representatives rather than just one, because these folks will represent the entire city."

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; 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 Southside Baptist. Two of the questions dealt with issues close to the hearts of San Marco residents – drainage and resiliency issues and how to maintain San Marco's historic charm – while 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



Sam Newby (At-Large Group 5) with District 5 Councilwoman-elect LeAnna Cumber

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.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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St. Johns Riverkeeper Director John Trainer with Ron Salem (Group 2) and Matt Carlucci (Group 4)

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, an Ortega resident, 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 decisionmaker 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.

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),



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.

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.”



Niki Brunson (Group 5) with Councilman Terrance Freeman (Group 1), San Marco Preservation Society Board Member Robin Robinson and Don Redman (Group 4)

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Park enhancements limit fishing, grant boaters access to San Marco

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Feedback from San Marco residents was largely favorable as City of Jacksonville officials rolled out a preliminary design of a fishing platform and floating boat dock with water-taxi stand planned for San Marco's Riverfront Park. The design was shared during a public meeting hosted by District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer Jan. 24 at Balis Community Center.

Approximately a dozen residents listened as John Pappas, director of Public Works, Daryl Joseph, director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and City Natural Resources and Recreation Specialist Brian Burket joined Boyer in discussing the park enhancements they hope will solve the issues sparked by overfishing in the park while also drawing more people into San Marco Square.

With money obtained in 2017 from a Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) grant, the City designed a fishing structure and floating boat dock complete with water-taxi stand. Plans are still in the preliminary stages and the City has not allocated money to build the fishing pier or nautical platform, Joseph said, adding his team wanted community feedback before getting the cost estimates to seek funding. "If we had funding by October, the project would be at least a year out," he said.

In 2016, Boyer held a public meeting to discuss the idea of building a long pier off the bulkhead in Riverfront Park to protect its crumbling seawall. Also discussed as ways to dampen the park's "culture of fishing" were to have the City place fencing around neighboring homes and converting the portion of River Road fronting the park into a one-way street.



Rendering of the present design of the proposed fishing pier and floating boat dock the City of Jacksonville hopes to build in San Marco's Riverfront Park.

Since that meeting, the bulkhead has been restored and River Road, between Landon Avenue and Laverne Street, has been changed so that traffic travels only one way, north.

Fishing pier

In the City's new plan, fishermen would be restricted to casting their lines off a 20-foot wide, 18-foot long rectangular platform which will sit at the end of a 20-foot pier extending from the bulkhead in the middle of the park. The concrete platform will accommodate approximately a dozen

fisherman, Burket said, noting the platform will be positioned in the park's center between two multi-family residential buildings so it will avoid being in direct view of the residents' front doors.

Leading to the fishing platform, across the grass, would be a five-foot-long sidewalk with an ADA-compliant handrail (Americans with Disabilities Act). A "special emphasis" crosswalk would span River Road and be adjacent to a single-vehicle handicapped parking spot on the east side of the street.

"We are designing a fishing structure to confine fishing use to a designated location," said Burket. "By concentrating the use and impact of fishing to one particular spot, hopefully in the fishermen's eyes, we are enhancing their fishing opportunity further out into the water."

Fishing in any other area of the park would be illegal, as will swimming off the platform or floating boat dock, said Joseph. Later in the meeting, he admitted enforcement of these rules might be a challenge but added that the Parks Department has "roving security guards" that go from park to park to assist the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

When the new bulkhead was installed, riprap rock was placed at the bottom to help reinforce it, said Boyer, adding it may serve as a deterrent to fishermen attempting to fish off the bulkhead.

"Our sense was that we weren't going to prohibit fishing, but that the park was being overused. It can't handle, for the size of its space, the number of people who were showing up. Part of the concept of the fishing platform is to provide a place a little further out that doesn't have the issue of riprap near the bulkhead and is closer to the artificial reef [in the middle of the river]," she said. Also, it is contained, making it impossible to fit more fishermen than the park can handle. The square design is meant to minimize the visual impact of the pier for the adjacent property owners, Boyer said.

Joseph agreed. "This provides us with the opportunity to reel in the activity that is going on here while still providing a great amenity," he said. "It will give us some leverage from that standpoint so that everyone is doing what they should be doing in a safe environment. This is an attractive location. If we wanted to stop people from fishing, we wouldn't do this at all. We want to encourage people to fish in the most practical manner possible."

After the meeting, Dr. Quinton White, executive director of the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University and a Miramar resident, said he loved the idea of the fishing platform. "The platform itself will help attract fish. It's a substrate that will produce food that the fish will hang onto," he said.

Floating dock

The new plans also include an L-shaped 105-foot concrete floating boat dock, which would be positioned at the south end of the park. The boat dock was the idea of FIND Commissioner Michael O'Steen, a San Marco resident, said Burket, and would accommodate up to five 30- to 35-foot privately-owned vessels for a few hours, as well as a water taxi. A 40-foot ADA-compliant aluminum or steel-access gangway would provide access to the dock, which would be attached to pilings high enough so that the anchorage could survive flood events.

"The fishing structure would be a fair distance away from the floating dock so there will be no conflict when people cast their lines," he said. "It's a law that fishermen can't be on the floating dock," Joseph said when asked if fishermen who couldn't fit on the fishing platform might try to use the anchorage.

As with the fishing platform, the floating boat dock would also be ADA-compliant, with a path with ADA-complaint handrail leading to a "special emphasis" crosswalk across River Road and another new single-vehicle handicap parking space at the southernmost section of the street.

"The location would line up with Landon Avenue and the sidewalk there because it is the shortest distance from the park to San Marco Square. We anticipate vast numbers of users will want to go into San Marco's downtown area to a restaurant or to shop," said Burket. "Boaters might be coming from Ortega or Riverside, or from anywhere really, to enjoy the community for a visit and then head on back."

"From a boater's perspective, from Goodby's Creek to Downtown, this would be the only place where the public can access the Southside," said San Marco Preservation Society President Bryan Mickler. "This dock is going to be great, and the boaters will be self-policing."

Having a floating boat dock at Riverfront Park also falls in line with the City's goal to increase access downtown to the St. Johns River. San Marco is a much-requested destination by both residents of other Jacksonville communities and city visitors, he said.

"We talk about people coming into the neighborhood, but this is also a great opportunity for citizens who live in San Marco to go downtown or to other areas of the city as well," said Joseph. "It will not just bring people into San Marco but will provide an alternative form of transportation for them to get to other facilities in Jacksonville."

After the meeting, St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman welcomed the plan. "I think it is a challenging situation to balance the access to the river and balance the protection of the park. It's a good approach," she said.

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May 4, 9 am-noon | Hosted by Anil Pathak, CRS, Realtor & Kirk Johanson, Realtor

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.

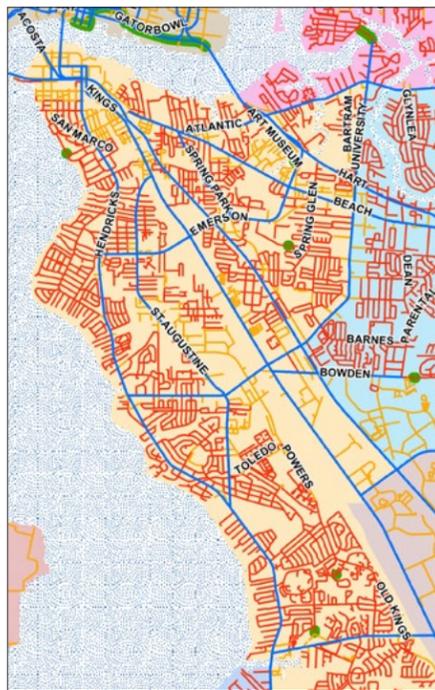
Originally the bill intended to limit truckers to 52 truck routes and 10 alternate routes. Most state roads would automatically

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



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



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.

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, 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.



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

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. 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.

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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 or call Keep Jacksonville Beautiful at (904) 630-3420.

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" finished, 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.

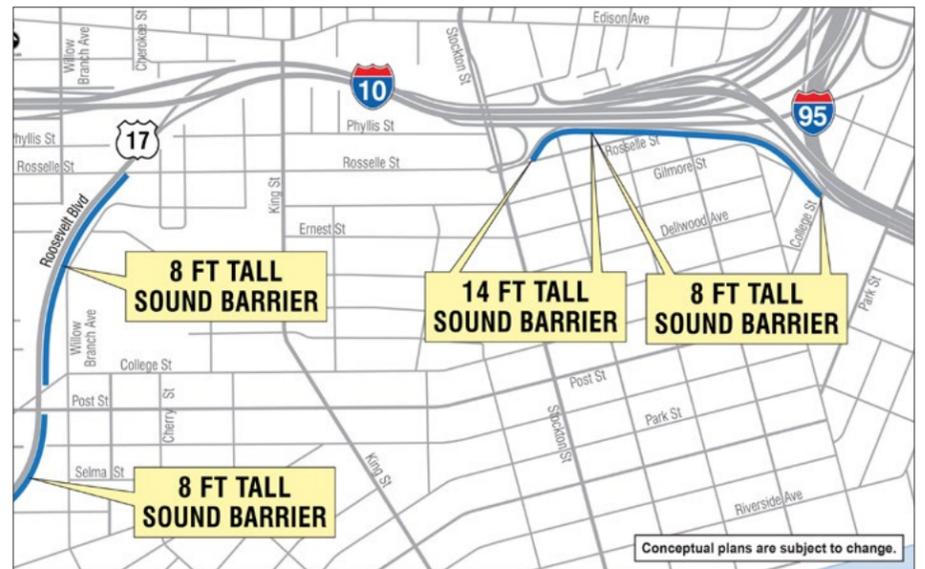
The FDOT began planning the project five years ago, beginning work in May 2017. The contract days, as of mid-February, were listed as 692 used out of 1,329 projected on the FDOT's active contracts website.

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



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



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.

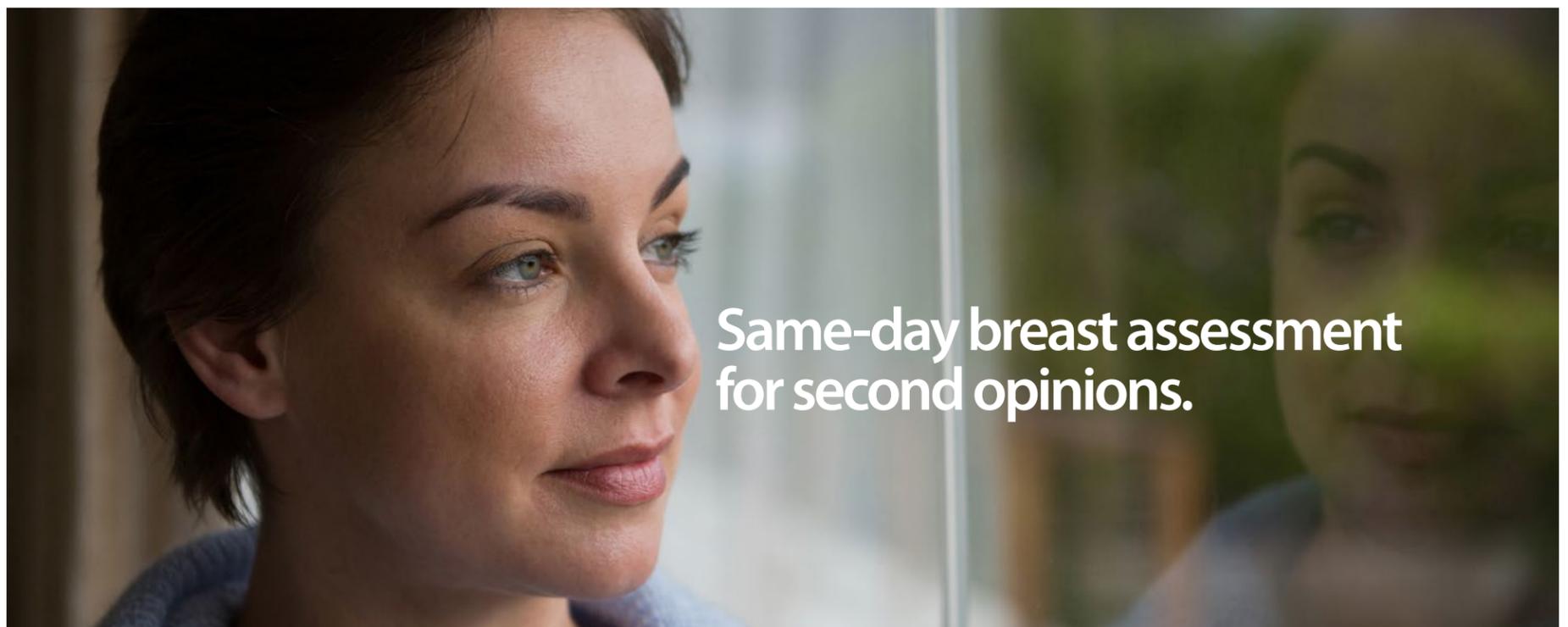
Contractors are also making preparations to construct a sound wall along the east side of U.S. 17/Roosevelt Boulevard northbound, beginning at McDuff Avenue and ending at Rosselle Street.

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.



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Beachside Buggies FROM PAGE 1

“This will totally solve our parking problems,” said Harris, who after discovering the buggy service last year while spending time with his family in his Jacksonville Beach condo decided to woo them to San Marco. “If you are a merchant, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose. If you are a San Marco resident, you can keep your car at home and use this.”

Mike Balanky, a Southbank resident, said he plans to work with the service to help SMMA “pioneer” the buggies. “This could be huge. It is amazing at the Beach. I can see it constantly circulating the whole of San Marco and the Southbank,” he said, adding he also envisions the micro-transit service to gain popularity and eventually expand to 5 Points, Riverside, Avondale and Downtown. “The more connectivity, the better,” he said.

Owned and operated by Billy Chenoweth and Dustin Kaloostian, Beachside Buggies got its start in 2014 when it started offering free rides to restaurants and businesses using golf carts within Jacksonville’s three beach communities. Today the service has expanded to include eight 10-seater

electric carts and 14 passenger vans that run approximately 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

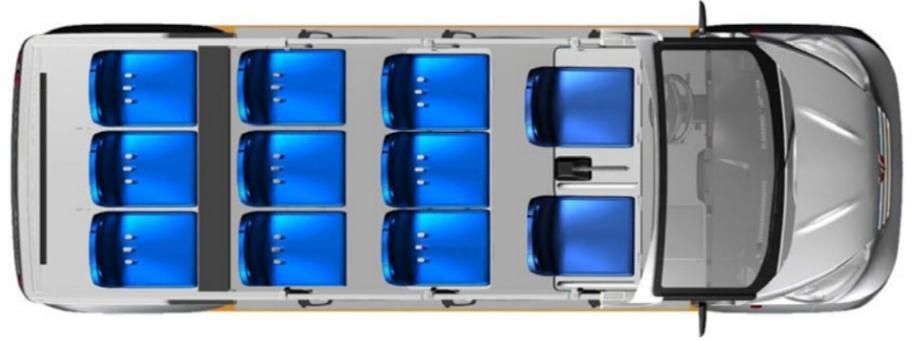
“I wanted to create a business where I didn’t need to leave the beach,” said Chenoweth, a Jacksonville Beach resident. “There was no taxi system at the beach except Uber. No one to do the short rides. Drinking is huge at the beach, and this was one way to get everyone home safe at the end of the night.”

Since then, ridership at the beach has ballooned to 10,000 riders per month. “During peak times, we get a ride request every five to 12 seconds. It’s that busy,” said Kaloostian.

“Our goal is to create a unique culture within the San Marco business district and its residents,” he said. “We hope to slowly evolve the thinking of a more shared-economy green approach to micro transit. We want to change the way people think about their last mile in San Marco.”

Chenoweth agreed. “Our idea is to create a system that rotates people around wherever they need to go,” he said. “People who go to San Marco (can park and) won’t need to move their cars. They won’t always need to be looking for parking. If they live in San Marco, they will never need to move their cars from their homes,” he said. “If we can get everyone who lives in San Marco not to bring their cars out, it will mean there will be more parking for the people that don’t live right here.”

The service will use custom-made, open-air vehicles that seat 10 and look like a cross between a car and a golf cart. Narrower than the average car, the buggies have 13-inch wheels, caliper brakes and use batteries that recharge overnight by plugging into any electric outlet, costing only a penny a mile in electricity, said Chenoweth.



Courtesy of several San Marco merchants, Beach Buggies - San Marco will bring two 10-seater electric carts to the area to help alleviate San Marco’s parking woes.



Dustin Kaloostian and his partner, Billy Chenoweth

At its inception, the short-trip service will include residences and commercial locations north of River Oaks Road to the Southbank and along Kings Street. As more businesses sign up as sponsors, more vehicles will be added and the buggies will be able to cover a larger area, said Chenoweth.

Beach Buggies differs from other transportation services in that it receives no government subsidies and is funded only by local businesses who choose to advertise or sponsor the service.

So far 14 San Marco businesses including Alexander Rose’s Green Palm Realty, the San Marco Theatre, Grape and Grain, Town Hall, Jon Singleton – Watson Realty, the San Marco Bookstore, The Bearded Pig, bb’s, Taverna, European Street Café, V Pizza,

Sidecar, Beer:30; Hurricane Grill & Wings had signed on as initial sponsors.

“We anticipate quickly needing more vehicles, and we anticipate people asking us to expand our boundaries,” said Kaloostian, and his partner agreed. “We are starting small because it’s hard to sell something before it’s there,” Chenoweth said.

Riders will request on-demand transportation through a free mobile app. If they see a buggy passing by on the street, they can also hail it much as one might hail a cab in New York City, said Harris.

“Our app is similar to Uber’s but when you show up on the map all the drivers can see it and see where everyone is going,” said Chenoweth. “Unlike Uber, which is one

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 11**

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person to Point A from Point B, we pick up many riders and may drop them off along the way. We can move so many people with not that many vehicles. When you order a ride from us, you can see it on our app. You can see it driving around as it comes right to you.”

Businesses sponsoring the service will be featured on the company’s app and will be considered destination choices within its network. Riders requesting to go to those locations will be granted a higher priority, especially during peak periods, than those wishing to ride to other locations, he said.

Tentative hours of operation for the service will be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Chenoweth said.

Harris said having the buggies roam San Marco streets will aid in neighborhood security. “You will have somebody going by at street level at 8 to 9 p.m. You will see people, and not just in their cars,” he said.

The buggies will also serve as a “concierge” for riders, providing information about sponsored businesses and recommending them to riders. “We tell people where you can get the best hamburger, the best barbeque, and what’s going on at the sports complex,” said Chenoweth. “We hire drivers who live and breathe the areas we work in. We will only hire people who live in the San Marco area.”

Mission accomplished

When Harris was elected as president of the San Marco Merchants Association three years ago, he decided to make it his mission to find a parking solution for San Marco.

“We have wonderful participation when it comes to marketing the area. It really markets itself,” said Harris, a partner in San Marco’s Harris Guidi Rosner Law Firm. “But if I were to drive through San Marco and



Adam Dostalick, Beachside Buggies app developer, and Joe Carlucci, president of San Marco Merchants Association with Beachside Buggies Co-owner Dustin Kaloostian and Scott Wohlers, SMMA vice president

think about renting (commercial) space, I would be genuinely concerned about parking. For my whole two years as president, I wanted to try to find a parking solution.”

Harris first consulted with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer about building a parking garage in the lot behind San Marco Square, which is owned by Southside Baptist Church or on land near the South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, but soon realized the idea was not feasible.

Over the past three years, Harris has discussed transit possibilities with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), including trolleys similar to those in Riverside and Avondale a few years ago. JTA estimated the price would be \$60,000 per year – \$5,000 per month to be provided by SMMA – to cover two trolleys for three hours per day at lunchtime, Harris said.

“Basically, it would cost \$100 an hour to run the trolleys,” he said, adding they are not successful because they were hampered by traffic, and people, who were forced to pay a small fee, did not use them.

Even though the trolley idea was a bust, Harris continued negotiating with JTA, garnering the support of CEO Nathaniel Ford who referred Harris to his innovation team. Harris and SMMA Executive Director George Foote discussed the idea of having San Marco be part a “pilot project covering several areas of town,” where the JEA Board might commit \$600,000 for a six- to nine-month trial of E-cars, seating four riders and a driver.

Several months passed before Harris heard back from JTA. About a month ago, the transportation entity offered \$300,000 toward a public-private partnership in

which SMMA was asked to contribute an additional \$30,000, Harris said. For that money, JTA would provide two unmarked cars and a van (for Americans with Disabilities purposes).

“JTA’s budget broke it down to two-and-a-half to three times the cost of what Beachside Buggies was offering. We thought it was not our best choice,” Harris explained.

Harris said he hopes JTA will decide to sponsor Beach Buggies – San Marco the same way it supported Beachside Buggies at the Beach in 2017. At that time, JTA gave Beachside Buggies a \$40,000 capital grant to be spent on buggies and then discontinued JTA’s Beaches trolley service. Harris said he plans to discuss the matter with Ford, and if JTA chooses to do what it did at the Beach, it would be “phenomenal,” Harris said.

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New library collection showcases 'first Floridians'

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

Etchings by a 16th century French artist turned into engravings by a Flemish engraver are now part of a special exhibit on the fourth floor of the Jacksonville Main Library.

The 43-piece Le Moyné/De Bry Collection opened officially on Jan. 26 with a ribbon-cutting for the updated Jordan and Shirley Ansbacher Gallery in the downtown library. The ceremony was part of Mapping Our Past, an event celebrating and showcasing the unique Lewis Ansbacher Map Collection made possible by the Lewis and Sybil Ansbacher Family Foundation.

Keynote speaker and author Miles Harvey spoke about Jacques Le Moyné, the French artist, mapmaker and explorer whose drawings portrayed the first European look at Native Americans in what is now Florida. His drawings of native life were made into engravings by Flemish engraver Theodor De Bry, who published the collection in 1591.

"Le Moyné is a mystery to us in that we don't know much about him or even what he looked like," Harvey said. In addition to showing and explaining some of Le Moyné's etchings, Harvey shared some of Le Moyné's natural history paintings, noting the mapmaker is almost more famous for those because he focused on specific features of each individual plant rather than stylized versions that were popular then.

"Because of his ability to observe and acknowledge differences, Le Moyné was selected as the official mapmaker on René de Laudonnière's 1564 expedition to establish a settlement at 'La Caroline,' now called Fort Caroline," Harvey said. "The French believed that to survive in the New World they'd have to get along with Native Americans, so they focused on how to represent 'the other.'"

In 1565 Pedro de Menéndez established St. Augustine as a base for destroying the French and conquered Fort Caroline for the Spanish. Le Moyné was one of the few French to escape.

"Le Moyné's original etchings have been lost," Harvey said. "We know that De Bry's etchings are different from Le Moyné's etchings, but we don't know exactly in what ways."

"The De Bry engravings are unique treasures that anchor northeast Florida to its days as the first landing point of French settlers in the New World," said Sheila Kloc, vice president of Jacksonville Sister Cities Association and past president of The Alliance Française de Jacksonville, as she introduced the ribbon-cutting for the Jordan and Shirley Ansbacher Gallery.



Lawrence Ansbacher, Sara Roberts, Library Region manager, Sybil Ansbacher, Harlan Helling, Julie McNeil, Public Services deputy director and Laura Minor, Special Collections manager



Keynote speaker Miles Harvey describes the stone monument at the mouth of the river May by Jean Ribault and depicted in one of Jacques Le Moyné's etchings. It is similar to a stone monument found in the La Trinité shipwreck off the coast of Cape Canaveral.



Shirley Ansbacher talks about her late husband's interest in collecting maps and the family's commitment to making them available for public viewing.



Visitors view the engravings in the Jordan and Shirley Ansbacher Gallery.

Kloc noted that a stone monument found in the wreck of Jean Ribault's ship, La Trinité, discovered in 2016 off the coast of Cape Canaveral, is comparable to the one placed at the mouth of the river May by Ribault in 1562 and depicted in one of De Bry's engravings. "One of the archeologists involved is John De Bry, director of the Center of Historical Archaeology in Melbourne Beach, an interesting coincidence given that the gallery highlights Theodor De Bry's etchings," said Kloc, who confirmed John De Bry is a descendant of Theodor De Bry.

Lewis "Lukie" Ansbacher began collecting maps in 1985 when his son gave

him one as a gift. Eventually he had maps hanging on all the available wall space in his law office, including the restrooms. When he ran out of space, he contacted several universities, but they did not have enough space to hang the maps for public viewing and only had map drawers. The Jacksonville Public Library agreed to hang the collection of 240 maps at the new Main Library when it opened in 2005.

During negotiations with the library in 2004, Ansbacher passed away at age 75. His family donated the collection in his memory.

Spring cleaning in Balis Park



Balis Park got some much-needed tender loving care in mid-February when Costa Verde, a new landscaping firm, stopped by to clean out leaves in the fountain and to trim the Coontie Palm plants that had been neglected, said San Marco Merchants Association President Joe Carlucci, noting the landscaping crew collected 37 50-gallon bags of leaves and shrub trimmings. The new landscapers will be working monthly all year to maintain Balis Park and the public green areas from the Naldo roundabout to the fork where San Marco Boulevard splits away from Hendricks Avenue.



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PARTY PLATTERS

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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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.



“It’s going to be stunning. When people are entering Jacksonville, they will be driving through a gorgeous gateway of beautiful buildings.”

— **Michael Balanky**,
CEO and president of Chase Properties

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.

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



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

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.

With so many Southbank and San Marco developments in the works, having the JEA headquarters nearby will only add a boon to the neighborhood, Balanky said. “The whole Kings Avenue corridor is going retail all the way down to Atlantic Boulevard,” he said. “All the properties on Kings Avenue have already been bought up by investors within the last year.”

Catching wind of his plan, the San Marco Merchants Association submitted its endorsement to the JEA board, said SMMA President Joe Carlucci.

“I think we all see this as an opportunity to truly impact not only the City of Jacksonville but the lives of all the JEA employees that work so hard for this city. I picture employees and their families grabbing dinner after work from one of our pizza restaurants, barbecue restaurants, or at the local movie theater in San Marco. Or employees could go over to The District for a nice glass of wine along the Southbank Riverwalk at sunset. The quality of life in this location is charming and family-oriented,” Carlucci wrote. “We send this letter giving our full support and to be received as the first welcome from the community of San Marco. On behalf of the businesses in and around the San Marco area, we hope to see your project move forward with the Kings Avenue location to not only improve our community but yours as well.”



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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 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

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Couple to bequeath money for maintenance of Historic St. Nicholas cemetery

SNAP hires landscaper to assist with gravesite upkeep

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Considered to be an “abandoned” cemetery, with no families or funds to pay for its “perpetual” care, the Historic Cemetery in St. Nicholas, a final resting place for some of Jacksonville’s most prominent and founding families, including Katy Clinch and famed architect George Olaf Holmes, has long relied on the goodwill and sweat equity of neighborhood residents for landscaping upkeep and general maintenance.

Currently managed by St. Nicholas Area Preservation (SNAP), which took over the cemetery’s management by default after a longtime resident chose to step back after nearly 30 years of voluntary service, the neighborhood organization recently received word it will be the beneficiary of endowment funds for cemetery upkeep through a bequest, which will be realized upon the death of its benefactor and his wife.

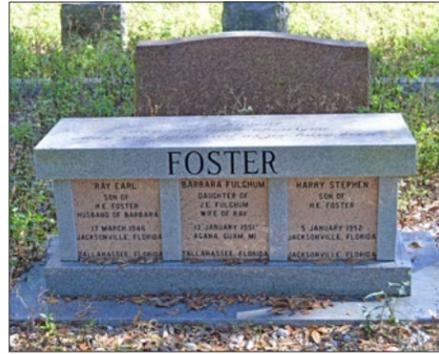


Ray and Barbara Foster

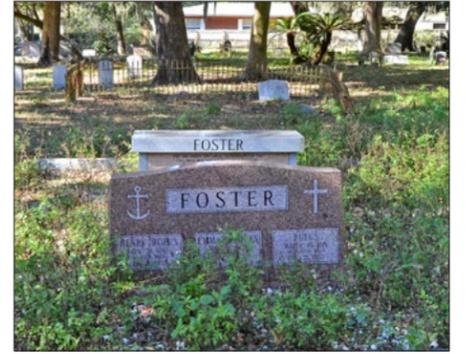
Tallahassee resident Ray Earl Foster, his wife, Barbara Fulghum Foster, and Ray’s brother, Harry Stephen Foster, an Arlington resident, have made their intention known that when the time comes, they plan to have their ashes buried in a columbarium they have erected in the Foster family plot at the historic gravesite. To assist the neighborhood with cemetery maintenance, Foster and his wife have established a bequest in their will but are unable to specify the exact amount as it will be a portion of the value of some investments at the time of their deaths, Foster said.

“We are interested in making a contribution,” said Foster. “When I was thinking about where I wanted my remains to be, I realized by putting it in St. Nicholas, I can have my urn placed in close proximity to four branches of my family. The single biggest nexus for all my family lines is the Historic St. Nicholas Cemetery. That is where the most converge.”

Foster and his brother grew up in St. Nicholas. He attended Southside Grammar School No. 7 in San Marco and graduated from Landon High School in 1964. He and his brother have a dozen ancestors who are buried in the cemetery, including James R. Booth, (1832-1886), Rufus Foster (1818-1903), Henry Rufus Foster (1862-1942), Emma Brooks Foster (1872-1945), Thomas Cartrell Platt (1828-1901), Catherine Jones Platt (1829-1924), Florence Ann Platt (1860-1957), Herbert Henry Platt (1870-1920), Edith Margaret Platt (1865-1942), Alfred Lawrence Platt (1868-1938), Arthur Eugene Van Loon (1858-1933) and Arthur William Van Loon (1894-1896). Foster is also a direct descendant of Elizabeth Swaim, who is buried in Springfield and after whom the Swaim Memorial



The Foster’s new columbarium



The Foster’s columbarium rests within the Foster family’s historic family plot

United Methodist Church in San Marco is named.

Foster’s wife, Barbara Fulghum Foster, is a native of Ortega.

It’s no secret SNAP had been struggling to find a lawn service to provide routine maintenance for the cemetery. For more than 50 years, the property was maintained by St. Nicholas residents, who banded together several times a year to clean up the property, generating much sociability between neighbors and community spirit. From the 1970s to the 1990s, Angie Van Etter organized 40 to 50 of her neighbors to cut back the vines and pick up leaves, later passing the torch to Kay Ellen Gilmour, who has spent nearly 30 years not only arranging clean-up days, but also mowing the property herself with her 36-inch Yazoo riding mower. Also, over the years more than one Boy Scout has done his Eagle project in the cemetery.

Gilmour has also researched the genealogy of all the “cemeterians” buried at the gravesite and has written the book, “A Genealogical History of Florida,” detailing the information.

Two years ago, when Gilmour decided to sell her riding mower and hire Michael Finne of Green Frog Lawn Service to mow her property, she paid \$100 per cut out of her pocket to have Finne cut the grass in the cemetery, too. “He did it as a favor to me. It took him a couple of hours, and it ruined his machines, but he said he’d do it to be a Good Samaritan,” Gilmour said.

But in 2018, Finne declined the work, and at that time, Gilmour decided to “retire” from being the neighborhood cemetery clean-up organizer.

Because no one is officially responsible for the care and upkeep of the St. Nicholas landmark, SNAP, which reorganized last year, has decided to take it on, said Erik Kaldor, president of SNAP. Routine maintenance is “more than what neighbors can be expected to do,” he said, adding it is to the neighborhood’s advantage not to have coyotes and other varmints living within the 1.5-acre parcel if it is left to go back to nature.

In January, SNAP contracted with First Coast Lawn & Property Maintenance conduct monthly maintenance after a large clean up, which included a small tree removal.

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

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 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.

Bolles hosts idea exchange for Florida learning support professionals

More than 40 educators from 14 schools around the state convened in the Peyton Boathouse & Rice Family Crew Complex Jan. 31-Feb. 1 for the FCIS Learning Support Exchange of Ideas, an annual gathering for Florida-based learning support professionals.

The Bolles host team included Bolles learning specialists Kathy Rawlins, Mary Moriarty, Katy Garcia, Claudia Rae and assistant Brooke Ward.

Learning support professionals, guidance counselors, and administrators came to Bolles to network, exchange ideas, ask questions and make new contacts within the group of independent school learning specialists.

Following two days of professional development for Bolles faculty members on attention, motivation, and long-term memory, the event highlight was a presentation and afternoon breakout session led by Andrew Watson, president of Translate the Brain, who focused his remarks and discussion points around talking with teachers and students about working memory, the part of short-term memory responsible for temporarily holding new information in the brain for



Front: Kathy Rawlins (Bolles), Claudia Rae (Bolles), Brooke Ward (Bolles), Diane Landers (St. Johns Country Day School); middle: Mary Moriarty (Bolles), Ann Korahais (St. Johns Country Day School), Lisa Rosenau (St. Johns Country Day School), Amanda Champion (University Christian School); back: Shelley Serafin (Bolles), Katy Garcia (Bolles), Brynne Plant (Bolles), Susannah Sands (San Jose Episcopal School), Hassan Champion (University Christian School)

processing before transferring it into long-term memory.

“Our discussions focused on how we can best support our students, their parents, and our teachers in applying the most current research in cognitive science to enhance learning. The Bolles learning support team has attended these annual exchanges for the past four years at

schools in South Florida. We were delighted to be able to host the event and share it with more of our colleagues from other independent schools in Jacksonville,” said Moriarty.

The annual event provided professionals a beautiful riverfront venue for collaborating and exchanging ideas in the area of academic support.



Babies born at Baptist Medical Center during February received red hats to celebrate American Heart month.

Baptist babies don red hats for heart month

Babies born at Baptist Health during the month of February donned snuggly red hats, knitted by Northeast Florida volunteers, to bring awareness of heart disease.

The hats were part of the American Heart Association’s Little Hats, Big Hearts program, and were distributed throughout the United States to commemorate American Heart month which began Feb. 1, National Wear Red Day.

“The red hats are such a special way to symbolize heart month for everyone, both mom and baby,” said Tammy Daniel, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Baptist Health, noting Baptist is the only hospital in the region taking part in the red hat program. “For the third year in a row, Baptist Health has partnered with the American Heart Association for this great program and we’re honored to distribute the tiny hats with a big purpose.”

More than 1,000 red baby caps were knitted by volunteers and donated to Baptist Health by the American Heart Association – First Coast Chapter. The hats were meant raise awareness that cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women and that congenital heart disease is the nation’s most common birth defect.

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Vining leads real estate sales in 2018

Anita Vining of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's San Marco/San Jose office led the company in 2018 as Top Producer with \$34 million in closed sales.

In 2018, the company achieved another record-setting year with more than \$1.2 billion in closed sales, continuing to be the leader in luxury properties (priced \$750,000 and above) throughout Northeast Florida. In 2018, it also ranked No. 1 in closed sales with a 15.1 percent market share, No. 1 in new listings with a 14.2 percent market share and No. 1 in pending sales with a 14.7 percent market share in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties.



Anita Vining

Unusual candies elicit grins, giggles from customers

For nearly four decades the Zarka family has served beer and brats and other European-style casual food in four restaurants around Jacksonville, including one in Riverside on Park Street and one in San Marco.

Andy Zarka, one of several family members who own the chain, is branching out into sweet shops, including a future ice cream and beer shop planned for Main Street in Springfield and the newly-opened European Street Sweets next to his restaurant on San Marco Boulevard.

Zarka hadn't planned on opening a candy shop until property next door became available and he jumped on a lease to gain coveted parking spots. "Essentially, we backed into opening a candy store," he said, noting the restaurants all carry a selection of candies.

The 1,200-square-foot store at 1670 San Marco Blvd. carries a mix of retro candy, treats from across the pond, bulk candy and some rather interesting offerings such



Andy Zarka, owner, with Kerry Speckman, store manager

as cotton candy and salt water taffy in non-traditional flavors, and a wide variety of piñatas.

"I love seeing people come in, find candy they haven't seen since they were kids, and be happy," said Zarka.

European Street Sweets hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m., seven days a week. For more information, call (904) 717-9968.

Falero joins husband at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Beauclerc resident Meredith Meide Falero has joined the San Marco office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. Born and raised in Jacksonville, Falero joins her husband, Danny, as a Realtor® on The Meide Falero Team. Danny has been with BHHS since March 2017.

Previously a Senior Meeting Planner with Compass Management and Consulting for eight years, Falero was responsible for organizing and executing medical conferences ranging in size from 50-1,000 people. Before obtaining her real estate license, Falero stepped back from that role to be more involved with her two young daughters.



Meredith Falero

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.

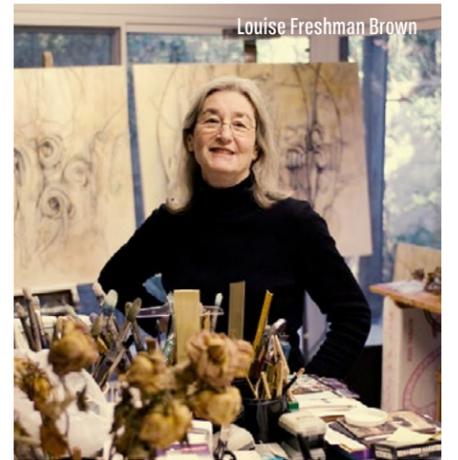
Freshman Brown wins Art Ventures award

Louise Freshman Brown, a Beauclerc resident and professor of art at the University of North Florida was selected as the 2019 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recipient.

The caliber of Freshman Brown's work, as well as her devotion to her art students for 37 years at UNF, were factors in her selection as the winner of the fourth annual award.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Greenscape, among others.

A painter and mixed media artist, Freshman Brown's work is in more than



Louise Freshman Brown

600 private, public and corporate collections, and has been featured in museums and galleries in the United States and Europe. She was recognized by her UNF peers with the Outstanding Scholarship Award in 2005 for her impressive exhibition history and received the UNF Distinguished Professor Award in 2007, the university's highest honor.

Past winners include Terrance Patterson, David Engdahl and Jim Draper.

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Familiar face named new Bishop Kenny football coach



Bobby Raulerson

Tim Krause

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.”

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.

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.

Groover promoted to senior vice president at Baptist Health

Southbank resident Timothy G. Groover, MD, MBA, CPE, FACHE, has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Baptist Physician Partners (BPP).

Formed in 2013, BPP is a clinically-integrated partnership of Baptist Health hospitals and local providers working collaboratively to improve quality, patient experience, and efficiency while reducing the total cost of care. As of January 2019, BPP has grown to include more than 1,100 physicians in its network, who care for nearly 70,000 people covered under its value-based contracts.

Dr. Groover currently serves on the Baptist Health system board of directors as well as the board of directors for Coastal Community Health. He is a member of the board of directors for the Duval County Medical Society. During his long tenure as a physician leader at Baptist Health, Dr. Groover has

served in many leadership roles, including chief of staff of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, chief of the Department of Anesthesiology, Medical Board and Executive Committee chair and served as the inaugural chairman of the board of managers for Baptist Physician Partners.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and serves on the Regent’s Advisory Council and a member of the Physician Executives Forum. He is a board member of the Jacksonville KIPP Schools. Dr. Groover holds an MBA from the University of Tennessee and his medical degree from the University Of Miami School Of Medicine. He is a Certified Physician Executive by the Certifying Commission in Medical Management and a Diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology.



Timothy Groover



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‘Building the Dream’ expansion program underway at North Florida School of Special Education

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

Touching and heartwarming or, as Mayor Lenny Curry said, “This is a first, this is really cool. To me, I get to see what this represents. We’ve had academics, art, music, sports... a horse that just walked down the middle of the event.”

Jacksonville’s mayor was speaking about the ceremonial groundbreaking for the North Florida School of Special Education’s campus expansion Feb. 21. His wife, Molly, who has become involved in supporting the Arlington-based school, had a role in the ceremony, too, reading “The Walking Tree,” a story written for the school.

“This will be like no other celebration you’ve ever attended. Our students will participate, and we are going to use all five of our senses to help us celebrate and understand what this groundbreaking means to us today,” said Sally Hazelip, Head of School.

With sounds of construction underway in the background, the celebration also marks the successful end of a \$6 million capital campaign to add 32,000 square feet of space for academics, physical education and a therapeutic equestrian center.

The project began with a gift of five acres of land from the Ida Mae Stevens Foundation in 2014, kicking off the Angel of the Woods capital campaign headed by San Marco resident Kit Thomas, and finishing with a \$500,000 challenge grant from the Delores



Jacksonville First Lady Molly Curry reads the story, “The Walking Tree,” an adaptation of the popular “The Giving Tree.”

Barr Weaver Fund. Over 200 ‘angels’ participated in the \$6 million capital campaign.

“Five years ago, when Doug Milne and the Ida Mae Stevens Foundation gifted the school with 4.5 acres, Sally instilled in each of us the power of dreaming. She had the dream of a new 32,000 square foot building to offer the opportunity for more children to attend, to have an education complex with state-of-the-art instruction, a physical education center where students could run, play and develop and an urban equine therapy program where our students and others throughout NEFL could benefit. It has been Sally’s phenomenal power of vision and perseverance that has been the catalyst to make this happen,” said John Macdonald, NFSSE board president.

“Throughout this campaign we never lost sight of what our friend Laurie DuBow is often heard saying ‘Let us never forget what we are doing here is for the children, all children, it has always been, it is now, and it will always be,’” quoted Hazelip.

The new campus will solidify NFSSE’s place as the leading educational institution for those with mild to moderate intellectual differences in Northeast Florida, said Macdonald.

Annual road race supports life-saving equipment for Wolfson Children’s Hospital



Boys and girls participate in the one-mile fun run at the 10th Annual Wolfson Children’s Challenge Jan. 26. (Photo courtesy of Wolfson Children’s Hospital)

More than 2,000 runners took part in the 10th Annual Wolfson Children’s Challenge, a road race event Jan. 26 that raised money for the only children’s hospital in Jacksonville. Funds collected from the event support an endowment established in 2013 to provide the hospital with life-saving trauma equipment and technology.

The event, which took place at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, included four running events, a 55K ultra solo, a 30K solo, a 55K relay, and a one-mile fun run. The races were staged over a 3.1-mile course that began and finished at the Baseball Grounds.

The races honored 55 pediatric patients, who were tapped to represent the tens of

thousands of children Wolfson cares for each year, as well as 550 current and former patients who have been honored over the past 10 years.

Runners received finisher medals and commemorative T-shirts. Live stage performances and family-fun activities were also held in the community village on the baseball field.

“This event grows bigger and better each year thanks to our generous sponsors, our small army of volunteers and especially all those who ran, from one mile to more than 30, as a tribute to the patients we’ve served since 1955,” said Wolfson Children’s Hospital President Michael D. Aubin. “Your collective generosity ensures that Wolfson Children’s will continue to fulfill its mission to children and families throughout the region.”

Prior to the racing events, the 2019 Wolfson Children’s Challenge Telethon was held on Jan. 17 at WJXT TV 4. It raised another \$56,400 for the hospital.

To date, the Wolfson Children’s Challenge has raised enough money to purchase a 3 Tesla MRI machine, which has 10 to 15 times the strength of a regular or open MRI, allowing for better evaluation of conditions involving the brain, spine, and musculoskeletal system.



Wolfie, the Wolfson Children’s Hospital mascot, poses with a young boy at the 10th Annual Wolfson Children’s Challenge Jan. 26. (Photo courtesy of Wolfson Children’s Hospital)

San Marco real estate office brings on new realtor

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has welcomed Bri Binkov as a new Realtor to its San Marco office.

A graduate of the University of Central Florida, Binkov previously worked for Consortium Capital for several years, where she was responsible for scheduling and assisting agents in organizing and promoting open house events.



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Cathedral's support for downtown nonprofit improves lives

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



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

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.

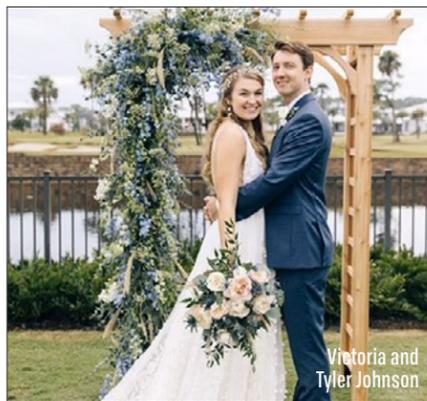
The Cathedral Bookstore recently moved from inside the Cathedral to a new location at 221 E. Church Street to increase accessibility and support the congregation's desire to grow a lively neighborhood in the city's Cathedral District.

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.

Duch, Johnson tie knot, settle in Boca Raton

Victoria Teal Duch, a resident of the Goodby's Creek area, daughter of Cliff and Sylvia Duch, married Tyler Matthew Johnson of Boca Raton, Florida, son of Dana and Kris Johnson, on Dec. 1, 2018 at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, a venue designed by her father, president of Cronk Duch Architecture.

Victoria is a 2011 graduate of The Bolles School, a graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a degree in Communications/Graphic Design, and is employed by the McCann Design Group/HIVE in West Palm Beach as a Social Media/PR coordinator. Tyler, a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Aerospace and



Victoria and Tyler Johnson

Mechanical Engineering, is employed by MagicLeap, an augmented-reality technology company in Plantation, Florida.

Following their honeymoon to Spain, the happy couple moved to their recently-purchased home in Boca Raton with their dog, Koa.

Women with Heart honored at annual awards program



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

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 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.



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

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Happy Hour (The Bearded Pig BBQ)

APRIL 2, 2019
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The Bearded Pig BBQ | 1224 Kings Ave, Jacksonville

These quarterly happy hours will be an informal chance for the community to learn more about us, learn what we do, get further plugged in to San Marco, and find out what's upcoming in 2019. Not to mention, network and get to know other San Marco residents! These events are open to non-members as well. Check the SMPS Facebook and Instagram pages for additional upcoming dates.

Wine Down in the Parks

APRIL 13, 2019
4 – 8 PM

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Pet Paradise corporate office moves to San Marco

Pet Paradise, a pet services provider offering boarding, day camp, grooming and veterinary services, settled into its corporate headquarters at 1551 Atlantic Blvd., one block east of San Marco Square, last month. The company was formerly located at 5130 University Blvd. and has 40 locations in nine states.



Exterior of new headquarters office in San Marco for Pet Paradise

“Pet Paradise is growing rapidly to meet the increased demand for quality and convenient pet services for dogs and cats across the United States,” said Pet Paradise CEO Fernando Acosta-Rua, who joined the company in 2004 and advanced to his current role in 2016 when the company entered into a partnership with a Columbus, Ohio-based holding and management company. “As part of this growth, we expanded our corporate office space and moved into the San Marco neighborhood.”

Pet Paradise’s new corporate office features an open concept, natural light and a modern feel. Pet Paradise employs more than 1,000 associates company-wide and its corporate staff is working in the new San Marco headquarters.

Pet Paradise was founded in St. Augustine in 2002 by Fred Goldsmith and its first airport location was in Jacksonville.

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.

New Holocaust exhibit honors those who protected Jews

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

“Far less than half of the people in the United States know that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust,” said Gay Block during her compelling presentation at the Feb. 19 VIP Preview for her exhibition, “RESCUERS: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust.” The exhibition is the second held in the Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery and commemorates some of the people who hid, protected and saved Jews in Europe during World War II.

The 110 who attended were visibly moved by stories Block shared of rescuers she photographed and interviewed, as well as those shared by Claire Soria, who told the story of the family who rescued her. Soria, one of the 69 Holocaust survivors who receive support from JFCS, showed guests her only remaining treasure from before the Holocaust, a wicker sewing basket given to her by her father when she was six years old. In it she keeps the few memorabilia she still has, including photos of her mother, father and large extended family.

“The people who saved my life were musicians,” Soria said. “They taught me to play the piano, and when I left, I promised I would continue. I have taught music throughout my adult life.”

Soria’s mother placed her with an older Christian couple who risked their lives to



Colleen Rodriguez, JFCS CEO, and Morris Bendit, Holocaust survivor who designed the memorial gallery, with Gay Block, RESCUERS photographer, and Stephen Goldman, JFCS Board president

hide her from the Nazis. She stayed with them for the remainder of the war and posed as their granddaughter. Sonia was one of only three people in her family to survive the Holocaust; 54 of her family members perished in Auschwitz.

“Rescuers cannot easily explain why they had the strength to act righteously, nor do their life stories always offer a clue,” Block noted. To those who tell her they don’t think they would have the strength to take the risks that those who saved Jews did, Block shared with the guests, “You don’t have to risk your life; you can do something as simple as bring someone [to the JFCS memorial gallery] to see the exhibit.”

“Half of Gay’s exhibit will be shown here at JFCS,” McMath said Hope McMath, exhibit curator. “The other half of the exhibit will be shown throughout the community.” Students from Kipp Jacksonville Schools, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and other area schools will view the exhibit in the gallery.

“RESCUERS: Portraits of Moral Courage” runs through fall 2019 in the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery, 8540 Baycenter Road. The exhibition by Gay Block and Malka Drucker debuted at New York’s MoMA in 1992 and since been presented internationally. For more information, call Susie Menaged at (904) 394-5727 and visit jfcjax.org/rescuers/.



Nancy Moss with Harry Frisch, for whom the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery is named.

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Jasmine Ley, Jennifer Williams, Esq., and Elizabeth Ondriezek, Esq., with Kendall Tobin and Ashleigh Bateh

Family law attorney holds annual open house

The Law Office of Elizabeth R. Ondriezek held its annual open house in appreciation of its clients, supporters and the community. The Feb. 12 event at the St. Nicholas-based law office included an evening of casino, wine and hors d’oeuvres. The firm serves individuals and families in four counties in the areas of family law, including divorce, adoption and juvenile dependency law.

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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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Kathleen Shaw with Michael Meyers, Kevin Gay, Chad Labenz, Joe Barton, Jesse Kraker, Carl Utter and Andrea Danti



Ryan Ali with Alex Osborne and Laura Collins



JASMYN CEO Cindy Watson, Susan Greene, Sunny and Ellie Gettinger, Emily Rokosch and Kelly James



Patricia McElroy with Parker Joiner, Elyse Gustafson, Tony Tindol, Hugh and Susan Greene and Michael and Pam Korn



Jackie Goldman with Debbie Banks and Debra Setzer



Chris Smith, Kellie Ann Kelleher Smith, Jerry Funk and Patricia Jones



Iris Kraemer, Ken Jacobs, Daniel Miller and Jeanine Rogozinski



Donna McNett with Kim Robbins, Nancy Green and Ruthie Stein



Marjie Rogozinski with Andrea Mail and Rabbi Shira Rosenblum

JASMYN celebrates 25 years of service to community

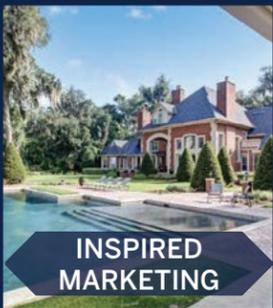
Riverside-based nonprofit, JASMYN, otherwise known as Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network, rolled out an elegant evening for its big 25th anniversary. Visionary leaders from the business community were also on hand, including mentors, board members and other supporters. Founding Board Member 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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Michael Porten with Betty Fenelon, Doug Marshall, Audrey Andreatulley, Pat and Jacqui Tiani and Sandy Mackanos



Keri Skarupa with Jessica Vogel



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



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



Christian and Stephanie Harden



Mateo and Margaux Jurasic with Azadeh Yavari and Ario Rezaei



Dr. Jeff Mathison and Ruth Mathison with Kathy and Tom VanOsdol



John Geer with Jim Towler



Renee and Jay Farhat, Amy and David Meyer with Meg and Adam Hejden

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.



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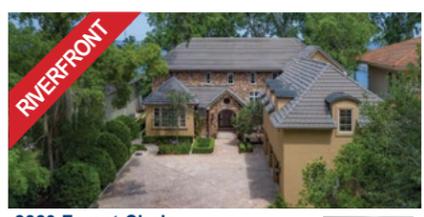
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Mystery dinner held 'down on the farm' benefits Cathedral Arts Project

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.

Over 70 guests attired in black attended 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, which raised \$3,000 for CAP, 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.



Beth Jennison with Caroline Diquisto



TJ Dimassa and Lauren Roudabush with Danielle Aurichio and Phil Rado



Kingsley and Lauren Spencer with Ellen Coyle and Amy Womack



Cynthia Stephens with Lemetris Ingram



Kyle Roberts with Libby Jennison and Kevin Diquisto

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Matt



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Jan and Mike Currie with Gary House, Barbara Moulding and Gary Anderson

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.



Patsy and Floyd Veal



Sue and Bill Scarbrough with Christina and Eric Becher

Garden Club Flea Market draws crowd



Garden Club Governing Board members Debbie Keller and Nancy Mahon, back: Carol Waters, Sonya Petit and Bobi McGinnis

Calling it the largest flea market in Jacksonville, the Women's Garden Club of Jacksonville held its annual shopping event Feb. 23, with bargains galore in home furnishings, toys, garden tools and sports equipment to clothing, including a designer boutique. Soup, sandwiches, drinks and dessert were also available for purchase. Hosted by members of the club's Garden Circles, sales from the market help support the club's mission of giving back to the community.

Dedicated donors honored at Super Bolles party



Dan Rice and Tyler Hodges

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.



Agnes Danciger and Susanna and David Barton with Quinn Barton and Dianne Rice



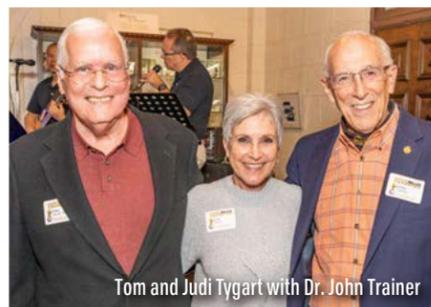
Ellis and Donna Zahra with Larry Lisska



Rosa Maria and Fitch King with Rosalind Travis



Jamie Shelton with Duane and Donna Ottenstroer and Ali Shelton



Tom and Judi Tygart with Dr. John Trainer



Brad and Heather Arrowsmith with Tristan Hodges

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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 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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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



Best Fixins': Coker Law



Spiciest: Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball



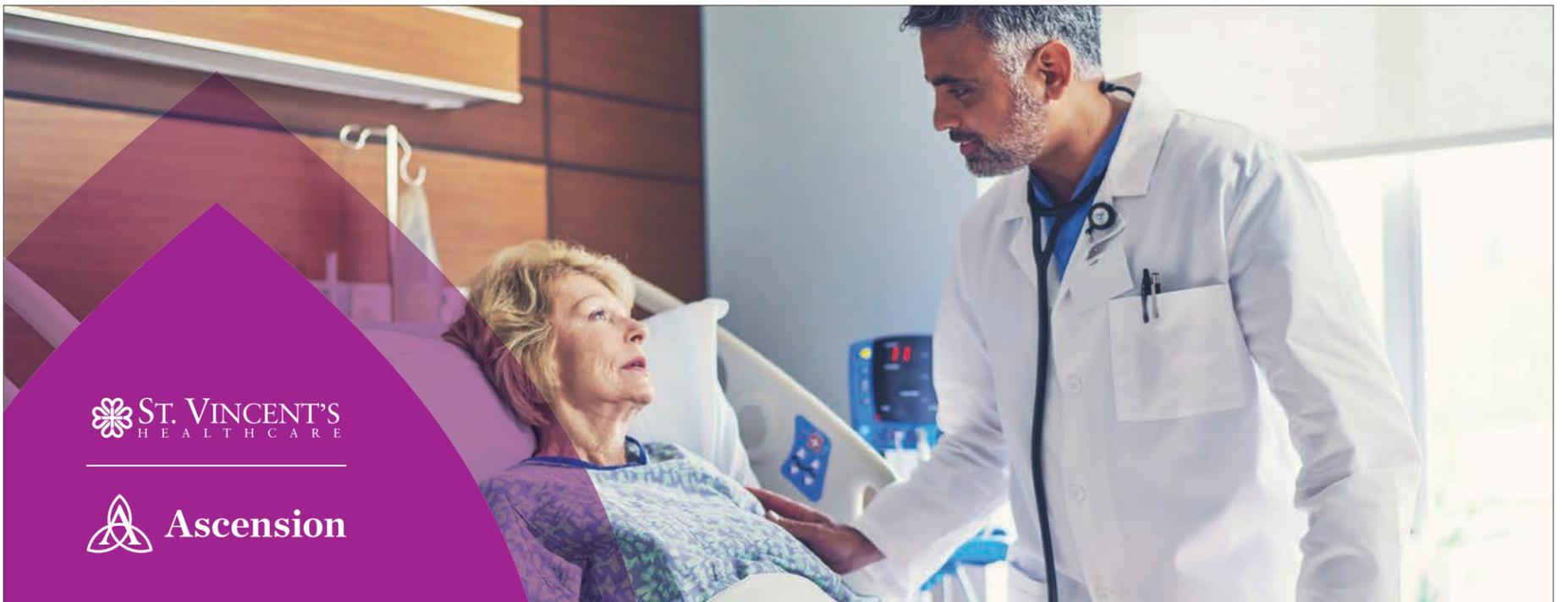
Enjoying good company were Paul and Maren Bertozzi with Matt Brockleman, Valeen Arena, Katherine Ruttell and David Smith

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."

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



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Riverside



Southside



Clay County

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



Maggie Robertson and Margaret Meisner



Kit Thomas with Beth Mueller and Tex Schellenberg



Sarah Troup with Molly Curry and Jessica Waugaman



Pat Jamison with Suzanne Perritt



Debbie Johnson with Carrie Bashara



Penny Addison and Sheila Barnett with Kiki Rood



Ginger Forbes, Camala Stringer and Beth Leavitt



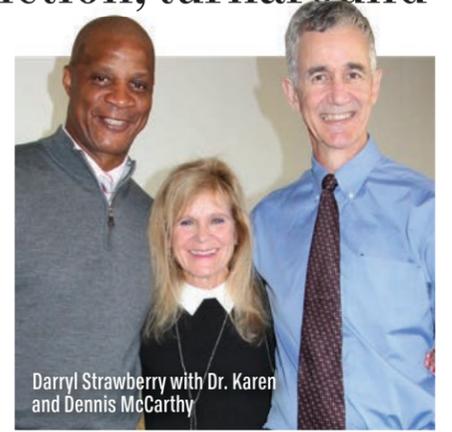
Ward Lariscy with Sara McMillan

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



Darryl Strawberry with Dr. Karen and Dennis McCarthy

Marco, whose efforts have 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.



Darryl Strawberry with Nancy and Brad Anderson



Cynthia and Howard Montello



Jennifer Anderson and Julie LaFear



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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

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.



A sculpture assemblage hangs over artwork on exhibit for Extravaganza



Jose Busto, Christian Busto, Sergio Bisano, Kira Busto, Lucia Bisano, and Valerie Busto, far right



Hillary Hogue



James and Dr. Diana Greene



Jaymie Cough with Claudia Lopez and Kaylah De Luna



String quartet from Douglas Anderson School of the Performing Arts



Sam Gibson with Nina Simone Diaz

River City Brewing Company

BRUNCH BUFFET
 Sunday, April 21st
 10:00 AM — 3:00PM

Adults: \$29.95 Seniors: \$28.95 Child: \$14.95 (Under 3 Complimentary)

<p>Assorted Breakfast Entrées</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrambled Eggs Bacon & Sausage Grits & Homefries French Toast <p>Assorted Breakfast Breads, Pastries and Bagels</p> <p>Cold Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit Display Assorted Greens Broccoli Salad Tomato-Cucumber Salad Savory Potato Salad <p>Assorted Desserts</p> <p>Assorted Decadent Desserts including Cakes, Petite Pies, Cookies and Brownies</p>	<p>Seafood Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peel & Eat Shrimp Chilled Crab Legs Smoked Salmon Seafood Salad <p>Carving Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roasted Leg of Lamb with Mint Demi Glazed Honey Ham Coffee Rubbed Roast Beef with Au Jus <p>Hot Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macaroni & Cheese Mixed Vegetables Jumbo Smoked Sweet Potatoes with Brown Sugar Butter Glazed Carrots Grilled Sweet Citrus Glazed Chicken Pistachio Crusted Catch with Garlic Cream
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Mother honors memory of son with fundraiser for Gateway

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

As a child, Max McCauley was sweet-spirited, fun-loving and full of life. He always wanted to be surrounded by his posse of friends, and he was the kind of kid who couldn't sleep at night if he thought his mom was mad at him or upset with him.

Max's boundless energy and his craving to connect with people drew others to him. His home was the hub where all the neighborhood kids would gather, and his mother, Tricia McCauley-Cox, continually hauled carloads of children from one fun activity to the next. The two had a close relationship and were the best of friends.

But around the age of 14 or 15, something changed, according to McCauley-Cox.

"It seemed that he went to bed one night and woke up the next morning a different kid," she said.



Tricia McCauley-Cox holds a photo of her late son, Max

Soon thereafter, she found out at a visit to the pediatrician's office that Max had begun to use marijuana. Within a short period of time, his drug use escalated and he was out of control. Years of anguish ensued – for him as well as his family. His life was characterized by long spells in the dregs of addiction interspersed by brief bits of sobriety. After more than 10 years of battling the demon of addiction, Max succumbed to his disease at the age of 27, when he died from an accidental opioid overdose.

Max's story has become one that is all too common, but death due to drug addiction is a plight that is often underplayed because it is viewed by many as a moral failure – a byproduct of bad choices made by bad kids or a result of poor parenting. However, the American Medical Association, the American Society of Addiction Medicine and most other medical associations classify drug addiction as a primary, chronic disease of the brain. Like other chronic diseases, addiction often involves cycles of relapse and remission.

Since Max's death in 2014, his mother has become a very vocal advocate for policies and programs to help individuals and families who are afflicted with and affected by drug addiction and alcoholism. On the first anniversary of his death she wanted to do something special in his memory. She decided to hold a fundraiser by way of teaching a yoga class, which has become an annual tradition and grown explosively each year.

This year's event will be held Friday, March 29 at 5 p.m. at San Marco Church, located at the corner of Lasalle Street and Naldo Road. The event will include a yoga class, live music from local musicians Tom and Natalie, and a speaker from Gateway Community Services. As in past years, all proceeds from the fundraiser go to Gateway Community Services Foundation in appreciation for what they did for Max and what they do for other addicts, alcoholics and their families.

Max's slow march to destruction was halted when he found an oasis at Gateway Community Services, which yielded results like none of the other numerous rehabs that he cycled through; he was totally clean for 10 months. He spent that valuable time rebuilding his life and reconnecting with his family. It was a time that McCauley-Cox will always treasure.

"Over the course of 10 months I saw Max blossom back – it was like Christ raising Lazarus from the dead," said McCauley-Cox. "He brought me the chips he earned at the meetings, he had a sponsor and he was doing well. I cannot express what it was like to have him back, fully functioning."

The first year she held the event, about 20 people showed up and she raised \$1,500 to donate to Gateway Community Services. The second year, 50 people attended, and \$3,000 was raised. The third year, 80 people showed up and the dollar amount was \$4,000. Last year, 100 people attended the event and \$7,000 worth of donations poured in. She is hoping that this year's event will be even bigger, so that addicts, alcoholics and their family members can receive the help they need.



Yoga class fundraiser for Gateway Community Services



Yoga class fundraiser for Gateway Community Services

Gateway Community Services is the only nonprofit medical detox facility in Northeast Florida. They also offer outreach prevention programs, residential and outpatient treatment programs for adults, residential treatment programs for adolescents and housing that provides a safe, stable living environment for men and women in recovery.

When pregnant women or women with small children come into recovery, Gateway is the only facility that allows them to be with their children. They have an onsite, five-star rated daycare where the children are looked after while their mothers attend meetings and get clean and sober. They also help women who have lost their children to the foster care system get them back and bring them there so families can be together.

"Tricia has been doing this for the last five years and her donations increase every year. Three years ago we started a capital

campaign and the money she has raised has gone into our campaign to rehabilitate the facility. Before that, it went into the general fund to help clients," said Zoe Ann Boyle, a Gateway board member. "Her fundraiser is very important because it is an intimate connection to Gateway. Her son was there and she does what she does out of gratitude and love for the care that was provided there. It's not just somebody writing a check – it's a mission to do this to honor his memory."

Max's absence is painful for McCauley-Cox, but she makes every effort to channel that pain into something positive by trying to help other families avoid the heartache and devastation that comes along with the chronic disease of drug addiction.

"If one kid's life can be saved, if one parent can get in there and keep their family together, if we have one success story, that's enough for me today," she said.

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THE WAY WE WERE: WILLIAM H. ROSE

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

William Rose has a lifetime of memories and a postcard art collection that allows him to see Jacksonville through the eyes of his father, Max Rose, as well as recall his younger years growing up in Jacksonville.

Rose, 92, has collected postcards produced in the early 1900s of Springfield and downtown Jacksonville that he has enlarged and framed. Some of the postcards were ones his father bought in 1918 and wrote to mail to his mother, Bessie, who was living in Baltimore before his parents married. He also buys postcards of old scenes in Jacksonville.

He collects postage stamps, too. He remembers digging for stamps in the dumpsters behind the downtown U.S. Post Office building.



His dad's store, Rose's Super Market, at 6th & Market

Rose's father was born in Lithuania. His grandfather moved to South Africa to avoid serving in the military, and his father went to live with him when he was 13 years old. Rose's father and grandfather moved to Jacksonville in 1911 so that his father's aunt, Ida Feldman, could help raise his father.

"My aunt was extremely wealthy," Rose said. "In the 1900s, she and her husband, Morris Feldman, owned a lot of downtown Jacksonville property on Bay Street."

When the aunt died, she left the house that used to be at Post and King in Riverside to Rose's father. She left the rest of her money to River Garden Nursing Home, Jacksonville Jewish Center and the country of Palestine.

In January 1917, Rose's father married Bessie Isaacs. In 1919, he opened a grocery store in Springfield at 6th and Market. A Feb. 2, 1935 ad for Rose's Grocery & Meat Market, at the corner of Sixth and Market streets listed meat prices of 20 cents per pound for homemade pan pork sausage, 15 cents per pound for rump or chuck beef roast and three cans of dog food for 25 cents.



William and Betty Rose

"My father would try to talk guys out of buying cigarettes by telling them that they weren't good for them," he said. "He told them that they weren't made for smoking; they were made for selling."

William's father, Max Rose, operated the grocery and meat market for 50 years. In a story that appeared in the Oct. 23, 1972 edition of the Jacksonville Journal, Rose's father, who was then 81, recalled the early days of operating the store. "In those days you knew everyone, and everyone was your friend," he said.

Rose's father had a delivery service as well. "I'd pedal over on a special bicycle with a big basket up front. People would call up for kerosene, and I'd go over, pick up their empty 5-gallon can, fill it and ride back to their house. I made a 10-cent profit on the deal."

When William was born in 1926, his family lived in the house behind the grocery store. Rose had two older sisters, Mildred Rose Rothstein and Charlotte Rose Fialkow. "They tell me that my father was so happy to have a son that he added 'and Son' to



Uncle William holding niece Barbara in 1939 at the family home on 6th Street

the "Rose's Grocery Store sign when I was born," Rose said. "But he took that off before I was old enough to notice it."

Rose remembers that the streetcar in Springfield used to cost a nickel for one ticket or a dime for three tickets. Cabs cost 10 cents to ride, but they didn't go everywhere. He had a girlfriend who attended Lee High School. After he finished a school day at Andrew Jackson High School, he would pay 10 cents to take a cab to downtown Jacksonville, and then he had to pay another 10 cents to take a different cab to Lee High School in Riverside.

Rose claims to have visited all of the movie theaters in downtown Jacksonville as well as the Riverside Theater, now called Sun-Ray Cinema, in 5 Points. That theater opened in 1927 and was the first theater in Florida equipped to show talking pictures and had air conditioning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



William Rose with stamp collection

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Baby William with big sister Mildred





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"I went to many movies at The Florida Theatre," he said. "I remember Jimmy Knight playing the Mighty Wurlitzer organ in the mid- to late-1930s. The Florida Theatre, built in 1927, was the largest movie palace in Jacksonville and one of only four remaining grand movie palaces of the era in the state.

"I also remember going to the Capitol Theatre on Main Street between 7th and 8th Streets," Rose said. "My father would give me a dime for the movie and a penny for the gum-ball machine."

One Saturday in 1934 or 1935, when Rose was eight or nine, he went to the theatre to see what he recalls as "Little Orphan Annie." When he finally got to the front of the line, he placed a coin on the counter. The cashier said, "Son, the movie is a dime, and this is a penny." He suddenly realized that he must have put the dime in the gum-ball machine by mistake. "I never did see the movie," he said.

Rose's father bought a Pontiac in 1937 from Claude Nolan. "It cost more than \$900. I couldn't believe that it had a radio in it," he said.

Rose worked for his father in the grocery store until he finished high school and enlisted in the Navy during World War II. He was on the USS Alex Diachenko, which was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and participated as a transport ship in the consolidation and capture of the Southern Philippines and Borneo operations.

When Rose came back to Jacksonville after service, he lived with his parents for a couple of years until he married Betty Sager in 1951, also a lifelong resident of Jacksonville. She had graduated from Lee High School and Florida State College for Women (FSU).

With his new bride, Rose bought the house he lives in now on San Amaro Road for \$17,000. "People wondered why we wanted to live so far out of town," he recalled.



William and Betty Rose, 1951

He used to walk down the middle of San Jose Boulevard because there was so little traffic. "I remember cars hitting the telephone poles because the kerosene street lamps would go out and they couldn't see the poles in time," Rose said. "I used my flashlight to help direct traffic."

He was working at his father's grocery store in Springfield when he got married, and his daily commute required traveling from Miramar to Springfield every day.

"I'd buy turnip greens from the produce market, take them home, put them in the yard and sprinkle water on them to keep them fresh," Rose said. "The next day I'd put them back in my car and take them to the grocery store."

On Dec. 29, 1963, Rose was on his way to work when he saw smoke coming out of all the windows of the Hotel Roosevelt in downtown Jacksonville. Fire had broken out in the ballroom of the 13-story hotel, one of Jacksonville's most grand hotels, on Adams Street just west of Main. Twenty-two people died, most from asphyxiation and

carbon-monoxide poisoning. Some people escaped to the roof and needed help. Rose told the rescue people to call the Navy to get the people off the roof. "The next day I read in the paper that the mayor had called the Navy," Rose laughed. "But I think they got the idea from me."

When his father became too old to run the grocery store, Rose sold it. His father told him to go see Benjamin Setzer at National Drug Company, who asked him to come to work for him to oversee distribution. Setzer, a Lithuanian immigrant like his father and a former Springfield resident, had operated Setzer's Supermarkets that became one of Jacksonville's early grocery chains by the end of the Great Depression.

Then Rose worked for his brother-in-law's wholesale grocery, the Hymie Fialkow Company. His brother-in-law eventually sold his grocery to Sysco Corp., where Rose worked as senior marketing associate until his retirement 17 years later.

After he retired, he volunteered in gift shops. He noticed framed stamps that were selling for \$25; the stamp was worth

25 cents. He thought would be a good way to get rid of his stamps at flea markets. He also makes kitchen magnets out of postage stamps and has earned the moniker of "The Stamp Man."

After 30 years of service in the Department of Children & Families, Betty retired and devoted many hours volunteering for her synagogue, the Jacksonville Jewish Center, Hospice and Bikkur Cholim. The couple were married for 57 years before Betty passed away in 2008 and had two daughters, Margaret Rose and Allison Rose Holtz.

Both Betty and William were active in the Jacksonville Jewish Center and the center's synagogue for many years. Betty volunteered in the office and William made sure the right prayer books were in every one of the 375 seats.

Age has caught up with Rose leading him to decide to quit driving, which means he won't be going to the flea market any longer. But, he still intends on continuing to frame stamps. "It keeps me busy and I love doing it," he said.



Rose in the Navy assigned to the USS Alex Diachenko transport ship



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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



Seated, River Garden representatives Fran Young and Betty Infeld; standing Jeannie Poon, Wolfson Director of Volunteer Services, Lisa Poremba, Chrissy Granados and Samantha Derrick with Aydien, a young patient who received a bank.

River Garden residents 'pay it forward' at Wolfson Children's Hospital

Senior residents from River Garden Hebrew Home delivered 20 handmade ceramic money banks to junior patients at Wolfson's Children's Hospital Feb. 4. Each bank was filled with \$5 in quarters for the children undergoing care at the hospital to spend on the "Wolfie Wagon," the Wolfson Children's Auxiliary's store on wheels.

The residents at River Garden continually seek opportunities to give back to their

community and engage with the younger generations in Jacksonville. When they learned about the Wolfie Wagon program at Wolfson Children's Hospital late last year, they were eager to participate.

"River Garden is delighted be a long-standing partner and supporter of Baptist and Wolfson hospitals. This project is a wonderful way to support our partners in healthcare, but more importantly, we want this project to demonstrate how we feel for these young patients," said Chrissy Granados, Expressive Arts Coordinator at River Garden.

With the creative support of the Life Enrichment team and other volunteers, residents used their talents and the ceramic studio on the River Garden campus to create beautiful banks of various shapes and sizes. All pieces were handmade from start to finish, and fired in the kiln to create long-lasting, brightly colored works of art sure to catch the eye of the children at Wolfson.

"Some organizations purchase inexpensive banks online, which are always appreciated, but these handmade banks are just adorable. Many thanks the River Garden residents for their hard work on creating, painting and filling these sweet banks for our patients," said Jeannie Poon, Director of Volunteer Services at Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

River Garden's Resident Council President Betty Infeld commented, "It feels good for us to deliver just a little bit of happiness."

"River Garden is delighted be a long-standing partner and supporter of Baptist and Wolfson hospitals. This project is a wonderful way to support our partners in healthcare, but more importantly, we want this project to demonstrate how we feel for these young patients."

— Chrissy Granados



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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.
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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



Bolles girls soccer victorious at state



Prior to their trip to Deland to play in the state soccer finals, the Bolles Girls Soccer team was given a confetti-filled sendoff. They retained their Class 2A state championship, beating Cardinal Gibbons 5-1 in the state final Feb. 20 at Spec Martin Memorial Stadium in Deland.



San Marco students compete in Reflections county competition

For more than 50 years, local Parent-Teacher Associations have helped students explore their thoughts, feelings and ideas while developing artistic literacy and confidence through the PTA's annual Reflections program. The students who choose to compete in the optional program submit artwork in one or more of six categories – dance choreography, film, literature, music, photography and visual arts – with student winners advancing up through their county, region, state and national competitions.

Thirty-two students who live in San Marco neighborhoods or attend San Marco schools received recognition within Duval County this year.

Dance Choreography

Awards of Excellence: Isabella Dodani, Julia Landon College Preparatory Middle School; Amanda Trujillo and Reece Weaver, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Film Production

Awards of Excellence: Elizabeth Arceneaux, Ethan Elkins, Douglas Anderson

Awards of Merit: Faith Hendrix, Brooke Knowles, Rori Links, Misawa Marcondes, Douglas Anderson

Literature

Awards of Excellence: Whitney Morgan, Hendricks Avenue Elementary; Leila Jane Davis, Julia Landon Middle

Awards of Merit: Magnolia Betancourt, Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Colby Goldsmith, Hannah Neville, Douglas Anderson

Music Composition

Award of Excellence: Macy Crumley, Douglas Anderson

Photography

Awards of Excellence: Sophia MacDowell, Mattie Sacks, Hendricks Avenue Elementary; Joe Atkins, GRASP Academy; Michaela Hejduk, Douglas Anderson

Awards of Merit: Ava MacDowell, Whitney Morgan, Hendricks Avenue Elementary; Isabella Dodani, Julia Landon Middle; Gianni Libero, Lennon Myers, Darwin Nelson, Douglas Anderson; Andrew Lopez, Stanton College Preparatory School

Visual Arts

Awards of Excellence: Gabrielle Kiernan, Kelsie Kiernan, Hendricks Avenue Elementary; Charlotte Caccam, Julia Landon Middle; Ashley Nelson, Stanton College Prep

Awards of Merit: Maili Barker, Avisia Rezael, Hendricks Avenue Elementary; LaJoyce McGrew, Douglas Anderson


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Author, alumnus visits Bishop Kenny for book signing

José Ramírez, author of the newly-released "Cuba and the "Last" Baseball Season," signed books at a presentation at Bishop Kenny High School Feb. 2. Released in October 2018, this is the second book Ramírez has written about the impact of the Castro takeover in Cuba. The first, "Defining Moment: A Cuban Exile's Story about Discovery and the Search for a Better Future," was released in 2013.

Ramírez, a 1963 graduate of Bishop Kenny, was among the 14,048 unaccompanied minor children sent to the United States from Cuba by their parents through the fabled Pedro Pan Program between 1960 and 1962. Upon his arrival in the United States Ramírez was one of many children sent to Jacksonville to live at Camp St. John and attend Bishop Kenny High School.

Ramírez' new book features a foreword by Red Sox Hall Fame member Luis Tiant, Jr. In it, Ramírez focuses on the little-known story about baseball players in Cuba and in the U.S. minors whose dream of playing professional baseball in their home country



José Ramirez signs a copy of his book "Cuba and the "Last" Baseball Season" for David Marovich, a Bishop Kenny school board member.

would go unrealized when the Castro regime abolished professional baseball at the end of the 1960-61 season.

Players were faced with a difficult choice: Leave family, home, friends and their homeland in order to play professional baseball or stay at home and pursue a different and uncertain way of life. This is a story of the personal struggle these men and their families endured, and the heart-wrenching decisions they had to make. Travel, and playing in Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach and Palatka, became part of this experience.

Cares and Shares project helps fulfill child's dream

San Jose Episcopal Day School sixth-grade students and their parents hosted a bingo night Jan. 25 and raised more than \$1,700 for Dreams Come True. As part of the sixth-graders' Cares and Shares philanthropy project, the students will sponsor a local child who is receiving dream fulfillment from Dreams Come True, a nonprofit dedicated to granting the dreams of children with life-threatening illnesses. Monies raised from bingo night, as well as bake sales and candy grams throughout the school year, will be used to send the child on his or her dream.



Sixth-graders Alyssa Nunley and Arlee Abbey prepare snacks for bingo night.

Students star in Hollywood-style literacy event



Yam Bruno-Avilas and Ameerah Boer with Yoani Escamilla-Aguirre and Daniela Boer

San Jose Elementary School's "Glam Book Slam!" was an event that will not soon be forgotten by all who attended. The Hollywood-themed event premiered an original film starring the school's students.

The Glam Book Slam! was a highlight of the school's Literacy Week, an annual event sponsored by Just Read, Florida!, an initiative of the Florida Department of Education to celebrate literacy in schools. This year's theme, "Celebrate Literacy: One View at a Time," resulted in Glam Book Slam!, which showcased a compilation of the classrooms' short movie clips in which students celebrated a literary piece in their classrooms. The classrooms filmed readers theaters, poetry readings, and excerpts from stories.

The emphasis on literacy was celebrated all week Jan. 28 – Feb. 1 with Reading Buddies (partnerships between classrooms), guest readers, and the Glam Book Slam! literacy night when students and parents



Amani Jackson with Hailey Jackson

enjoyed a photo booth filled with Hollywood props, a "Red Carpet Walk" with an Authors' Walk of Fame, and gourmet popcorn, drinks, and other snacks during the event.

"Literacy is the most important skill students learn in school and is the foundation for all other learning. It not only enables us to learn other content areas, but brings joy, beauty, and enrichment to our lives," said Vicki Taylor, reading coach at San Jose Elementary.

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Please visit DA website for more information and audition requirements: www.da-arts.org

School staff, PTA, local businesses encourage reading with fun events

Hendricks Avenue Elementary School students and faculty celebrated Literacy Week Jan. 28- Feb. 1 with theme days, a book fair and Reading With the Stars, sponsored by the PTA Jan. 31. Students wore pajamas, parents served more than 400 cookies and four gallons of milk, and all enjoyed listening to local celebrities read from children's books. The celebrities included news anchor Dawn Lopez, JFRD firefighters, veterinarian Dr. Greg Stacey from Miramar Animal Hospital, HAE Art Teacher Jenny Reid, biologist Jason Evert, Splash Jax Swim School instructor Pam Villa, photographer Brandi Hill, ballerinas from the Saltmarsh Dance School, HAE Principal Mindy McLendon, and Laura Pena, the dragon.



Campbell Shell, Katherine Cumbow and Riley Valent in pajamas at Reading With the Stars Jan. 31.



Saltmarsh Dance School ballerinas Meg Ritter and Aria Rathle



Celebrity readers Dawn Lopez, Brandi Hill, Pam Villa and Jenny Reid on stage as volunteers hold name placards.

San Jose Episcopal students advance in competitions



Ethan Bissell with younger brother Leighton



Aleda Cashwell

San Jose Episcopal Day School students competed Jan. 11 for a chance to advance to the District Spelling Bee. Fifth-grader Ethan Bissell spelled "Xanadu" correctly to advance to the district competition on Jan. 23 at Julia Landon College Preparatory School, but was unable to move on to the regional competition.

Students in Grades 4-8 competed Jan. 25 in the school-level competition of the 2019 National Geographic GeoBee. Fifth-grader Aleda Cashwell won with her knowledge on the Red Sea and will take the online qualifying test Jan. 31 to see if she will advance to further competitions against students from nearly 10,000 schools to compete in the 2019 National Geographic GeoBee for a chance to win college scholarships.

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. Twelve silver portfolios included 341 Silver Key awards; 19 portfolios comprised 487 Honorable Mentions, and five students 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



Abigail Weiss, a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, with her Silver Key photo inspired by the 1989 dark comedy "Heathers," a film about teen cliques and bullying.

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.



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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 whichever position they thought was correct, and



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.

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.

HAE's Glasheen wins Duval County Spelling Bee

In a field full of older students, Graham Glasheen, a fifth-grader from Hendricks Avenue Elementary, claimed the Duval County Scripps Spelling Bee title by successfully tackling a word that often confuses many adults.

"D-I-D-A-C-T-I-C. Didactic," he calmly relayed into the microphone when asked to spell a word meaning "intending to teach" during the country-wide competition at Julia Landon College Preparatory School Jan. 23.

"I was so nervous. I was spelling against sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders!" Glasheen said according to the Duval County Public School website. But Glasheen's nerves went away each time he took his turn, he said, and once in the spotlight, he only had to recall the way he practiced words at home, a task he did not take lightly, studying up to 50 words per day with his older sister and parents as well as utilizing a packet of words from HAE Principal Mindy McLendon.

Finishing after Glasheen was Anthony Du Guzman of Blessed Trinity who was first runner-up and Matthew Vega of Bartram Springs who placed second runner-up.

With the victory, Glasheen advanced to the First Coast Spelling Bee, a regional Scripps competition at Jacksonville University Feb. 19 where he competed against students from other counties within Northeast Florida.

Glasheen and 12 others were bested by Erik Williams, a St. Johns Country Day School student. Glasheen began his quest



Duval County's top speller, Graham Glasheen, is a student at Hendricks Avenue Elementary

toward the title on Nov. 29, 2018, when he won the spelling bee at his school. During the week of Jan. 14, he went to Atlantic Coast High School to take a 100-question written exam with 87 other elementary and middle school spelling champions from throughout Duval County. By placing among the top 26 he was able to advance to the County Spelling Bee at Landon.

Although he excels in spelling, Glasheen said his favorite subject in school is mathematics. His dream is to eventually become a Disney Imagineer or work in the medical field, according to information on the DCPS website.



Bishop Kenny High School students participated in the Northeast Regional Science and Engineering Fair Feb. 12.

BK students take home science, engineering awards in all categories

Attention to detail and enthusiasm for scientific and engineering endeavors made this year's Northeast Regional Science and Engineering Fair a remarkable event for 36 students at Bishop Kenny High School.

At the award ceremony held Feb. 12 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium Bishop Kenny took home more than 15 place awards and 30 special awards with award winners in each of eight categories. "Every one of the students has made this year's event an inspiring STEM experience!" said Vicki Schmitt, Bishop Kenny Science Chair.

Heading to the state competition in Lakeland, Florida in March are Mailene Miranda, Lauren Massais, Lili England, Mary Alice Young, Antonio Valentino,

Matthew Blaquiere, Syrus Bakkar and Izabelle Young; alternates are Alexa Smith and Hind Ossi.

At the regional fair, Mary Alice Young won first place in Computer Science and six special awards, while younger sister Izabelle won first place in Zoology and one special award. Also winning a first-place award in Engineering was Antonio Valentino, who also won three special awards.

Four students from Duval County, including Mary Alice Young and her younger sister Izabelle as alternate, were selected from the regional fair to advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in May.

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O’Riordan signs with FSU to run cross-country, track

Maeve O’Riordan, the top runner at The Bolles School, has made the decision to apply her fleet-footed talents at Florida State University next year. She will officially sign a letter of commitment to FSU in April.

O’Riordan, a San Jose resident who will graduate from Bolles this spring, has attended the private school since pre-K and competed on its track and cross-country teams since sixth grade.

This school year, she placed first among individual runners in the Florida High School Athletic Association 2AA, Region 1 cross country meet in November 2018. In that race she bettered the field with a personal best of 18:51, leading the Bolles girls’ team to claim the title. The Bulldogs also won the preceding 2018 District Cross Country meet.

Bolles’ harriers have a long-time winning tradition, having claimed the state title in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. They have also won the district championship continuously from 2010 to 2018.



Maeve O’Riordan

O’Riordan will join her sister, Aoife, a Bolles 2017 graduate, at FSU. The sisters both enjoyed running together at Bolles during their middle and high school years, and were strongly influenced by their father, who came to the United States from Ireland on a track scholarship.

“I was very excited to commit to FSU,” said O’Riordan, noting it was what she was hoping for all along. Having competed in many track and field meets at FSU over the years, she said she is familiar with the campus and the “feeling of it.” Although Aoife also attends FSU, she does not run for the Seminoles. O’Riordan said she is happy she will be able to live near her sister and be able to meet up frequently.

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.

Students log miles in HAE Walkathon



Walkathon participants got a running start during the popular elementary school fundraiser Feb. 23 in San Marco.

Hundreds of students, parents and friends put on their running shoes and headed to the track at Hendricks Avenue Elementary school to walk laps during the 7th Annual HAE Walkathon Feb. 23.

Receiving special honors was Matt Carlucci of San Marco, who was named Honorary Master of Ceremonies in recognition for his tireless support of the school over the past 20 years. Carlucci, who attended the school as a student and sent his children to HAE as well, is a founder of the Friends of Hendricks, a 501(c)(3) organization that raises money for the elementary school by sponsoring the Walkathon each year.

Each year HAE’s principal promises to perform a quirky duty if her students fulfill their fundraising goal. This year HAE Principal Mindy McLendon has promised to compete in 10 challenges in the Minute to Win It game if her students collectively log 750 miles or raise \$50,000, said Friends of Hendricks President Jami Bueker.



HAE Walkathon Organizer Anna Valent with Honorary Master of Ceremonies Matt Carlucci and Friends of Hendricks President Jami Bueker



Carolyn Blake and her daughter, Tamsin, have fun at the HAE Walkathon Feb. 23.

Wolfson weightlifters compete in regional tourney

The Wolfson School for Advanced Studies’ Girls Varsity Weightlifting team concluded the season with three members reaching the Regional tournament, where they competed against girls from 14 other high schools in metro Jacksonville.

The Pack was led by Junior Captain Carmi Smith, Junior Isabella Jardine and Sophomore Soe Soe. Smith, who medaled with a sixth-place finish in clean and jerk.

Next season the team plans to expand by recruiting female athletes from fall and



Front: Soe Soe and Sara Almohamed; back: Isabella Jardine, Nidis Maradiaga, Carmi Smith, L’Oreal Gainey and Joanne Albas

spring sports. “A lot of successful track and swim programs have their athletes participate in weightlifting during their off-season,” said Coach Tom Hoprich.

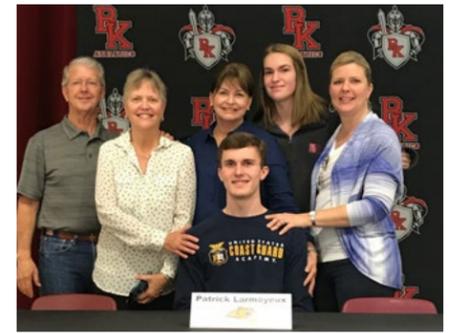
Bishop Kenny senior to play basketball for Coast Guard Academy

Patrick Larmoyeux, a senior at Bishop Kenny High School, has been selected to play basketball for the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Larmoyeux plays on the Bishop Kenny Crusaders boys’ varsity basketball team as a shooting guard and sometimes small forward, although he prefers the shooting guard position, stating “I just love playing that position because I like the scoring opportunities on offense.”

Larmoyeux, a Miramar resident, has a rigorous academic schedule and is very active in Catholic Athletes for Christ. He will attend the Coast Guard Academy for four years and then serve five years in the Coast Guard before moving on to his ultimate career goal in Cyber Security.

“It is a big life commitment; it is more than just basketball,” said Larmoyeux. “It is learning to serve my country and better myself. I am going to try to learn things that are going to help me in life, and I am thankful for that opportunity to do that.”



Patrick Larmoyeux with his grandparents Don and Marcia Wilkinson, grandmother Patricia Larmoyeux, sister Anna and mother Stacy Larmoyeux

Larmoyeux wants to make both grandfathers proud with his service in the Coast Guard. His maternal grandfather, Don Wilkinson, served in the Army for two years during the Vietnam War and specialized in intelligence. Dr. Louis Larmoyeux, his paternal grandfather, also served in the Army for two years as a Medical Officer and was a Captain in the Medical Corps.

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Parents get glimpse into student life

Students in PreK through 6th Grade at the 70-year-old Riverside Presbyterian Day School, 830 Oak St., gave their parents a tour and an up-close look at what goes on in their classrooms and resources areas at the annual Family Open House Jan. 24.



Stephanie and Scotty Verlander with Charlotte, Cooper and Mac



Brad and Heather Arrowsmith with John, Kathryn and Margaret



Amanda and Charles Soltau with Addison and Ansley



Ryan, Maggie and Lindsey Riggs

Global Community Day destigmatizes mental illness

In an effort to destigmatize mental illness and focus a light on what is considered a global crisis, 900 students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville spent the afternoon of Feb. 12 – Global Community Day – learning about mental health issues that affect one in five American adults and hearing that one in 10 young people experience a period of major depression.

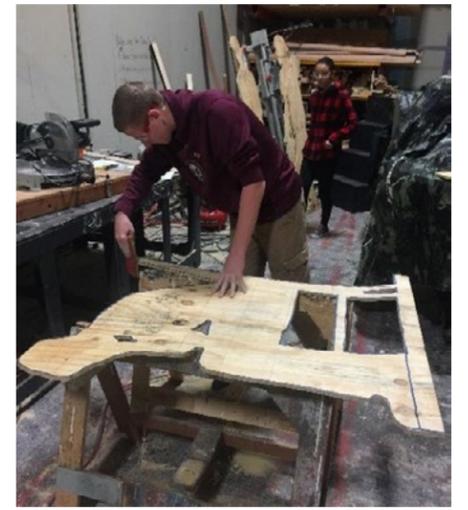
Students first worked with Indigo Art Therapy Studio, a nonprofit based in the Lake Side Park area, and Episcopal visual arts instructor Mark Zimmerman to create art projects exploring mental health. Next, students heard from five to six performing artists who each did a short piece on different aspects of mental health, such as Eating Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Bipolar Disorder, Depression and

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), followed by interpretation on each piece.

The students also learned they are not alone if they are facing a mental health issue and that help is available. This year the school also rolled out a Health, Safety, and Well-Being initiative that is incorporating all aspects of physical and mental health.

As part of Global Community Day, Fine Art students, with the help of Technical Theatre instructor Colton Spurlock, created silhouettes and installed them around campus. Each silhouette addresses a different aspect of mental health.

“These silhouettes represent the many who are among us and the individuals we interact with daily. The purpose of having them throughout the campus is to raise awareness by creating an interactive experience for us all,” said Spurlock.



Will Hays and Sophia Viggiano cut silhouettes for a campus installation supporting Global Community Day's theme on mental health awareness.

Bishop Kenny students attend sports, business education forum

Nine Bishop Kenny High School students attended the PGA TOUR's MOSAIC Group's Training U: Sports & Business Education Forum, presented by THE PLAYERS Jan. 29. Approximately 200 students from Duval and St. Johns Counties heard from industry leaders during a panel discussion. The high school students interacted with 16 different companies and 11 colleges throughout the day.

BK Junior Timber Abinsay, a shortstop on the varsity softball team, was excited to be a part of the forum of students. “It was truly an amazing experience, and it solidified my decision to major in Sports Management in college,” said Timber, who loves playing softball and is an avid beach

volleyball player. She would love the opportunity to play either sport in college.

This was the second year the event was sponsored and held in Jacksonville. The purpose was twofold; first to educate minority high school students about job opportunities available in the sports industry, and secondly to give them an opportunity to network with company representatives and college recruiters.

Marcus Pollard, Jacksonville Jaguars director of player development and youth football, and Lakesha Burton, executive director of the Police Athletic League (PAL) and assistant chief of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO), were also there to lead breakout sessions for the students.



Front: Lola Martin, Timber Abinsay, Hannah Smith; middle: Maria Jimenez, Kourtnee Holzendorf, Blessing Essien, Jasmye Roberts; back: Kenny Patterson, Malik Young, Caneim Maxwell

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Grandmother inspires Miramar resident to Reflections win

Inspired by her grandmother's strength in adversity, Ashley Nelson of Miramar won an Award of Excellence in visual arts for her drawing, "Disabled...But More Than Able!" in the Duval County PTA Reflections Competition and will advance to the state competition.

Nelson, a sophomore at Stanton College Preparatory School, used colored pencils to illustrate the theme, "Heroes Around Me," painting her wheelchair-bound grandmother doing what she loved, playing the piano.

Reflections, an annual contest sponsored by state, county, and local Parent-Teacher Associations, allows students to express



Ashley Nelson's winning Reflections piece, "Disabled...But More Than Able!"

their creativity through six mediums – literature, photography, film, dance, music and visual arts. Winners receive either Awards of Merit or Awards of Excellence at their local schools. Those who receive Awards of Excellence locally advance to the county, state or national competition.

Nelson, who won the visual arts category among Stanton High School's competitors, was one of three students in visual arts in Duval County to receive an Award of Excellence to advance to the state competition.

"My grandmother was a hero to all who came to know her over the last 10 years. She was paralyzed by a virus in her spinal cord, but even when doctors told her she'd need a lot of assistance and most likely need to live in a nursing home, she refused to accept that. She fought hard to stay strong physically and mentally and managed to live alone for 10 years until she passed from cancer this year. She is my hero!" Nelson wrote in her artist's statement.



Stanton Principal Nongongoma Majova with Ashley Nelson

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

Representatives from the Bolles upper school spring sports 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.

Rival basketball teams come together to beat cancer



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.

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

Bishop Kenny Head Coach Charlse 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.

Workshop teaches youth about healthy relationships



Ninth- and tenth-graders participated in team-building exercises, including games on Pajcic-Hunt and River Fields, a "Survivor" challenge, and other competitions on January 31.

As part of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Health, Safety, and Well-Being initiative, juniors and seniors participated in a One Love Escalation Workshop Jan. 31.

Presented by the One Love Foundation, the workshop focused on the signs of healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors in order to cultivate the skills needed to prevent relationship violence. Middle School students participated in the Monique Burr Foundation Teen Safety Matters program, with a focus on the knowledge and tools needed for all aspects

of personal safety, from digital citizenship to relationships with others. Freshmen and sophomores participated in team-building exercises, including games on Pajcic-Hunt and River Fields, a "Survivor" challenge, and other competitions.

The next workshop, on the Influence and Effects of Social Media and Screen Time, will be held Thursday, March 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Munnerlyn Center, 4455 Atlantic Blvd. The final workshop, on High Risk Behavior, Substance Abuse and Vaping, will be held Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m.

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Jan Tskilauri, Dino Muharovic, Josh Taylor, Makayla Jardine

Wolfson students attend global healthcare lecture

Members of Wolfson School for Advanced Studies' Great Decisions and Model UN Club attended a Distinguished Voices Lecture Series event Feb. 12 at the University of North Florida, co-sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville.

The guest speaker, Dr. Rajiv Shah, is a Global Health specialist with an impressive resume including working for the Obama administration as Chief Scientist and Undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and currently serves as president for the Rockefeller Foundation.

After speaking to an audience of more than a thousand on the topic "Global Healthcare: How Good Can We Be?", Dr. Shah spoke with students from 19 area high schools, including Wolfson student Makayla Jardine who asked Dr. Shah some very insightful and pointed questions during the Q & A session.

Another strong performance for San Jose Students

San Jose Catholic School sent a strong team of 19 middle schoolers to the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair to compete against public and private school students from across the First Coast. Project judging was held Feb. 11 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium, with awards given Feb. 12.

Sixteen students walked away with awards and two, Juliana Namen and Ellie Brown, were selected to the state team to represent North Florida at the State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland in March. First-place winners included Stella Shaw (Earth Science), Juliana Namen (Environmental Science) and Olivia Wakefield (Microbiology). All three were also recognized as Broadcom MASTERS program contestants.

Second-place winners were Megan Erne (Chemistry) and Ellie Brown (Microbiology); third place went to Abigail Tonto (Behavioral and Social Sciences), Jalila Nackashi (Chemistry), Blaine Parry and Magnolia Fox (Environmental Science), Maura Madigan (Medicine and Health), and Annie Brophy and Maddox Fox



San Jose Catholic School students participated in the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

(Physics and Astronomy). Receiving Honorable Mentions were Thomas Cratem (Chemistry), Marianna Hernandez-Abdallah (Environmental Science), Millicent Fox (Microbiology), and Anna Bass (Physics and Astronomy).

Miniature monuments help student learn history of nation's capital

For San Jose Episcopal Day School fifth-graders, part of their curriculum in the study of American history is a trip to Washington, D.C. In advance of this adventure, the 28 students each choose a memorial or monument to research and replicate. They presented their project to the school, then became the official tour guide for that memorial while in the nation's capital.

"Project-based learning is a large component of our curriculum at San Jose Episcopal Day School," said fifth-grade teacher Lauren Barcnas. "When students are able to dive into a topic, they learn and retain so much more. In this case, it makes it all the more fun when they can actually see and feel what they researched at home. Every year, the



Madison Smith with her replica of Mount Vernon.



Zuri McClain created a replica of the Martin Luther King, Jr. monument.

students amaze and delight me with their creativity and attention to detail in the design of their memorial models."

The students spent the four weeks leading up to their trip learning about the nation's capital and the memorials and monuments

on display in the city. They spent five days playing tourist, exploring not just D.C. but Gettysburg and Mount Vernon as well. This trip is a time-honored tradition at SJEDS and something that students look forward to from the time they are in kindergarten.

Shakespeare works adapted for Literacy Week



The Wolfson School for Advanced Studies' Interclub Council hosted "Shakespeare in the Park" to celebrate Literacy Week Jan. 28-Feb 1. The students did a great job organizing the event performing modern adaptations of William Shakespeare's works, including "Macbeth," as a scene from the sitcom "The Office." Other activities included performances of sonnets, a strolling minstrel and Language Arts Teacher Timothy Yost as "The Bard in the Yard." Plans are already underway to make this an annual event.



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THIRD COURSE:

- Bananas Foster

Please visit our website for full menu details

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Episcopal student-athletes make college commitments

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 Stella 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 Johnston, Clemson, Cross Country/Track and Field/Triathlon; and Leah Williams, University of Tampa, Volleyball.



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



Carmi Smith, Ashawna Peoples, Brenda Nocetti and Emily Grinnan

Wolfpack future business leaders attend competition

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies' Future Business Leaders of America chapter competed in District 4 Performance and Awards Day held at FSCJ Kent Campus Jan. 18.

Ten high schools from three counties were represented during the event, where students competed in upwards of 40 different events. The Wolfpack brought home 10 awards in nine categories.

First-place winners include Brenda Nocetti in Hospitality Management and Trinity King in Impromptu Speaking. Jacob Gazaleh placed second in Securities and Investments and in the Word Processing event, Ashawna Peoples took second place in Graphic Design, and Emily Grinan placed second in the Business Communication event and in Personal Finance. Malcolm Smith placed third in Marketing, while Carmi Smith placed third and Grinan placed fifth in Job Interview skills.

Grinan, Gazaleh, Nocetti and King advanced to compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Orlando in March.

Boy Scout builds outdoor classroom to earn Eagle rank

Submitted by Leslie DeVoght

Hendricks Avenue Elementary School has a beautiful and useful outdoor classroom thanks to Boy Scout Christian Floyd, who designed, planned, and led the project to create the space as part of earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Floyd, a resident of St. Nicholas Park, is a member of Troop 35 at Southside United Methodist Church, attended Hendricks Avenue Elementary School and is currently a senior at Paxon School for Advanced Studies.

After giving it a lot of thought, Floyd decided he wanted to complete his service project at a place that had a lot of impact on his life, so he chose his elementary school. He brainstormed ideas with Principal Mindy McClendon to come up with the idea for the outdoor classroom, saying that "while a big project, I thought it was a great idea and stuck with it."

The Scout's mother, Tiffany Floyd, said she believes "the most valuable thing that Christian learned in completing his project was the hard work, planning, and leadership it took to make it happen and seeing the vision he had for the space come to life



Benches were built at nearby Southside United Methodist Church.



Christian Floyd with his finished Eagle Scout project, an outdoor classroom at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School.



Outdoor classroom built by Boy Scout Troop 35



A Hendricks Avenue Elementary School enjoys the new outdoor classroom.

throughout the process. He was determined to make [the classroom] happen for [the school] no matter how big or challenging it might be. He built something that will be valuable to the school for years to come."

According to the Eagle Scout project handbook, "the Scout must be the one to lead the project." Service to other people is an important part of the Scout Oath. The service project is a requirement to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Scouts striving for the rank must plan, develop, and lead the project to completion. The project must benefit a school, the community, or a religious institution. The Scout must submit a proposal to the local Boy Scouts of America Council and complete a project plan.

Floyd and his team first leveled the area with a tiller and shovels. They built the benches at Southside United Methodist church, which is located close to the school. In order to properly set the benches, the group marked and dug holes for each bench and used cement to set them. Floyd returned later to install the chalkboard and put down pine straw in the area.

Local businesses, including Brightway Insurance, The Players Grill, and Lowes, donated to the project. Floyd's project team included Matthew Knowling, Maria Knowling, Tiffany Floyd, David Price, Riley McGee, Brandon Singleton, Don and Jana Colbert, Turner Colbert, Kyle Griggs, Decker Day and Andrew Price.

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SOLD by Lynne Ferguson! Beautiful two story home on a large lot in a well-established neighborhood awaits new owner. Home boasts wood flooring throughout living areas and bedrooms, large family room with stone fireplace, separate living room and dining room and new knock down ceilings.



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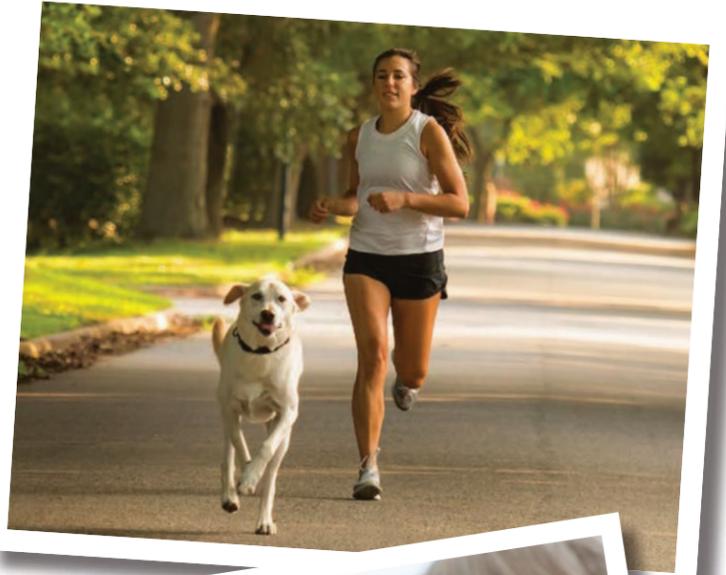
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